

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR THE DALES SCHOOL, BLYTH

In accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF intends to make the following prescribed alteration to the school below:

Increase in number of pupils

- **The Dales School, Cowpen Road, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 4RE**

by increasing the number of funded places on the school roll from 89 to 139. This increase would be achieved through the expansion of the school onto a satellite site at the following location with effect from 1 September 2018;

The Former Ashington High School Annex
Darnley Road
Ashington
Northumberland
NE63 8DY

- The number of funded places at the school is 89. The number of funded places proposed for the school is to be 139 across the two sites named above.
- There would be no change to the type of need catered for at The Dales School as a result of the above proposal.

The Dales School is a local authority maintained special school.

Contact Details

Copies of this proposal may be obtained from:

School Organisation Team
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

and from the Council's website at www.northumberland.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

Implementation

The Dales School is proposed to increase its pupil numbers with effect from 1 September 2018. The school would admit additional pupils onto the school roll at the new site at the Former Ashington High School Annex in a phased way with effect from 1 September 2018.

Objectives

The objectives of this proposal are to:

Increase the number of pupils:-

- It is proposed to increase the number of funded places on the school roll of The Dales School from 89 to 139. This increase would be achieved through the expansion of the school onto a satellite site located at the Former Ashington High School Annex, Darnley Road, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 8DY with effect from 1 September 2018.

Reasons for proposal

There has been an increase in the number of children and young people in Northumberland who have Autism, social emotional and mental health needs and this has resulted in the number of pupils on roll at the county's 8 maintained special schools rising by 32% between 2013 and 2017. The additional 50 places at The Dales School would assist in addressing the pressure on places for children and young people these needs. This would also assist in achieving the Council's objective of creating additional specialist education places to enable more children and young people to be educated within their communities.

The Dales is a very popular and successful school with an outstanding Ofsted rating. There would be no change to the current admissions arrangements at the school. There may be some movement of pupils between The Dales site in Blyth and the satellite site at the Former Ashington High School Annex (to be called Ashdale), but this would be based on need and not a regular occurrence. The leadership team and staff employed by The Dales would work across both sites, allowing for the possibility of whole school activities where appropriate. The Governing Body would take on governance responsibility for the Ashdale site.

Effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions in the area

It is not envisaged that there would be an impact on any other schools, special schools or educational institutions in Northumberland or neighbouring authorities as a result of this proposal.

Project Costs and Proposed Stages for Implementation

Should this Statutory Proposal be approved for implementation, there would be a need to carry out building works to facilitate the changes. The total cost of funding the capital work The Former Ashington High School Annex site is £1,917m from the following funding source.

Funding Source	Contribution
Council's Medium Term Plan	£1.286m
Council's School Capital Improvement Programme	£631k

Pupil Numbers and Admissions

There are currently 95 pupils on roll at the Dales School; 6 of these places are as a result of top up funding above the 89 funded places. The age range of the school is 2 to 11 and it provides education to both girls and boys.

Timeline for Implementation

To facilitate the above proposal, it is proposed that The Dales School would admit additional pupils onto the roll of the school in a phased way from 1 September 2018 subject to finalisation of the buildings programme at The Former Ashington High School Annex.

Impact on the Community

There is no anticipated impact on the community as a result of this Statutory Proposal. The Former Ashington High School Annex has been in existence as an educational institution for many years.

Balance of denominational provision

There would be no impact on the balance of denominational provision as a result of the implementation of this proposal.

Rural Primary Schools

The Dales School is not a designated rural school as stated on the Department for Education's 'List of designated rural primary schools 2016' and in any event is not proposed for closure under this proposal.

Maintained nursery schools

The Dales School is an age 2 to 11 Special School and nursery provision would not be impacted as result of this proposal.

Provision for 16-19 year olds

N/A - The Dales School is an age 2 to 11 Special School and does not provide secondary education.

Special educational provision

The Dales School is a special school providing education to children aged 2 to 11 with Speech, language and Communication, Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. There would be no change to the type of need catered for at The Dales School as a result of this proposal.

Travel

The creation of additional places at The Dales School at the proposed satellite site in Ashington will increase specialist education places in the local area, reducing the need for children and young people to travel longer distances to provision outside of their local communities in Northumberland. This could also result in a reduction on the Special Educational Needs Transport budget.

Consultation

Northumberland County Council undertook an informal consultation on the current Vision and Strategy for meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). A further aim of the consultation was to seek views on options to increase the capacity of schools and educational provision to meet the needs of the growing number of children and young people with SEND across Northumberland. The outcomes of this consultation are set out in Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services 10 April 2018 available on the Council's website at

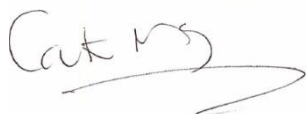
<http://committee.northumberland.gov.uk/Meeting.aspx?MeetID=7796>

Submission of Objections and Comments on Proposals

Within four weeks after the date of publication of these proposals (**i.e. by midnight on Thursday 24 May 2018**), any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending their written representations to: **The Executive Director of Children's Services, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF**, or by email to Lorraine.Fife@northumberland.gov.uk.

Signature

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Cath McEvoy
Executive Director of Children's Services
Northumberland County Council