



PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO SCHOOLS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS

This proposal is published in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. Specifically, Regulation 5 with Schedule 2 which prescribe the alterations capable of being published by a local authority to maintained schools, and ; Regulation 6 (1) – (3) with Schedules 1 and 3 which provides for the information to be provided in relation to published proposals and prescribe the manner of their publication, determination and implementation, are relevant.

Guidance indicates that a statutory proposal for making significant changes to schools must contain sufficient information for interested parties to make a decision on whether to support the proposed change. A proposal should be accessible to all interested parties and therefore use “plain English”.

School and LA details

School details are:

Sherwood Park Special School,
Streeters Lane,
Wallington.
SM6 7NP

Category: Community Special

Contact details for the Local Authority as proposer are:

Pupil Based Commissioning Team
Stonecourt Annexe
North Street
Carshalton
SM5 2HU
Email: Primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk

Description of Alteration

The enlargement of the School by up to 80 places with effect from September 2015 along with the establishment of an additional site at the Woodfield Campus, Stanley Park Road with provision for pupils of secondary school age with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD)/severe Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and associated challenging behaviours..

Evidence of Demand for Additional Places

The incidence of children with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) and of those with severe ASD has increased sharply in Sutton. For children with PMLD, in particular, this is due not only to the increase in population but also to improved medical technology and increased survival rates along with the ability to make earlier and more accurate diagnoses. There is therefore strong evidence that the number of children with PMLD/SLD/ severe ASD (which is often coupled with challenging behaviour) will continue to rise significantly over the foreseeable future. The population under consideration therefore requires intensive, specialist support in a special school environment.

School Capacity

The current capacity of the School is 80 places. The future capacity of the School across both sites will be 160 places

The current number of pupils on roll as a January 2014 is:

YEAR	NOR
N2	2
YR	8
Y1	4
Y2	5
Y3	4
Y4	4
Y5	4
Y6	3
Y7	3
Y8	3
Y9	9
Y10	7
Y11	3
Y12	8
Y13	6
Y14	8
TOTAL NOR	81

If the School recruits well in future, the projected numbers of pupils on roll (NOR) are estimated to be:

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
N2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
YR	8	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Y1	4	8	5	5	5	5	5	5
Y2	5	5	8	5	5	5	5	5
Y3	4	5	5	8	6	6	6	6
Y4	4	5	5	5	8	6	6	6
Y5	4	5	5	5	5	8	6	6
Y6	3	5	7	6	5	5	8	6
Y7	3	4	10	11	13	14	15	15
Y8	3	4	5	10	11	13	14	15
Y9	9	3	5	6	11	12	14	14
Y10	7	9	4	6	7	11	12	14
Y11	3	7	9	4	6	10	11	12
Y12	8	3	8	12	8	10	12	13
Y13	6	8	3	8	12	8	10	12
Y14	8	6	8	3	8	12	8	10
TOTAL NOR	81	84	92	99	117	132	139	146

Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

The establishment of the additional places at Sherwood Park Special School will increase the Council's overall capacity to offer high quality educational provision to meet the needs of the pupil population it is intended to serve. The additional capacity should reduce considerably the need for the Council to place pupils at high tariff independent and non-maintained schools, often outside of the Borough, with all that can mean for accessibility and

contact with the family for the children involved. The establishment of the additional site at Woodfield will enable the school better to manage the differing needs of the two main elements of its pupil population. It is envisaged that pupils with severe ASD will largely be educated on the Woodfield Site whereas the needs of pupils with SLD/PMLD will be largely catered for at the original site at Streeter's Lane.

The School's October 2011 and October 2013 Ofsted inspections indicated "Good" for overall effectiveness. The October 2013 Ofsted inspection which graded the school as "Good" in all areas stated "pupils make good progress so that by the time they leave, they are well prepared for the next phase of their lives and education".

Special Educational Needs

Where proposals are to establish or alter provision for special educational needs:

The proposal is to provide up to 80 additional places for secondary aged and post-16 students with PMLD/SLD/severe ASD and associated challenging behaviours in order to meet the needs of the Borough's PMLD/SLD/severe ASD population. In order to achieve this enlargement, it is proposed to establish an additional site for Sherwood Park Special School on the site of the former Stanley Park High School (SPHS) from September 2015, subsequently building up in numbers as successive intakes of students join the School.

Where proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs:

N/A

For any proposals relating to provision for special educational needs a description of the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposal:

The proposal should improve access to education and associated services including an appropriate provision, wider school activities, facilities and equipment because the expansion of the school and the establishment of an additional site at Woodfield for pupils with SLD/severe ASD will provide specialist provision which is specifically aimed at meeting the needs of a group of pupils mainly of secondary age with PMLD/SLD/severe ASD in a location within the Borough reasonably accessible from their homes. The local authority would be obliged to place these pupils in high tariff placements in independent or non-maintained special schools, often outside of the Borough, were the new provision not to be established.

The new provision proposed will be staffed by specialist teachers and there will be access to both education and other professionals, including as required external support and/or outreach services.

The accommodation for the proposed new provision will be available for September 2015.

