

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Education
Date:	14 May 2024
Title:	Approval to Consult on Changes to Approved Published Numbers At Crestwood Community School and Haven Nursery
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to request approval to consult on:
 - A decrease to the Approved Publish Numbers (APN) within Crestwood Community School, Specific Learning Difficulties SpLD Resource Provision.
 - An increase to the approved published number (APN) of Nursery aged children at the Haven Nursery Special Educational Needs (SEN) Hub.

Recommendation(s)

2. That request for approval to consult is given on:
 - Decreasing the APN within Crestwood Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) Resource Provision, Eastleigh, by seven places from 22 to 15.
 - Increasing the approved published number (APN) of Nursery aged children at the Haven Nursery SEND Hub, Gosport (servicing Fareham as well) from 16.80fte (28 children) to 21.6 fte (36 children).
3. A report is brought back to a future Executive Member for Education decision day following the statutory consultation periods for approval for both the proposed changes.

Executive Summary

4. Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to provide school places for all children, including those who have special educational needs and/or a disability. The County Council is committed to further developing successful provision to meet this demand within the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) sector.

5. “Leaders and practitioners are highly ambitious for all children and young people with SEND in Hampshire to succeed” (Ofsted CQC (Care Quality Commission) 2020 <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80472>).
6. The proposed outlined within this report will help manage some of the school place pressures generated by the increase in the number of Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) maintained by the Local Authority. As of January 2024, the number of maintained EHCPs was 16,065. By 2030-31, Hampshire is forecast to have c28,000 pupils who will have an EHCP if unmitigated.
7. Demand has resulted in a corresponding pressure for places in special schools and resourced provisions. The County Council is committed to further developing successful provision or creating new provision, where possible, to meet the demand for places.
8. The lack of sufficient provision within Hampshire schools has led to an increase in placements within the independent and non-maintained sector (INMSS). The proposals contained within this report aim to build on good quality Hampshire school provision and meet the needs of children and young people within their local area. This will reduce the Local Authority’s dependence upon independent and non-maintained provision (INMSS) and will aim to keep pupils as close to their home community as possible.

Contextual information

Decrease in APN at Crestwood Community School Specific Learning Difficulty Resource Provision

9. A child or young person with a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) may have difficulty with one or more aspects of learning. This includes a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dyspraxia.
10. In the current Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice (DfE/DoH, 2015), dyslexia is described as a special educational need (SEN) that may require provision that is ‘different from and additional to’ that which is usually provided, but it is also a disability recognised in the 2010 Equality Act and therefore requiring schools to ‘make reasonable adjustments’ for those identified with SpLD.
Most children with special educational needs, such as SpLD, will have their needs met through high-quality teaching and adaptations to it. This might include adjustments to their Universal Provision and/or Targeted and Specialist Provision, depending on the individual’s level of need. Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCo) have become better in establishing a consistent whole-school approach to meeting the needs of pupils.
11. Crestwood Community is rated as a good school by Ofsted [Crestwood Community School - Open - Find an Inspection Report - Ofsted](#)

12. The school operates two resourced provisions for students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs): one for Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) on the Shakespeare campus, the other for Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs on both campuses. Admissions is coordinated by the local authority's SEN service. Student support is coordinated by specialist staff and includes academic monitoring and pastoral support.
13. Students within the resourced provisions have consistently made rapid and sustained progress compared with their starting points.
14. Several educational interventions and programmes are available for children with SpLD and through effective teaching techniques and support children can still achieve success outside of specialist provision.
15. The numbers of pupils requiring the resourced provision for has been reducing over time, due to their needs being well met in local secondary schools.

Actual Pupil Numbers Crestwood RP							
Summer 2021	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023	Autumn 2024
28	25	25	24	21	21	22	15

16. This reducing number in children with SpLD needing specialist placement within the RP has been the experience at Crestwood School and so following discussion with the school leadership, it was agreed that a reduction in APN was appropriate.
17. Reducing numbers within the RP mean that Childrens with SpLD needs are better met within the main school. Additional spaces will be taken up by extra local children.

