

# NORTHUMBERLAND AREA SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STRATEGY



**CONSULTATION**  
**19 October – 8 December 2017**

## 1. Forward

I am pleased to present this consultation on the Northumberland Area School Place Planning strategy for children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) 2017-2020.

In this document we have set out:

- a. Our vision and strategy for the local area in supporting children and young people with SEND between 2017 and 2020.
- b. A range of options to increase our school capacity and our educational provision for children and young people with SEND across Northumberland.

We are now seeking your views on this strategy and whether you think we've got it right. We hope that you will comment and share your ideas and so help shape the final version.

Please complete the questionnaire and if you can, attend one of the drop-in events organised in November across the county.

During the consultation period you can find out more information and give us your views by;

- *Completing a consultation questionnaire at one of our SEND consultation events, or*
- *You can complete an online questionnaire by visiting:*  
[www.northumberland.gov.uk/sendconsultation](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/sendconsultation)

If you require a paper copy or an accessible format then please contact:

*Susan Caisley, Children's Services, Northumberland County Council, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF or call 01670 622742 or email Susan.Caisley@northumberland.gov.uk*

Thank you in advance for taking part in this consultation.



*Andy Johnson  
Interim Director of Children's Services  
Northumberland County Council*

## **2. Introduction**

### **2.1 What are we consulting on?**

We are consulting on the Northumberland area draft Strategy for SEND and the proposed ideas on how to increase school place capacity to meet the demand for children with SEND in specialist and mainstream provision.

The Local Authority is obliged under Section 30 of the Children and Families Act 2014 to keep its Local Offer under review and therefore the consultation responses where appropriate will be fed into that ongoing review.

### **2.2 Who will be consulted on this strategy?**

We will be consulting with a wide range of key stakeholders, including:

- Children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disability (SEND)
- Parents, carers and families of children and young people who have SEND
- Healthcare partners in Northumberland (including NHS trusts and the Northumberland CCG) and their staff involved in the delivery and development of services within Education Health and Care
- Northumberland Education services
- Social Care Staff
- All schools in Northumberland, including Governing bodies, Head Teachers and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators
- Children's centre teams
- Early Years settings and providers
- Post 16 and post 19 settings and providers
- Private and voluntary providers of services for children and young people who have SEND
- Youth offending team
- Relevant community and engagement groups, including Parents and young people's groups
- Parish Councils
- Elected members of the County Council
- Northumberland MPs
- Our neighbouring local authorities
- Independent and non-maintained education providers
- Church of England and Roman Catholic Dioceses
- Regional Schools Commissioner

You can tell us your views by completing the Consultation questionnaire attached to this document or completing the electronic questionnaire online at

[www.northumberland.gov.uk/sendconsultation](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/sendconsultation)

You can also attend one of the meetings shown below. Your comments will help to shape the strategy for SEND school places in the coming years.

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	1.00 pm to 7.00 pm	Berwick Leisure Centre, Berwick-upon Tweed
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	1.00 pm to 7.00 pm	Willowburn Sports and Leisure Centre, Alnwick
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	1.00 pm to 7.00 pm	Concordia Leisure Centre Cramlington
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	1.00 pm to 7.00 pm	Ponteland Leisure Centre, Ponteland
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	1.00 pm to 7.00 pm	Hexham Leisure Centre, Hexham

*Please contact Susan Caisley on 01670 622742 or email [Susan.Caisley@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Susan.Caisley@northumberland.gov.uk) if you have any special requirements at any of the above events.*

### **2.3 How long will this consultation run for?**

This consultation will begin on 19th October and end on 8th December 2017.

### **2.4 Next Steps**

When the consultation has closed, we will prepare a report to the Council's Cabinet about the outcomes. This report will also include the strategy, as revised through consultation, and the plan for increasing capacity in our schools. The Cabinet is the decision making body of the Council, made up of elected councillors and is responsible for decisions on all Council services.

A further consultation will be required if we are to grow capacity in our schools. It will be at this stage we will set out the number of places at each establishment, together with the needs that will be met.

### **3. Our Vision for Northumberland**

*We are committed to giving all children the best start in life and to support them to reach their full potential. We want vulnerable children and young people to develop their independence and resilience, to become confident adults who live fulfilled and productive lives. To this end, we will work in partnership as professionals from a variety of organisations and with children, young people and their families to ensure that services and support arrangements for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities are of the highest quality and have the maximum impact.*

#### **3.1 Background Information**

The Area has a shared vision for the future of special education, health and care across Northumberland. We aim to eradicate inequalities in health, education and social care for the most vulnerable including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

#### **3.2 SEND draft Strategy**

We have analysed the immediate and longer term challenges that our services face and have identified a number of strategic objectives at the heart of our SEND services. These are based on issues identified by parents and children and a response to the SEND service code of practice.

