

Proposals for Increasing Specialist Provision for Children and Young People with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Proposed Increase of Special School Places at Beechcliffe Local Authority Maintained Special School and the closure of Ellar Carr Pupil Referral Unit

**Pre- Consultation document
5th November – 18th November 2019**

Your views are important to us.

We would like to gain your views and comments on the Councils proposals and provide you with the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the proposals

November 2019

The Pre-Consultation

Background Information

The Bradford District has experienced a significant increase in demand for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision in the last 10 years. It is projected that the demand for SEND provision will continue to grow across all sectors in the Bradford District.

Bradford has experienced a year on year increase of children and young people requiring an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP). Currently the Local Authority is maintaining 3860 Educational Health and Care Plans. There are also 14,570 (13.8%) children and young people who receive SEN Support, compared to the national average of 11.8%.

Evidence shows there continues to be an increased demand for specialist places across all sectors.

In order to meet the growing demand for places we analyse the data by primary need. The order below represents the largest number of pupils with a current EHCP by primary need:

1. Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
2. Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH)
3. Severe Learning Difficulty (SLD)
4. Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)
5. Physical Difficulties (PD)

Bradford offers a range of educational provision to meet the needs of Children and Young People with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This includes provision in both Local Authority Maintained Schools and Academy schools including:

- Mainstream Schools
- Special Schools
- Resourced Provision led by the school (SRP) (Formerly known as Designated Specialist Provision – DSP)
- Resourced Provision led by the Local Authority (LARP)
- Additionally Resourced Centres led by the Local Authority (ARC)
- Early Years Enhanced Specialist provision (EYESP) led by Nursery Schools
- Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)

Special School Provision

Currently the Local Authority maintains three Special Schools, one for primary aged pupils and two for secondary aged pupils. There are two primary aged academy special schools and two secondary aged academy special schools and one All Through academy special school.

Table showing current Special School Provision

Name	Area of need	Maintained or Academy	Phase	Number of places
Beckfoot Phoenix	ASD , SLD and PMLD	Academy	Primary	102
Beechcliffe School	ASD , SLD and PMLD	Maintained	Secondary	144
Chellow Heights	ASD , SLD and PMLD	Maintained	Primary	248
Delius Special School	ASD , SLD and PMLD	Academy	Primary	148
Hazelbeck	ASD , SLD and PMLD	Academy	Secondary	140
High Park Academy	Communication & Interaction	Academy	All Through	108
Oastlers School	Social Emotional Mental Health	Maintained	Secondary	134
Southfield School	ASD , SLD and PMLD	Academy	Secondary	387*

*These additional places will be delivered via a graduated growth model.

Pupil Referral Unit Provision

A Pupil Referral Unit is an establishment maintained by the Local Authority. This is specifically organised to provide education for children and young people who are excluded or at risk of exclusion, sick or otherwise unable to attend a mainstream or special school.

The Local Authority currently maintains 3 Pupil referral Units for children and young people one for primary aged pupils and two for secondary aged pupils.

Table showing current Pupil Referral Units

School	Registered Places	Maintained school or Academy	Phase
Park Primary PRU	56	Maintained	Primary
Ellar Carr PRU	72	Maintained	Secondary
District PRU	80	Maintained	Secondary

Rationale:

The Closure of Ellar Carr Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and the Expansion of Beechcliffe Special School

Over time more children and young people with an Education and Health Care Plan have been placed within Ellar Carr PRU, due to insufficient specialist places across the district. This has led to the PRU operating more like a special school for children and young people with Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. All of the children and young people currently accessing the provision have an Education Health and Care Plan except for four, who are currently going through the assessment process.

In 2018 the Schools Forum requested that officers explore the viability of the re-designation of Ellar Carr PRU as a special school. However due to the current legislation around opening new schools, this would have to be via the Free School presumption route.

The proposal is to develop a split site of Beechcliffe Special School, to deliver much needed additional places for secondary aged Children and Young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH). This proposal will provide an additional 80 specialist places and enable children and young people who are currently being educated at Ellar Carr PRU to be educated in a special school setting, however this site will continue to operate at Ellar Carr.

There will be very little impact to the children and young people currently accessing the PRU as the majority already have an Education and Health Care Plan for Social Emotional and Mental Health.

The current workforce at Ellar Carr, are all employees of Bradford Council. As Beechcliffe Special School is an LA maintained school, the current workforce will transfer under the leadership and governance of Beechcliffe Special School and remain employees of Bradford Council.

