



PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF NEW WOODLANDS SCHOOL

Notice is given in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013/3110 that Lewisham Council intends to change the age range of New Woodlands School from Key Stage 1 to 3 (age 5-14), to Key Stage 1 to 4 (age 5-16).

Name, address and contact details of proposer:

Lewisham Council, Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, London SE6 4RU

Name, address and category of school:

New Woodlands School, Shroffold Road, London BR1 5PD
This is a community special school.

Description of alteration:

The Council proposes that New Woodlands School's age range should change to accommodate Key Stage 4 pupils from September 2018.

The proposal means that over time the school will cater for pupils aged from 5-16 years old. The cohort size of the school will not increase.

To achieve this change in age range, the Council will need to provide suitable facilities to deliver a Key Stage 4 curriculum on site and will involve some construction work. It is anticipated that this will be suitably complete by September 2018.

Evidence of demand:

The council conducted a SEND review in summer 2016. This review confirmed the growing SEND population within the Borough and highlighted four key areas around place planning which should be further explored regarding existing provision.

Specifically relevant to this proposal was the need to provide Key Stage 4 Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) places in borough, as at present there are none. This in turn will cater for the children needing that provision and reduce the need to place out of Borough.

Following this review, further analysis has been conducted by the Children with Complex Needs (CWCN) service to better understand what exactly the place requirement is, but also how best to meet it. In completing this analysis, the CWCN service have considered how the system currently works, what best practice looks like, where young people are currently being placed and how the rise in young people with SEND relates to population growth.

Specifically in relation to this proposal, the analysis identified that an all-through SEMH provision of 140 places would be required (KS1-4) – therefore a change in age range at New Woodlands should be sufficient to meet demand.

The need for these places already exists, as can be shown by the need to commission places for young people with SEMH needs outside of the Borough, often in expensive, and distant, independent provision.

Objectives:

The objective of the proposal is to create places within the Borough for young people at Key Stage 4 with SEMH needs, and reduce the need to commission out of borough placements, as placing young people in provision that is further afield does not benefit the young person in terms of social inclusion or a sense of community. There is often an extensive amount of travel time (often in isolation) which is disadvantageous also. The ability to cater for our young people and their families close to home will allow the wider range of support systems to function in the best interests of those young people and their families.

The proposal would not have any negative impact on other schools, academies and educational institutions in the area. The proposal would also have a positive impact on travel distance/time for the majority of students.

This proposal forms part of Lewisham Council's response to the statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation:

The change in age range proposed would enable the school to admit up to 140 pupils in total across Key Stages 1 to 4. The total of 140 pupils will not occur on the date of implementation but will grow organically over a number of years. It is not possible to be more specific as each year group is a different size, dictated by need.

Effect on other educational institutions in the area:

It is not anticipated that the proposed change in age range of New Woodlands School will have any impact on other educational facilities within the local area. The proposal has been made to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers that is being experienced within the Borough and to reduce the reliance on out of borough provision.

Project Costs:

The final design solution is subject to detailed design and development and therefore it is not yet possible to estimate the full cost of delivery. The project will be funded by a combination of Lewisham Council capital funding, Basic Need Grant funding and SEND Capital Grant funding received from the Department for Education (DfE), and any relevant Section 106 developer contributions.

Commenting on the proposal:

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (by 12 noon, 9 February 2018), any person may comment on, support, or object to the proposal via the Lewisham Consultation Portal www.lewisham.gov.uk/consultation or in writing to Matt Henaughan, Strategic Service Planning and Business Change, 3rd Floor Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, London SE6 4RU, matt.henaughan@lewisham.gov.uk

Signed: Matt Henaughan, Strategic Service Planning and Business Change, Children and Young People's Services

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