

Report to the Executive Director of Children's Services for decision on a statutory change to alter the SEN provision; currently a 10 place Learning & Cognition Needs (LCN) Specialist Resource Base (SRB), to establish a 20 place LCN SRB, at Hillside Primary (Community) School, Bradwell from 1st January 2023

What is the proposal?

The proposal is to alter the SEN provision; currently a 10 place Learning and Cognition Needs (LCN) Specialist Resource Base (SRB), to establish a 20 place LCN SRB, at Hillside Primary (Community) School, Bradwell from 1st January 2023.

Public notice and representation period

A statutory public notice was issued by Norfolk County Council and published in the Great Yarmouth Mercury on 24 June 2022. Copies were displayed at all the main entrances to Hillside Primary School. The four week representation period came to an end on 22 July 2022. See Appendix 1 for Public Notice and Appendix 2 for the Prescribed Information which includes the consultation proposal.

No submissions were received during the statutory Public Notice period.

All statutory requirements in relation to the statutory consultation were complied with.

The decision

In coming to a decision, the Decision Maker is obliged to consider the following factors:

Education standards and diversity of provision

Hillside Primary School was rated Good by Ofsted in June 2019.

The cost-effective provision of high quality educational places is central to meeting the County Council's objective of ensuring inclusion and high standards of achievement for Norfolk learners with Special Education Needs. The expansion of our existing special school estate is one aspect of our overarching strategy to increase the number of places available in Norfolk special schools and to enable children to attend a local school suitable to the special educational needs.

This proposal offers parents access to more complex needs special school places in Norfolk, reducing the travel time for children and young people living locally.

Equal opportunities issues

The County Council has considered that there are no specific discrimination issues that arise from the school organisation change being proposed.

Community cohesion

The County Council has considered that there are no specific community cohesion issues that arise from the school organisation change being proposed.

Travel and accessibility

It is not anticipated that there will be a significant increased impact on peak time traffic at the school, as the provision is already accommodated on the school site and the majority of pupils are bussed into the school.

Funding

The SRB provision will continued to be provided in the existing space. Minor alterations are needed to create the appropriate accommodation.

All capital costs will be met by the Local Authority. Long term value for money will be achieved as there is greater capacity to meet the needs of children with SEN locally.

Conclusions and recommendation

In considering the proposals, the Decision Maker can decide to:

- Reject the proposal
- Approval the proposal
- Approve the proposal with a modification
- Approve the proposal subject to it meeting a specific condition.

No responses to the proposal were received during the statutory Public Notice period. This proposal supports Norfolk County Council's SEND Transformation Programme to increase the number of places available in Norfolk special schools and to enable children to attend a local school suitable to the special educational needs.

It is therefore **recommended** that the Director of Children's Services, in her role as Decision Maker as delegated by Norfolk County Council, should decide **in favour** of the proposal is to alter the SEN provision; currently a 10 place Learning and Cognition Needs (LCN) Specialist Resource Base (SRB), to establish a 20 place LCN SRB, at Hillside Primary (Community) School, Bradwell from 1st January 2023.

Proposed significant changes to Hillside Primary School, Bradwell; to alter special educational needs (SEN) provision

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, Norfolk County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to the following school, in accordance with section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, by altering the 10 place Learning and Cognition Specialist Resource Base, to establish a 20 place Learning and Cognition Specialist Resource Base, located on the school site, from 1 January 2023.

School	May 2022 Number on roll	Present age range of pupils	Proposed age range of pupils	Annual intake		Capacity	
				Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed
Hillside Primary School, Lords Lane, Bradwell NR31 8PA	212	4-11	4-11	30	30	210	210

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/hillside> emailing schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk or by writing to the School Organisation Team, School Organisation Team, Children’s Services, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DL.

