

Expansion of Springhead School onto an additional site and an increase in the number of places in the special school using the former Graham Lower School Site at Lady Edith's Drive, Scarborough.

Statutory proposals for Prescribed Alterations – Expansion onto an Additional Site and an increase in the number of places at the special school.

Contact details

Proposal published by North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, to make prescribed alterations to Springhead School, Barry Lane, Scarborough North Yorkshire, from 1 September 2020.

Implementation

It is proposed to make permanent the temporary expansion of Springhead School onto an additional site from 1 September 2020.

Description of alteration

The proposal is to permanently expand Springhead School through the creation of Specialist satellite provision on the Former Graham Lower School Site at Lady Edith's Drive with effect from 1 September 2020. This arrangement has been operating temporarily from September 2017. Prior to the temporary expansion on the new site the school could accommodate approximately 75 pupils with the relevant Special Educational Needs. As a result of the expansion on the additional site this has been increased to approximately 85 and this capacity will be made permanent by this proposal.

The reasons for the expansion

Springhead School is a Special School which accommodates pupils with a wide range of needs. Demand for this type of provision is increasing in North Yorkshire and it is expected that this will continue into the future in line with local and national trends.

Pressure on current capacity across specialist provision in North Yorkshire is a significant contributory factor to the projected overspend on the High Needs Block budget. Temporarily establishing a satellite provision on the Lady Edith's Drive site has created additional special school capacity and in turn created more local provision for children and families in line with the Strategic Plan for SEND Education Provision 2018-2023. As this site has been in operation for almost 3 years it is now necessary to carry out the statutory process to make this situation permanent in school

organisational terms.

Effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions

There is not expected to be an effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions.

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

The satellite provision place costs are currently comparable to that of Springhead School. The continuation of this provision delivers efficient use of resources both in terms of place costs and transport in comparison to provision being sought from the independent sector.

Springhead School is well-established and in its most recent Ofsted inspection in 2018 was judged to be Outstanding. The school is operating close to its capacity in terms of commissioned places. The school is projecting an end of year surplus of £22k for 2019/20 and this proposal will not be detrimental to their revenue position.

The average cost for a place at Springhead School is £24,730 against an average cost of £58,519 for Independent/Non-Maintained day place provision.

Capital investment was provided to the site at the point that it began operating as a temporary expansion of Springhead School.

Admission and curriculum arrangements

It is proposed to use the Lady Edith's Drive site to provide satellite specialist provision from Springhead School. Springhead is a special school in Scarborough making provision for a wide range of complex SEN. It serves a wide geographical area across the east of the County. The School accommodates children aged 3-18 who all have an Education Health Care Plan.

The proposal is to formalise the establishment of the Sixth Form Provision on the Lady Edith's Drive site to allow the school to offer an increase of provision both at the Sixth Form and, as a direct consequence, 3-16 places at the main school site. Demand for this type of provision is increasing in North Yorkshire and it is expected that this will continue into the future in line with local and national trends.

Admission arrangements would be in line with current national guidance and local processes. Children would only access the provision following a statutory assessment of their SEND resulting in issuance of an Education and Health Care Plan and formal consultation between the LA and School regarding the schools ability to meet individual needs.

Pressure on current capacity across specialist provision in North Yorkshire is a significant contributory factor to the projected overspend on the High Needs Block budget. Developing a satellite provision on the Lady Edith's Drive Site creates

additional capacity and in turn reduce the need for higher cost Independent and Non-Maintained provision.

Governance and administration

As an extension of Springhead School the satellite provision will continue to be managed under the same Senior Leadership and Governing Body structures already in existence. Any new staff employed would therefore be contracted under Springhead School and deployed across the school and satellite at the discretion of the Head Teacher of the school.

Physical characteristics of the school

It is intended that the provision in Scarborough will continue to serve the local community and extend the provision Springhead School offers across the geographical area, meeting expected increased future demand. Although a standalone provision, it is possible that some young people could access activities on either site should it be determined that this would meet individual needs.

Consultation

The decision to consult on enlargement of Springhead School through the use of Specialist satellite provision on the Lady Edith's Drive Site was taken by the Executive Member for Schools on 14th January 2020. A consultation paper setting out the proposal was sent to parents of pupils on roll, staff at the school as well as other interested parties and individuals. A copy of the consultation paper is attached as Appendix 1. A list of the consultees is attached as Appendix 3. The consultation period ran from 24 January to 12 March. There have been 6 consultation responses received (Appendix 5).

Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director-Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 18 May.