#### **3.3 The Northumberland Picture**

Approximately 3% of the school age population will have complex Special Educational Needs (SEN), as reflected in both local and national pupil numbers having EHC Plans. This accounts for approximately 1400 school age children in Northumberland. This does not include a wider group of children who do not have EHC plans, but are identified and recorded as needing additional SEN support. Taken together, this accounts for approximately 16% of the school age population and 7000 thousand children.

#### **3.4 The Northumberland Challenge for Educational Placements**

- Lack of places in specialist schools to meet age ranges and SEND.
- Rapidly increasing demand for provision for learners with high needs Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH).
- New pattern of service needs in younger ages groups
- Specialist provision difficult to access across the whole of the county
- Out of county placements increasing therefore not available to easily to parents and children

**3.5** The aim of this draft place planning strategy is to grow specialist provision within Northumberland to ensure children with SEND are educated close to home in high quality education establishments, giving greater opportunity for social inclusion within the communities in which they live.

**3.6** In order to address the challenges we need a strategy to develop solutions that offer:

- More specialist places for pupils who can't access mainstream education
- Locally based specialist provision in the mainstream schools
- Affordable and sustainable provisions within current and future national funding streams

## NORTHUMBERLAND AREA STRATEGY FOR SEND AND INCLUSION CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

### SECTION 1

**About you** (Please tick as many boxes which apply)

1. Are you:

A child, young person or adult up to 25 years, with a special educational need and/or disability

2. If you are a child or young person, tick your age group below

5-10	11-15	16-18	19-25
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A parent or carer of a child or young person with a special educational need and/or disability,

3. If you are a parent/carer, what age range are the children in your family? (tick as many as apply)

0-4	5-10	11-15	16-18	19-25
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. If you are parent/carer, what types of special needs or disabilities apply to your child? Tick as many as apply.

Specific Learning difficulty (Dyslexia)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hearing Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cognition & Learning Difficulty	<input type="checkbox"/>	Visual Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi-Sensory Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social, Emotional & Mental Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speech, Language & communication Needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Autistic Spectrum Condition	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Are you:

Northumberland County Council employee working with children and young people with SEND (non-schools)	
County Councilor	
MP	
Parish Councillor	
Health service employee (NHS or CCG)	
Headteacher	
Other member of school staff	
School Governor	
Early Years Provider	
Post-16 provider	
Post-19 Provider	
Private or voluntary sector provider	
Other (please specify)	



## SECTION 2 – OUR VISION AND STRATEGY FOR THE LOCAL AREA IN SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEND

### Our Vision

*We are committed to giving all children the best start in life and to support them to reach their full potential. We want vulnerable children and young people to develop their independence and resilience, to become confident adults who live fulfilled and productive lives. To this end, we will work in partnership as professionals from a variety of organisations and with children, young people and their families to ensure that services and support arrangements for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities are of the highest quality and have the maximum impact.*

1a. Do you support our proposed Vision for Northumberland?

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

1b. Please provide reasons for your answer:

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2. We will develop stronger links and better partnership working between education, health and care to enable services to improve the ways they provide support to children and young people.

2a. Do you agree this should be a key target?

Yes	
No	

2b. Please suggest ways in which this might be achieved?

3. We will develop early identification of children and young people with SEND to enable support to be provided as soon as possible.

3a. Do you agree this should be a key target?

Yes	
No	

3b. Please suggest ways in which this might be achieved?

4. We want our mainstream provision to be welcoming, accessible and inclusive, so that it can meet the needs of most children and young people aged 0-25 who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. This means you can expect your mainstream local school or setting to make every reasonable adjustment to meet the needs of your children and young people.

4a. Do you agree this should be a key target?

Yes	
No	

4b. Please suggest ways in which this might be achieved?

5. We will review specialist educational provision across Northumberland to ensure that we have the right places available that are matched to children and young people's needs and in the best possible place.

5a. Do you agree this should be a key target?

Yes	
No	

5b. Please suggest ways in which this might be achieved?

6. We will further develop the services for children and young people with Autism and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH) to ensure they are consistently effective and match existing need.

6a. Do you agree this should be a key target?

Yes	
No	

6b. Please suggest ways in which this might be achieved?

7. We will develop transition pathways from childhood into adulthood so that it is clearer how young people are supported moving into adulthood. As part of this we will review Personal Budgets across education, health and care and ensure that there are clear pathways and information available for children and young people, enabling timely access where it is required.

7a. Do you agree this should be a key target?

Yes	
No	

7b. Please suggest ways in which this might be achieved?

8. *We will develop joint commissioning to ensure resources are used fairly and effectively to provide maximum impact on outcomes. This means education, health and social care working together and pooling their money to ensure best value and outcomes for children, young people and families.*

8a. *Do you agree this should be a key target?*

Yes	
No	

8b. Please suggest ways in which this might be achieved?

9. *We will continue to work with all partners to raise standards of attainment for SEND children with special reference to Key Stages 2 and 4. We will widen options for post-16 learners and strengthen the contracting arrangements to include the provision of individualised performance data.*

9a. *Do you agree this should be a key target?*

Yes	
No	

9b. Please suggest ways in which this might be achieved?

