

Consultation on the of Removal of Enhanced Mainstream Provision for Children and Young People with SEND at Upper Wharfedale School.

Purpose of this Consultation Document:

This document is to explain the proposal by the Local Authority to Remove Enhanced Mainstream Provision from Upper Wharfedale 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 Upper Wharfedale School will not host a Targeted Mainstream Provision and will therefore no longer require the Special Provision designation associated with the School as a former Enhance Mainstream School. 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.

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 31 March 2020. We are now implementing the actions within it and one of these actions requires us to alter the designation to include an SEN Unit of those schools involved and remove the designations from schools no longer offering Special Provision.

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 and 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 these 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 online survey on the County Council's Website www.northyorks.gov.uk/SENDSurvey. 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 online 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 usual 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 Craven Locality Meeting on 12th 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 <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.