

## SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE OF CABINET

### AGENDA

Meeting to be held on Thursday 11 January 2024 at 11.00am in  
Committee Room 1, City Hall, Sunderland

ITEM		PAGE
1.	<b>Receipt of Declarations of Interest (if any)</b>	
2.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
3.	<b>Proposal to Increase the Number of Specialist Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) School Places at Usworth Colliery Primary School</b>	1
	Report of the Director of Children's Services (copy attached).	
4.	<b>Proposal to Establish a Resourced Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Unit at Hudson Road Primary School</b>	31
	Report of the Director of Children's Services (copy attached).	

Elaine Waugh,  
Assistant Director of Law and Governance

City Hall,  
SUNDERLAND

3 January 2024

For further information and assistance, please contact:  
Gillian Kelly, Democratic Services Team Leader  
[gillian.kelly@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:gillian.kelly@sunderland.gov.uk)



**SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE OF CABINET  
11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I**

**Title of Report:**

Proposal to Increase the Number of Specialist Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) School Places at Usworth Colliery Primary School

**Author(s):**

Director of Children’s Services

**Purpose of Report:**

The purpose of this report is to seek a decision on the Council’s proposal to increase the number of specialist ASD school places at Usworth Colliery Primary School from 12 places to 26 places.

**Description of Decision:**

School Organisation Committee of Cabinet is asked to:

Note the responses to the statutory and pre-publication consultations and consider the statutory proposal which is to:

**Increase the capacity of the existing Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision at Usworth Colliery Primary School from 12 places to 26 places with effect from 11th January 2024.**

Under the provisions of the relevant Regulations, the Authority may approve published proposals with or without modification or may reject them.

The Committee is requested to approve the proposal as detailed above.

**Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?** Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

**Reason for the Decision**

The proposal will increase the number of local SEN school places in an area where there is a defined deficit in capacity. It will enable children who require additional support to access a school place in their home locality while subsequently reducing waiting times at other special school settings.

**Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:**

Retain the existing number of local special school places – This will result in an ongoing projected deficit in appropriate provision for residents, will lead to ongoing

oversubscription at other local SEN settings or will require young people to travel out of area to access suitable school places.

**Impacts analysed;**

Equality  Privacy  Sustainability  Crime and Disorder

**Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values? Yes**

**Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution? Yes**

**Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions? Yes**

**PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SPECIALIST AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD) SCHOOL PLACES AT USWORTH COLLIERY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to seek a decision on the Council's proposal to increase the number of specialist ASD school places at Usworth Colliery Primary School from 12 places to 26 places.

**2. Description of Decision**

2.1 School Organisation Committee of Cabinet is asked to:

Note the responses to the statutory and pre-publication consultations and consider the statutory proposal which is to:

**Increase the capacity of the existing Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision at Usworth Colliery Primary School from 12 places to 26 places with effect from 11th January 2024.**

Under the provisions of the relevant Regulations, the Authority may approve published proposals with or without modification or may reject them.

The Committee is requested to approve the proposal as detailed above.

**3. Current Position**

3.1 Usworth Colliery Primary School is a Local Authority maintained primary school in the Washington Planning Area. As well as a mainstream primary school provision the school also offers 12 specialist school places for children with special educational needs who are also in receipt of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) via a SEN Unit.

3.2 The unit is currently oversubscribed with 20 children currently identified against the 12 places on offer at the unit.

3.3 Capital works to improve the facilities for the children currently on roll at the unit were completed in Summer 2023. The works, as well as creating a more bespoke setting for the currently placed pupils, also resulted in an increase in the wider capacity of the unit. This has provided the opportunity to increase the commissioned number of pupils at the Unit from 12 to 26 pupils.

## **4.0 Outcomes**

The Council's proposal will result in the following outcomes:

### **4.1 Increased Capacity Within the Local SEN Sector**

The proposal will add an additional 14 primary school places to Sunderland's current SEN offer. Given the proposal aims to ensure SEN places are available in localities in the first instance it is anticipated that children accessing provision would be from Washington with children from other planning areas accessing places as appropriate.

### **4.2 Increased Appropriateness of SEN Placements**

The ongoing diversification of the range of SEN provision in Sunderland will ensure that there are multiple levels of placements for local children. The creation of additional resourced units provides greater opportunity for those children who can thrive in a mainstream environment but who need additional support to do so, while those who require a special school place are more likely to be accommodated quicker due to the increased local capacity across the wider SEN sector.

### **4.3 Increased Efficiencies in Commissioning**

A consequence of increasing local access to SEN provision is that pupils do not have to travel as far to access central, citywide or out of area provisions. Being able to provide local facilities therefore reduces commissioning costs such as home to school transport costs and the costs associated with out of area placements.

## **5.0 Proposal Amendment**

5.1 In July 2023 Cabinet agreed to commence consultation on a proposal to increase the capacity of the current Autism unit at Usworth Colliery AND to establish a second unit at the school for children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) requirements.

5.2 The increasing complexity of needs presented by children recently placed at the ASD unit at Usworth Colliery Primary School led to re-consideration of that proposal. Children accessing the unit are demonstrating a higher level of need year-on-year than the cohorts that proceeded them, with the school providing increased levels of staff and physical resource to effectively deliver the cohorts' required levels of support. With that consideration in mind it was not felt practical to effectively accommodate a further SEN primary need within the same school.

5.3 Therefore, following further discussion with the leadership at Usworth Colliery Primary School and after consideration of the responses received during the Council's pre-publication consultation exercise, the decision was taken to amend the Council's proposal. That amendment removed the establishment of a SEMH unit and instead focused on the expansion of the existing ASD provision.

5.4 The Council has commenced discussions with alternative settings in the area to find a more appropriate alternative location to accommodate a specific SEMH unit and will bring a further proposal to Cabinet in the future.

## **6.0 Consultation**

6.1 In July 2023 Cabinet approved a proposal to commence the School Organisation processes required for the development of the Council's proposal.

6.2 An informal (pre-publication) consultation upon the proposals took place during the following dates:

- 18th September 2023 – 3rd November 2023

6.3 Consultees recommended in the relevant statutory guidance were consulted via a Consultation Document that was made widely available on the Council's website and was circulated to relevant consultees. The pre-publication consultation outcomes are attached at Appendix 1.

6.4 The consultation received 33 responses. Of these:

- 84% of responses agreed to the question 'Do you agree with the proposal to establish a specialist unit at Usworth Colliery Primary School for children aged 4 to 11 with additional social, emotional, and mental health support requirements?'
- 84% of responses agreed to the question 'Do you agree with the proposal to increase the number of specialist school places at Usworth Colliery Primary School for children aged 4 - 11 with ASD and/or social, emotional and mental health requirements?'

6.5 As noted in section 5 of this paper the Council's proposal was amended to reflect the changing requirements of pupils accessing the existing provision and the feedback received during the pre-publication process.

6.6 The Council published notification of the statutory proposal to increase the SEN capacity at Usworth Colliery Primary School on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The statutory notice period ended 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The statutory notice was published in the following places:

- Sunderland City Council's website
- Usworth Colliery Primary School's website
- The Sunderland Echo

6.7 In addition to the publication of notices the following groups were consulted with as part of this process:

- Parents of pupils attending the school
- Current staff

6.8 The Council received 0 responses to the notice. The statutory notice and the full proposal document are attached at Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.

6.9 There were no objections to the proposals.

## **7.0 Next Steps**

7.1 Required capital works were completed in Summer 2023. While intended to increase the quality of resource available to the cohort already attending the Unit the works resulted in an increase in capacity that is sufficient to accommodate the additional 14 pupils that will be placed subject to the approval of this proposal.

7.2 Placements will commence immediately should the proposal be approved with the unit currently operating a waiting list for places.