## OPTIONS TO INCREASE SPECIALIST PROVISION IN NORTHUMBERLAND

### SECTION 3 - STRATEGIC PLACE PLANNING

In order to give some structure, a very broad potential model based on each school partnership area has been worked up. This is set out below and we are seeking your views on the proposals and would welcome any alternative suggestions.

#### **Anwick**

Options/Ideas	Site
Create additional capacity and specialist provision for SEMH and SLCN(speech and language)  To meet the needs of at least 25 children.	Either on site of Barndale School or other school site.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Please provide reasons for your answer or alternative suggestions:

#### **Ashington**

Options/Ideas	Site
Additional primary capacity for children with SEMH is already planned with the expansion of the Dales. A further option could be to make the new provision all age further increasing capacity across the south east of the county.	Old Ashington annex site. Planned to open in September 2018.  To become Ashdale Annex for 50 places.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Please provide reasons for your answer or alternative suggestions:

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**Bedlington**

Options/ideas	Site
Increase capacity at Cleaswell Hill specialist ASD facility.	Cleaswell Hill Special School or an alternative site.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Please provide reasons for your answer or alternative suggestions:

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**Berwick**

Options/ideas	Site
Alternative resource provisions at both Berwick middle and high school already exists.  Revise the designation to the specialist provision pupils with SEMH	Berwick middle and high school.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Please provide reasons for your answer or alternative suggestions:

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**Blyth**

Options/ideas	Site
Extend the age range of the Dales school to be an all age school.	The Dales existing site or other location in Blyth.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Please provide reasons for your answer or alternative suggestions:

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**Coquet**

Options/ideas	Site
Develop an alternative resourced provision to increase specialist capacity for the partnership schools for children who can achieve in mainstream school.	James Calvert Spence College site.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Please provide reasons for your answer or alternative suggestions:



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**Cramlington**

Options/ideas	Site
Extend the age range of Hillcrest to become an all age provision.	On it's existing site or on an alternative site in cramlington.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Please provide reasons for your answer or alternative suggestions:

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**Haydon Bridge**

Options/ideas	Site
Grow an additional specialist provision. There is an opportunity to work with local alternative providers, to create additional capacity.	A suitable site within the catchment area of Haydon Bridge.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Please provide reasons for your answer or alternative suggestions:



**Hexham**

Options/ideas	Site
Expansion of Hexham Priory Special school already planned for September 2018. Develop partnership working with multi academy trusts.	Existing Priory School site.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Please provide reasons for your answer or alternative suggestions:

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**Morpeth**

Options/ideas	Site
Develop a sixth form college for all post 16 learners. This option would release capacity in all the special schools in order grow capacity for younger pupils. Working in partnership with local college or Northumberland Adult Learning Service.	Development site on outskirts of Morpeth with easy access to A1 and new Pegswood bypass.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Please provide reasons for your answer or alternative suggestions:

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**Ashington - NCEA AND NELT**

Options/ideas	Site
Demand for additional places are met through the expansion of the Dales in Ashington. There is also an opportunity to work in partnership with all through academy NCEA to develop services for existing pupils	NCEA Ashington or other suitable site

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Please provide reasons for your answer or alternative suggestions:

**Ponteland**

Options/ideas	Site
Develop a new specialist provision within Ponteland in collaboration with the newly established academies	A site to be determined within the Ponteland partnership area that would be accessible to pupils living in Prudhoe and also across border in Newcastle.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Please provide reasons for your answer or alternative suggestions:

**Prudhoe**

Options/ideas	Site
Work with the partnership of schools and potential new academies and Wise Academy to explore the development of a local SEN provision.	Various schools

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Please provide reasons for your answer or alternative suggestions:

**Seaton Valley**

Options/ideas	Site
Change the designation of Atkinson House in order to take girls and also expand the age range. Explore the option of federation with local high school in order to increase SEND capacity	Existing Atkinson School site or an alternative site in Seaton Valley.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Please provide reasons for your answer or alternative suggestions:

**Pupil Referral Unit**

Options/ideas	Site
Expansion plans complete Nov 2017. Work with management committee for further development.	PRU

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Please provide reasons for your answer or alternative suggestions:

**Free Schools**

In addition to the ideas above, we are keen to explore the views of our sponsored Academy Trusts, Northern Education, North East learning Trust, Wise Academy, Bright Tribe Trust and the Emmanuel Foundation on their potential to provide SEND support.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

We are also seeking the views of our independent and non maintained sector providers, Nunnykirk, GUST and Howard House and these will be considered as part of this consultation.

Please return paper versions of the Response Form to:

FAO Lorraine Fife, Children’s Services, FREEPOST MP135, County Hall,  
MORPETH, NE61 1BR

Or fill in an electronic response form online at

[www.northumberland.gov.uk/sendconsultation](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/sendconsultation)