

15th March 2021**Agenda Item: 10****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND
SKILLS****OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION ON OPENING OF A SPECIALIST
SATELLITE SCHOOL PROVISION ON KING EDWARD PRIMARY SCHOOL
SITE****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks the Committee's approval to open a Specialist Satellite School at the King Edward Primary and Nursery School site in Mansfield, to be managed by Carlton Digby Special School.

Information

2. Members of the Children and Young People's Committee on 18th January 2021 approved a statutory consultation on the proposed opening of a Specialist Satellite School provision at the King Edward Primary and Nursery School site in Mansfield, to be managed by Carlton Digby Special School. Members also approved the undertaking of a feasibility study to identify any adaptations that could be required to the existing buildings.
3. The consultation process followed is in accordance with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on making significant changes to maintained schools which requires Members to consider the results of the consultation on the statutory proposal. **Appendix 1** provides an outline of the consultation process.
4. There is considerable pressure in Nottinghamshire to find special school places. In January 2021 there were 184 children and young people who required the allocation of a special school place with further requests for Education and Health Care Plans in process. A high percentage of these children and young people have needs in the area of autism or of social, emotional and mental health. In situations where specialist provision is required, and no special school places are available, Nottinghamshire County Council must seek placements in independent non-maintained provision or alternative educational provision.
5. Carlton Digby is an Outstanding Special School (Ofsted 2020) based in Gedling. It is operated by Nottinghamshire County Council and has provision for the full range of Special Educational Needs as identified by the Department for Education (DfE). There are currently 90 pupils on roll at the school. The school has the capacity to provide outstanding leadership but does not have the opportunity to expand on their existing site.

6. King Edward Primary and Nursery School in Mansfield is a mainstream school. There are a number of buildings not currently used by the school as classrooms and it will be possible to use some of these existing buildings to provide additional capacity and places for Carlton Digby Special School. It is proposed that the Satellite School will have a maximum of three classes which is an additional 24 specialist places for primary aged pupils.
7. Exploratory discussions have taken place with key stakeholders related to King Edward Primary and Nursery School and Carlton Digby Special School, this includes the senior leadership of the schools. The nature of these discussions has been to determine the extent of the site modifications necessary and financial/staffing implications and the changes to the admission arrangements that would occur if the proposals were to be approved.
8. It is intended that the Satellite School will be the permanent base for the children who attend and they will not be moving between the main Carlton Digby site and the Satellite School. Children who attend the Satellite School will use the play and outside facilities available at King Edward Primary and Nursery School. It is proposed that some of the field space will be allocated to the Satellite School.
9. As children who accept their first offer of a special school place are entitled to transport it is envisaged that the majority of the children will access the school via this route using the current school car park.
10. This would be Nottinghamshire's first Satellite Special School and will allow greater partnership working between the mainstream and special school involved. Facilitating opportunities for children with special needs to access specialist provision locally is a priority identified within the Nottinghamshire Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy 2020.
11. The recommendation therefore is that Committee gives approval to the proposed development of Carlton Digby Satellite School at the King Edward Primary and Nursery School site in Mansfield and gives approval to undertake any adaptations that could be required to the existing buildings.

Consultation Process and Outcomes

12. The consultation on the proposed opening of a Specialist Satellite School Provision on King Edward Primary School Site ran between 19th January and 23rd February 2021.
13. A Public Notice setting out the Statutory Proposal and the details of how to respond was published in the Nottingham Evening Post on 21st January 2021. Other local authorities, district councils, MPs, unions and Governor Services were notified of the proposal and consultation.
14. All parents and carers of children and young people attending Carlton Digby Special School and King Edward Primary and Nursery School, school staff and governors were sent a copy of the Statutory Proposal and details of how to respond to the consultation.
15. A public meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 2nd February at Carlton Digby and Thursday 4th February at King Edward Primary. The meeting at Carlton Digby had no attendees, whilst the meeting at King Edward Primary was attended by nine people comprised of school staff and governors.