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 the School Organisation Team, Children’s Services, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DL or by email to: schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk

Signed: Sara Tough
Executive Director of Children's Services

Publication Date: 24 June 2022

Explanatory Note

Hillside Primary School, is a community primary school which currently offers up to 10 places to pupils with complex needs, all of whom have an Education, Health and Care Plans. The school was judged Good by Ofsted in June 2019.

Statutory Proposal to alter the SEN provision; currently a 10 place Learning & Cognition Needs (LCN) Specialist Resource Base (SRB), to establish a 20 place LCN SRB, at Hillside Primary (Community) School, Bradwell from 1st January 2023.

1. Local Authority details

Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH

2. School details

Name	Hillside Primary School
Type	Community School
Address	Hillside Primary School, Lords Lane, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 8PA
Age Range	4 – 11 years
Capacity	210 pupils; Numbers on roll 1 May 2022 = 212
Ofsted	Last Ofsted; June 2019 Rating; Good

3. What changes are proposed?

It is proposed to establish a 20 place Learning and Cognition needs Specialist Resource Base (SRB), at Hillside Primary (Community) School, Lords Lane, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 8PA, from 1st January 2023. This will be achieved by adding a further 10 places to the existing 10 place LCN SRB.

4. Why do we want to do this? (evidence of demand)

Norfolk County Council has a statutory duty to;

- ensure a sufficient supply of school places in its area for children of school age
- promote high educational standards, diversity and parental choice
- ensure fair access to educational opportunity
- help fulfil every child's educational potential.

The Norfolk SEND Sufficiency Strategy includes the aim to have enough specialist school places for all the children and young people with SEND who need one now, and in the future. We want to have mainstream and specialist school places in the right places across Norfolk for all age groups. We will achieve this by spending money on;

- Developing more SRBs in mainstream schools across Norfolk, to improve their ability to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND locally

We have identified gaps in provision and priority areas for development including the need for a new primary Learning and Cognition Needs (LCN) SRB in East Norfolk. To meet this need and demand for specialist resource base places, Norfolk County Council has been working with governors and senior leaders from Hillside Primary School to establish this provision in the right place to ensure improved access to SRB provision in Norfolk, for children, young people and their families.

Norfolk County Council feel these changes would benefit children and young people because it will;

- Support more children with special education needs and disabilities to be educated and thrive in their local school community.
- Enhance children's progress by effectively meeting their individual social communication and interaction needs.
- Help facilitate better access to the curriculum and support students to achieve their potential.
- Ensure that needs can be met locally avoiding the need for children to spend unnecessary time travelling to an appropriate school further away. This is better for children and young people and saves the taxpayer money in transport costs.
- Increase the availability of places to meet the needs of children with SEND.
- Addresses identified geographical and age and phase gaps in SRB provision as identified in Norfolk's SEND Strategy.
- Support the sharing of expertise and good practice as part of our school.

An initial consultation was held between Monday 25 April and Friday 10 June 2022. During that period, a public meeting was held at the school on 5 May 2020. 1 person attended. 331 consultation documents were distributed and 13 responses were received.

Of the 13 people that commented on Hillside's SRB proposal, 7 strongly agreed and 2 agreed to the proposal. 1 person disagreed and 3 people strongly disagreed to the proposal. A copy of the consultation report including the consultation proposal, is available in Appendix A.

5. Objectives, including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice.

Norfolk County Council wants to:

- Enable 20 pupils to benefit from the Learning and Cognition needs SRB specialist education and support provided by Hillside Primary School.
- Increase the number of places for children with Learning and Cognition needs in East Norfolk as part of the Local Authority SEND Transformation Plan.

Norfolk County Council's policy is to expand schools that are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. Hillside Primary School was inspected in June 2019 and rated Good.

The cost-effective provision of high quality educational places is central to meeting the County Council's objective of ensuring inclusion and high standards of achievement for Norfolk learners with SEN.

This proposal offers parents access to more Learning and Cognition needs specialist resource base places in Norfolk, reducing the travel time for children and young people living locally.

