

Report to: **Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability**

Date: **18 October 2018**

By: **Director of Children's Services**

Title of report: **Proposed SEN facility at Grovelands Community Primary School**

Purpose of report: **To seek Lead Member approval to publish statutory notices in respect of a proposal to establish a SEN facility at Grovelands Community Primary School.**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) authorise the publication of a statutory notice in respect of a proposal to establish a SEN (Special Educational Needs) facility for up to 8 pupils at Grovelands Community Primary School with effect from 1 January 2019; and**
 - 2) delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to amend the proposals prior to their publication if required.**
-

1. Background

1.1 East Sussex County Council recently undertook a review of SEN provision in the county. One of the identified strands of the review was specialist facilities in mainstream schools. The aim of this strand was to review the current provision of specialist facilities and determine whether it is meeting the needs of SEN pupils across East Sussex. The review also sought to identify any gaps in provision.

1.2 Specialist facilities are located within a mainstream school and provide specific support to a limited number of pupils with an education and health care plan (EHCP) naming a specific primary SEN.

1.3 The aspiration in East Sussex is that specialist facilities promote an ethos of inclusion and help to integrate their pupils into the mainstream school for as much of their learning time as their needs allow. The facility should also provide access to a base within the school for more intensive support when required. The East Sussex model increasingly expects that the expertise of staff within the facility provide significant benefits to the rest of the school and other schools in the local area to support all pupils with SEN and create a fully inclusive learning environment. The development of new specialist provision in mainstream schools is facilitating further development of school to school partnerships through a strategic governance group. A revised service level agreement determines the outcomes for all facilities.

2. The Proposal

2.1 The review concluded that there is a gap in specialist provision in mainstream primary schools for pupils with a primary need of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the Hailsham area. The Council would like to establish a facility for up to 8 pupils at Grovelands Community Primary School to address this.

2.2 There is already a specialist facility for pupils at Hailsham Community College. Developing a primary facility in close proximity to the existing secondary school facility would allow progression for pupils and continuity of support to aid the transition of pupils for whom a secondary facility is the most appropriate next stage. This would assist in reducing the increasing trend of transition from mainstream primary school to special secondary schools. For some pupils, providing early intervention at primary phase through a facility place, would address needs and enable transition to mainstream secondary school.

2.3. Pupils within the facility are on the roll of the mainstream school and are in addition to the published admission number. The school receives additional funding from the DfE (Department for Education) and the Council to support the child. Placements are determined by the Council according to clear criteria, and would be drawn from a wider geographical area than the school's usual community area on a needs basis.

2.4 The school would have a designated base to provide them with capacity for additional numbers of pupils with higher levels of need. The base would be integral to the school and would provide additional facilities so that the children can be taught in small groups according to their need and have access to a

quiet space or nurture room. Funding to develop these facilities would come from the Council's approved capital programme.

2.5 The specialist facility would be integral to the operation of the school and, as a result, would be managed by the headteacher, governors and the senior leadership team. The specialist facility would principally be for identified pupils with an EHCP naming ASD as their specific primary SEN although pupils may present with a complex range of need that would be accommodated by the facility.

2.6 The amount of time each pupil spends with their mainstream peers for lessons and recreation would depend on the needs of the individual. Some pupils would need to be taught individually or in small groups for parts of the school day but may be able to access some of the curriculum with their peers. Arrangements would need to be flexible to reflect educational needs and social needs, anxiety levels and personal circumstances. Professionals and the pupil's parent/carer would be involved in bespoke planning of a graduated programme to increase resilience and prepare for increased further independence.

2.7 Pupils in the facility would have their special educational needs reviewed regularly in discussion with parents/carers and professionals to ensure that the facility remains the most appropriate placement to meet these needs.

3. Consultation

3.1 Establishing a new specialist facility at a maintained school is considered to be a significant change requiring a prescribed alteration to the school.

3.2 The Council consulted with key stakeholders and interested parties over a ten week period between 6 July and 14 September 2018 on the proposal.

3.3 The consultation document was available on the County Council's website and interested parties were invited to give their views on the proposal. The Council issued a press release and used social media to inform the local community of the consultation. Details of the consultation were also included on Grovelands Community Primary School's website. A paper copy of the consultation document was available on request. A copy of the consultation document is shown in **Appendix 1** of this report.

3.4 By the end of the consultation period 39 responses had been received. Of the responses:

- 35 (89.7%) support the proposal
- 4 (10.3%) do not support the proposal

3.5 Respondents identified themselves as:

- 1 Pupil at Grovelands School
- 14 Parent/carer of a child at Grovelands School
- 1 Member of staff at Grovelands School
- 1 Governor at Grovelands School
- 17 Member of the local community
- 12 Other

3.6 It should be noted that some respondents ticked more than one box when identifying themselves.

3.7 In summary there was a positive response to the consultation. Those in favour of the proposal recognise the need for specialist provision for pupils with a primary need of ASD in the Hailsham area. A complete list of responses to the consultation is available in the Cabinet and Members Rooms.

4. Equality Impact Assessment

4.1 The Lead Member is required to have 'due regard' to the duties set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the Public Sector Equality Duty) in determining these proposals. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is being undertaken to identify any equality implications of this proposal and to identify any appropriate mitigations. The EqIA will be reported to Lead Member prior to a final decision being taken on the proposal.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1 In conclusion the Council has identified a gap in specialist provision in mainstream primary schools for pupils with a primary need of ASD in the Hailsham area and the Council would like to establish a facility for up to 8 pupils at Grovelands Community Primary School to address this.