## **8. Reasons for the Decision**

8.1 The proposal will increase the number of local SEN school places in an area where there is a defined deficit in capacity. It will enable children who require additional support to access a school place in their home locality while subsequently reducing waiting times at other special school settings.

## **9. Alternative Options**

9.1 Retain the existing number of local special school places – This will result in an ongoing projected deficit in appropriate provision for residents, will lead to ongoing oversubscription at other local SEN settings or will require young people to travel out of area to access suitable school places.

## **10. Impact Analysis**

**Equalities Analysis** – The proposal is not projected to disadvantage any individual, social group or organisation. The Equalities Assessment is attached as Appendix 4.

## **11. Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations**

**11.1 Co-operative values** – At Annual Council in May 2015, it was resolved that the following statement be included in the Constitution to reflect the values of the “Co-operative Council”.

*“Sunderland City Council is a co-operative council and in being so will act ethically in all its actions while adhering to and actively promoting its co-operative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. These values will underpin its decision making and actions.”*



## **11.2 Financial implications**

The average cost of EHCP 'Top Ups' for 14 ASD places in the proposed resourced provision would be £5,440 per place per year giving a total estimated funding requirement of £0.076m per year which would be met from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. This reflects an estimated total saving of £69,173 per place per year when compared to the cost of an independent or out of area placement. Total annual potential cost avoidance to the High Needs Block as a result of the proposals above would be £0.968m.

No further capital works are required to develop Usworth Colliery Primary School's provision. Required works carried out in Summer 2023 were £0.313m and were funded from local S106 funding agreements.

## **11.3 Legal Implications**

Throughout the process, from informal consultation to the publication of the statutory proposals, the Council has complied with the requirements of the applicable legislation (the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013) and has also adhered to the Department for Education's 2023 Statutory Guidance 'Making Significant Changes ('Prescribed Alterations') to Maintained Schools'.

## **12. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Pre-Publication Consultation Outcomes

Appendix 2 – Statutory Notice

Appendix 3 – Full Proposal Document

Appendix 4 – Equalities Assessment



# Proposal to Increase the Type and Number of SEN Places at Usworth Colliery Primary School

33

Responses

04:41

Average time to complete

Closed

Status

1. Do you agree with the proposal to establish a specialist unit at Usworth Colliery Primary School for children aged 4 to 11 with additional social, emotional, and mental health support requirements?

● Yes	28
● No	5
● No comment	0



2. If no please tell us why you do not agree with this proposal

5  
Responses

Latest Responses

"No. There is a thrive unit for children with SEMH needs. A se...

4 respondents (80%) answered **needs** for this question.

children needs prov

3. Do you agree with the proposal to increase the number of specialist school places at Usworth Colliery Primary School for children aged 4 - 11 with ASD and/or social, emotional and mental health requirements?

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Yes	29
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> No	4
<span style="color: green;">●</span> No Comment	0



4. If no please tell us why you do not agree with this proposal

4  
Responses

Latest Responses

"There are already 18 + SEN children at Usworth Colliery? A ...

5. Do you have any additional comments on either of the Council's proposals?

23 Responses

Latest Responses

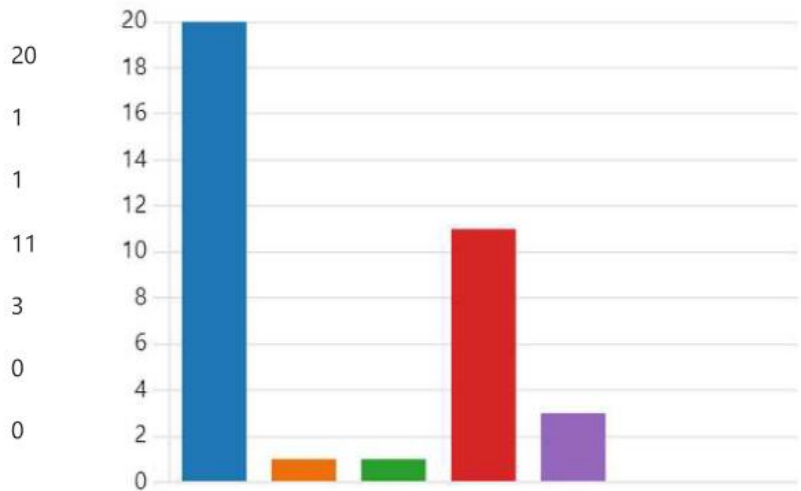
- "We already have a well-established ASD base and teaching ...
- "I have reservations about the high level of needs of children ...
- "You have provided no information on how it's funded and st...

13 respondents (57%) answered **school** for this question.



6. Are you responding to the survey as one of the following? (choose as many as applicable)

- A parent
- A carer
- A local resident
- A school staff member
- School Governor
- Local Councillor
- Other



### 7. How did you hear about this survey?

31  
Responses

Latest Responses

"School"

"School"

"Emailed "

14 respondents (45%) answered **School** for this question.



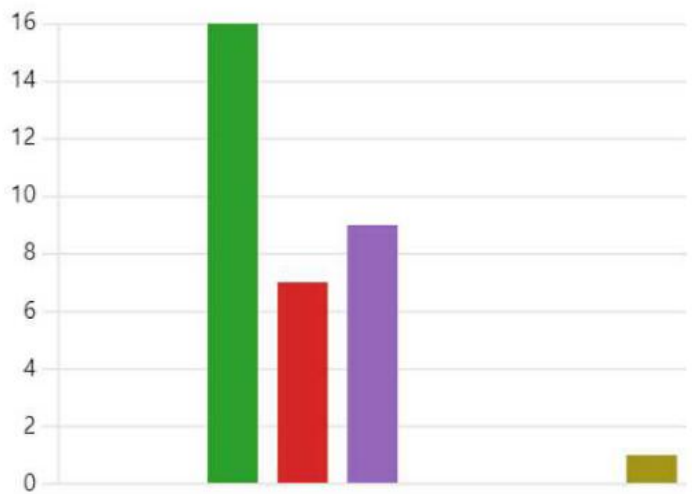
### 8. Which gender do you identify as? (Please tick one box only)

<input type="radio"/> Woman	29
<input type="radio"/> Man	3
<input type="radio"/> Non-binary	0
<input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say	1
<input type="radio"/> My Gender is not listed	0



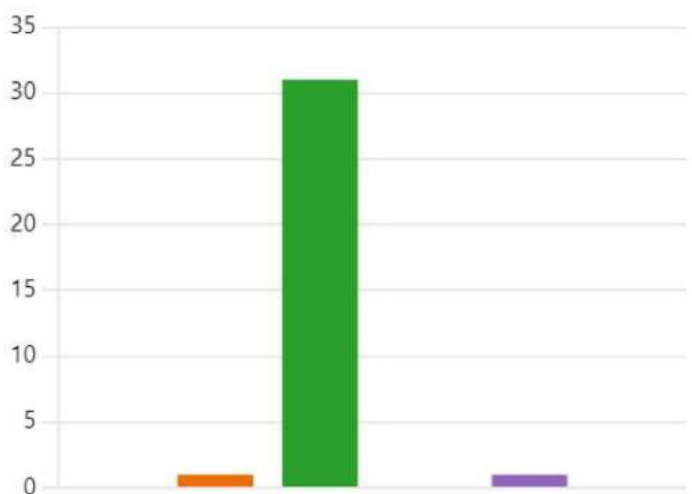
### 9. Please Specify Your Age Group

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Under 16	0
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> 16 - 25	0
<span style="color: green;">●</span> 26 - 35	16
<span style="color: red;">●</span> 36 - 45	7
<span style="color: purple;">●</span> 46 - 55	9
<span style="color: brown;">●</span> 56 - 65	0
<span style="color: pink;">●</span> 66 - 75	0
<span style="color: grey;">●</span> 75 plus	0
<span style="color: olive;">●</span> Prefer not to say	1



