

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS:

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended by the Education Act 2011, that Surrey County Council, intends to make a significant change to the Special Education Needs and Disabilities designation at Clifton Hill School from a secondary Severe Learning Difficulty and Disability (SLDD) school to a split designation of Secondary SLDD and Complex Social and Communication Needs (CSCN).

School and local education authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school.

Woodfield Secondary School
Sunstone Grove
Merstham
Surrey
RH1 3PR

Community Special School

Surrey County Council, Education Place Planning, Quadrant Court, 35
Guildford Road, Woking, GU22 7QQ

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

Surrey County Council is proposing that Woodfield Secondary School is expanded to provide an additional 60 places for children who have Moderate Learning Difficulties, known locally in Surrey as Learning and Additional Needs (LAN), and who require a specialist school placement. It is proposed that the additional places will start to come online from September 2021 and that the project delivery and handover of the expanded school site will be completed by September 2022.

Objections and comments

1. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —
 - (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
 - (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

This is a four-week consultation, which begins on Monday 22 February 2021 and concludes at midday on Monday 22nd March 2021. Any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending representations to:
Education Place Planning Team Quadrant Court, 35 Guildford Road, Woking.
GU22 7AH

Alternatively, representations can be made by email to:

schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

The consultation can also be accessed from the Surrey County Council website:

www.surreysays.co.uk

Alteration description

2. A description of the proposed alteration and, in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

Woodfield Secondary School is a community special educational needs school which provides secondary education to children and young people aged 11-19 years with Moderate Learning Difficulties (known locally in Surrey as Learning and Additional Needs (LAN)). Woodfield Secondary School currently has a permanent capacity of 100 places for pupils from National Curriculum Years 7-11 (i.e. ages 11-16) with 20 places in each year group (2FE). The school also offers an additional 20 places for post-16 pupils in National Curriculum Years 12-14.

Surrey County Council is proposing that Woodfield Secondary School is expanded by 60 places in total across National Curriculum Years 7-11. This expansion is to provide an additional 50 places (10 places per year group) for

children who have Moderate Learning difficulties and a further 10 places in the school's flexi-teach provision, which are to be made permanent.

Flexi-teach provision is provided in a separate unit within the school. This enhanced provision supports young people on roll who present with more challenging behaviour resulting from complex learning and social and emotional needs. Young people access this provision at the discretion of the school and are then reintegrated back into classes with their peers as appropriate.

School capacity

3.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

Woodfield Secondary School currently has a permanent capacity of 100 places for pupils from National Curriculum Years 7-11 (11-16 years) and offers an additional 20 places for Post-16 pupils. The proposed expansion will increase the permanent capacity to 160 places for pupils from National Curriculum Years 7-11.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

Key stage transition into the school is at National Curriculum Year 7. Whilst Woodfield School currently admit 20 pupils (2 classes of 10 pupils) into Year 7 each year, they have taken additional pupils as a 'bulge class' to support increasing demand for pupil places in four of the last five years. These additional pupils are currently in Years 7, 8, 10 and 11.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14	Total
NOR	27	29	21	31	32	5	9	2	156
Main class	26	27	20	29	30	0	0	0	
Flexi teach unit	Maximum of 10 pupils in the unit from NCY 7 - NCY 11 from the total NOR at the schools' discretion and in agreement with parent carers					0	0	0	

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

Woodfield School will admit 10 pupils in NCY 7 in September 2021 and then an annual intake of 30 from September 2022.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14	Total
Sept 21	30	27	29	21	31	5 (est)	5	9	157
Main class	28	26	27	20	29	0	0	0	
Flexi teach unit	Maximum of 10 pupils in the unit from NCY 7 -NCY 11 from the total numbers on roll at the schools' discretion and in agreement with parent carers					0	0	0	

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

N/A

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

As of January 2021, the following number of pupils were on roll (NOR) at Woodfield School:

Year group	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	total
NOR	27	29	21	31	32	5	9	2	156

Implementation

4. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

N/A

Additional Site

5.— (1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

No additional site is required in order to facilitate these proposals.

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

N/A

Changes in boarding arrangements

6.—(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

N/A

(a) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

N/A

(b) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

N/A

(c) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

N/A

(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

(a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

N/A

(b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

N/A

Transfer to new site

7. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

(a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

The school will remain on its existing site.

(b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

N/A

(c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

N/A

(d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

N/A

(e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

N/A

(f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

N/A

Objectives

8. The objectives of the proposals.

The Department for Education's 2019-2020 High Needs Benchmarking Tool identifies Surrey as an outlier with 4.4 per 1000 of the 2-18 population of children and young people with SEND placed in the independent sector; almost twice as many as compared to an average of benchmarking counties including Hampshire, Essex, Kent, East Sussex and Hertfordshire who have 2.25 per 1000. This results in approximately £71.5m cost on the current cohort of 1,350 pupils educated in non-maintained independent provision per year.

The Cabinet report dated 29th September 2020 highlighted increased demand of key stage transfer pupils for 2021/22. Further analysis and sufficiency modelling have been undertaken and projections based on 2020 EHCP numbers suggest a growth in demand across all year groups between Year 0 (age 4-5 years) and Year 14 (age 18-19 years) for an additional 400 places for September 2021. A range of factors including anticipated new Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), children and young people moving into the county with existing plans based on

recent trends, as well as the proportion of children and young people with EHCPs currently educated in specialist provision.

