

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	10 November 2021
Title:	Expansion of Mark Way School, Andover
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Bernadette Dawes, Inclusion Commissioning Manager

Tel: 0370 7790226

Email: Bernadette.Dawes@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide feedback on the public consultation and seek approval to publish a statutory public notice in relation to the proposed expansion of Mark Way School, Andover.

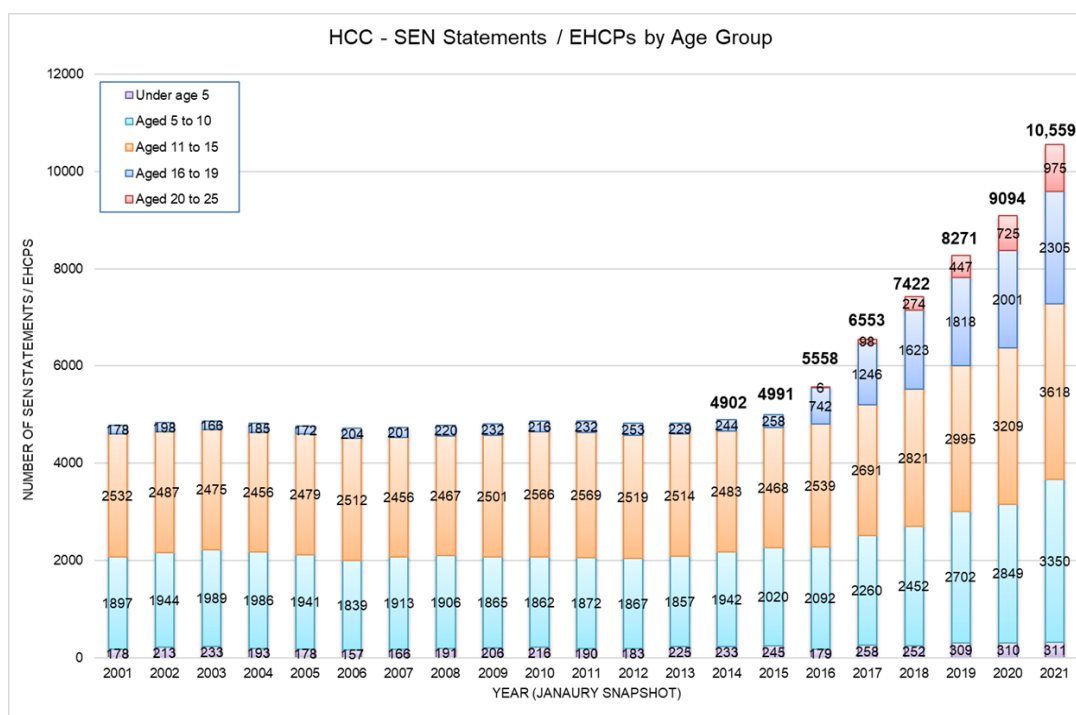
Recommendations

2. To approve the publication of a statutory Public Notice under Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006:
 - **To expand Mark Way School, Andover with effect from 1 September 2023**

Executive Summary

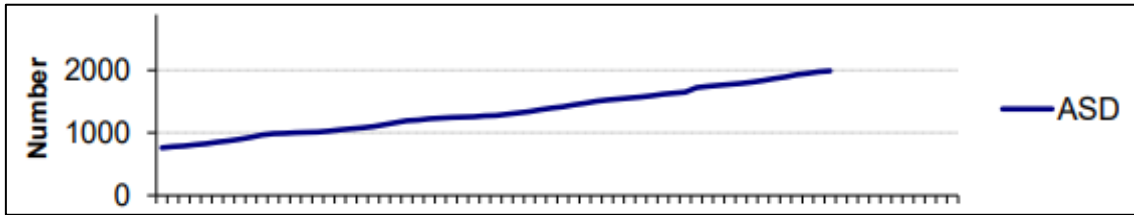
3. Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to provide school places for all children including those who have special educational needs and/or a disability. The County Council is committed to further developing successful provision to meet this demand within the Special Education Needs and Disability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

5. The table below shows that there has also been a rise in the number of plans being maintained. As of 31 August 2021, there were 11,744 EHC Plans being maintained, a 19.7% increase on the same time last year. The growth in EHC Plans across the age ranges is varied, with all age ranges seeing a significant rise in numbers and particular growth for the post 16 age ranges. Overall, since the reforms took effect in 2015 there has been a 135% increase in the number of EHC Plans being maintained.



6. The County Council is committed to further developing successful provision or creating new provision where possible to meet demand for places. Currently, there is a need to provide support for pupils across most areas of SEND but particularly for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC) as there has been a 161% increase from September 2016 to September 2021.
7. The number of pupils with a primary need of ASC is increasing, and in 4 of the last 5 years the ASC growth rate has exceeded the EHCP growth rate.
8. The table and graph below show that in September 2016 ASC was the primary need of 12.3% of maintained EHCPs. In September 2021, ASC is the primary need of 16.7% of maintained EHCP's:

Month-Year	Total EHCPs	EHCP % Increase	Primary need of ASC	ASC % increase
Sep 2016	6,199	-	761	-
Sep 2017	7,292	17.6%	1,003	31.8%
Sep 2018	8,121	11.4%	1,225	22.1%
Sep 2019	8,784	8.2%	1,416	15.6%
Sep 2020	10,186	16.0%	1,720	21.5%
Sep 2021	11,907	16.9%	1,989	15.6%



Numbers of current statements/EHC plans being maintained at the end of each month, with a primary need of ASC, over 5 years September 2016 to September 2021

9. The lack of sufficient provision within Hampshire Schools has resulted in increased placements within the independent and non-maintained sector (INMSS). The proposals contained within this report aim to build on the good quality Hampshire school provision and meet the needs of children and young people within their 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 their home community as possible.