Widespread consultation has been undertaken in respect of this proposal. The proposal adds to the existing pattern and mix of SEN provision and will offer the facilities necessary to support young children with learning difficulties and enable an appropriate curriculum to be offered.

The proposal will result in a reduction in the overall transport requirement because there will be fewer locations to serve, and shorter journey times for the children.

Possible effects on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

Sherwood Park Special School is the only school of its particular type within Sutton and, in that sense the proposed changes to its provision should not adversely affect any other schools. Sutton has, however, established a number of specialist bases in its primary schools in recent years, and therefore this development should mean that there will be more choice for parents and opportunities for their children to progress on to Sherwood Park and therefore to complete their education at a school within Sutton. The demand for places in schools maintained by other Authorities should also be reduced.

Consultation

Consultation on possible changes to SEN provision at three schools – Culvers House Primary, Avenue Primary and **Sherwood Park Special** – took place over a six week period between 6 January and 14 February 2014. Consultation documents were distributed widely and were available for downloading from the Sutton website. Three public meetings were held at the schools involved and the matter was reported to the relevant local area committee.

Specific Consultees

The following persons/bodies were consulted:

Parents/Carers, Staff and Governors of primary schools proposed for expansion.
Extended Services, Community and other of the primary schools proposed for expansion.
Parents/Carers, Staff, Chairs of Governors of all other nursery and primary schools in Sutton
Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all secondary schools in Sutton
Headteachers of all special schools in Sutton
Headteachers/Teachers in Charge of Pupil Referral Units in Sutton
Children's Centres
Principal of SCOLA
Principal of Orchard Hill College
Principal of Carshalton College of Further Education
All elected members (councillors) of the London Borough of Sutton
Chairs of all Sutton Local Committees
Directors of Children's Services of neighbouring Local Authorities (Merton, Croydon, Richmond, Kingston and Surrey)
MPs and MEPs
Local Dioceses – Church of England and Roman Catholic
Chair of the Sutton Schools Forum
Chair of the Sutton Admissions Forum
Chair of the Sutton Primary Headteachers Group
Chair of the Sutton Secondary Headteachers Group
All Strategic Directors (London Borough of Sutton)
All Executive Heads of Service (London Borough of Sutton)
Secretaries of relevant Trades Unions and Teachers Professional Associations
Sutton Racial Equality Council
Chair of Early Outcomes and Extended Services Partnership
Chair of Sutton Voluntary Sector Forum (Children and Families)
Chief Executive, Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust
Metropolitan Police – Area Commander, Sutton
Early Years and PVI settings
GPs
Young Advisers Faith and Belief Forum

Summary of the views of persons consulted

For the expansion of Sherwood Park Special School including the establishment of an additional site to cater for pupils of secondary age with severe ASD, there were 45 responses in the form of response forms, e-mails and other communications. 37(82%) expressed support; 3 (7%) expressed opposition, and; 5 (11%) were not sure. The open consultation meeting was attended by 10 people including members of staff and the public.

The investment in the expansion of SEN provision was welcomed by respondents. Concerns about traffic, congestion, parking and nuisance to local residents were by far the most frequent responses raised at Sherwood Park Special.

The proposals in respect of changes to SEN provision were also reported to the relevant Local Area Committees.

Details of how to view consultation documents and minutes of meetings

Consultation documents and the minutes of meetings can be obtained from:

Pupil Based Commissioning Team

Stonecourt Annexe

North Street

Carshalton

SM5 2HU

Email: Primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk

Project costs and an indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved

The capital cost of changes to provide the new accommodation for the expanded Sherwood Park Special School is estimated to be around £4.544m. An application was successfully made to the DfE for Targeted Basic Need Funding which has been topped up by other capital resources held by the Council in order to ensure the completion of this work.

The Council has processes for scrutinising costs, for example based on benchmarking and examination of unit rates as well as having extensive experience of implementing similar projects in the recent past

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The proposals for the enlargement of the school and the establishment of an additional site are published by the Local Authority with the full support of the School's Governing Body.

The Local Authority will provide appropriate levels of revenue funding for the expanded school which should ensure a sufficient level of resources to support the special educational needs of the pupils who will join the roll of the School progressively over the course of the next eight years after 2015 as numbers build up.

Additional Site

The proposal takes the opportunity to use an area of the former SPHS site which will become an additional site under the management of Sherwood Park Special School. This is a realistic proposition as the two sites would be within 1.5 miles of each other. The School has sufficient management capacity and professional expertise coupled with a track record of providing high quality provision for its pupils to manage the expansion well.

Explanation of the procedures for responses: support, objections and comments

Within four weeks from the date of the publication of these proposals (Tuesday 22 April 2014), any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to the London Borough of Sutton.

The Statutory Proposal/Notice was published on the London Borough of Sutton's Website (www.sutton.gov.uk) on 22 April 2014 and posted at the School. Valid representations must be received at the relevant offices of the Local Authority by the close of business on Monday 19 May 2014.

Any representations should be sent to:
The Pupil Based Commissioning Team
Stonecourt Annex,
North Street,
Carshalton SM5 2HU.
Email: primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk