

Consultation on the Removal of Enhanced Mainstream Provision and the Establishment of Targeted Mainstream Provision for Children and Young People with SEND at Alverton Primary School

Purpose of this Consultation Document:

This document is to explain the proposal by the Local Authority to Establish Targeted Mainstream Provision for Children and Young People with SEND at Alverton Primary School.

On 31st March 2020 the County Council's Chief Executive Officer, under his emergency delegated powers and in consultation with Executive Members, considered the response to the consultation on the implementation of providing SEN provision in Mainstream Schools in the form of Targeted Provisions. He also approved as part of this implementation, public consultation on school organisation proposals to:

- (i) add provision for Special Educational Needs by providing Special Resourced provision in the form of Targeted Provisions at Mainstream Schools
- (ii) Remove provision for Special Educational Needs at former Enhanced Mainstream Schools.

Following discussions with the Governors and Headteacher Alverton Primary School has been selected to host a Targeted Mainstream Provision. The Local Authority is now asking for your views on this proposal as part of the statutory process which is required before alterations of these kind are made to maintained schools.

What will the Target Mainstream Provision look like?

Schools have the flexibility to refine their model of delivery but in general the new provision will:

- Provide 8 full time places for 6 children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan and 2 'flexible' places for children needing to access the provision for short term assessment and support.
- Specialise in meeting the needs of children and young people with Communication and Interaction needs.

- Have access to a range of therapies and training opportunities to ensure children are fully supported
- Increase the opportunities for children and young people with SEND to access mainstream education together with more specialised small group interventions and support
- Be funded on a 'place' basis similar to special schools and in line with national guidance. They will receive £10,000 per place and top up funding in accordance with our Banding system. We expect the top up funding to be between £4,780 to £7,570 per place (banding levels as of 2019/2020 financial year)

Background to the Proposal

North Yorkshire County Council has a duty to keep its special education provision under review and ensure there is the right type of provision and enough places to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

We want all children and young people with SEND in North Yorkshire to;

- have the best educational opportunities so that they achieve the best outcomes;
- be able to attend a school or provision locally, where they can make friends and be part of their local community; and
- make progress with learning, have good social and emotional health and be prepared for a fulfilling adult life.

We know that there are more children and young people being identified as having special educational needs in North Yorkshire and we expect this increase to continue. We need to make sure that we have the right type of education provision in the right place to meet their needs. We know that a number of our children and young people have to go to school outside North Yorkshire, and we want to avoid this wherever possible.

We have developed a strategic plan for educating children with SEND which aims to create a better offer of provision for children and young people, improved communication, enable more local decision making, and reduce costly out of county placements. This plan was approved in September 2018 and the proposal to implement the Targeted Mainstreams Provisions were approved on 24th March 2020. We are now implementing the actions within it and one of these actions is to establish Targeted Mainstream Provisions at individual schools through the statutory process required.

This document explains the proposal that we are consulting on with regard to the individual school in question. The full strategic plan document is here www.northyorks.gov.uk/sendplan so that you can see where this aspect of provision fits within the wide range of provisions established or being developed. We recommend that you read this documents before responding to the survey and giving us your views on the individual proposal.

How are we consulting?

We have already carried out a consultation exercise on the SEND Strategic Plan from 18th May 2018 to 28th June 2018 and then subsequently from 6th February 2020 to 15th March 2020 on the specific issue of establishing Targeted Mainstream provisions. These current school organisation proposals are purely about the establishment of a Targeted Provisions and discontinuation of Enhanced Mainstream Provision at specific schools. We are inviting stakeholders to share their views on these school organisation proposals.

We are asking you to give your views on the school organisation proposals via an on line survey on the County Council's Website www.northyorks.gov.uk/SENSurvey. If you would like a paper copy of the survey or an alternative format, please call our customer service centre on 01609 780 780. We are also holding engagement events on line for stakeholders to offer views and ask any questions they may have regarding the proposal.

Due to the nature of the Covid 19 pandemic our usually practice of physically hosting meetings in localities for stakeholders to attend is not possible. Therefore, to ensure that stakeholders do have an opportunity to listen to a presentation on the proposals and to ask questions we will be holding online consultation meetings focused on each geographical area.

To assist in responding to the consultation, stakeholders are invited to engage in the online Hambleton and Richmondshire Locality Meeting on 11th May at 5.30pm. In order to access one of these events please email sen@northyorks.gov.uk stating your name and which event you wish to attend no later than 12noon, Tuesday 5th May. You will then receive an email invite and link to access the engagement session via Skype.

What is the timescale?

The closing date for responses is 22 May 2020. All responses to the consultation received by this date will be considered by our Executive on 9 June 2020. If the County Council's Executive decides to proceed with the closure proposal, then statutory notices would be published in the local press on 19 June 2020. These notices provide

a further four weeks for representations to be made. A final decision would then be made by our Executive on 18 August 2020.

Information about our equalities impact assessment

We have carried out an equalities impact assessment (EIA) which can be found here <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fileroot/Children%20and%20families/SEND%20-%20local%20offer/EMS%20EIA%20reviewed%20Appendix%203.pdf>.

We will update this following comments received during the consultation and councillors will consider it again before they make a decision on implementing the proposal. The EIA has identified that there will be an impact on young people with SEND and if changes are made to current SEND education services, we will offer support to families to adapt to those changes.

We anticipate that, if the proposal is implemented, it may bring positive impacts to young people and their families, particularly by enabling more young people with SEND to be educated in their own community and achieve better outcomes. We anticipate that with more local provision children and young people with SEND will have more opportunities to attend a local school that is closer to home and will help them achieve better educational and social outcomes.