



School Organisation Consultation

**Changing the age range and
increasing pupil numbers
at the specialist centre at William
Cobbett Primary School**

**April
2018**

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 Communication and Interaction (COIN) needs in Surrey. The process and timescales are outlined below for the change of age range and the addition of 10 places at the specialist centre at William Cobbett Primary School which is situated in the south west of the county.

Background

2. During the summer of 2015 Surrey County Council undertook a consultation to consider changes to primary schools in the Waverley area of Surrey. It was proposed that William Cobbett Junior School would amalgamate with Weybourne Infant to become a primary school from 1 September 2015.
3. The proposal was approved by the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement in July 2015 and the first cohort of Year R pupils entered at the school from September 2015.

Proposal

4. Surrey County Council is proposing to extend the age range of the specialist centre for pupils with COIN in order to align the SEND offer with the school age range. This means that the school would be able to accommodate pupils from Reception year who could then stay at the school until the end of year 6, if their needs are still able to be met by the school.
5. It is proposed that the number of places changes from the current total of 20 planned places (notionally 5 per year group in key stage 2 only) to 30 (notionally 2 per year group for key stage 1 and 6 per year group at key stage 2 to incorporate pupils from Badshot Lea specialist centre). This will enable the provision to remain sustainable and for it to match the age range of the rest of the school.

Rationale

6. Surrey County Council is proposing to extend the age range of the specialist centre for pupils with COIN in conjunction with the school's transition from a junior to primary age range. Increasing the age range at the centre would aim to enable the specialist centre to have an aligned age range with the rest of William Cobbett School. This arrangement would allow pupils to integrate when possible with their mainstream peers but also enabling the school to provide adequate resources to provide the additional specialist support. The school seeks to ensure these pupils receive a fully inclusive education within the COIN centre of excellence which allows them to thrive and progress through the school in a supportive environment and be fully prepared for a smooth, confident transition to their next phase of education.
7. Demand for specialist centre provision in the south west area for pupils with COIN 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 COIN centre will help support local families who otherwise have to travel further afield. This will enable a decrease in home to school travel times and costs.

8. It has been of primary importance to ensure that the flow of pupils between Badshot Lea specialist centre and William Cobbett specialist centre continues, when appropriate, to avoid disadvantaging the Badshot Lea pupils. For this reason, the infant pupil number at William Cobbett COIN centre is lower and the junior pupil number is higher. This is in order to incorporate appropriate pupils transitioning from Badshot Lea COIN centre into the junior provision at William Cobbett.

Pupil Placement

9. There will be no impact on any of the current William Cobbett COIN centre pupils who will continue their education in the school until they are ready for secondary transition. New pupils into year R will be allocated places in the COIN centre through the EHCP and admissions processes.
10. Appropriate pupils for this provision would be identified and placed at William Cobbett's Primary COIN centre 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

11. Due to the increase of places there will be an additional annual cost for the number of planned places. Each planned place will be funded at a base level of £6000 in addition to the usual pupil funding, age weighted pupil unit (AWPU). For each pupil that attends the centre a top up sum is also applied.

Capital planning and buildings

12. In order to support the creation of additional places for KS1 pupils capital resources are not required. The school site is able to accommodate a 30 place COIN centre across both KS1 and KS2.

Consultations, approvals and overall timescales

13. It is proposed that the age range of the centre 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.
14. 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".
15. 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 William Cobbett Primary School would like to know what people in the area feel about the proposal. The consultation will open on Monday 30 April 2018.

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 (William Cobbett COIN Centre) to:
schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

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 2pm** at William Cobbett Primary 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 during 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 specialist centre. 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.