

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Education
<b>Date:</b>	14 May 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Specialist Provision – Final Approval for expansion at Samuel Cody School
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children’s Services

**Contact name:** Emma Steele, County Education Manager (SEN Resources and Access)

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### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide feedback from the statutory consultation period and request approval for the expansion of Samuel Cody School, Farnborough from September 2024.

### Recommendation(s)

2. That approval be given to the following proposal published by Hampshire County Council under Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006: to make a prescribed alteration to Samuel Cody School, Farnborough (category of school: Special) to expand from 295 places to 338, with effect from September 2024.

### Executive Summary

3. 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.
4. The proposed additional SEND provision 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.
5. This increased demand has resulted in a corresponding pressure for places in special schools and resourced provisions. The County Council is committed to further developing locally maintained successful provision or

creating new provision, where possible, to meet this additional demand for places.

6. 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 INMSS and will aim to keep pupils as close to the home community as possible.
7. All Local authorities have a duty to promote sustainable and active travel to school. Hampshire is made up of diverse urban and rural communities and causes long travel times for already vulnerable children. However, having closer local provision minimises school transport costs and its use.

## **Contextual information**

### Expansion of Samuel Cody School, Farnborough

8. Samuel Cody School caters for primary and secondary aged pupils with a wide range of special education needs including moderate and complex learning difficulties, autistic spectrum condition and social, emotional and mental health needs. The school is rated by Ofsted as a good school ([Samuel Cody School - Inspection Report](#)).
9. The proposal is to refurbish and reconfigure some currently under-used areas of the primary phase of the school to provide a new entrance, reception area, two classrooms, staff room and appropriate toilets. This will provide accommodation to meet the needs of up to 20 additional primary aged pupils with moderate learning difficulties (MLD) and Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).
10. Additionally, Oak Farm Community Pre-School, who are currently based in the primary block, will move into larger refurbished accommodation on the site with its own entrance and external play space. This larger independent accommodation will support increased numbers, longer opening hours and widening age profile for local families and enable new requirements around wraparound care to be met.
11. Samuel Cody School currently caters for 295 pupils with the Cody Oaks provision not yet full. Therefore, subject to the outcome of the consultation, their total agreed pupil number would become 338, 248 in main school and 90 in Cody Oaks SEMH provision. It is proposed that places will be available from September 2024.
12. £800,000 is identified in the Childrens Services Capital Programme to undertake the required works and was approved at the Executive Lead

Member for Children’s Services Decision Day on 19 January 2024.

## Finance

13. Creating additional specialist places in Hampshire schools has both revenue and capital finance implications. Revenue funding is provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant, with funding coming from the High Needs Block and the Schools Block.
14. From a revenue perspective, it is more cost effective to educate within a community special school than in the independent non maintained sector (INMSS) as the table below indicates:

Type of provision	Average revenue cost per place (March 2024)
Community Special School	£19,776
Resourced Provision (RP)	£17,117
Independent and non-maintained special school place (INMSS)	£61,200

## Savings Model

15. 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.
16. The annual revenue cost of the proposed additional places has been calculated based on the average funding rates for the schools that are expanding:

Name of school	Number of new places being created	Average cost per place*	Estimated Revenue Cost
Samuel Cody School	43	£18,219	£783,417

*\*estimated under the new top-up framework for special schools*

17. The total revenue cost of £0.783m for the special school places compares to an estimated £2.63m for the same number of places in INMSS using the average cost of a SEN only funded day placement. This equates to approximately £1.85m of cost avoidance on the High Needs Block.
18. Capital Costs – £800,000 was approved for this project at the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services Decision Day on 19 January 2024.

## Consultation and Equalities

Expansion of Samuel Cody School, Farnborough

19. The Statutory Public Notice period for Samuel Cody School took place between 29 March 2024 and 26 April 2024. A copy of the Public Notice is attached at Appendix B.
20. The Notice was displayed at the schools, circulated to stakeholders, published in the Hampshire Independent and on Hampshire County Council's public notice portal: [Public notices | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/public-notices)
21. One response was received (Appendix C) during the Public Notice period requesting information about future class sizes at the school. The Headteacher responded to this query.

### **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

22. A Climate Change Impact Assessment is not applicable to this decision report as it relates to the overall capital programme and is therefore strategic in nature. The major individual projects contained within this report will be subject to individual project appraisals which will cover climate change impact assessments requirements.

### **Conclusion**

23. The proposal contained within this report aims to build on established high 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) keep as many pupils as possible as close to their home community as possible and in mainstream environments and, also minimising the need for high-cost School Transport.
24. In considering the consultation responses received, approval is sought to proceed with the expansion of specialist places at Samuel Cody School, Farnborough

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

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

### **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:**

Equalities Impact Assessments for the 2 projects named within this report are inserted below at Appendix A1 & A2.

