

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND AND OPERATE THE HUNSBURY PARK SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITY (SEND) UNIT FROM AN ANNEX SITE AT CHILTERN PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATUTORY NOTICE

1. Proposer details

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC)
One Angel Square
Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1ED

2. School details

Hunsbury Park Primary School
Dayrell Road
Northampton
NN4 9RR
&
Chiltern Primary School
30 Chiltern Way
Northampton
NN5 6BW

3. Description of alteration and evidence of demand

WNC has established plans for a 50 place, Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Unit at Hunsbury Park Primary School. The provision caters for primary aged pupils who are in receipt of an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) with a primary need of Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASD).

The project was planned to be delivered in two phases with the first phase having opened during November 2022. 20 places have already been delivered, under phase one, with children now attending reception, year 1 and year 2 classes. Upon completion of phase I in January 2024, this provision will increase to a total of 30 places, for children in years 3-6, an additional 10 places to the original 20 at the Hunsbury site.

Phase two of the works involved the delivery of a new, stand-alone building on the Hunsbury Park Primary School site, that would provide additional teaching and other education spaces for a further 30 pupils from September 2023. However, this phase is no longer viable due to construction constraints and a delayed delivery date.

As a result, WNC have explored alternative options to ensure the successful delivery of ASD primary places, and as part of this WNC officers have now identified sufficient spare accommodation at Chiltern Primary School. This can be converted into bespoke SEND teaching spaces that can be used to accommodate up to 30 pupils initially and increasing to 45 pupils in subsequent years

Although the proposed unit will operate from the Chiltern site, it will operate under the leadership of Hunsbury Park Primary. In effect, the site will run as Hunsbury provision by Hunsbury specialist staff but on the Chiltern Primary site.

The additional 30 places will be achieved via the refurbishment of existing classrooms to provide a modern and fit for purpose teaching environment for pupils with a primary need of ASC. The scheme will also provide further bespoke outdoor learning facilities and dedicated specialist areas such as new hygiene rooms.

Pupils will be allocated places at the unit via WNC's SEND admissions processes and all pupils attending the SEND unit will be placed on roll at Hunsbury Park Primary School (irrespective of site attended). There will be no change to either school's mainstream Published Admission Number (PAN).

SEND pupil projection forecasts collated by WNC indicate that the total number of children and young people residing in West Northamptonshire in receipt of an EHC Plan will increase by 521 or 25% in the period January 2020 to January 2025.

The SEND pupil projection forecasts further indicate that children and young people with a primary need of ASC will be the biggest driver of this growth and this cohort is anticipated to increase by 299 pupils or 40%.

£2m

It is this level of current and future demand for specialist places that this proposal is intended to (partially) address.

4. Objectives and reasons

The objective of this proposal is to help ensure that WNC can deliver new SEND places in order to fulfil its continued statutory obligation of providing a sufficiency of places for local families.

All current specialist settings within the maintained school and academy sector (with a limited number of exceptions) that are located within West Northamptonshire have reached or exceeded their notional capacity figure i.e., the total number of pupils or students that should be attending any given provision.

As a result of this WNC has been required to utilise independent and out of county specialist provisions to ensure pupils and students in receipt of an EHC plan can access education. Providing places at independent or out of county provisions is more expensive and less cost effective than allocating places within local schools and academies.

The ongoing increase in the demand for specialist places has also resulted in all capacity offered in independent provisions in West Northamptonshire and out of county provisions located close to it, to have also reached their total capacity.

Another consequence of the increased demand for specialist places is that children and young people in receipt of an EHC plan have been required to attend a setting that is not best placed to meet their individual needs, such as a mainstream school setting, or that WNC has been unable to allocate a suitable school place within a timely manner.

5. Related proposals

Hunsbury Park Primary and Chiltern Primary are working towards a collaborative model in order to improve outcomes overall.

This collaborative model will allow both schools to carry out some functions jointly such as through joint committees and joint board meetings, with a focus on effective collaboration improving key strategic areas. It will allow Hunsbury Primary, rated as Good by OFSTED, to share good teaching practices with Chiltern Primary which is currently rated as requires improvement. The local authority is supportive of this measure to protect and strengthen LA maintained schools.

Under this proposal, an executive leadership model will be implemented with Dan York acting as the new executive headteacher (subject to final agreement). Dan will take a strategic role in both schools with an overarching statutory responsibility of leading the school's day to day activities in each school.

6. Project costs and how these will be met

The anticipated total capital cost for phases 1 and 2 of the project is £2m. The funding for the proposal will be provided by the 'Specialist Provision Capital Funding' grant allocation received by WNC from the Department for Education.

This funding is received by Local Authorities for the specific purpose of providing new specialist education places and cannot be utilised for any other purpose.

7. Implementation date

The implementation date for the proposed unit is from 3 October 2023 with transition visits starting from September 2023.

8. Consultation

Periods of consultation with all relevant stakeholders, on how, where and what type of new SEND capacity will be added in West Northamptonshire have been conducted since 2019.

This specific proposal has been developed in collaboration with the senior leadership of Hunsbury Park Primary School and Chiltern Primary School and will run from 22 June 2023 to 19 July 2023

9. Procedure for making representations (support, objections and comments)

Any person may object to, express support for or comment on this proposal by emailing placeplanningconsultation@westnorthants.gov.uk or by [completing the online survey on the council's Consultation Hub](#) within four weeks of the publication of this statutory proposal (22 July 2023).