Finance

10. A scheme is being developed that provides an additional 20 places through the provision of two new classrooms and two new group rooms along with extensive internal refurbishment. The estimated cost of the new accommodation is £1.604m (including fees).
11. Therefore, it is recommended that resources of £1.604m (including fees) are allocated from the 2021/22 capital programme. A detailed project appraisal will be brought to a future decision day.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

12. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
13. The carbon mitigation tool and the climate change adaption tool were not applicable because this is a strategic capital programme report. The Climate Change Impact Assessment will be undertaken in conjunction with colleagues in Culture, Community and Business Services as individual projects are developed and brought to future Decision Days.

Mark Way School, Andover

14. Mark Way School is an 82-place special school catering for 11–16-year-old pupils with ASC and moderate learning difficulties. The school is successfully meeting the needs of children with a range of difficulties in a safe and secure environment.

15. Hampshire County Council is proposing to undertake internal works which will allow the school to increase the capacity by up to 20 additional places from September 2023.
16. The works will provide additional internal teaching accommodation to enable more children to attend the school and improve the overall learning environment for all pupils.
17. This will give a final overall capacity of 102 places at Mark Way School.

Consultation

18. Formal consultations took place between 10 September and 8 October 2021.

A letter (Appendix 1) with details of the proposal was sent to the following stakeholders and feedback was invited by email and letter and meetings with officers offered if requested:

- Parents of children attending the schools
- Headteachers, school staff and Governing Body of the schools
- Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of neighbouring schools
- Borough, district, and parish Councils – Local Councillors
- Trade union representatives
- Local Dioceses
- Local MPs
- HCC Elected Members
- Residents of the immediate areas
- Other relevant community stakeholders

Copies of the consultation letters are attached under appendix 1.

19. The proposals were also included on the Hampshire County Council's consultation website:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations>

Consultation Responses Received – Mark Way School, Andover

20. One positive comment has been received about the proposed expansion of Mark Way School. This was from Cllr. Kirsty North, a County Councillor who wrote in support of the proposed provision.

21. Conclusions

22. In considering all the response received, the County Council believes that the enlargement of Mark Way School, as detailed above, is necessary to meet the County Council's statutory duty for children with SEND, and that

the comments received did not represent sufficient concern to prevent proceeding to the publication of statutory public notices.

23. Approval is sought to publish a statutory public notice on the proposal and enter a formal consultation period of 4 weeks from November 19, 2021. These notices will be displayed at the school, circulated to relevant stakeholders, and published on the Council's Public Notice Portal. A further report following the closure of the consultation periods will be brought to a future Decision Day.

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

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Children's Services Capital Programme update		
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

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.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

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 with regard to 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 in particular 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:

Equality and diversity objectives will be considered on an individual project basis by conducting Equality Impact Assessments and are not considered at this stage or within this report.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

The carbon mitigation tool and the climate change adaption tool were not applicable because this is a strategic capital programme report. The Climate Change Impact Assessment will be undertaken in conjunction with colleagues in Culture, Community and Business Services as individual projects are developed and brought to future Decision Days.

Appendix 1

Claire Campling

03707 795 312

10 September 2021

strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk

Dear Consultee,

Proposal to increase the capacity of Mark Way School, Andover – Consultation

I am writing to invite your views in respect of Hampshire County Council's proposal to increase the capacity of Mark Way School, Andover.

Mark Way School is an 82-place special school catering for 11–16-year-old pupils with ASC and moderate learning difficulties. The school is successfully meeting the needs of children with a range of difficulties in a safe and secure environment.

The County Council is proposing to undertake internal works which will allow the school to increase the capacity by up to 20 additional places from September 2023. The works will provide additional internal teaching accommodation to enable more children to attend the school and improve the overall learning environment for all pupils. This will give a final overall capacity of 102 places at Mark Way School.

Reason for proposal

Hampshire County Council is committed to expanding successful provision where possible to meet demand. Currently there is an increased need to provide support for pupils with complex learning needs in this area of the county. This proposal will provide much needed specialist educational capacity to meet this increased demand.

The information in this letter and some Frequently Asked Questions are available on the following website: <http://consultations.hants.gov.uk/active.aspx>

The Consultation

The purpose of this consultation is to seek the view of all stakeholders on the principle of increasing the school capacity to meet the demand for additional special school places in the Andover area.

The consultation and decision-making process is outlined below:

- This initial consultation will run from the 10 September to 8 October 2021. A report outlining the consultation responses received will then be taken to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services November 2021 to decide if the proposal should continue to the formal statutory consultation stage.
- If approved, a statutory Public Notice would be published in November/December 2021 setting out Hampshire County Council's intent to increase the capacity of the school and to add to its designation. This is a four-week period in which any representations can be made to the local authority.
- A final report would then be taken to Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day in November 2022 who will decide whether to proceed with the proposal.

Further Information

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and ensuring public safety, unfortunately we are unable to hold a public drop-in event at the school. However please send in your views and queries by email to strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk.

If you would like to speak to an Officer then please make that request by email, briefly outlining your query so we can arrange a mutually convenient time for you to speak to an appropriate officer, either via conference call or telephone.

A website has also been set up with the details of the consultation which includes some 'Frequently Asked Questions' that may address any queries you have. To access this website please go to the online address below:

<http://consultations.hants.gov.uk/active.aspx>

If you are unable to email or visit the above website and wish to make a comment then please write to Claire Campling, Assistant SEN Service Manager, Children's Services Department, Ell Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG by 8 October 2021.

Yours sincerely,
Claire Campling

Assistant SEN Service Manager

Children's Services Department