Increasing the APN within Haven Nursery SEN Hub

18. Commissioned provision for preschool children (Year R minus 1 and 2) with SEND in Hampshire is delivered in several ways:
 - A placement in a special school with nursery provision.
 - A placement at an Early Learning Groups (ELGs).
 - An SEN placement in a resourced early years provision (also known as a *SEN hub*)
19. Need has grown with a significant number of children in Year R minus 1 and 2 over the last two years, leaving this part of Gosport without a consistent Local Offer for this type of provision compared to other geographical areas of Hampshire.

Haven SEN Hub	APN 2019/20	APN 2020/21	APN 2021/22	APN 2022/23	APN 2023/24	APN 2024/25
Individual Children	20	20	20	28	28	36
APN	12	12	12	16.8	16.8	21.6

For example 20 children x 0.6fte = 12 places. 6 full time places divided by 0.6 = 10 children.

Finance

20. Creating additional specialist places in Hampshire has revenue funding implications. This is provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant, High Needs Block (HNB)
21. The places within Haven are funded at an amount to meet children's more complex special education needs or disabilities, comparable to other east Early Years SEN Hubs.
22. Children outside of the current agreed APN at Haven are funded through discretionary payments at an extra cost, adding additional pressure to the HNB.
23. Funding for other eastern Hampshire provisions has historically been at a higher APN, therefore generating more revenue funding.
24. From a revenue perspective, it is more cost effective to educate within a community setting than in the independent non maintained sector (INMSS) as the table below indicates:

Type of provision	Average revenue cost per place (March 2024)
Static SEND Hub	£14,531
Community Special School	£19,766
Resourced Provision (RP)	£17,117
Independent and non-maintained special school place (INMSS)	£61,200

25. Funding the additional APN will cost an additional £69,749 (full year affect) difference from last year's funding. In the first year there will be a 7/12 par year effect to the increase in place funding

Haven SEN Hub	APN 2023/24	APN 2024/25
Individual Children	28	36
APN	16.8	21.6
Value per place £	14,330	14,531
TOTALS	244,121	313,870

Savings in reduction of APN at Crestwood Community RP

26. Funding from the High Needs Block is calculated by the Government using a national funding formula, which includes population and proxy factors of need, based on children living in Hampshire and a basic entitlement factor.

Crestwood Community School SpLD RP	Agreed Place Number	£ Funding per Place	£ Revenue Cost
2023/24	22	6,000	132,000
2024/25	15	6,000	90,000
Cost Avoidance			42,000

27. The revenue cost for 24/25 will be £90,000 compared to £132,000, a reduction of £42,000 of cost for the High Needs Block.

Consultation and Equalities

28. A four-week statutory consultation period will be undertaken if permission to consult is approved to decrease the APN in Crestwood Community School RP and increase the APN in Haven Nursery SEN Hub are approved.
29. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken if the proposal is agreed. A later report will detail any likely equalities impacts of consulting.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

30. The climate change tools were not applicable on the grounds that this decision relates to an early-stage request to consult. This is an informational report only requesting an approval to consult; therefore, it does not require a climate change assessment.

Conclusion

31. The proposals contained within this report aim to build on established good quality Hampshire specialist provision and meet the needs of children and young people within their local settings. This will reduce the Local Authority's dependence upon independent and non-maintained provision (INMSS) and will aim to keep pupils as close to the home community as possible and in mainstream environments.
32. Approval is therefore sought to consult on:
- The reduction of APN at Crestwood Community School SpLD RP.
 - The expansion of APN at Haven Nursery SEN Hub.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	Yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy, and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

As this is an information report an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will not need to be undertaken at this stage as this paper is looking for approval to consult.

A later report will detail any likely equalities impact of consulting after public consultation.

Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act regarding the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Equalities Impact Assessment:

As above.