

# Proposal for the expansion of Sherbourne Fields Special School – Information for Schools and Parents/Carers

## **Background**

---

Under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996, Coventry City Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places and fair, appropriate access to education for all. It is the Council's role to plan, commission and organise school places in a way that raises standards, manages supply and demand and creates a diverse infrastructure. The LA are currently co-producing a strategic SEN plan with parents/carers, and head teachers to provide high quality, long term SEN provision within the City.

It is the local authority's statutory duty to secure a sufficiency of appropriate education places for children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to consult under the Governments guidelines for changes to maintained schools. This leaflet gives you the information you need to have your say on the proposals.

Coventry has a good range of specialist school provision and so very few Coventry children have to attend schools outside of the city, a position that needs to be maintained. However, recent evidenced growth in need has placed a level of demand on the special school system that exceeds current supply.

Whilst the recent expansion and relocation of Tiverton Special School created much needed capacity in the primary sector for children with generic learning difficulties, there is no physical capacity in the system to support: Social, Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH) growth across all age ranges; increased demand for secondary/post-16 special school places for generic learning difficulties; and Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) growth across all age ranges.

## **LA proposal**

---

Expanding Sherbourne Fields School site to provide an increase in the number of specialist places in secondary phase to meet the known demand.

Surveyors working on behalf of Coventry City Council have confirmed that it is possible to expand the school on the current site, without negatively impacting the current provision on site.

With Sherbourne Fields providing all-through special school places for generic learning difficulties in Coventry, offering Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' education to pupils, an expansion at Sherbourne would enable these pupils to achieve their potential.

The expansion would take the form of reutilising existing class bases to provide a more efficient use of space, enabling the creation of 2 additional classrooms. These additional classrooms would be available for use from September 2019 onwards.

## **Rationale**

---

This project provides an opportunity to expand an Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' provision in the city to meet rising demand for special school places.

There has been an increasing number of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans, and an increase in the demand of Coventry special school places. The extension of the range would also ensure that a higher proportion of pupils with EHC plans being taught in an 'Outstanding' school.

This project would provide a future-proofed fit for purpose educational environment and wealth of different opportunities for both existing and future Coventry pupils, with the capacity for the provision to grow.

## **Meeting project costs**

---

Funding for the project cannot be solely supported by the educational capital budget alone. S106 funding from the nearby Coundon Wedge housing developments, together with funding from other S106 contributions, where Education has requested contributions to expand SEN provision in the area, will be utilised. Alongside funding from the Special Provision Fund received by the LA and its allocation of funding consulted on in 2018.

## **Useful links**

---

Please have your say by completing the online survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/SherbourneFields](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SherbourneFields), where you have the option to provide your comments.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact [education.consultations@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:education.consultations@coventry.gov.uk).

