

Springfield Primary School – Proposal for Consultation on ASD Unit

SUMMARY

- 1 The purpose of this report is to brief on the increasing demand for enhanced resource places at mainstream schools for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. The report suggests that Cabinet Member approval is sought to go out to formal consultation on a proposal to add ASD provision to Springfield Primary from September 2013. A draft timeline for the proposal is attached as Appendix 2. A draft consultation document is attached as Appendix 3.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2 To commence formal consultation on a proposal to add 12 enhanced resource places to Springfield Primary School for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder from September 2013.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The reason for the proposal is to meet an increase in demand for places for pupils with ASD.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 This report suggests that Cabinet Lead Member approval is sought to go out to formal consultation on a proposal to provide 12 enhanced resource places for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Springfield Primary School. The reason for the proposal is to meet an increase in demand for places for pupils with ASD.
- 4.2 In assessing the need for enhanced resource places at mainstream schools, the Council has considered how future demand for places can be met and how this provision can meet the needs of all learners. The Council believes that all pupils should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum within a learning environment in which they can be healthy and stay safe.

- 4.3 The proposal is for Springfield Primary School to have a purpose built support area linked closely to the mainstream school from September 2013. The facility will be staffed by professionals who have experience in offering personalised learning for pupils who may have otherwise experienced difficulties in the mainstream environment.
- 4.4 The school will remain as a mainstream community school and there are no proposals to change the school's admission number or catchment area. If the proposal goes ahead, Derby City Council will work closely with the school to provide extra accommodation and minimise any disruption that could be caused by the building work.
- 4.5 The proposal is that the Enhanced Resources unit at Springfield Primary School would form part of a range of alternative provision for ASD pupils across the City:
- Pupils with mild ASD could be accommodated within any mainstream school,
 - Pupils needing a little more support could be offered a place within the Enhanced Resources provision at Springfield Primary School,
 - Pupils requiring more specialist ASD support could be offered places within Enhanced Resources provision at Brackensdale Infant or Junior School, or if appropriate, within a Special School.
- 4.6 Nationally, the numbers of children and young people with ASD is increasing and all our provision in Derby is getting full, therefore, additional provision is required.
- 4.7 The Headteacher and Governing Body of Springfield Primary School support the proposal to provide enhanced resource provision for pupils with ASD at the school.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Expressions of interest were invited from all Primary phase schools. In considering the most appropriate location for the provision other schools were looked at, but due to site constraints and the availability of funding, Springfield Primary was considered to be the best option for the provision.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Robin Constable, Solicitor, Legal Services Alison Parkin, Head of Finance - CYP Rita Silvester, Service Director – Performance and Commissioning, CYP
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Rita Silvester, Service Director – Performance and Commissioning, tel. 01332 716840, email rita.silvester@derby.gov.uk None. Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Draft timeline Appendix 3 – Draft Consultation Document

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 Council Cabinet, at its meeting on 10 September 2010, approved £1.3m capital funding to provide additional accommodation and facilities for a Primary phase Enhanced Resources unit for ASD pupils. The cost of building the additional ASD provision will be met from savings from reducing the number of out of authority placements.
- 1.2 The school would be provided the additional funding needed to staff and resource the unit through the schools formula budget allocations funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 1.3 This is part of a longer term strategy to enhance internal provision thus reducing the need to place children in out of authority placements. Internal provision is provided through Enhanced Resource School funding.

Legal

- 2.1 Under The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, statutory consultation is required for any proposal that seeks to add special educational needs provision to a mainstream school. The process involves consultation, publication of a statutory notice and consideration of the responses received. Subject to the outcome of this process, the implementation date is likely to be September 2013 to tie in with likely construction timescales.

Personnel

- 3 School budgets are largely based on pupil numbers. Therefore, if enhanced resource places are added to Springfield Primary, the additional pupil numbers will result in increased revenue funding for the school to employ the additional specialist teaching staff required.

Equalities Impact

- 4 None for consideration.

Health and Safety

- 5 None for consideration.

Carbon commitment

- 6 Work will be planned to meet relevant building regulations. Part L of the building regulations generally requires new components to be more environmentally friendly and efficient.

Value for money

- 7 None for consideration. Provision of additional places within the City will help to alleviate pressure on costly out of city placements.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 8 The proposal supports the Corporate Priority of building ambition, aspiration and achievement in the city's young people.

