

# HARROW COUNCIL

## PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS FOR A SCHOOL

### School and Local Authority details

**Community School:** Belmont School  
Hibbert Road  
Harrow Weald  
Harrow  
HA3 7JT

**Local Authority:** Harrow Council  
Civic Centre  
PO Box 22  
Station Road  
Harrow  
HA1 2XY

### Description of alteration and evidence of demand

Like many London Boroughs, Harrow is experiencing an increase in demand for special school places. In Harrow there is provision for pupils with special educational needs in a range of settings including mainstream schools, additionally resourced mainstream school settings, and special schools. Some pupils also attend schools outside of Harrow. Harrow is experiencing a growing and changing population and there is increasing pressure on the current provision for primary pupils with severe and complex special educational needs. A shortfall of local provision increases the costs of placements at provision outside the borough.

The total number of children and young people with a special educational need statement or Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in Harrow has increased by 508 or 45% between January 2012 (1,137) and January 2019 (1,645). In addition, the percentage of children with a statement or EHC Plan placed in a special school (Harrow maintained, academy/free school, non-maintained, or independent special schools) has increased from 489 to 626 over the same period. This represents continued pressure and demand for more special school places.

To meet the increase in demand for provision for pupils with severe and complex needs, Harrow Council is proposing to establish specialist provision at Belmont School for pupils who have severe and complex learning difficulties and/or autism. This is in accordance with the Strategic Priority 1 in the SEND Strategy to increase provision in Harrow to meet growing need.

The aim of the provision is to develop a clear ethos throughout the whole school that promotes inclusion, high expectations and a commitment to improve outcomes for pupils with severe learning difficulties and/or autistic spectrum disorder (ASD).

The provision will offer inclusive education and social opportunities, alongside access to specialist intervention from teaching staff and in class support. There will be 12 places at the provision and 4-6 staff.

Pupils attending the resourced provision will have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and receive special educational support they require from appropriately qualified staff. Any additional services from partner agencies, where required as specified on their EHC plan will also be provided.

The ARMS provision was required from September 2019 and has been open for an interim period during which time the Local Authority and school have reviewed and monitored the provision along with other options to increase permanently the provision within Harrow.

The pilot provision required additional and suitable accommodation to create an appropriate teaching and learning environment. An area within the school was identified and a scope of works was outlined for the pilot.

The work required was carried out to establish the pilot provision in the school and enabled it to successfully open in September 2019. The required building works were funded from the Special Provision Capital Fund provided by the government. Temporary planning permission was agreed, and this will need to be re-applied for to continue with this provision.

### **Consultation**

A consultation was undertaken on the pilot proposals with parents and stakeholders during April and May 2019 seeking the views of residents on proposals to establish a resourced provision at Belmont School. The comments received were positive and the review conducted by the school demonstrated ongoing support for the provision. This is a further opportunity for interested parties to comment on these proposals.

### **Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)**

The objective of the proposals is to provide sufficient school places in Harrow for primary school aged pupils with severe learning difficulties and/or autistic spectrum disorder (ASD). To make the pilot provision permanent to deal with demand right now and any future demand locally. This is in support of Harrow Council's plans to deliver a permanent increase in the provision within Harrow. It is Strategic Priority 1 in the SEND Strategy to increase provision in Harrow to meet growing need.

The School is judged to be outstanding by Ofsted. By adding SEN places at a mainstream school in Harrow, it will increase the choice of options available to parents who have children with SEN.

### **The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area**

There is no ARMS provision for pupils with severe learning difficulties (SLD) and/or autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) in Harrow. Woodlands School is a special school for pupils aged 4-11 with severe and complex needs some with autism and this is the only special school in Harrow that meets this need for primary pupils. Places in schools in other local authorities are limited and difficult to secure, particularly in the climate of increased demand. There is a growing need for additional places. Therefore, the opening of the ARMS provision would help relieve pressure and help provide choice for school places for pupils with these needs in the area.

### **Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long-term value for money will be achieved**

Works required to accommodate the ARMS provision was agreed with the school and was determined by the needs of the pupils.

This was funded from SEND DfE capital funding for provision for pupils with EHC Plans. The special provision fund allocations are to support local authorities to make capital investments in provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Local authorities can invest in new places and improvements to facilities for pupils with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCP) in mainstream and special schools, nurseries, colleges and other provision. The LA received £3.16m from the DfE's capital grant for special provision.

These additional borough places will secure improved use of resources and avoid additional out borough transport costs and enable pupils to attend a school in Harrow.

### **Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

It is proposed that specialist provision at Belmont for pupils who have severe and complex learning difficulties and/or autism will be made permanent with effect from 1 September 2021.

### **A statement explaining the procedure for responses: support; objections and comments.**

Have your say, if you want to tell us about whether you support the proposal or have comments or you may have reasons to object. Your representations can be made in writing to:

**Patrick O'Dwyer**, Director of Education, Harrow Council, Civic Centre, PO Box 22, Station Road, HA1 2XY

or by emailing: [SchoolReorganisation@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:SchoolReorganisation@harrow.gov.uk)

Responses need to be **submitted by 5pm on 28 May 2021**.