

18th January 2021**Agenda Item: 15****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND
SKILLS****CONSULTATION ON THE 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 undertake a statutory consultation on the proposed 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. Following the Department for Education's statutory guidance on making significant changes to maintained schools, and as a result of the Stage 2 consultation, a statutory proposal will be considered by Members. **Appendix 1** provides an outline of the consultation process.
2. The report also seeks approval to undertake a feasibility study to identify any adaptations that could be required to the existing buildings.

Information

3. There is considerable pressure in Nottinghamshire to find special school places. As of November 2020 there were 90 children and young people who were awaiting a special school place with further requests for Education and Health Care Plans in process. A high percentage of these have needs in the area of Social, Emotional and Mental Health and Autism. Where specialist provision is required and no special school places are available Nottinghamshire County Council has to seek placements in independent non-maintained provision or alternative educational provision.
4. 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.
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. All the children and young people who attend the Satellite School will be on the roll of Carlton Digby Special School and the admissions process will be via the normal consultation process between the Integrated Children & Disability Team and the school.
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 proposed consultation will involve holding meetings with all stake holders involved including governing bodies, staff, senior leaders, unions, parents and the local community. There will also be a formal on line consultation open to any interested parties that will be available on the Nottinghamshire County Council website from 19th January to 23rd February 2021. The results of the consultation will be analysed and presented in full to the Children and Young People's Committee.

Other Options Considered

12. 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.
13. 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.
14. The Children and Young Peoples Committee will be informed of the consultation response at their meeting on 15th March 2021 and this response will inform any decisions that are made about whether it would be appropriate to develop a satellite special school at the King Edward Primary and Nursery School site.

Reason for Recommendation

15. 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.
16. The Department for Education's statutory guidance on making significant changes to maintained schools outlines a four-stage process. Stage 2 of the process is a formal consultation for a minimum of four weeks for which this report seeks the Committee's approval.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. 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

18. The building being proposed for adaptation will require some adaptation. Approval is sought for a feasibility study to identify precise details and costs, which will be funded from the Basic Need Budget.
19. There will be a cost to the High Needs Budget for staffing and school resources.

Human Resources Implications

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

Implications for Service Users

21. 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/S

That Committee:

- 1) gives approval for a statutory consultation on the proposed development of Carlton Digby Satellite School at the King Edward Primary and Nursery School site in Mansfield

- 2) gives approval to undertake a feasibility study to identify any adaptations that could be required to the existing buildings.

Marion Clay
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Constitutional Comments (EP 08/01/21)

22. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SAS 07/01/20)

23. It is anticipated that there will not be any costs for the consultation, but if there are, they will be minimal and contained within the service's allocated budget.
24. It is proposed that the feasibility costs set out in this report and subsequent adaptations would be funded from the School Places Programme which is already approved in the Children and Young People's capital programme. Any costs incurred that do not result in a capital project will be abortive in nature and a suitable revenue budget will need to be identified accordingly.
25. The High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant would provide the revenue funding for the new specialist places created. The High Needs Block funding allocation for 2021-22 is £88.7m.

HR Comments (BC 07/01/21)

26. Subject to the statutory consultation, the staff at the satellite school will be employed by the Carlton Digby Special School. The staffing structure will be determined once capacity is finalised.

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)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Arnold South
Mansfield South

Cllr John Clarke & Cllr Muriel Weisz
Cllr Stephen Garner & Cllr Andy Sissons

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