**Proposal to add enhanced resource places to Springfield Primary
Draft Timeline**

Stages	Timeline
Seek approval from Cabinet Lead Member to commence consultation. Discuss and agree consultation document with Head and Governors.	December 2011 / January 2012
Consultation period (six weeks), including Governing Bodies, Headteachers, parents, teachers, staff, unions and ward members.	Wed 1 February - Wed 14 March 2012
Report outcome of initial consultation to Council Cabinet and seek approval to move to next stage which involves publishing a Statutory Notice.	17 April 2012
Advise Heads and Governors of outcome of Cabinet meeting.	18 April 2012
Publication of Statutory Notice and circulation of Complete Proposal which marks the start of a six week representation period (Following Cabinet call-in period).	30 April to 11 June 2012
Decision by: Local Authority - Council Cabinet is the decision maker but this can be delegated to Director for Children and Young People if no objections are received during the representation period. If objections are received, the decision should be taken by Council Cabinet.	17 July 2012 Cabinet meeting or earlier if Strategic Director for CYP
Open	September 2013

Draft Consultation Document**[DATE]****Please give us your views and comments on our proposal to provide Enhanced Resource places for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Springfield Primary School****Proposal**

1. Derby City Council is consulting on a proposal to provide 12 Enhanced Resource places for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Springfield Primary School. The reason for the proposal is to meet an increase in demand for places for pupils with ASD.
2. The proposal is for the school to have a purpose built support area linked closely to the main school from September 2013. The facility will be staffed by professionals who have experience in offering personalised learning for students who may have otherwise experienced difficulties in a mainstream school environment.
3. The school will remain as a mainstream community school and there are no proposals to change the school's admission number or catchment area. If the proposal goes ahead, we would work closely with the school to provide extra accommodation and minimise any disruption that could be caused by the building work.
4. This consultation document tells you the reason for our proposal and how the decision making process works. Please take time to read the document and let us know your views and comments on the attached Consultation Response Form. The closing date for responses is **[DATE]**. We hope you find the document helpful and informative.

Enhanced Resource Places

5. Enhanced Resource places are places at mainstream schools for pupils with specific special educational requirements. The proposal is to add 12 enhanced resource places to Springfield Primary School for pupils with ASD. The school will remain as a mainstream community school but there will be additional facilities and support for up to 12 children with ASD to allow them to attend a mainstream school.
6. In assessing the need for Enhanced Resource places at mainstream schools, the Council has considered how future demand for places can be met and how this provision can meet the needs of all learners. The Council believes that all pupils should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum within a

learning environment in which they can be healthy and stay safe.

7. The Council proposes that the Enhanced Resources unit at Springfield Primary School would form part of a range of alternative provision for ASD pupils across the City:
 - Pupils with mild ASD could be accommodated within any mainstream school,
 - Pupils needing a little more support could be offered a place within the Enhanced Resources provision at Springfield Primary School,
 - Pupils requiring more specialist ASD support could be offered places within Enhanced Resources provision at Brackensdale Infant or Junior School, or if appropriate, within a Special School.
8. Nationally the numbers of children and young people with ASD is increasing and all our provision in Derby is full. We are therefore struggling to offer places for children within the city. This can result in parental requests for placements out of the city which are often more costly.
9. The cost of building the additional ASD provision will be met from savings from reducing the number of out of authority placements. The school would be provided the additional funding needed to staff and resource the unit.

View of the Headteacher and Governors

7. The Headteacher and Governing Body of Springfield Primary School support the proposal to provide Enhanced Resource provision for pupils with ASD at the school.

Contact information

8. We are very interested in your views and welcome your comments. Please respond to us by using the response sheet attached to this paper.

Should you wish to discuss any specific aspects of this proposal, please contact:

Angela Cole, Head of Inclusion and Intervention,
Children and Young People's Department,
Derby City Council,
Tel 01332 256753
E-mail: angela.cole@derby.gov.uk

Timescale / Next steps

8. The six-week consultation period for responses will end on **[DATE]**. The outcome of this consultation will be reported to Council Cabinet for consideration and decision will then be made as to whether we should progress the proposal to the next stage. If proposals are to be taken forward a

formal public notice would be published with a further six-week statutory consultation period as required under Government legislation.

9. In order to meet the required deadline for opening the unit in September 2013, the Council may need to submit a planning application before the above consultation process has been completed. This should not prejudice the outcome of the consultation or the decision making process. Any comments on the appearance of the proposed unit can be made separately through the planning application process.

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

We are very interested in your views and comments on this proposal. Please use this form to let us have your views. (Please use extra sheets if you wish).

Do you support the Council's proposal to provide enhanced resource places for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Springfield Primary School?

I support the proposal. ☐

I don't support the proposal. ☐

I'm undecided about the proposal. ☐

Please give us any comments here

Date.....

Status.....

(For example, a parent, governor, school, agency, other)

Please return your completed form to: Hayley Millward, Children and Young People's Directorate, Middleton House, 27 St Mary's Gate, Derby DE1 3NN

Email: hayley.millward@derby.gov.uk

All responses will be treated confidentially.

The closing date for getting your views and comments in is: **[DATE]**

Continuation Sheet...