6. Will there be any effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area?

We cannot foresee any impact on any other schools, as this proposal provides specialist support in a mainstream school which removes the pressure of meeting the needs of pupils who are currently waiting for additional support.

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

The SRB provision will continued to be provided in the existing space. Minor alterations are needed to create the appropriate accommodation.

All capital costs will be met by the Local Authority. Long term value for money will be achieved as there is greater capacity to meet the needs of children with SEN locally.

8. Will this definitely happen?

No. There is a statutory process we must follow to make this type of change to schools.

9. Implementation date and proposed stages

If the proposal is agreed by the local decision maker; the Executive Director of Children's Services, Norfolk County Council, it is intended that the significant change will be implemented from 1 January 2023.

10. Related proposals

This proposal is not linked to any other proposal.

11. How can I make my views known?

Any person may object to, express support for, or make comments on the proposals, within 4 weeks of the publication of the statutory public notice by:

- Sending an email to; schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk
- Writing to: School Organisation Team, FREEPOST, 1H 2076, Lower Ground Floor, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR. You don't need a stamp.

12. What happens next?

The following table sets out the key dates for the consultation and decision making. At any point the proposal may be withdrawn. The dates set out below meet the Department for Education requirements for consultation on school organisation proposals.

School organisation process	Date
Public Notice published	24 June 2022
Statutory consultation (representation stage)	24 June – 22 July 2022
Decision required, no later than	22 October 2022
If approved, change of age starts	1 January 2023

Report to the Executive Director of Children’s Services for permission to publish a statutory public notice

The proposal;

To expand the existing Learning and Cognition Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Hillside Primary, Bradwell, Norfolk from 1 January 2023.

Reason for the proposed change	The proposal is to increase the number of places by adding 10 places to the SRB, making a 20 place Learning and Cognition SRB across the primary phase. NCC is committed to expanding our successful provision, for the needs of our current pupils and to meet demand for future pupils. Currently there is an increased need to provide places for children and young people with complex needs in this area of Norfolk. This proposal will provide much needed specialist educational capacity to meet this increased need.
Consultation details	The consultation ran from 25 April – 10 June. 331 consultation documents were distributed to parents, staff, governors and key stakeholders. The consultation document can be found in Appendix A1. A consultation event was held, in person, at the school on 5 May. One person attended this event and the proposal was discussed, they did not raise any concerns.
Number of responses	13 responses were received, a response rate of 4%. 9 (69%) respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal 4 (31%) respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed. Analysis of respondents; 10 parents, 1 member of staff, 1 governor, 1 local resident, 2 not answered. (please note, respondents could tick all categories that applied).
Summary of views expressed in favour of the proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist provision is desperately needed in Norfolk • Expanding an existing successful provision makes sense • Important for inclusion across the community • I believe being kept in the school in the community is best for all children involved • The school has a fantastic SRB unit which has a positive impact on the children, amazing this will be expand for more children.
Summary of views expressed against the proposal/no opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School too small to accommodate more children, this approach is a make do and amend solution using existing schools which is a temporary fix • School will need additional staff/support for the pupils in the mainstream school • Concerned about the long term funding provisions to support the school, with the increased costs of these extra pupils
Resource implications	The SRB provision will continued to be provided in the existing space at Hillside Primary School. Minor alterations are needed to create the appropriate accommodation.

	All capital costs will be met by the Local Authority. Long term value for money will be achieved as there is greater capacity to meet the needs of children with SEN locally.
Commentary	The consultation was undertaken in line with the DfE guidance. The outcome of the consultation shows that there is on balance support for the proposal set out in the consultation document.
Recommendation	The local decision-maker is asked to consider the responses to the consultation and decide to proceed to the statutory public notice stage, to expand the existing Learning and Cognition Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Hillside Primary, Bradwell, Norfolk from 1 January 2023, to create a 20 place SRB.

