

## OFFICER DECISION RECORD FORM

### Directorate

People Services Directorate

Interim Corporate Director: Peter Tolley  
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Hitesh Karia

### Subject matter

Determine Public Notices on proposals to establish a temporary satellite provision for Kingsley High School at Weald Rise Primary School

**Date of relevant Council/Cabinet meeting (where delegations were agreed)** 23 June 2022

### Delegations:

At the meeting on 23 June 2022, Cabinet agreed the following recommendations:

1. Note the progress on additional SEND provision planned in Harrow
2. Delegate authority to Corporate Director People Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder Children Services, and consideration of consultation responses, to publish the statutory notices that will enable the increase of SEND provision in Harrow in accordance with the SEND Strategy.
3. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director People Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder Children Services to determine the notices that will enable the increase of SEND provision in Harrow in accordance with the SEND Strategy.
4. Approve the commencement of all procurements that are required to deliver the programme.
5. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director People Services, following consultation with the Director of Finance, Portfolio Holders for Finance & Human Resources and Children Services to award contracts following each procurement

## Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the responses and comments received and sets out the options available following.

### Recommendations:

The Interim Corporate Director is requested to:

1. Agree to determine the statutory notices to temporarily increase the number of pupils at Kingsley High School by 24 for pupils who have severe and complex learning difficulties and/or autism by opening a satellite provision at Weald Rise Primary School.

**Reason: (For recommendation)**

The objective of the proposals is to provide sufficient school places in Harrow pupils with severe learning difficulties and/or complex needs. This temporary satellite provision will meet demand for places for September 2022. It is Strategic Priority 1 in the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy to increase provision in Harrow to meet growing need and this contributes to this priority.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introduction**

1. This report sets out the proposal to increase the number of pupils at Kingsley High School by creating a satellite provision at Weald Rise with effect from September 2022.
2. Both schools were consulted prior to Public Notices being published and the Headteachers and Governors fully supported the proposals.
3. Statutory Notices were published on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June in accordance with DfE Guidance for making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools. The Notices are published in the local paper and details sent to interested parties including parents with children at both schools to invite comments on the proposals. Sessions for parents and staff at both schools have also taken place.
4. The Statutory Notices were published for four weeks and closed on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Options considered**

5. The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places for its area and to make changes to schools. To fulfil this duty, it is able to propose changes to schools through the publication and determination of statutory notices.
6. In exercising these duties Harrow Council has considered whether to make any changes and in this instance is proposing to temporarily increase the number of places at Kingsley High School by creating a satellite provision at Weald Rise Primary School.
7. Without creating this additional capacity out borough places would need to be sourced. There is a shortage of out borough provision in special school for pupils with severe and complex special educational needs and the costs these placements are increasing. The impact

would be while places are being sourced, 24 pupils with EHCP's would be without a school place.

### **Consultation Arrangements**

8. Statutory Notices are published for four weeks from 6<sup>th</sup> June and closed on Monday 4th July 2022.
9. The complete proposal was published on the Council website. The consultation was shared neighbouring local authorities, all schools in Harrow, via the Gold Bulletin and at Heads and Directors meeting in June. Information regarding the proposal was also shared with the Parents Forum.
10. Consultation documents setting out the proposal and providing them with a link to the complete proposal on the Harrow Council website were sent to Weald Rise Primary School and Kingsley High School parents.
11. The consultation asked the responders to state whether they strongly agreed, agreed, disagree, or strongly disagreed with the proposal and gave them an opportunity to write a comment. The consultation document was included on the Council's website.
12. Meetings were arranged for parents at both Weald Rise Primary School and Kingsley High School. Officers and the Headteacher of the schools attended. In addition, the Headteacher of Kingsley High School attended the meeting at Weald Rise.
13. Following a request from parents at Woodlands School and Alexandra School two meetings were set up for parents with Officers to discuss the proposals and answer questions.

### **Consultation Responses**

14. 35 comments were received regarding the proposal.