16. A further meeting was held with the Council's Transport department to discuss the implications and a site visit was held which identified that school buses would be able to access the car park safely although there would be some loss of car parking spaces.
17. A summary of the feedback from the consultation can be found in **Appendix 2**. A total of 56 responses were received to the consultation, and in addition further comments and questions were raised at the public meeting.
18. The feedback from respondents included the following key areas:
 - positive nature of specialist and mainstream staff working together on one site and potential to develop expertise
 - positive nature of inclusive nature of pupils with and without special needs sharing a school site
 - implications of traffic on congested roads
 - agreement that more specialist places were needed in the Mansfield area
 - concerns regarding impact of pupils with special needs impacting negatively on needs of pupils already attending King Edward Primary and Nursery
 - concern about the lack of specialist facilities for pupils with Special Educational Needs at the proposed site.

Other Options Considered

19. Consideration was given to using an alternative building on a specialist college site. This building would have required extensive alterations to make it suitable for primary school children with special needs.
20. There is a need for new special school provision in Nottinghamshire but the DfE has confirmed that there will be no new High Needs free school development opportunities in 2021-2022. The government has stated that they remain committed to the programme and funding for further free schools will be considered at the next Spending Review but this is not an option that can therefore be pursued at this time.

Reason for Recommendation

21. This proposal is a consequence of the increasing pressure to find suitable special school places in the Mansfield locality as existing special schools are full. King Edward Primary and Nursery School currently has a significant surplus of school places available and spare building capacity. This would be an effective use of unused classrooms in an area where demand for school places is lower than previously anticipated.

Statutory and Policy Implications

22. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below.

Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

23. The building being proposed will require some adaptation. Approval was given for a feasibility study to identify precise details and costs. The full details of the capital cost are not yet known, although anticipated to be less than £300,000, and will be confirmed to Committee through a Latest Estimated Cost Report. The cost will be funded from the School Places programme which is already approved within the capital programme (£11.0m for 2021/22).
24. The revenue funding for a special school is provided from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. A special school's budget is calculated using a formula which incorporates the number of specialist places at the setting and the level of need of the children in attendance. The estimated funding for 2021-22 is £307,000 (September 2021 – March 2022) and has been built into the Special Schools budget of £28.3m for that year. The estimated funding for 24 places in a full year is £594,000 and that would also be met from the High Needs Block.
25. There will be a need for additional staffing comprising of an Assistant Head Teacher, 3 Teachers, 6 Teaching Assistants, midday supervisors and administrative support which would be funded from the special school's allocated budget above.
26. There will be costs associated with transport which will be charged to the Special Educational Needs transport budget (£11.305m). If this results in pressure on that budget this will need to be considered as part of the annual financial monitoring and budget pressures processes.

Human Resources Implications

27. All the staff at the Satellite School will be employed by Carlton Digby Special School.

Implications for Service Users

28. This will increase the availability of special school places to enable children and young people to attend a specialist school in their own locality in accordance with the Council's Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy (2020).

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That Committee approves the opening of a Specialist Satellite School Provision on King Edward Primary and Nursery School site in Mansfield, to be managed by Carlton Digby Special School.

Marion Clay
Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills

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Constitutional Comments (CEH 26/02/21)

29. The recommendation falls within the remit of Children and Young People's Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SAS 02/03/21)

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HR Comments (BC 25/02/21)

34. The staffing implication are contained within the body of the report. The head teacher and governing body of Carlton Digby Special School will be responsible for designing an appropriate staffing structure and recruitment to all newly created posts will be undertaken in line with Carlton Digby Special School's Recruitment and Selection procedures.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Nottinghamshire County Council Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy (2020)

[Consultation on the opening of a Specialist Satellite School provision on King Edward Primary School site – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 18th January 2021](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Arnold South	Cllr John Clarke & Cllr Muriel Weisz
Mansfield South	Cllr Stephen Garner & Cllr Andy Sissons

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