

November 2020



**SEN and Disabled Children's Service**

West Berkshire Council  
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**01635 519713**

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Dear Parents and Carers

**Consultation: Proposed development of additional resourced provision in West Berkshire**

You may be aware that, as part of the SEND Strategy 2018-2023, West Berkshire Council is proposing to develop additional local educational provision for children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in respect of Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) and / or a diagnosis of Autism.

We are consulting with all stakeholders about our proposal to develop new resourced provisions. Please find attached a consultation document which outlines our proposal to develop a 42 place resourced provision for secondary aged learners.

The consultation period begins at **9am, 9 November 2020** and closes on **20 December 2020**. If you would like to share your views about the development of this resource you can respond to the consultation online at: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/sendprovision> (please note that this site will not be live until the consultation period begins).

Alternatively, you can email: [SENConsultations@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:SENConsultations@westberks.gov.uk)

If you would like to request a paper copy, please contact the SEN Admin Team on 01635 519713.

A Zoom Q and A session will be facilitated by the West Berkshire Parent Carer Forum and Local Authority officers on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November from 11.30am – 12.30pm** and again on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November from 7.30pm-8.30pm**. Please use the link below to book and contact Fiona Worby [fionaworby@roseroad.org.uk](mailto:fionaworby@roseroad.org.uk) if you have any difficulty doing so.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/consultation-proposed-development-of-additional-resourced-provision-in-wes-tickets-126414901373>

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation. Your views are valued and all feedback will be used to inform the Council's decision making. We are very keen for this project to be co-produced with all stakeholders, including children and young people. Their views will be sought separately to this formal consultation.

Yours Sincerely,

**Jane Seymour**  
**Service Manager**

## **SEN & Disabled Children's Service**

### **Formal consultation to establish a new specialist resourced provision for secondary age learners with SEND**

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the proposed development of a 42 place SEND specialist resourced provision for secondary age learners from Year 7 – Year 13 with complex needs in relation to Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties, who may also have a diagnosis of Autism. This consultation gives all stakeholders a chance to ask questions and submit comments, which will all be considered as the Local Authority develop this proposal further.

#### **Summary information:**

The total number of children and young people requiring an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) has risen in recent years. The number of children and young people with an EHCP where social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs and/or Autism is stated as the primary need is also rising, as are the number of children and young people identified as SEN Support (requiring additional support, but from within resources already delegated to schools in their SEN budget) with a primary need of SEMH and/or Autism. The picture in West Berkshire reflects the national picture.

The number of children and young people whose needs cannot be met by existing local provision has increased. This means that more children and young people are needing to be placed in out of area and independent/non maintained provision. Following careful review of data and patterns, and consultations with all key stakeholders, it was identified as a priority in the SEND Strategy 2018-2020 to develop more local provision to allow the majority of children and young people to be educated in their local community, and to make the most effective use of resources.

**The Local Authority proposes to develop specialist resourced provision to cater for up to 42 secondary aged learners with complex social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs, who may also have a diagnosis of Autism.**

The facilities provided would be a suite of well-equipped classrooms, smaller teaching rooms for 1:1 sessions, dedicated space for therapists and other professionals to use, a sensory room, a quiet and calm space for learners to withdraw to if they need to, a well-appointed and welcoming social area and a large secure outside space.

Learners would be able to spend up to 100% of their time in the resource if necessary, in groups of a maximum of six. There would be carefully planned opportunities to maximise inclusion in mainstream learning and social activities wherever possible.

The resource would be developed and operate in line with Therapeutic Thinking principles, an approach designed to support the SEMH needs of young people, and provide a sustained positive and prosocial experience.

Learners would receive a full time broad, balanced, flexible and personalised curriculum, and a high level of support from a team of qualified and experienced teaching and support staff. There would be a focus on high aspirations for learners, achieving meaningful qualifications, building positive community links and preparing

for adulthood so that young people leave the resource well equipped for further or higher education and training, employment and living independently.

The resource would benefit from multi-agency input from an Educational Psychologist, Mental Health Worker and Family Support Worker, and from an Occupational Therapist and Speech and Language Therapist. Direct therapy would be provided as outlined in learners' EHCPs.

We would hope to open this resource in September 2022, with a phased admission to increase steadily to a full capacity of 42 places.

All requests for placements would initially be considered by West Berkshire Council's SEN Panel, and then by a specialist resource admissions panel facilitated by West Berkshire Council and the Head Teacher of the school. The proposed admissions criteria for placement at the resource are:

- Have an Education, Health and Care Plan
- Have complex needs in relation to SEMH difficulties
- May have a diagnosis of Autism
- Despite appropriate interventions, reasonable adjustments and support over time (a 'graduated response'), may have been excluded from school, or are at very high risk of exclusion from mainstream school
- Require a highly personalised and flexible timetable and a very high level of specialist adult support that cannot be provided in a mainstream school or other local resourced provision
- Likely to have had, and require ongoing, multi-agency support
- Have a level of academic ability and language skills to be able to access a suitably differentiated mainstream curriculum

As with all placements named on an EHCP, placement would be subject to review every year through the Annual Review process.

It is proposed that the resource would be managed by an existing West Berkshire School. The building would be nearby, but not on the school site. A site and host school have not yet been confirmed and a further consultation will be undertaken when potential host schools have been identified.