### 10. How would you describe your ethnic group?

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Asian or Asian British	0
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Black or Black British	1
<span style="color: green;">●</span> White or White British	31
<span style="color: red;">●</span> Mixed Ethnicity	0
<span style="color: purple;">●</span> Prefer not to say	1
<span style="color: brown;">●</span> Other	0






### 11. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Yes	4
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> No	26
<span style="color: green;">●</span> Prefer not to say	3



## 12. Do you live in Sunderland?

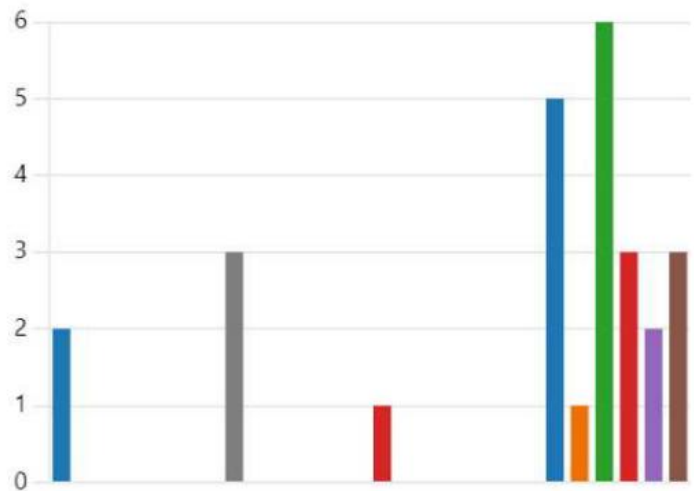
	Yes	26
	No	5
	Prefer not to say	2





### 13. Which ward in the city do you currently live in

● Barnes	2
● Castle	0
● Copt Hill	0
● Doxford	0
● Fulwell	0
● Hendon	0
● Hetton	0
● Houghton	3
● Millfield	0
● Pallion	0
● Redhill	0
● Ryhope	0
● Sandhill	0
● Shiny Row	1
● Silksworth	0
● Southwick	0
● St Anne's	0
● St Chad's	0
● St Michael's	0
● St Peter's	0
● Washington Central	5
● Washington East	1
● Washington North	6
● Washington South	3
● Washington West	2
● Prefer not to say	3





## Appendix 2

### THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND

#### **NOTIFICATION OF STATUTORY PROPOSAL TO ALTER EXISTING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) PROVISION AT USWORTH COLLIERY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that it is the intention of Sunderland City Council, Plater Way, Sunderland SR1 3AA to make a prescribed alteration to

#### **Usworth Colliery Primary School, Manor Road, Sulgrave, Washington, NE37 3BL**

by increasing the capacity of the current 12 place Autism provision to 26 places with effect from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Usworth Colliery Primary School is a Primary School maintained by Sunderland City Council.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposals. The complete proposals have been published on the website <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/13038/School-organisation-consultations>

Copies of the complete proposals can be obtained from: Alan Rowan, Sufficiency and Capital Lead (Education), Together for Children, City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland SR1 3AA,

or by e-mailing [alan.rowan@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:alan.rowan@togetherforchildren.org.uk).

Within four weeks from the date of publication of the proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending them to Alan Rowan, Sufficiency and Capital Lead (Education), Together for Children, City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland SR1 3AA or by e-mailing them to [schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk).

Signed: Patrick Melia

Chief Executive

Sunderland City Council

Publication Date: 15 November 2023



**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND****NOTIFICATION OF STATUTORY PROPOSAL TO ALTER EXISTING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) PROVISION AT USWORTH COLLIERY PRIMARY SCHOOL****Local Authority Proposal**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that it is the intention of Sunderland City Council, City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland, SR1 3AA to:

- Increase the capacity of the existing SEN provision at Usworth Colliery Primary School from 12 places to 26 places with effect from 11th January 2024.

Usworth Colliery Primary School is a maintained primary school maintained by Sunderland City Council.

The expanded provision will be developed on the current Usworth Colliery Primary School site with pupils attending the unit expected to access resources both in the resourced unit and within the wider mainstream school offer.

**Reason for the Further Development of a Special Educational Needs Unit at Usworth Colliery Primary School**

The number of children who require additional support due to a special educational need has increased in Sunderland. More children are now attending mainstream schools who require significant additional interventions to support them in their school place. This at times can exceed what a mainstream school has the resources to offer.

There is an identified need to increase the range and quantity of high-quality SEN provisions in local areas. This ensures children for whom a mainstream school place is appropriate to them can continue to access that within their own locality while also ensuring schools have the correct resources to meet increasing demand from pupils with additional SEN needs.

Usworth Colliery Primary School currently operates a 12 place Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provision. This provision is accessed by pupils with Educational Health and Care Plans that name the school as a suitable setting to meet the SEN needs of those pupils. The provision has been oversubscribed in recent years with greater capacity now needed. The expansion of the existing provision will allow children who require a greater level of support from within the locality to access an appropriate school place with bespoke support.

The proposal will ensure additional facilities are available to meet educational, sensory and nurture needs, provide access to specialist equipment (where required) and, by creating a local SEN offer, will reduce the time children for whom the provision is suitable for are required to travel to access a special school place.

The proposal would secure the following outcomes:

**Increased Capacity Within the Local SEN Sector**

The proposal will add an additional 14 primary school places to Sunderland's current SEN offer. Given the proposal aims to ensure SEN places are available in localities in the first instance it is

anticipated that children accessing provision would be from Washington with children from other planning areas accessing places as appropriate.

### **Increase Appropriateness of SEN Placements**

The ongoing diversification of the range of SEN provision in Sunderland will ensure that there are multiple levels of placements for local children. The creation of additional resourced units provides greater opportunity for those children who can thrive in a mainstream environment but who need additional support to do so, while those who require a special school place are more likely to be accommodated quicker due to the increased local capacity across the wider SEN sector.

### **Increased Efficiencies in Commissioning**

A consequence of increasing local access to SEN provision is that pupils do not have to travel as far to access central citywide or out of area provisions. Being able to provide local facilities therefore reduces commissioning costs such as home to school transport costs and the costs associated with out of area placements.

### **Effect on other Schools, Academies and Educational Institutions in the Area**

The proposal is anticipated to have positive implications for other schools, academies and educational institutions in the area.

Increased local ASD capacity will ensure that pupils are placed appropriately and that children, for whom it has been identified that a mainstream place is not appropriate, will not be retained in that setting due to lack of capacity in the SEN sector. This will ensure schools and academies can allocate resources more effectively and that school rolls are reflective of the provision and support an individual mainstream school can offer.

### **Project Costs**

The capital costs associated with the expansion of the school's existing ASD provision are contained within a wider project budget. The current estimate for development works is £0.35m.

### **Pupil Numbers and Admissions**

The unit will have the capacity to provide 26 places for local pupils. This represents an increase of 14 places. All pupils will be in receipt of an Education, Health and Care Plan that names Usworth Colliery Primary School as a suitable setting to meet their educational needs. Places will be allocated by Together for Children's SEN placement panel.

### **Displaced Pupils**

The proposal will not result in displaced pupils. It will ensure pupils who would ordinarily access a place at the provision are more likely to receive one (because of the increased capacity) or ensure that pupils already accessing the provision but who are required to travel from localities to do so can be accommodated at a setting that is more appropriately located.