Overall, 15 Responders agreed the majority strongly agreeing to the proposal and 20 disagreed, the majority strongly disagreeing to proposal. These responses are summarised in the table below:

Strongly agree	10
agree	5
disagree	2
strongly disagree	18

15. All the responses and comments that have been received are available at Appendix A.
16. In summary the feedback was as follows

Strongly agree and agree (15)	The empty classrooms at Weald Rise Primary would be used to good effect.  With a longer-term plan and to prevent the need for children no having travel to out borough provision.
Strongly disagree and disagree (20)	Quality of the provision offered at the satellite school  Safeguarding concerns  Managing transition for the learners moving to the satellite  Ongoing planning for increasing Harrow's special school capacity

17. Officers have considered the responses and had further discussions with the Headteachers at both schools. Both schools remain in support of the proposal.
18. Further meetings have also been held with parents of the pupils that Kingsley High staff have deemed suitable to access the satellite provision on the 11 July and 18 July.
19. These meetings have been received positively by parents and have helped to address some of their concerns about the proposal and the impact on their children.
20. The concerns that have been identified have been considered and responded to by Officers in collaboration with Headteacher from Kingsley High School.
21. Officers have also discussed the concerns raised by Woodlands parents with the Headteacher and the Headteacher of Kingsley.

### **Consultation Comments and Responses**

22. The responses to the concerns made are outlined as follows:  
  
Quality of the provision offered at the satellite school
23. The respondents were concerned that the pupils would not have the 'amazing' facilities available at Kingsley High available at the new site. Similarly, others did not consider that the satellite would offer adequate provision for the pupils, and concerns were raised about the quality of the new satellite compared to the main Kingsley High School site.
24. In response, it has been confirmed that Kingsley are committed to ensuring that the satellite provision will be as good as that at the main school. The satellite will be an extension of Kingsley High School not a separate entity. Staff from Kingsley will transfer to the new site and work closely with any new staff. They will ensure that the offer matches

that at Kingsley and all pupils will have familiar members of staff supporting them in their learning. A member of the Kingsley School leadership team will be onsite at the satellite site. Pupils will work on a curriculum tailored to meet their needs, and this may involve spending time at the main school site to access some activities or facilities, such as the pool. The curriculum will include all that a student needs, (including therapies, behaviour support etc) and will not differ to that currently on offer to this age group. Kingsley is committed to ensuring the educational offer for those moving maintains the high standards of the present provision. It is also an opportunity to further develop a bespoke provision for learners whilst delivering for the specific needs of individual learners.

25. The decision to propose the satellite provision for post 16 learners was made by the school and LA after careful consideration. School staff know the students better than any others and can confidently plan their transition knowing what they will cope with and what might be a challenge. Placing the new Year 7 learners at the site (as has been asked in feedback sessions) was not the preferred option because staff do not yet know these students and will need time to get to know their needs.
26. Additionally, school staff are confident that moving the post 16 learners to the satellite will give them the opportunity to have a distinct site separate from the school which will support them in their PFA outcomes, as they begin their transition into the wider world once their time at school ends.
27. The accommodation at Weald Rise for the Kingsley satellite comprises 3 classrooms and an administrative space for staff. The classrooms are being developed to support a post-16 Preparation for Adulthood curriculum, and as a result will include three spaces to be used flexibly by all the pupils depending on their activity.
28. The accommodation includes a sensory space and will also have facilities for more formal learning, life skills and social spaces. The outside space will be suitable for post 16 learners.

#### Safeguarding concerns

29. Concerns were raised about the proximity of young children and the older students at the Kingsley satellite, and some have raised a question as to whether this is a safeguarding risk.
30. Safeguarding is important to both Schools and the issue of site development and management has been carefully considered. The planning for the accommodation has been approached to ensure that the Kingsley satellite accommodation is self-contained and that the pupils will be managed separately avoiding mixing of pupils from the Weald Rise Primary with students of Kingsley High.
31. Whilst there will be two schools sharing the site, the provision will be entirely separated and no pupils from Kingsley would spend any time

with the primary pupils. The area designed for Kingsley students will have secure access and secure separate outdoor spaces. Due to the needs of the Kingsley learners, it is crucial that they have a separate space managed by Kingsley. This also includes access for visitors and parents. The suggested staggered break time would further support this and once on site there is no crossover of the staff or pupils. Safeguarding is non-negotiable foundation of all the work that we do, and this would include all young people on the site.