5.2 The majority of respondents to the consultation support the proposal to establish a SEN facility at Grovelands Community Primary School.

5.3 In accordance with the prescribed process established by the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 a statutory notice would need to be published on the Council's website and in the local newspaper in November 2018. Publication of the notice would trigger a further 4 week period of consultation, known as the representation period, when interested parties can comment on, or object, to the proposal. Within two months of the end of the representation period, the Lead Member must make a final decision taking into account the views of all those affected by the proposal or who have an interest in it.

5.4 It is anticipated that a final decision on the proposal would be taken at the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability meeting in December 2018.

STUART GALLIMORE

Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Gary Langford, Place Planning Manager

Tel. No. 01273 481758

Email: gary.langford@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Gerard Fox

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Consultation Document

Grovelands Community Primary School SEN Facility consultation



To pupils, parents/carers, staff, governors and stakeholders

East Sussex County Council is proposing to establish a special educational needs facility at Grovelands Community Primary School from 1 January 2019. The facility would accommodate up to 8 pupils with a primary need of Autism.

Why do we need to establish a SEN facility at Grovelands Community Primary School?

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) recently undertook a review of special education needs (SEN) provision in the county. One of the identified strands of the review was specialist facilities in mainstream schools. The aim of this strand was to review the current provision of specialist facilities and determine whether it is meeting the needs of SEN pupils across East Sussex. The review also sought to identify any gaps in provision.

The review concluded that there is a gap in specialist provision in mainstream primary schools for pupils with a primary need of Autism (ASD) in the Hailsham area and ESCC would like to establish a facility for up to 8 pupils at Grovelands Community Primary School to address this.

There is already a specialist facility for pupils at Hailsham Community College. Developing a primary facility in close proximity to the existing secondary school facility would allow progression for pupils and continuity of support to aid the transition of pupils for whom a secondary facility is the most appropriate next stage. This will assist in reducing the increasing trend of transition from mainstream primary school to special secondary schools. For some pupils, providing early intervention at primary phase through a facility place, will address needs and enable transition to mainstream secondary school.

What are specialist facilities?

Specialist facilities are located within a mainstream school and provide specific support to a limited number of pupils with an education and health care plan (EHCP) naming a specific primary SEN. Pupils within the facility are on roll of the mainstream school and are in addition to the published admission number. The school receives additional funding from ESCC to support the child. Placements are determined by ESCC according to clear criteria, and will be drawn from a wider geographical area than the school's usual catchment.

The aspiration in East Sussex is that specialist facilities promote an ethos of inclusion and help integrate their pupils into the mainstream school for as much of their learning time as their needs allow. The facility should also provide access to a base within the school for more intensive support when required. The East Sussex model increasingly expects that the expertise of staff within the facility provide significant benefits to the rest of the school and other schools in the local area to support all pupils with SEN and create a fully inclusive learning environment.

Pupils in the facility will have their special educational needs reviewed regularly in discussion with parents/carers and professionals to ensure that the facility remains the most appropriate placement to meet these needs.

What will be the impact of the new facility on other pupils in the school?

We expect the new facility would have a positive impact on provision at the school. Specialist staff would work with pupils in the new facility and also work with teaching staff across the school to develop skills and expertise in responding to SEN needs and creating an inclusive environment.

Will building work be required to establish the new facility and, if so, how will this be funded?

ESCC, working with Grovelands Community Primary School, has identified an area of the school building which could be adapted to provide the accommodation required for the new facility. ESCC would fund the building works from its approved capital programme.

Would the school need to close during building work?

No. The building project would be planned carefully and contractors would work with the school to ensure that works are scheduled to keep disruption to a minimum. The building site would be a secure area to ensure the health and safety of the pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors to the school.

How can I give my views?

The consultation period runs from 6 July to 14 September 2018.

You can give your views by:

- Completing the online survey
- Emailing ESCC at: school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk

All comments must be received by **14 September 2018** or they cannot be taken into account.

If you would like a paper copy of the consultation document please contact Catherine Denyer on 01323 466886 or at catherine.denyer@eastsussex.gov.uk

What happens next?

Following the consultation period, a report on the outcome of the consultation will be considered by the Lead Member for Education, Inclusion and Special Educational Needs and Disability at a meeting in October 2018. The Lead Member will decide whether to proceed with the proposal. If approved, a statutory notice would be published in the local newspaper probably in November 2018, followed by a period of four weeks when further comments or objections could be submitted. The Lead Member would consider any responses received during this time before making a final decision on whether to approve the proposal at a meeting likely to be held in December 2018.

**Grovelands Community
Primary School
SEN Facility consultation**



Our proposal is to establish a specialist facility at Grovelands Community Primary School from 1 January 2019 for up to 8 pupils with ASD.

East Sussex County Council would welcome your views on the proposal. The consultation period finishes on **14 September 2018**. If you would prefer to complete a paper copy please print this form and send it to: Catherine Denyer, Project Officer, Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service, East Sussex County Council, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1UE.

Do you support the proposal to establish a specialist facility at Grovelands Community Primary School for up to 8 pupils with ASD?

Yes

No

Undecided

Please provide any comments below:

Which of the following best describes you?

- Pupil at Grovelands Community Primary School
- Parent / carer of a child at Grovelands Community Primary School
- Member of staff at Grovelands Community Primary School
- Governor at Grovelands Community Primary School
- Member of the local community
- Other (please say).....