Pupils accessing the additional ASD places will be those who have been identified by an Education, Health and Care Plan Placement Panel as requiring that provision. Mainstream

school placements will have been considered unsuitable to meet the needs of pupils. On that basis there is no displacement associated with the delivery of a SEN unit at Usworth Colliery Primary School.

### **Impact on the Community**

Wider positive impacts will come from the development of locality provision. Specifically, the ability for young people from Washington to access a site for an ASD placement that enables them to continue to attend a school place near their home without excessive travel.

### **Balance of Denominational Provision**

There will be no impact on the balance of denominational provision as the school does not have a religious character.

### **Special Educational Needs Provision (SEND)**

The proposal will add to the existing 12 place ASD unit at the school to deliver an addition 14 SEN places at Usworth Colliery Primary School. This provision will be for primary aged children with the majority who will attend the unit living in the Washington area. It responds to the need for additional ASD places in the city, the ambition to ensure there is appropriate local provision for pupils and utilises the expertise of Usworth Colliery Primary School in providing for this cohort.

### **Travel**

There would be significant decrease in car use because of these proposals. The delivery of locality sites will enable pupils to access provision nearer to their homes. This will reduce both the period spent travelling to and from provision and the costs associated with that travel.

### **Consultation**

An informal (pre-publication) consultation upon the proposals took place during the following dates:

- 18th September 2023 – 3rd November 2023

Consultees recommended in the relevant statutory guidance were consulted via a Consultation Document that was made widely available on the Council's website and was circulated to relevant consultees.

The consultation received 33 responses. Of these:

- 84% of responses agreed to the question 'Do you agree with the proposal to establish a specialist unit at Usworth Colliery Primary School for children aged 4 to 11 with additional

social, emotional, and mental health support requirements?

- 84% of responses agreed to the question 'Do you agree with the proposal to increase the number of specialist school places at Usworth Colliery Primary School for children aged 4 - 11 with ASD and/or social, emotional and mental health requirements?'

Following completion of the pre-publication consultation process on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, the Council has amended the proposed outcomes initially proposed within that consultation. The School and Council recognise that there has been an increase in the complexity of needs that children attending the existing provision at Usworth Colliery Primary School are currently presenting and subsequently those children have required greater levels of educational support, physical capacity and resource than the cohorts from recent years. Given the increased complexities demonstrated by new admissions the Council has amended its proposal from an increase to 36 SEN places at the school to an increase to 26 with the focus of provision now specifically on ASD as opposed to ASD or Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH).

This change reflects comments submitted during the pre-publication consultation and dialogue with the school in the period following the commencement of this process. The revised proposal will facilitate the ability to delivery greater levels of personal support to pupils in smaller class sizes while still supporting the development of enhanced local provision for pupils with SEN.

### **Submission of Objections and Comments on Proposal**

A copy of this proposal can be viewed on the Sunderland City Council website at

<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/13038/School-organisation-consultations>

It can also be requested via:

E-mail: [alan.rowan@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:alan.rowan@togetherforchildren.org.uk)

Post: Sufficiency and Capital Lead, Together for Children,

Within four weeks of the Publication Date below, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending their written representations:

*By e-mail to:-*

[schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk)

*Or by post to:-*

*Alan Rowan*

*Sufficiency and Capital Lead*

*Together for Children,*

*City Hall,*

*Plater Way,*

*Sunderland*

*SR1 3AA*

Signed: Patrick Melia,

Chief Executive,

Sunderland City Council.

Publication Date: 15 November 2023



**EQUALITY ANALYSIS**

You must complete this in conjunction with reading Equality Analysis Guidance

**Name of Policy/Decision/Project/Activity:**

Increase the Number of Specialist Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) School Places at Usworth Colliery Primary School

Date:

11/01/2024

Version Number: One

Equality Analysis completed by:

Name/Job title: Alan Rowan – Capital and Sufficiency Lead

Responsible Officer or Group:

Name/Job title: Alan Rowan

Is the Activity:

New/Proposed ( X )

Changing/Being Reviewed ( )

Other ( )

# 1. Purpose and scope

## Purpose

In this section outline briefly:

- what the policy, decision or activity is and what the intended outcomes/benefits are (linked to the Corporate Outcomes Framework)
- over what period of time the outcomes will be achieved
- why it needs to be implemented or revised
- what populations are affected by the proposal
- who is expected to benefit and how, i.e. young people, older people, carers, BME groups, ward areas/communities, etc
- whether there are any overlaps with regional, sub-regional, national priorities.

The decision is to increase the number Special Educational Needs (SEN) unit at Usworth Colliery Primary School for children with needs related to Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Usworth Colliery Primary School is a local authority maintained primary school

This decision will increase the capacity of the already established resourced unit for primary aged children with additional education needs relating to ASD requirements. It will add additional high-quality specialist school places for the local population and contribute to Sunderland's corporate Healthy City aims.

The outcomes will realised on an ongoing basis from the point of implementation (January 2024)

The proposal needs to be implemented to resolve oversubscription to local ASD providers. It will ensure that young people who need a specialist school place are able to access one locally with a reduction in the requirement to travel to a city centre hub.

It will benefit young people accessing the provision. Those expected to access the provision resultant from the proposals are aged 5 – 11 years of age

## Intelligence and Analysis

Please describe:

- What sources of information have been used to inform this assessment/analysis (this should include but is not limited to consultations, resident/service user feedback and statistical data and intelligence)
- **What the information is telling you** – this should be broken down by each of the protected characteristics or other identified groups which could be disadvantaged. Each of the aims of the equality act should be considered in relation to each of the protected characteristics.

The proposals were developed following evaluation of local demand data ADF places, the costs of provision of travel and the potential requirement to provide out of area or independent provision should places local mainstream places not be developed and consultation with local headteachers. All identified the following

- There is a deficit in local ASD places
- There will be emotional, social and education benefits in reducing travel requirements for young people requiring an ASD provision

In advance of the publication of full proposals the Council carried out a pre-publication consultation. The consultation was live for 6 weeks with 33 responses being received. 28 supported the Council's proposals

### **Gaps in intelligence and information**

Having analysed the information available to you:

- are there any gaps in intelligence or areas where understanding needs to be improved? Please describe what these are and what actions you intend to take to obtain/improve the information. These actions should be covered in the action plan.
- are there any groups who should be expected to benefit who do not? Please describe why not and whether you will amend the decision to change this outcome. This should also be covered in the action plan.

It is not considered that further intelligence would influence the proposals further

### **Additional Impacts**

The policy or action may also have an impact on other groups or individuals which are not covered by statutory requirements. Please outline any additional individuals or groups which have not already been covered. This could include socio-economic groups, voluntary and community sector, carers or specific communities which face additional challenges (such as former coal mining areas or areas of high deprivation)

## 2. Analysis of impact on people

In this section you must **review the intelligence described above and summarise the intended and potential impact of the policy, decision or activity** on the people of Sunderland. This includes specific consideration of the impact on individuals, groups with protected characteristics and communities of interest within the city. Please briefly outline any positive, neutral or negative impacts on the specific groups below. Please note that any negative impacts should have a corresponding action in the action plan in the page below.

In this assessment it is important to remember the **Council is required to give due regard to:**

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality 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.

**Each of these aims must be summarised in turn in relation to the groups outlined below.**

Characteristic	List of Impacts		
	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Age	Pupils aged 5 – 11 will be the primary beneficiaries. Proposals will result in increased appropriateness of school place allocation		
Disability	Provision will be created for pupils with ASD. This will enable pupils who are unable to access a local, suitable school place to do so. Waiting time for places will be reduced, time in less appropriate mainstream settings will be reduced and accessibility of provision will be increased		
Gender/Sex	NA		
Marriage & Civil Partnership	NA		
Pregnancy and	NA		

maternity			
Race/Ethnicity	NA		
Religion/belief	NA		
Sexual Orientation	NA		
Gender identity	NA		

**Please add any additional groups mentioned in “additional impacts” above to this table.**

### 3. Response to Analysis, Action Plan and Monitoring

In this section please outline what actions you propose to take to minimise the negative, and maximise the positive, impacts that have been identified through the analysis. By considering and implementing these actions the policy or action can be refined to make sure that the greatest benefits are achieved for the people of Sunderland. The performance monitoring process should also be set out to explain how ongoing progress is going to be followed to make sure that the aims are met.

