



School Organisation Consultation

**Changing the age range and
increasing pupil numbers
at Wey House School**

**April
2018**



SURREY

Introduction

1. This paper outlines a proposal for the development of places for primary pupils with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and that have Social Emotional or Mental Health needs (SEMH) in Surrey. The process and timescales are outlined below for the change of age range and the increase of 19 places at the Wey House School which is situated in the south west of the county.

Background

2. Surrey's special school primary provision for social emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) provides for boys who are unable to manage the school environment successfully without a high level of targeted intervention to support their SEMH. Without such support, pupils are likely to present with significantly challenging behaviour. There may also be additional needs, such as speech, language and communication needs.
3. Wey House is the only SEMH school in the Surrey area for primary aged pupils, currently catering for key stage 2 pupils only. The school is located in Bramley which is based in the south west quadrant of Surrey and it caters for approximately 9 pupils per year and it has a 'good' ofsted rating. The school is usually oversubscribed and there are a significant number of requests for SEMH provision for key stage 1 pupils.
4. When Wey House School has no places available the alternative option is to place children in the non-maintained and independent (NMI) sector at an average of £48,327 per annum for each pupil placed.

Proposal

5. Surrey County Council is proposing to extend the age range of Wey House School to incorporate some key stage 1 assessment places and expand pupil numbers in all year groups.
6. It is proposed that the number of places changes from the current total of 36 planned places in key stage 2 only, to 55 across the primary age range.

Rationale

7. Demand for specialist provision in the south west area for pupils with SEMH needs is high and other provision in the local area is operating at high levels of occupancy. The provision of additional key stage 1 places in a specialist school will help support local families who otherwise have to travel further afield. This will enable a decrease in home to school travel times and cost. Where places are currently unavailable at Wey House, there is demand for placements in the NMI sector at high annual costs.
8. Once a pupil has been placed in non-maintained and Independent (NMI) provision it is more likely they will remain there for at least the remainder of the key stage and on occasions until the end of their formal education. By offering specialist places at an earlier opportunity young people can be supported through transition periods to continue to access the most appropriate maintained local provision.

9. Key Stage 1 places will be on an 'assessment basis' to allow a period of intervention with highly specialist staff for very young pupils exhibiting significant SEMH needs. The aim for this age group will be to promote a return to the mainstream sector where possible. If not then assessment and identification process during this period will ensure that pupils needs are being met appropriately and that their continuing primary phase of education can be met at Wey House.
10. The current planned places at the school is a low number for a special school. This can present a challenging financial environment, as economies of scale are hard to gain. An increased number of pupils will generate increased funding into the school. It will provide a greater opportunity to utilise potentially sustainable options to meet the needs of pupils, such as alternative groupings of pupils together or bringing in different types of support arrangements. This will benefit the development of pupils and staff and provide a model of excellence for this cohort.

Pupil Placement

11. There will be no impact on any of the current Wey House pupils who will continue their education in the school until they are ready for secondary transition. Pupils may be reintegrated back into mainstream or more suitable provision at any point, where appropriate. New pupils into Key Stage 1 will be allocated places in the school through the EHCP and admissions processes.
12. Appropriate pupils for this provision would be identified and placed at Wey House using the Education Health Care Plan and subsequent review pathways. The document 'SEND admissions processes for referrals for specialist placement for school age children' describes how this process works and is available on the Surrey Local Offer website.

Finance and Resourcing

13. The current cost of maintained special school provision at Wey House is approx £30,000 which consists of £10,000 planned place funding and £20,977 'top up' for each pupil that attends.
14. Placement costs for primary SEMH pupils in the NMI sector is an average of £48,327 per annum for each primary aged pupil placed dependent upon the NMI used. The cost of an individual placement significantly differs between providers.
15. It should be noted that in addition to NMI placement fees home to school transport costs may also be higher due to the locations of the schools in relation to pupil home addresses in Surrey.

Capital planning and buildings

16. In order to support the creation of additional places for KS1 pupils a building programme is not required. The school site is able to accommodate a 55 places across both KS1 and KS2 from within current capacity. However considerations are currently being given into potential investment into the school to improve the facilities.

Consultations, approvals and overall timescales

17. It is proposed that the age range of the school and change in pupil numbers is changed from 1 September 2018. The proposed changes are described as “prescribed alterations” and require a period of consultation, the publication of statutory Notices and the agreement of Surrey County Council’s Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement if the proposal is to proceed.
18. The first stage of consultation will be informal and is proposed to run until 12 noon on Friday 25th May. During this period the Surrey County Council will share its proposals with the wider professional network, schools including headteachers and chairs of governors, with unions, parent representatives, partner agencies and with the staff and parents of the school subject to “prescribed alterations”.
19. Following the informal consultation period it is proposed to publish a Statutory Notice for a four week period. The publication of Notices is when the local authority formally states that it intends to implement the proposed changes. This will be the final opportunity for consultees to make their views known before a final decision is taken. Following the consultation periods officers will summarise the feedback and will report to the Cabinet Member for Education. A decision is due in July 2018.

Have your say

Surrey County Council and Wey House School would like to know what people in the area feel about the proposal. The consultation will open on Monday 30th April.

You can respond by:

- a) Accessing the consultation online on the 'Surrey Says' website: www.surreysays.co.uk and searching for the school's consultation (school name or post code), or by scrolling through the list of open consultations.
- b) Completing the consultation response form that is available alongside this document. You can email the form or print it, complete it and send it back to the address below.

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FAO Julie Beckett (Wey House School) to:
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All responses must be received by noon on Friday 25th May 2018

What happens next?

We will hold a public meeting for parents and any other interested parties to discuss the proposals and to hear the views that people have. As a public meeting, anyone who wishes to may attend. This meeting will be on **Monday 14 May at 9.30 am** at Wey House School. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting and there is no need to pre-register your attendance.

Please come and share your views. You do not have to have a child at the school to come to the meeting.

At the end of the consultation period, we will review all of the responses received and share these with the school and publish them on the Surrey Says website.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation we intend to publish a Statutory Notice in the week commencing 4th June at the school, in a local newspaper and on the Surrey Says website stating our intention to change the age range of the school. There will be a 4 week statutory consultation period for further representations to be received by the council. This consultation period is due to end at noon on Tuesday 3rd July.

All representations will be reviewed before a final decision is taken by the Cabinet Member for Education Decisions in July 2018.