

Sufficiency of Specialist places for Children and Young People with SEND

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

1. Please tell us your postcode

2. Please indicate in which capacity you are answering this survey

- Parent/ Carer
- Member of school staff
- School Governor

- Local Councillor
- Member of Local Community
- Other (please specify)

3. Do you agree that there is a need for additional provision to be developed across the District for children and young people with SEND?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain your view, this will assist the local authority to shape future plans

4. Do you agree with the proposal to develop additional places at:

Beechcliffe Special School on the Ellar Carr Site for Secondary aged children with Social Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH).

This will increase Beechcliffe's places from 144 to 224.

- Yes
- No
- If no (please specify)

5. Do you have any other comments about the development of specialist places across the district?

Thank you for your views. Please hand this back to the school office no later than 18th November 2019.

Or complete the online questionnaire by visiting

<https://surveys.bradford.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=157251078892>

Or write to: Diane Cochrane SEND Planning & Strategy Lead. 7th Floor Margaret McMillan Tower, Bradford, BD1 1NN