



(CORRECTED) PROPOSAL TO EXPAND WATERGATE SCHOOL

Further to a request from Lewisham Council to Watergate School Governing Body and discussions between Lewisham Council and Watergate School Governing Body with regard to the need for additional school places for children with Severe Learning Difficulties, and the subsequent completed initial public consultation;

That notice is given in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013/3110 that the Governing Body of Watergate School proposes to expand the permanent capacity of Watergate School (Lushington Road, London SE6 3WG) from 108 pupils to 167 pupils to help meet the need for additional places as identified and requested by the Council. The anticipated implementation date of this prescribed alteration is September 2019.

Name, address and contact details of proposer:

Matt Henaughan, Lewisham Council, Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, London SE6 4RU, on behalf of the Watergate School Governing Body

Name, address and category of school:

Watergate School, Lushington Road, London SE6 3WG
This is a foundation special school.

Description of alteration:

The Watergate School Governing Body proposes that Watergate School's capacity should permanently increase from 108 to 167 pupils from September 2019, to help meet the need for additional places as identified by Lewisham Council

The proposal means that over time the school will cater for a cohort that has increased by 59 students.

To achieve this expansion, the Council will be building additional school facilities at the current address to realise the permanent increased capacity. It is anticipated that this will be completed by September 2019.

Evidence of demand:

The council conducted a SEND review in summer 2016. This review confirmed the growing SEND population within the Borough and highlighted four key areas around place planning which should be further explored regarding existing provision.

Specifically relevant to this proposal was the need to provide additional Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) places, to cater for the increase in number of children and reduce the need to place out of Borough

Following this review, further analysis has been conducted by the Children with Complex Needs (CWCN) service to better understand what exactly the place requirement is, but also how best to meet it. In completing this analysis, the CWCN service have considered how the system currently works, what best practice looks like, where young people are currently being placed and how the rise in young people with SEND relates to population growth.

Specifically in relation to this proposal, the analysis identified the need for an additional 59 Primary SLD places.

The need for a number of these places already exists, as can be shown by existing demand to place young people with SLD needs in Watergate School which is currently full and in effect oversubscribed. As a result, the Council is having to commission places outside of the Borough, often in expensive, and distant, independent provision.

Objectives:

The objective of the proposal is to create additional capacity to accommodate the increase in demand for Primary SLD provision within the borough and reduce the need to commission out of borough placements, as placing young people in provision that is further afield does not benefit the young person in terms of social inclusion or a sense of community. There is often an extensive amount of travel time (often in isolation) which is disadvantageous also. The ability to cater for our young people and their families close to home will allow the wider range of support systems to function in the best interests of those young people and their families.

The proposal would build on the outstanding standards for teaching and learning already in place at the school and provide additional places without having any negative impact on other schools, academies and educational institutions in the area. The proposal would also have a positive impact on school finances allowing the school to take advantage of further economies of scale.

This proposal forms part of Lewisham Council's response to the statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation:

The additional places proposed would enable the school to grow to admit up to 167 pupils in total. This will not occur on the date of first expansion, but will grow organically over a number of years. It is not possible to be more specific as each year group is a different size, dictated by need.

Effect on other educational institutions in the area:

It is not anticipated that the proposed expansion of Watergate School will have any impact on other educational facilities within the local area. The proposal has been made to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers that is being experienced within the Borough and to reduce the reliance on out of borough provision.

Project Costs:

The final design solution is subject to detailed design and development and therefore it is not yet possible to estimate the full cost of delivery. The project will be funded by a combination of Lewisham Council capital funding, Basic Need Grant funding and SEND Capital Grant funding received from the Department for Education (DfE), and any relevant Section 106 developer contributions.

Commenting on the proposal:

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (by 12 noon, 9 February 2018), any person may comment on, support, or object to the proposal via the Lewisham Consultation Portal www.lewisham.gov.uk/consultation or in writing to Matt Henaughan, Strategic Service Planning and Business Change, 3rd Floor Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, London SE6 4RU, matt.henaughan@lewisham.gov.uk

Signed: Matt Henaughan, Strategic Service Planning and Business Change, Children and Young People's Services

Publication date: 12 January 2018
Corrected: 7 February 2018