From the analysis four broad approaches can be taken, (No major change; continue with the policy/action despite negative implications; adjust the policy/decision/action; or stop the policy/action). Please indicate, using the list below, which is proposed.

No Major Change ( )

Continue Despite Negative Implications ( )

Adjust the Policy/Decision/Project/Activity ( )

Stop ( )

#### Action Plan

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

**PLEASE ENSURE THE COMPLETED EQUALITY IMPACT ANALYSIS TEMPLATE IS PUBLISHED ON <http://citypoint/equalityanalysis/default.aspx>, WITH THE RELEVANT ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION APPENDED, i.e. POLICY/STRATEGY. THE EQUALITY ANALYSIS MUST BE PRESENTED AT ANY DECISION POINT.**





**SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE OF CABINET  
11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I**

**Title of Report:**

Establish a resourced Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Unit at Hudson Road Primary School

**Author(s):**

Director of Children’s Services

**Purpose of Report:**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to implement the Council’s proposal to establish a 16-place unit for children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs at Hudson Road Primary School

**Description of Decision:**

School Organisation Committee of Cabinet is asked to:

Note the responses to the statutory and pre-publication consultations and consider the statutory proposal which is to:

**Develop a 16 place Special Educational Needs (SEN) unit at Hudson Road Primary School for primary aged pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs with effect from 1st September 2024.**

Under the provisions of the relevant Regulations, the Authority may approve published proposals with or without modification or may reject them.

The Committee is requested to approve the proposal as detailed above.

**Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?      Yes**

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

**Reason for the Decision**

The proposal will contribute to the sufficiency of SEN) school places across the city. This will increase the number of high quality, local SEN places, reduce waiting times for special schools, allow Sunderland based children to access appropriate provision within their localities and create efficiencies in the wider cost of delivering a SEN infrastructure in Sunderland.

**Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:**

Retain the existing number of SEN places. A deficit in local, specialist places will remain resulting in children either not being expediently placed in an appropriate school setting or being placed in a setting that requires travel outside their locality and will result in greater cost pressure on the Council.

**Impacts analysed.**

Equality  Privacy  Sustainability  Crime and Disorder

**Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values? Yes**

**Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution? Yes**

**Is it included in the 28-day Notice of Decisions? Yes**

**ESTABLISH A RESOURCED SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH (SEMH) UNIT AT HUDSON ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to implement the Council's proposal to establish a 16-place unit for children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs at Hudson Road Primary School

**2. Description of Decision**

2.1 School Organisation Committee of Cabinet is asked to:

Note the responses to the statutory and pre-publication consultations and consider the statutory proposal which is to:

**Develop a 16 place Special Educational Needs (SEN) unit at Hudson Road Primary School for primary aged pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs with effect from 1st September 2024.**

Under the provisions of the relevant Regulations, the Authority may approve published proposals with or without modification or may reject them.

The Committee is requested to approve the proposal as detailed above.

**3. Current Position**

- 3.1 The number of children who require additional support due to a special educational need has increased in Sunderland. More children are now attending mainstream schools who require significant additional interventions to support them in their school place. This at times can exceed what a mainstream school has the resources to offer.
- 3.2 There is an identified need to increase the range and quantity of high-quality SEN provisions in local areas. This ensures children for whom a mainstream school place is appropriate to them can continue to access that within their own locality while also ensuring schools have the correct resources to meet increasing demand from pupils with additional SEN needs.
- 3.3 The Council proposes that, to make provision more accessible for a wider range of families, it will create a SEN provision at Hudson Road Primary School for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. This will allow children who require a greater level of support from within the locality to access an appropriate school place with bespoke support.

- 3.4 The unit will complement the mainstream offer at the school with children on roll accessing both the mainstream resource and educational offer and a SEN offer from within a specific resource.
- 3.5 The proposal will ensure additional facilities are available to meet educational, sensory and nurture needs, provide access to specialist equipment (where required) and, by creating a local SEN offer, will reduce the time children are required to travel to access a special school place.

#### **4. Outcomes**

- 4.1 The proposal would secure the following outcomes:

##### **4.2 Increased Capacity Within the Local SEN Sector**

The proposal will add an additional 16 primary school places to Sunderland's current SEN offer. Given the proposal aims to ensure SEN places are available in localities in the first instance it is anticipated that children accessing provision would be from East and West Sunderland with children from other planning areas accessing places as appropriate.

##### **4.3 Increased Appropriateness of SEN Placements**

The ongoing diversification of the range of SEN provision in Sunderland will ensure that there are multiple levels of placements for local children. The creation of additional resourced units provides greater opportunity for those children who can thrive in a mainstream environment but who need additional support, while those who require a special school place are more likely to be accommodated quicker due to the increased local capacity across the wider SEN sector.

##### **4.4 Increased Efficiencies in Commissioning**

A consequence of increasing local access to SEN provision is that pupils do not have to travel as far to access central, citywide or out of area provisions. Being able to provide local facilities therefore reduces commissioning costs such as home to school transport costs and the costs associated with out of area placements.

#### **5.0 Consultation**

- 5.1 In July 2023 Cabinet approved a proposal to commence the School Organisation processes required for the development of the Council's proposal.
- 5.2 An informal (pre-publication) consultation on the proposals took place between 8th September 2023 – 3rd November 2023. The pre-publication consultation outcomes are attached at Appendix 1.

5.3 Consultees recommended in the relevant statutory guidance were consulted via a survey that was made widely available on the Council's website and the website of Hudson Road Primary School.

The consultation received 47 responses. Of these: -

- 100% of responses to the question 'Do you agree with the proposal to create a resourced provision for primary aged children with special educational needs relating to Social, Emotional and Mental Health at Hudson Road Primary School?' supported the Council's proposal.

5.4 The Council published notification of the statutory proposal for the development of an SEMH unit at Hudson Road Primary School on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The statutory notice period ended 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The statutory notice was published in the following places:

- Sunderland City Council's website
- Hudson Road Primary School's website
- The Sunderland Echo

5.5 In addition to the publication of notices the following groups were consulted with as part of this process:

- Parents of pupils attending the school
- Current staff

5.6 The Council received 0 responses to the notice. The statutory notice and the full proposal document are attached at Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.

5.7 There were 0 objections to the proposals.

## **6.0 Next Steps**

6.1 Subject to approval of the proposals contained within this paper the Council will commence procurement processes required to provide necessary resources, teaching bases and support spaces to facilitate the delivery of the Unit.

6.2 Together for Children will also include Hudson Road Primary School as a placement destination for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan identifying SEMH as a primary requirement from September 2024.

## **7. Reasons for the Decision**

7.1 The proposal will contribute to the sufficiency of SEN school places across the city. This will increase the number of high quality, local SEN places, reduce waiting times for special schools, allow Sunderland based children to access appropriate provision within their localities and create efficiencies in the wider cost of delivering a SEN infrastructure in Sunderland.

## **8. Alternative Options**

- 8.1 Retain the existing number of SEN places. A deficit in local, specialist places will remain resulting in children either not being expediently placed in an appropriate school setting or being placed in a setting that requires travel outside their locality and will result in greater cost pressure on the Council.

