

Proposal for the expansion and extension of age range at the Corley Centre – Information for Schools and Parents/Carers.

Background

Under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996, Coventry City Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places and fair, appropriate access to education for all. It is the Council's role to plan, commission and organise school places in a way that raises standards, manages supply and demand and creates a diverse infrastructure. The LA are currently co-producing a strategic SEN plan with parents/carers, and head teachers to provide high quality, long term SEN provision within the City.

It is the local authority's statutory duty to secure a sufficiency of appropriate education places for children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to consult under the Governments guidelines for changes to maintained schools. This leaflet gives you the information you need to have your say on the proposals.

Coventry has a good range of specialist school provision and so very few Coventry children have to attend schools outside of the city, a position that needs to be maintained. However, recent evidenced growth in need has placed a level of demand on the special school system that exceeds current supply.

Whilst the recent expansion and relocation of Tiverton Special School created much needed capacity in the primary sector for children with generic learning difficulties, there is no physical capacity in the system to support: Social, Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH) growth across all age ranges; increased demand for secondary/post-16 special school places for generic

learning difficulties; and Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) growth across all age ranges.

LA Proposal

Expanding Corley Centre for a larger KS3 and KS4 provision and the extension of age range to include a new KS2 hub will allow the LA to meet its statutory duty by expanding the number of specialist places in both primary and secondary phases to meet the known demand.

Surveyors working on behalf of Coventry City Council have confirmed that it is possible to expand the school on the current site, without negatively impacting the current provision on site.

With Corley being a specialist ASC provision in Coventry, offering Ofsted rated 'Good' education to pupils, an expansion at Corley would enable ASC pupils to achieve their potential.

Whilst there are smaller scale Enhanced Resource Units in mainstream schools for ASC children, the increase in EHC numbers require a proportionate increase in the number of special school places.

The expanded KS3 and KS4 project would provisionally be in place for September 2019, with the KS2 hub becoming available over the course of the 2019 academic year.

Rationale

This project provides an opportunity to expand an Ofsted rated 'Good' provision in the city to meet rising demand for special school places, in particular ASC.

There has been an increasing number of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans, and an increase in the

demand of Coventry special school places. The extension of the range would also ensure that fewer pupils would experience a difficult transition from mainstream KS2 to specialist education in KS3.

This project would provide a future-proofed fit for purpose educational environment and wealth of different opportunities for both existing and future Coventry pupils, with the capacity for the provision to grow.

Meeting Project Costs

Funding for the project cannot be solely supported by the educational capital budget alone. S106 funding from the nearby Keresley Sustainable Urban Expansion, together with funding from other S106 contributions, where Education has requested contributions to expand SEN provision in the area, will be utilised. Alongside funding from the Special Provision Fund received by the LA and its allocation of funding consulted on in 2018.

Useful links

Please have your say by completing the online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/CorleyCentre, where you have the option to provide your comments.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact education.consultations@coventry.gov.uk.