## Appendix A - Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Samuel Cody Special School



### Equality Impact Assessment

What is an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and why does the County Council do them?

The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (PSED) is an obligation within the [Equality Act 2010](#) ("the Act"), which asks public authorities, like Hampshire County Council, to give 'due regard' to equality considerations, in particular to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

This includes assessing the impact of policies and practices on individuals and communities with a protected characteristic, as defined in the Act and some other specific groups. The County Council uses EIAs to ensure it has paid 'due regard' to equalities considerations when there are changes to a service or policy, a new project or certain decisions.

EIA author	Position & Department	Contact
Amy Chambers	Senior Operations Officer Children's Services	amy.chambers@hants.gov.uk Tel:03707 798802

Title:	Consultation on the proposal to increase the capacity of Samuel Cody School, Farnborough
Related EIAs:	None

EIA for Savings Programme:	No
Service affected	Samuel Cody School, Ballantyne Road, Farnborough, GU14 8SN
Description of the service/policy/project/project phase	<p>The Samuel Cody School currently has capacity for 294 pupils aged 4-16 years and caters for pupils with Moderate Learning Disabilities (MLD), Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH). This is provided in three separate buildings across the main site. Places at the school are offered by the local authority to children who have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) identifying the school as being the most appropriate educational setting. It has been identified that there are an increasing number of children in the county who are being diagnosed with Moderate Learning Disabilities (MLD) and we are working towards expanding the offer of support to these children. The proposed additional SEND provision outlined within this EIA 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. On 31st March 2022 in Hampshire there were 13,178 children with EHCPs. An increase of 428 from January of the same year.</p>
New/changed service/policy/project	<p>It is proposed to increase the overall places at the school to 338 (248 in main school and 90 in Cody Oaks SEMH provision) from September 2024. The increase in pupil numbers will be in the main school site for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD). The area of the main school that caters for primary pupils has unused spare classrooms that can be brought back into use. In addition it is proposed to move Oak Farm Community Pre-School into the Pavilion building on the site to increase the accommodation for primary pupils. The Pavilion building will also be reconfigured to make a larger pre-school space to allow the preschool to grow and cater for the demand from the local community, it would have its own access and entrance. The total cost of the proposals is estimated to be c£750,000.</p>

Engagement	
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This consultation will run from Friday 26 January to Friday 23 February. The purpose of this consultation was to seek the view of consultees on the principle of enlarging the school to meet the demand for additional specialist school places in the local area. It was important to hear the views of stakeholders so that Hampshire County Council can consider them as part of the detailed work to be undertaken should approval to the enlargement be obtained.

The proposal was also included on the Hampshire County Council's (HCC) consultation website: <http://consultations.hants.gov.uk/active.aspx> Letters were sent to; Parents of children at the school (via the school) • Headteacher • Chair of Governors • Schools within 2 miles • Staff union representatives • MP • HCC Elected member – Cllr Roz Chadd • Local District Council • Other relevant HCC Officers •

A drop-in session was held at Samuel Cody Special School on Thursday 8 February 2024 between 3:30pm and 6:30pm enabling members of staff and the public to discuss the proposal with Hampshire County Council officers. A website was also set up with the details of the consultation which included some 'Frequently Asked Questions' that may address any queries. The initial consultation drop in event was attended by a number of local residents and nursery school staff who wanted to understand how the proposals will impact the local community. There was positivity about the need for increased provision and specialist support and some concerns about increased traffic in the area.

#### Equalities considerations - Impact Assessment

#### Age

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	<p>The increase in specialist provision will support primary aged pupils with special education needs, specifically Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and enable them to thrive in an inclusive, and supportive specialist environment. It means that more children will be able to attend the special school in Farnborough and could result in less children being out of school whilst waiting for a place in a specialist provision. With the increase of children in Hampshire with EHCP's this expansion will have an incredibly positive impact on primary aged children who share this protected characteristic.</p> <p>As we are proposing to do renovation work to the pavilion building to allow Oak Farm Nursery to move into their own self contained space, the children and staff of Oak Farm Nursery will also positively benefit from the proposal. The relocation of the nursery will allow them to increase their capacity, offer a wider range of services to more families within the community, and will provide additional jobs in the local area.</p>

