



PROPOSAL TO ADD SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PROVISION AT FORSTER PARK PRIMARY 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 add SEN provision at Forster Park Primary School. Specifically to add a Resource Base catering for students with a dual need of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH). The anticipated implementation date of this prescribed alteration is Autumn 2022.

Name, address and contact details of proposer:

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

Name, address and category of school:

Forster Park Primary School, Boundfield Road, London SE6 1PQ

This is a community school.

Background:

Forster Park Primary School is a coeducational primary aged community school in Catford, Lewisham, with approximately 420 pupils.

The school has expressed an interest in providing a 21 place ASD/SEMH resource base for Lewisham young people utilising some spare capacity on the school site.

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

Description of addition, and demand:

In 2019, Lewisham Council started the coproduction and consultation process for the Local Area SEND Strategy which was due to be launched in 2020. From the consultation a number of areas were highlighted as gaps in current provision across the Council. One of these was around sufficiency and place planning. Therefore, as part of the SEND Strategy there is a work stream on Sufficiency, and Place Planning. To ensure that the plan reflected the current picture of gaps in provision a number of data exercises were carried out.

The data continues to show an increasing demand for specialist provision for children and young people with Autism. Currently (May 2022) there are 1170 EHC plans where autism has been identified as the primary area of difference, with an additional 363 where SEMH is the primary difference. This is over one third of the number of EHC plans that are issued by Lewisham, 3359.

Currently, within Lewisham there is no specialist provision for the dual diagnosis of students with Autism and SEMH. Whilst Drumbeat special school will meet the needs of students with a dual diagnosis this is for students who have a more complex presentation and are working at well below expected academic levels. In academic year 2021-2022, to date, Drumbeat have received 224 consultations for places within the school. From those

consultations they were able to meet the needs of 80 pupils but did not have the capacity within the school.

The current autism resource bases have students with this dual presentation but they are permanently over capacity. In the same time period, the primary autism resource bases have received 30 consultations where they felt that they were able to meet needs but did not have the capacity to.

All provisions for students with autism are over their commissioned numbers and the demand for these specialist places continue to grow.

These young people are now being educated in Independent Placements outside from Lewisham. In academic year 2021-2022 there are currently 62 students with either Autism, SEMH or a dual Autism and SEMH presentation being taught outside from Lewisham in Independent Specialist Provisions

Objectives:

The objective of the proposal is to ensure sufficiency of places offering the right level of support to students with a dual need of ASD/SEMH 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 addition of the resource base will allow the school to cater for up to 21 pupils with ASD/SEMH over time. With the first pupils arriving in Autumn 2022.

Effect on other educational institutions in the area:

It is not anticipated that the proposed resource base will have any impact on other educational institutions within the local area. The proposal has been made to accommodate the continued increase in students diagnosed with ASD/SEMH and requiring additional support.

Project Costs:

The proposal seeks to utilize existing space within the school buildings, and will only require light refurbishment/adaptations to ensure suitability for the pupils. Any costs arising will be met via council and/or school funds.

Commenting on the proposal:

Within five weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (by 12 noon, 17 June 2022), any person may comment on, support, or object to the proposal in writing to Matt Henaughan, Head of Infrastructure, 2nd Floor Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, London SE6 4RU, matt.henaughan@lewisham.gov.uk

There will also be a public meeting for interested parties held virtually on 24 May 2022 at 4.30pm. Further details are available via our website or using the email address above.

Signed: Matt Henaughan, Head of Infrastructure, Children and Young People's Services

Publication date: 13 May 2022