## **9. Impact Analysis**

**Equalities Analysis** – The proposal is not projected to disadvantage any individual, social group or organisation. The Equalities Assessment is attached as Appendix 4.

## **10. Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations**

- 10.1 Co-operative values** – At Annual Council in May 2015, it was resolved that the following statement be included in the Constitution to reflect the values of the “Co-operative Council”.

*“Sunderland City Council is a co-operative council and in being so will act ethically in all its actions while adhering to and actively promoting its co-operative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. These values will underpin its decision making and actions.”*

### **10.2 Financial implications**

The average cost of EHCP ‘Top Ups’ for 16 SEMH places in the proposed resourced provision would be £5,440 per place per year giving a total estimated funding requirement of £0.087m per year which would be met from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. This reflects an estimated total saving of £69,173 per place per year when compared to the cost of an independent or out of area placement. Total potential cost avoidance to the High Needs Block as a result of the proposals above would be £1.106m.

Capital works are required to develop the former Bright Stars Nursery Building at Hudson Road Primary School. Costs have been estimated at £0.650m based on similar programmes procured in recent years – this will be funded from within the current approved capital programme.

### **10.3 Legal Implications**

Throughout the process, from informal consultation to the publication of the statutory proposals, the Council has complied with the requirements of the applicable legislation (the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013) and has also adhered to the Department for Education’s 2023 Statutory Guidance ‘Making Significant Changes (‘Prescribed Alterations’) to Maintained Schools’.

## **11. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Pre-Publication Consultation Outcomes

Appendix 2 – Statutory Notice

Appendix 3 – Full Proposal Document

Appendix 4 – Equalities Assessment





# Proposal to Develop a Special Education Needs Unit at Hudson Road Primary School

47

Responses

01:48

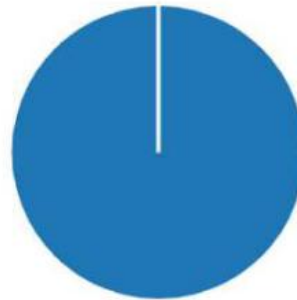
Average time to complete

Closed

Status

1. Do you agree with the proposal to create a resourced provision for primary aged children with special educational needs relating to Social, Emotional and Mental Health at Hudson Road Primary School

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Yes	47
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> No	0
<span style="color: green;">●</span> No Comment	0



2. If no, please tell us why you do not agree with the proposal

0

Responses

Latest Responses

### 3. Do you have any additional comments to make on the proposal?

25  
Responses

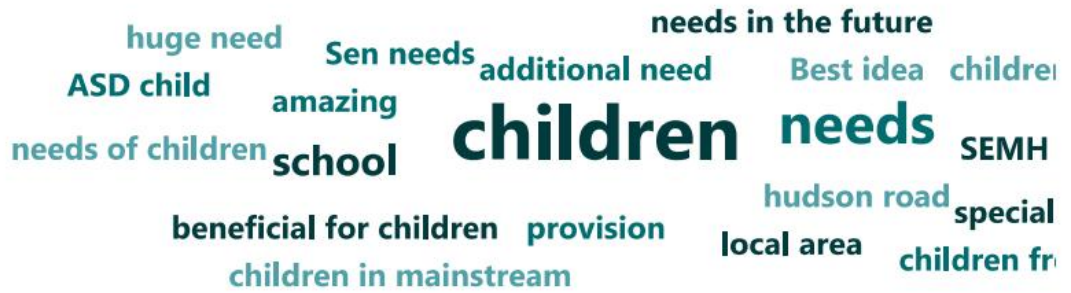
Latest Responses

"No"

"The school clearly has the facilities to provide a much neede..."

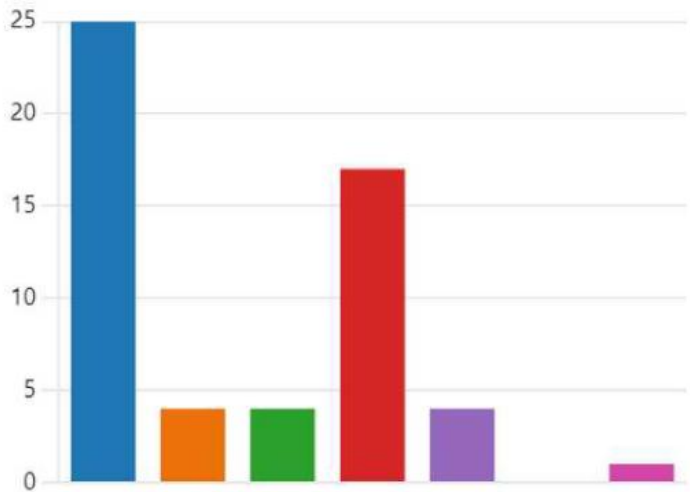
[Update](#)

9 respondents (39%) answered **children** for this question.



### 4. Are you responding to the survey as one of the following? (choose as many as applicable)

- A parent 25
- A carer 4
- A local resident 4
- A school staff member 17
- A school governor 4
- A local councillor 0
- Other 1



5. How did you hear about this survey?

42  
Responses

Latest Responses

"Staff"  
"Emailed to me "  
"Email"

[Update](#)

22 respondents (58%) answered **School** for this question.



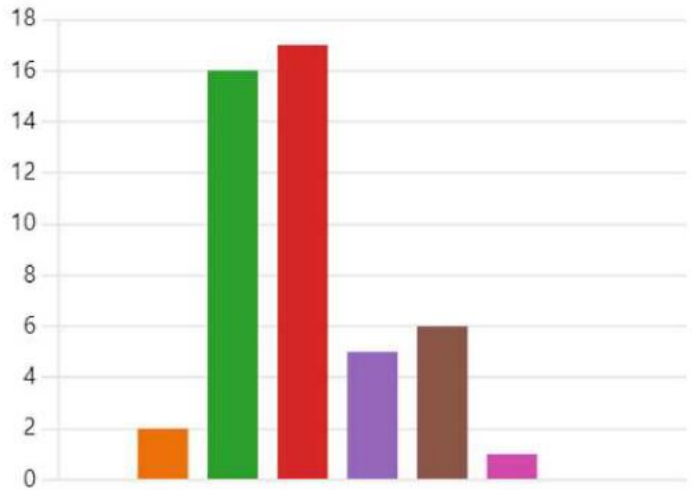
6. Which gender do you identify as? (please tick one box only)

- Woman 41
- Man 6
- Non-binary 0
- Prefer not to say 0
- My gender is not listed 0



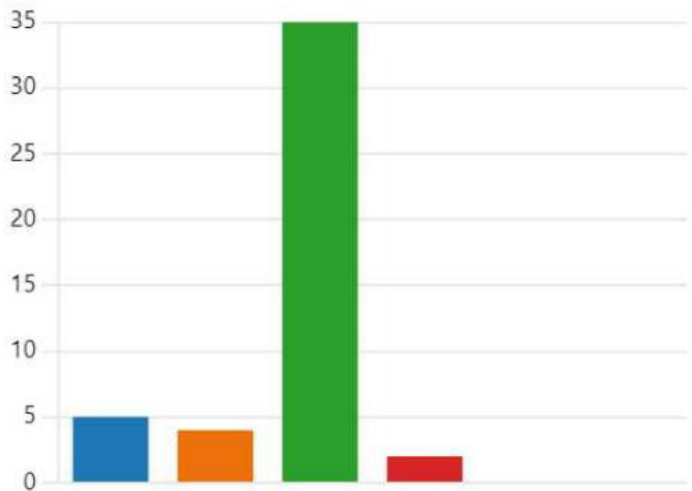
### 7. Please specify your age group

Under 16	0
16 - 25	2
26 - 35	16
36 - 45	17
46 - 55	5
56 - 65	6
66 - 75	1
75+	0
Prefer not to say	0