What are we proposing and where?

The Local Authority is proposing to increase the number of Special School places for Secondary aged pupils with Social Emotional and Mental Health needs, with effect from February 2020 by:

- Closing Ellar Carr Pupil Referral Unit and using the site to operate as a split site of Beechcliffe Special School and
- Expanding Beechcliffe Special School from 144 places to 224 places. To deliver additional Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) provision

Why are we undertaking a Pre- consultation?

Before the Local Authority can increase or make changes to provision in maintained schools, there is a statutory process that we must follow. Whenever the Local Authority proposes to increase places or make changes to specialist provision, all interested parties who are likely to be affected by the Councils proposals must be consulted in the development of the proposals. Good practice also allows time for a pre-consultation to take place.

The pre-consultation phase is so we can ascertain interested parties views on the proposals and use the feedback to shape the proposals going forward for Statutory consultation. This process will be carried out from 5th November – 18th November 2019.

When are we proposing to increase provision?

An indicative timeline for completing the consultation and statutory processes is set out below:

Activity	Timescales
The Strategic Director of Children's Services approves the commencement of a pre-consultation phase	17 th October 2019
Pre-consultation period with all interested parties	5 th – 18 th November 2019
Pre-consultation Public Meetings scheduled	11 th & 14 th November 2019
Analysis of pre consultation responses and recommendations report to the Strategic Director of Children's Services requesting permission to publish Statutory notices.	18 th November – 25 th November 2019
Statutory notices published in the local newspapers (Consultation period begins)	28 th November 2019
Statutory Notice Public Consultation meetings	9 th & 14 th December 2019
End of 4week Statutory Consultation period (2 additional weeks have been added to allow for the Christmas period)	9 th January 2020
Report to Council Executive to consider the outcome of consultation and statutory notices and determine proposals (maintained schools only)	4 th February 2020
Proposed implementation date	24 th February 2020

Who are we consulting with?

- Parents/Carers
- School staff and Governors
- Bradford and Airedale Parents Forum
- Bradford and Airedale NHS Trusts/CCG's
- Elected members
- Local MPs
- Trade Unions
- Neighbouring Authorities
- SENDIASS - Barnado's
- Parish & Mosque Councils
- Muslim Association
- CoE and Catholic Diocese for Bradford/Leeds
- Relevant charities and voluntary organisations
- Any other interested parties

Why are we consulting with you?

Whenever the Local Authority proposes to increase places or make changes to specialist provision, all interested parties who are likely to be affected by the proposals must be consulted in the development of the proposals.

It is important that the proposals are the subject of broad consultation with all interested parties to ensure that your views are considered and that you are fully informed and involved before a final recommendation to the Council Executive Committee is made.

The responses to this consultation for maintained schools must be fully analysed and considered before the Council decides to proceed with a full consultation and issue Statutory notices.

- **Please refer to the below supporting documents:**

- Maps showing Current Provision and Proposed Developments
- Pre-Consultation Questionnaire
- Pre-consultation document

Further documentation will be available if the proposals go forward to the publication of statutory notices.

All of the above documents can be found online by visiting:

<https://localoffer.bradford.gov.uk/Content.aspx?mid=589> - Bradford SEND Local offer
Or www.bradford.gov.uk/consultations

How to respond to the consultation

1. Complete the pre-consultation questionnaire on-line, no later than 18th November 2019

- Beechcliffe Special School/Ellar Carr Pupil Referral Unit - <https://surveys.bradford.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=157251078892>

2. If you do not have access to the internet or you would prefer a paper copy of any of the documents, please contact telephone 01274 438260 or e-mail

SENDPlacesConsultation@bradford.gov.uk

3. Attend the Public Consultation Meetings, they are being held on the below dates:

Either: Monday 11th November 2019 1.00pm-2.00pm Keighley Library Annexe – Spencer Street, Keighley, BD21 2BN

Or Thursday 14th November 1.45-2.45pm at Bradford City Hall– Centenary Square, Bradford BD1 1HY

4. Alternatively please send any written responses to the e-mail below:

SENDPlacesConsultation@bradford.gov.uk

or by post to Diane Cochrane SEND Planning and Strategy Lead. Intelligence and Sufficiency Service, 7th Floor Margaret McMillan Tower, Bradford BD1 1NN

Thank you for taking the time to read this consultation document. Your views are important. Please make your views known to us by completing the Consultation questionnaire or let us have your comments.

Thank you