I give permission for a public notice to be issued on the proposal to expand the existing Learning and Cognition SRB at Hillside Primary School, Bradwell, Norfolk. This will appear in the Great Yarmouth Mercury on Friday 24 June 2022.

Signed: 

(Executive Director of Children's Services)

Date: 15/06/2022



Consultation on proposal to expand the existing Learning and Cognition Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Hillside Primary, Bradwell, Norfolk, from 1 January 2023

Norfolk County Council would like to hear your views on our proposal for Hillside Primary School. We are proposing:

- To increase the number of pupils with Learning and Cognition at Hillside Primary School's Specialist Resource Base, by adding 10 places from 1 January 2023 onwards. This will make it a 20 place SRB across the primary phase.

We are committed to reviewing and developing Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND) provision as part of Norfolk's Local Offer of support to children, young people and families.

The proposal will also be supported by a revised funding agreement to support an increased staffing structure.

The SRB places will be allocated through Norfolk County Admissions processes and the base will grow up to full capacity from 1 January 2023.

Why we want to add 10 places to the existing SRB

Norfolk County Council feel these changes would benefit children and young people because it will;

- Support more children with special education needs and disabilities to be educated and thrive in their local school and community.
- Enhance children's progress by effectively meeting their individual social communication and interaction needs
- Help facilitate better access to the curriculum and support students to achieve their potential
- Ensure that needs can be met locally avoiding the need for children to spend unnecessary time travelling to an appropriate school further away. This is better for children and young people and saves the taxpayer money in transport costs.
- Increase the availability of places to meet the needs of children with SEND
- Address identified geographical and age and phase gaps in SRB provision as identified in Norfolk's SEND Strategy
- Support the sharing of expertise and good practice as part our school.

Norfolk County Council takes into account several considerations when proposing changes to the organisation of schools. This includes school leadership, performance, impact on the community, diversity of provision, need for places, travel, early years provision and special education provision. The overall driving force is to ensure that any change is in the best interest of children's education and achievement.

Capital costs

All capital costs for refurbishment will be funded by the Local Authority to ensure there is the appropriate accommodation.

How can you have your say

This consultation is an opportunity to tell us your views and ask questions on our proposal to add 10 places to the Learning and Cognition SRB.

You can do this by:

- Completing the attached form and handing it to your school office
- Accessing our online survey <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/hillside>
- Emailing schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk

There will be a drop consultation event on Thursday 5 May 2022 at Hillside Primary School at 6pm.

We need all responses by 12 noon, Friday 10 June 2022.

What happens next

Norfolk County Council will review the responses to this consultation and present the findings to the Executive Director of Children's Services who will decide whether to proceed to the statutory public notice stage for this proposal.

Background Information

Norfolk's Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND) Strategy

In 2018, Norfolk County Council announced it was to invest £120m in specialist school places and services, with up to four new special schools and 170 places in specialist bases at mainstream schools. One of our objectives through the Norfolk Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) and Alternative Provision Transformation Programme is to create more than 500 extra school places for children with special education needs and disabilities in Norfolk. Our proposal is part of this investment. Specialist Resource Bases are a key part of Norfolk's Local Offer for children with special educational needs and their families and has been identified in Norfolk's SEND Strategy as a priority for development.

What are Learning and Cognition bases

All bases Learning and cognition bases form part of the Specialist Resource Base programme in Norfolk and are a key component of Norfolk's SEND Local Offer and of mainstream inclusion support to children, families and the school system.

They are additionally resourced provision with small class sizes, high staffing ratios and access to additionally funded specialist support. Pupils are supported with a highly differentiated provision which reflects the learning difficulties each child has. The teaching follows an individualised learning plan to accelerate progress in core skills and so, enable successful reintegration back to mainstream provision.

Children attend for an initial two terms of support but remain on the home school roll.

Placement can be extended for an additional two terms should it be needed.