### 8. How would you describe your ethnic group?

Asian or Asian British	5
Black or Black British	4
White or White British	35
Mixed Ethnicity	2
Prefer not to say	0
Other	0



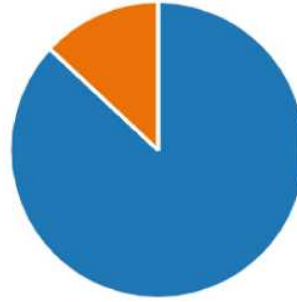
### 9. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Yes	3
No	43
Prefer not to say	0



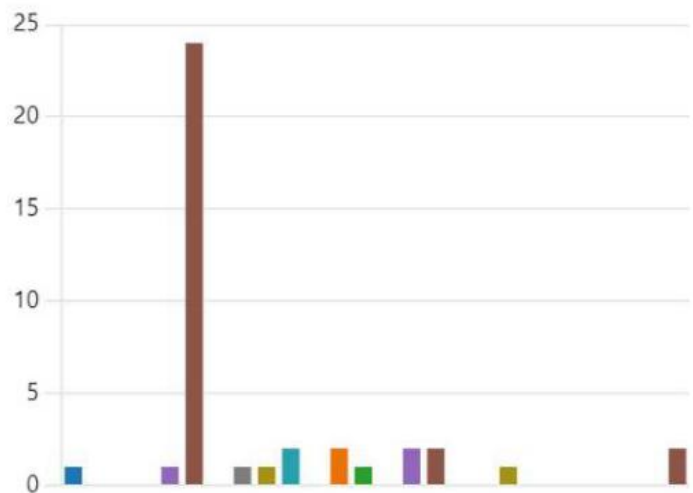
### 10. Do you live in Sunderland?

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Yes	40
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> No	6
<span style="color: green;">●</span> Prefer not to say	0



### 11. Which ward in the city do you currently live in?

● Barnes	1
● Castle	0
● Copt Hill	0
● Doxford	0
● Fulwell	1
● Hendon	24
● Hetton	0
● Houghton	1
● Millfield	1
● Pallion	2
● Redhill	0
● Ryhope	2
● Sandhill	1
● Shiney Row	0
● Silksworth	2
● Southwick	2
● St Anne's	0
● St Chad's	0
● St Michael's	1
● St Peter's	0
● Washington Central	0
● Washington East	0
● Washington North	0
● Washington South	0
● Washington West	0
● Prefer not to say	2



### THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND

#### NOTIFICATION OF STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR HUDSON ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### ESTABLISH A RESOURCED SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH UNIT

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that it is the intention of Sunderland City Council, Plater Way, Sunderland SR1 3AA to make a prescribed alteration to

#### **Hudson Road Primary School, Villiers Street South, Sunderland SR1 2AH**

by establishing a 16-place resourced Special Educational Needs Unit with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024. The Unit established will provide for Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. This will be based at and managed by Hudson Road Primary School.

Hudson Road Primary School is a Primary School maintained by Sunderland City Council.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposals. The complete proposals have been published on the website <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/13038/School-organisation-consultations>

Copies of the complete proposals can be obtained from: Alan Rowan, Sufficiency and Capital Lead (Education), Together for Children, City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland SR1 3AA,

or by e-mailing [alan.rowan@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:alan.rowan@togetherforchildren.org.uk).

Within four weeks from the date of publication of the proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending them to Alan Rowan, Sufficiency and Capital Lead (Education), Together for Children, City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland SR1 3AA or by e-mailing them to [schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk).

Signed: Patrick Melia

Chief Executive

Sunderland City Council

Publication Date: 15 November 2023





**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND**

**NOTIFICATION OF STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) UNIT AT HUDSON ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Local Authority Proposal**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that it is the intention of Sunderland City Council, City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland, SR1 3AA to:

- Develop a 16 place SEN unit at **Hudson Road Primary School** for primary aged pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH) with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.

Hudson Road Primary School is a maintained primary school maintained by Sunderland City Council.

The new provision will be developed on the current Hudson Road Primary School site with pupils attending the unit expected to access resources both in the resourced unit and within the wider mainstream school offer.

**Reason for the Development of a Special Educational Needs Unit at Hudson Road Primary School**

The number of children who require additional support due to a special educational need has increased in Sunderland. More children are now attending mainstream schools who require significant additional interventions to support them in their school place. This at times can exceed what a mainstream school has the resources to offer.

There is an identified need to increase the range and quantity of high-quality SEN provisions in local areas. This ensures children for whom a mainstream school place is appropriate to them can continue to access that within their own locality while also ensuring schools have the correct resources to meet increasing demand from pupils with additional SEN needs.

The Council proposes that, to make provision more accessible for a wider range of families, it will create a SEN provision at Hudson Road for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. This will allow children who require a greater level of support from within the locality to access an appropriate school place with bespoke support.

The unit will complement the mainstream offer at the school with children on roll accessing both the mainstream resource and educational offer and an SEN offer from within a specific resource.

The proposal will ensure additional facilities are available to meet educational, sensory and nurture needs, provide access to specialist equipment (where required) and, by creating a local SEN offer, will reduce the time children are required to travel to access a special school place.

The proposal would secure the following outcomes:

**Increased Capacity Within the Local SEN Sector**

The proposal will add an additional 16 primary school places to Sunderland's current SEN offer. Given the proposal aims to ensure SEN places are available in localities in the first instance it is

anticipated that children accessing provision would be from East and West Sunderland with children from other planning areas accessing places as appropriate.

### **Increased Appropriateness of SEN Placements**

The ongoing diversification of the range of SEN provision in Sunderland will ensure that there are multiple levels of placements for local children. The creation of additional resourced units provides greater opportunity for those children who can thrive in a mainstream environment but who need additional support, while those who require a special school place are more likely to be accommodated quicker due to the increased local capacity across the wider SEN sector.

### **Increased Efficiencies in Commissioning**

A consequence of increasing local access to SEN provision is that pupils do not have to travel as far to access central citywide or out of area provisions. Being able to provide local facilities therefore reduces commissioning costs such as home to school transport costs and the costs associated with out of area placements.

### **Effect on other Schools, Academies and Educational Institutions in the Area**

The proposal is anticipated to have positive implications for other schools, academies and educational institutions in the area.

Increased local SEMH capacity will ensure that pupils are placed appropriately and that children, for whom it has been identified that a mainstream place is not appropriate, will not be retained in that setting due to lack of capacity in the SEN sector. This will ensure schools and academies can allocate resources more effectively and that school rolls are reflective of the provision and support an individual mainstream school can offer.

### **Project Costs**

The capital costs associated with the development of the Unit, as well as increasing the School's wider ability to respond to a pupil's SEN needs, are contained within a wider project budget. The current estimate for development works is £0.9m.

### **Pupil Numbers and Admissions**

The unit will have the capacity to provide 16 places for local pupils. All pupils will be in receipt of an Education, Health and Care Plan that names Hudson Road Primary School as a suitable setting to meet their educational needs. Places will be allocated by Together for Children's SEN placement panel.

### **Displaced Pupils**

The proposal will not result in displaced pupils. It will ensure that pupils already accessing the provision but who are required to travel from localities to do so can be accommodated at a setting that is more appropriately located.

Pupils accessing SEMH provision will be those who have been identified by an Education, Health and Care Plan Placement Panel as requiring that provision. Mainstream school placements will have been considered unsuitable to meet the needs of pupils. On that basis

there is no displacement associated with the delivery of a SEN unit at Hudson Road Primary School.

