



PROPOSAL TO ALTER THE SEN PROVISION AT DEPTFORD GREEN SCHOOL

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 Lewisham Council intends to alter the SEN provision at Deptford Green School (Edward Street, London SE14 6AN) from a Resource Base catering for students with a primary need of Dyslexia, to a Resource Base catering for students with a primary need of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The anticipated implementation date of this prescribed alteration is October 2019.

Name, address and contact details of proposer:

Lewisham Council, Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, London SE6 4RU

Name, address and category of school:

Deptford Green School, Edward Street, London SE14 6AN

This is a community school.

Background:

Deptford Green School is a coeducational comprehensive secondary school in Deptford, Lewisham, with approximately 1000 pupils.

The school has an established Resource base which is currently commissioned for 14 students with a primary diagnosis of Dyslexia. Students can have a secondary or associated learning need of ASD. The majority of students actually have a dual diagnosis and the resource provision has been meeting these dual needs over the last two years.

As part of Lewisham's wider Special Educational Needs and Disability place planning we have been working with the school to look at altering the criteria for the resource provision, and the school are fully in support of this change.

Description of alteration, and demand:

The Council proposes that the SEN Resource Base provision at Deptford Green School should change from a primary need of Dyslexia to a primary need of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) from October 2019, so as to ensure clarity for those applying to start their secondary education in September 2020.

Additionally the availability of places will increase over time and the resource base will be able to accommodate 20 students by 2021. All children currently placed in the resource base will remain, unless their needs change and this would be identified through the annual review process in the same way as all children with an EHCP.

This alteration will mean that students will have a primary need of ASD and may have an associated need of dyslexia. The decision for this change has come from analysis of our data and the recognition that there is a significant need in Lewisham for resource places at secondary level for children and young people who have ASD. Many children with dyslexia are supported in their local secondary school and do not require a specific resource base. However children who have dyslexia with a primary need of ASD will still be able to attend the resource base if appropriate to their EHCP provision.

It should be noted that the needs of students with dyslexia can be met through quality first teaching and the implementation of dyslexia friendly classroom teaching practices. In line with the graduated response a student may need to access school based targeted support and intervention to meet any additional literacy and learning needs. This support would be delivered by trained adults within the school. In cases where the school may require additional advice about a student's needs and feel an identification of dyslexia is necessary they can purchase support from the Local Authority Specific Learning Difficulties Team and have the student assessed by a Specialist Dyslexia Teacher who would be able to provide advice about how the student's needs can be met.

Objectives:

The objective of the proposal is to ensure sufficiency of places offering the right level of support to students with a primary need of ASD within the Borough.

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 alteration will allow the school to cater for up to 20 students within the Resource Base by 2021. With the first revised entry occurring in September 2020.

Effect on other educational institutions in the area:

It is not anticipated that the proposed alteration will have any impact on other educational institutions within the local area. The proposal has been made to accommodate the increase in students diagnosed with ASD as a primary need and requiring additional support. It will also increase the provision available in the north of the borough.

Project Costs:

It is not anticipated that there will be any material changes to the facilities required to enable this alteration.

Commenting on the proposal:

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (by 12 noon, 19 July 2019), any person may comment on, support, or object to the proposal in writing to Matt Henaughan, Strategic Service Planning and Business Change, 2nd 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

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