Therefore, in order to provide sufficient specialist places for those that need them and ensure better value for money, 400 additional places in Surrey's maintained schools are critical for September 2021.

Based on an average unit cost of £53k per learner per annum for independent sector provision compared to the average cost for maintained specialist places at £23k per learner per annum, the provision of additional maintained specialist places would generate an approximate saving in 2021-2022 of £30k per place. Based on the maximum of 400 maintained places this realises c£7.9m in 2021-2022 as the places would come into effect from September 2021, or in a full financial year saving of around £11.9m.

The provision of additional specialist places supports the county-wide inclusion agenda as well as increasing the availability of places for children and young people with SEND to access in Surrey. Sufficient in-county provision ensures specialist education provision that achieves high quality outcomes as well as good value for money.

Capacity created locally will make certain that SEND home to school transport distance and costs are reduced so that pupils attend their closest most appropriate school with shorter journey times. Opportunities for developing independent travel skills can be maximised as a result of children and young people being educated closer to home. This will also address local congestion around school sites as well as traffic flow around the county, which will be of benefit to Surrey's Green Agenda.

The distribution and occupancy of current Special Schools and mainstream Specialist Centres clearly illustrates that there is an existing lack of provision of Autism and Social Communication & Social Interaction Needs, Moderate Learning Difficulties and Social Emotional Mental Health Needs Special Schools and Specialist Centres. The proposed modification and expansion programme will ensure that additional places are matched appropriately to need type, phases of education and geographic locations.

Consultation

9. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—
 - (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
 - (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;

- (c) the views of the persons consulted;
- (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

An explanatory consultation document has been made available to the public via the Council's website: www.surreysays.co.uk

All appropriate parties have been made aware of this proposal, inclusive of the Governing Body of the school. A virtual public meeting was held on 26th January 2021.

The following people have been made aware of the proposals: parents/carers of children attending the school; employees and Governors of the school; relevant unions; local residents; other users of the school building; other local schools; local borough and county councillors; and the School Admissions Forum.

Surrey County Council has complied with all applicable statutory requirements to consult in connection with this proposal. At the conclusion of the Notice period, if permission is granted by the Surrey Cabinet Member for All Age Learning, Surrey County Council will implement the proposal.

Project costs

10. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

The Capital investment approved by Cabinet in September 2020 is £6m and will be funded through Surrey County Council's SEND Capital Budget.

11. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State and/or local education authority that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

Although significant progress has been made over the last 12 months to improve the Council's financial position, the medium-term financial outlook is uncertain. The Public Health crisis has resulted in increased costs which are not fully funded in the current year. With uncertainty about the ongoing impact of this and no clarity on the extent to which both central and local funding sources might be affected from next year onwards, our working assumption is that financial resources will continue to be constrained, as they have been for the majority of the past decade. This places an onus on the Council to continue to consider issues of financial sustainability as a priority in order to ensure stable provision of services in the medium term. As such, the Section 151 Officer supports the proposal to move

forward with the SEND Capital Programme which is a significant part of the DSG High Needs Block reduction plan.

The current capital requirement is already factored into the medium-term financial strategy (MTFS). The projected revenue benefits will feed initially to the DSG but reducing the High Needs Block annual deficit will enable the Council to make comparable changes to the current General Fund contribution which will be of benefit to the MTFS position.

Age range

12. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

N/A

Early years provision

13. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

(a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

N/A

(b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

N/A

(c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

N/A

- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

N/A

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

N/A

Changes to sixth form provision

14. (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

N/A

- (b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

N/A

- (c) Evidence —

- (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and
- (ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

N/A

- (d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

N/A

15. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

N/A

Special educational needs

16. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

Woodfield Secondary School is a community special school which provides secondary education to children and young people aged 11-19 with Moderate Learning Difficulties (known locally in Surrey as Learning and Additional Needs (LAN)).

- (b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

N/A

- (c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

The proposed expansion will provide an additional 60 specialist school places.

- (d) details of how the provision will be funded;

The proposed additional places will be funded through the Local Authority allocation of High Needs Block (HNB) Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Current place funding is £10,000 per place plus an additional average top up funding of currently £4,477 per pupil.

In the medium term, the 60 additional places will assist with managing the pressures on the Surrey County Council High Needs Block by reducing the historical reliance on the independent sector and out of county specialist placements.

- (e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

N/A

- (f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

The expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated school budget which will include the additional funding the school will receive as a result of admitting additional pupils, except for therapies which are funded from a centrally managed DSG budget.

- (g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

N/A

- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

N/A

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

The expansion will provide an additional 60 places for pupils with special educational needs bring the school's total numbers on roll to 180.

17. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—

- (a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

N/A

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

N/A

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

N/A

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

N/A

18. Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

N/A

Sex of pupils

19. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

N/A

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

N/A

- (c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

N/A

20. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

N/A

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

N/A

Extended services

21. If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

N/A

Need or demand for additional places

22. If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

Sufficiency modelling projections demonstrate a consistent demand for primary special school places year on year. Whereas the demand for secondary specialist school places for MLD in the South East quadrant is projected to increase incrementally and to have more than doubled by 2026 as children and young people move through national curriculum year groups.

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

N/A

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

N/A

23. If the proposals involve removing places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

N/A

- (b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

N/A

Expansion of successful and popular schools

25A. (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

(a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4

of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

N/A