### **Impact on the Community**

Wider positive impacts will come from the development of locality provision. Specifically, the ability for young people from South Sunderland to access a site for an SEMH placement that enables them to continue to attend a school place near their home without excessive travel.

### **Balance of Denominational Provision**

There will be no impact on the balance of denominational provision as the school does not have a religious character.

### **Special Educational Needs Provision (SEND)**

The proposal will deliver a SEMH unit within Hudson Road Primary School. This provision will be for primary aged children with the majority who will attend the unit living in the South Sunderland area. It responds to the need for additional SEMH places in the city, the ambition to ensure there is appropriate local provision for pupils and utilises the expertise of Hudson Road Primary School in providing for this cohort.

### **Travel**

There would be significant decrease in car use because of these proposals. The delivery of locality sites will enable pupils to access provision nearer to their homes. This will reduce both the period spent travelling to and from provision and the costs associated with that travel.

### **Consultation**

An informal (pre-publication) consultation upon the proposals took place during the following dates:

- 18th September 2023 – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Consultees recommended in the relevant statutory guidance were consulted via a Consultation Document that was made widely available on the Council's website and the website of Hudson Road Primary School.

The consultation received 47 responses. Of these:-

- 100% of responses to the question '*Do you agree with the proposal to create a resourced provision for primary aged children with special educational needs relating to Social, Emotional and Mental Health at Hudson Road Primary School?*' supported the Council's proposal.

## **Submission of Objections and Comments on the Proposal**

A copy of this proposal can be viewed on the Sunderland City Council website at

<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/13038/School-organisation-consultations>

It can also be requested via:

E-mail: [alan.rowan@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:alan.rowan@togetherforchildren.org.uk)

Post: Sufficiency and Capital Lead, Together for Children,

Within four weeks of the Publication Date below, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending their written representations:

*By e-mail to: -*

[schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk)

*Or by post to: -*

*Alan Rowan*

*Sufficiency and Capital Lead*

*Together for Children,*

*City Hall,*

*Plater Way,*

*Sunderland*

*SR1 3AA*

Signed: Patrick Melia,  
Chief Executive,  
Sunderland City Council.

Publication Date: 15 November 2023

**EQUALITY ANALYSIS**

You must complete this in conjunction with reading Equality Analysis Guidance

**Name of Policy/Decision/Project/Activity:**

Establishing an SEN Unit at Hudson Road Primary School

Date:

11/01/2024

Version Number: One

Equality Analysis completed by:

Name/Job title: Alan Rowan – Capital and Sufficiency Lead

Responsible Officer or Group:

Name/Job title: Alan Rowan

Is the Activity:

New/Proposed ( X )

Changing/Being Reviewed ( )

Other ( )

# 1. Purpose and scope

## Purpose

In this section outline briefly:

- what the policy, decision or activity is and what the intended outcomes/benefits are (linked to the Corporate Outcomes Framework)
- over what period of time the outcomes will be achieved
- why it needs to be implemented or revised
- what populations are affected by the proposal
- who is expected to benefit and how, i.e. young people, older people, carers, BME groups, ward areas/communities, etc
- whether there are any overlaps with regional, sub-regional, national priorities.

The decision is to establish a Special Educational Needs (SEN) unit at Hudson Road Primary School for children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH). Hudson Road Primary School is a local authority maintained primary school

This decision will establish a resourced unit for primary aged children with additional education needs relating to their Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) requirements. It will create new high-quality provision for the local population and contribute to Sunderland's corporate Healthy City aims.

The outcomes will be realised on an ongoing basis from the point of implementation (September 2024)

The proposal needs to be implemented to resolve oversubscription to local SEMH providers. It will ensure that young people who need a specialist school place are able to access one locally with a reduction in the requirement to travel to a city centre hub.

It will benefit young people accessing the provision. Those expected to access the provision resultant from the proposals are aged 5 – 11 years of age

## Intelligence and Analysis

Please describe:

- What sources of information have been used to inform this assessment/analysis (this should include but is not limited to consultations, resident/service user feedback and statistical data and intelligence)
- **What the information is telling you** – this should be broken down by each of the protected characteristics or other identified groups which could be disadvantaged. Each of the aims of the equality act should be considered in relation to each of the protected characteristics.

The proposals were developed following evaluation of local demand data SEMH places, the costs of provision of travel and the potential requirement to provide out of area or independent provision should places local mainstream places not be developed and consultation with local headteachers. All identified the following

- There is a deficit in local SEMH places
- There will be emotional, social and education benefits in reducing travel requirements for young people requiring a SEN provision

In advance of the publication of full proposals the Council carried out a pre-publication consultation. The consultation was live for 6 weeks with 47 responses being received. All supported the Council's proposals.

### **Gaps in intelligence and information**

Having analysed the information available to you:

- are there any gaps in intelligence or areas where understanding needs to be improved? Please describe what these are and what actions you intend to take to obtain/improve the information. These actions should be covered in the action plan.
- are there any groups who should be expected to benefit who do not? Please describe why not and whether you will amend the decision to change this outcome. This should also be covered in the action plan.

It is not considered that further intelligence would influence the proposals further

### **Additional Impacts**

The policy or action may also have an impact on other groups or individuals which are not covered by statutory requirements. Please outline any additional individuals or groups which have not already been covered. This could include socio-economic groups, voluntary and community sector, carers or specific communities which face additional challenges (such as former coal mining areas or areas of high deprivation)



## 2. Analysis of impact on people

In this section you must **review the intelligence described above and summarise the intended and potential impact of the policy, decision or activity** on the people of Sunderland. This includes specific consideration of the impact on individuals, groups with protected characteristics and communities of interest within the city. Please briefly outline any positive, neutral or negative impacts on the specific groups below. Please note that any negative impacts should have a corresponding action in the action plan in the page below.

In this assessment it is important to remember the **Council is required to give due regard to:**

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality 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.

**Each of these aims must be summarised in turn in relation to the groups outlined below.**

Characteristic	List of Impacts		
	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Age	Pupils aged 5 – 11 will be the primary beneficiaries. Proposals will result in increased appropriateness of school place allocation		
Disability	Provision will be created for pupils with SEMH. This will enable pupils who are unable to access a local, suitable school place to do so. Waiting time for places will be reduced, time in less appropriate mainstream settings will be reduced and accessibility of provision will be increased		
Gender/Sex	NA		
Marriage & Civil Partnership	NA		
Pregnancy and	NA		

maternity			
Race/Ethnicity	NA		
Religion/belief	NA		
Sexual Orientation	NA		
Gender identity	NA		

**Please add any additional groups mentioned in “additional impacts” above to this table.**

### 3. Response to Analysis, Action Plan and Monitoring

In this section please outline what actions you propose to take to minimise the negative, and maximise the positive, impacts that have been identified through the analysis. By considering and implementing these actions the policy or action can be refined to make sure that the greatest benefits are achieved for the people of Sunderland. The performance monitoring process should also be set out to explain how ongoing progress is going to be followed to make sure that the aims are met.

From the analysis four broad approaches can be taken, (No major change; continue with the policy/action despite negative implications; adjust the policy/decision/action; or stop the policy/action). Please indicate, using the list below, which is proposed.

No Major Change ( )

Continue Despite Negative Implications ( )

Adjust the Policy/Decision/Project/Activity ( )

Stop ( )

#### Action Plan

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

**PLEASE ENSURE THE COMPLETED EQUALITY IMPACT ANALYSIS TEMPLATE IS PUBLISHED ON <http://citypoint/equalityanalysis/default.aspx>, WITH THE RELEVANT ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION APPENDED, i.e. POLICY/STRATEGY. THE EQUALITY ANALYSIS MUST BE PRESENTED AT ANY DECISION POINT.**