Mitigation	

## Disability

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	<p>Hampshire County Council is proposing to deliver renovation works to the pavilion building that would see the formation of 3 separate rooms and associated toilet works. The renovation would see the installation of an accessible toilet for both children and staff to use. There will also be landscaping works to the external areas that will be level and accessible to all. There will be shaded areas throughout the external play area that will ensure all children can access the outdoor space.</p> <p>Within the main primary school building, Hampshire County Council are proposing to complete renovation works that would reconfigure internal spaces into two new classrooms, reception area, staff room and planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) area, emotional literacy support assistants (ELSA) room and associated toilets. These improvement works across the school campus will have a positive impact on all of the children who attend this special school, and will also allow the school to admit additional students. All work which is proposed is being designed in conjunction with the school and their headteacher in order to ensure that the needs of the children and staff are being met.</p> <p>The staff are also going to be positively impacted as there will be an accessible toilet installed within the pavilion.</p>
Mitigation	

## Gender Reassignment

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Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	As part of the planned proposal, the pupil and staff toilets will both be unisex which makes them more accessible to any individuals that may share gender reassignment as a protected characteristic.
Mitigation	

## Pregnancy and Maternity

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

## Race

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.

Mitigation	

### Religion or Belief

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

### Sex

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	As part of the planned proposal, the pupil and staff toilets will both be unisex which makes them more accessible to any individuals that may share sex as a protected characteristic.
Mitigation	

### Sexual Orientation

Impact on public	Neutral
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Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

## Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

## Poverty

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	There is a high level of poverty within the area the school is located in and therefore any project that will bring additional jobs is a positive action. The increase in provision for children with Special Educational Needs is also positive as it means that more children will be able to access the appropriate provision for their needs potentially closer to home

	providing that the school is named on their Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP).
Mitigation	

## Rurality

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people. The area the school is located in is not seen to be rural.
Mitigation	

Geographical Impact: Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor

## Equality Statement

### Additional information:

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 within the County of Hampshire to reduce using the more expensive private and independent school sector. This is part of an ongoing drive to seek opportunities in Hampshire Schools to expand, develop or re-designate themselves. or increase their pupil numbers, in order to meet the increasing need for SEN places.

### Overview Statement:

A summary assessment to show that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been paid, which is undertaken when a full EIA is not needed:

EIA reference number: 00580

Date of production of EIA for publication: 14/02/2024

## Appendix B – Samuel Cody School Public Notice



### SAMUEL CODY SCHOOL, FARNBOROUGH –INCREASE OF AGREED PUPIL NUMBER

1. Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that Hampshire County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to SAMUEL CODY SCHOOL, Ballantyne Road, Farnborough, GU14 8SS (category of school – special) by increasing the capacity of the school with effect from 1 September 2024.
2. The school currently has capacity for 294 pupils aged 4-16 year and caters for pupils with Moderate Learning Disabilities (MLD), Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. This is provided across three separate buildings on the main site. It is proposed to increase the overall places by 44 to from September 2024. The increase in pupil numbers will be on the main school site for primary aged pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD).
3. The proposal to increase the pupil numbers at Samuel Cody School is required to meet the high demand for primary school spaces for children with learning difficulties. The proposal to enlarge the school will now be with effect from 1 September 2024.
4. The estimated capital cost of this project is £800,000 and is included in the Children's Services Capital Programme report approved by Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 19 January 2024. It is proposed to reconfigure and repurpose the pavilion building on site so that Oak Farm Pre-School can move from the Samuel Cody School primary building. The space in the primary school building would then be reconfigured and repurposed to provide 2 additional SEND classrooms which could accommodate the additional pupils. Along with the two classrooms there would also be associated additional facilities including a meeting room, headteachers office, staff room, ELSA therapy room and works to the toilets.
5. This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal may be obtained from Claire Campling, Assistant SEN Service Manager, Children's Services Directorate, EII Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG; e-mail: [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)
6. Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Claire Campling, Assistant SEN Service Manager, Children's Services Directorate, EII Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG; e-mail: [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)

Dated: 29 March 2024

Carolyn Williamson  
Chief Executive



## Appendix C – Comments from Samuel Cody Public Notice

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 April 2024 09:15  
**To:** Strategic Planning Unit  
**Subject:** Samuel Cody

**Categories:** [REDACTED], Consultation

Caution: This is an external email and could contain malicious content. Do not open any links or attachments if you were not expecting them. If the e-mail looks suspicious, please report via the 'Report Phishing' Button found on your toolbar.

Good morning

May I please enquire about the proposal to increase capacity at Samuel Cody Primary School? The proposal says it will allow for 44 extra pupils to attend, but with just 2 extra classrooms. Does this mean that the number of pupils in each class will also increase as a result?

I am pleased to see that consideration for the high demand on SEND school places is being considered as this is something which must be a high priority to serve the children and families in the area.

Kind regards,  
[REDACTED]