32. In addition, to the consultation responses, two other issues were raised during the meetings for parents. For completeness these are outlined as follows:

Managing transition for the learners moving to the satellite at Weald Rise Primary School

33. Kingsley High School will continue to communicate directly with all families following on from a range of previous communication and in-person sessions. Two further meetings with families have taken place since the end of the Statutory Consultation on 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July. It is recognised that families may be anxious about the changes that the satellite provision will require. The Headteacher and school will work in partnership with the families to address their questions or concerns and support them for the transition.
34. The accommodation for the Kingsley satellite provision is planned to be completed after half term in early November. In the first half of the autumn term, school staff will work on planning a thorough transition to the new site for those affected which includes visits, social stories and whatever support a learner needs. All pupils will be carefully risk-assessed before it is determined whether a move to the satellite is appropriate. As students move towards a Preparation for Adulthood curriculum, they are supported to be increasingly exposed to a wider range of settings and activities at college and in the community; this satellite site will form part of this work towards increasing the independence of learners.
35. In addition to the communication to Kingsley High Schools parents, Weald Rise will keep their parents informed about the site development works and the arrangements for the satellite to operate from after half term.

Ongoing planning for increasing Harrow's special school capacity

36. There was a concern about the planning to meet increased demand for special school places. Developing additional capacity within special schools and other specialist provision is in progress. The SEND Strategy launched in 2019 includes a priority to increase provision across Harrow. Unfortunately, the pandemic meant that the plans for further developing additional capacity were delayed, and the development of the satellite provision is proposed as a medium-term solution to the immediate issue. The DfE launched a special free school programme, and a bid will be prepared for submission. Officers

welcome the support of schools, families and the wider Harrow community in the development of the free school bid and will progress the engagement in September.

### Interim Arrangements Autumn Half Term

37. The delayed completion of the capital works at Weald Rise means that interim arrangements are required during the Autumn half term. The pupils currently in Year 6 will remain at Woodlands until after half term. From September, they will receive an appropriate Year 7 curriculum with support from Kingsley. New pupils starting Woodlands will be admitted after half term.

### **Next Steps**

38. A statutory notice was published for 4 weeks from Monday 6 June 2022 until Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July, in accordance with legislative requirements and DfE Guidance on making prescribed changes to schools. This allowed local residents and members of the school community time to make further comments or objections to the proposals.
39. The Council now have 2 months to make a decision about the proposals. The options are to:
- reject the proposal;
  - approve the proposal without modification;
  - approve the proposal with modifications, having consulted the LA and/or GB (as appropriate); or
  - approve the proposal, with or without modification – subject to certain conditions (such as the granting of planning permission) being met.
40. Officers recommend that the proposal is approved and determined without modification.

**Report Contact:** Rajeshree Parmar, Head of School Organisation, Admissions and Attendance, Telephone: 020 8416 8286 email: [raj.parmar@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:raj.parmar@harrow.gov.uk)

## **Interim Corporate Director of People Services Peter Tolley**

\* I do agree to the decision proposed



Signature: .....(Interim Corporate Director  
22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022

Date: .....

## Appendix A Comments Received during the Statutory Consultation

	Response	Comments
1	Strongly agree	The empty classrooms at Weald Rise Primary would be used to good effect.
2	Strongly agree	
3	Strongly agree	
4	Strongly agree	
5	Strongly agree	in Harrow we are desperate for primary and secondary places for students with ASD. This satellite provision will support the demand in secondary.
6	Strongly agree	The greater awareness of the range of young people and their needs benefits all.
7	Strongly agree	
8	Strongly agree	I would like to know what the permanent solution is and what will happen next year if this happens again?
9	Strongly agree	
10	Strongly agree	
11	Agree	
12	Agree	
13	Agree	As long as there's no disruption to the existing function of Weald Rise.
14	Agree	I hope that the students currently at Kingsley will not be moved to this satellite school as this would be extremely unsettling for them particularly children like my son with ASD.
15	Agree	I Only agree on the basis that I don't want children to be in the position of having to be transported out of borough to access education. I have expressed wider views and request for information via a letter direct to Catherine. I am really concerned about the potential for a severe lack of special school places in the borough
16	Strongly disagree	This is not a suitable solution to the problem faced. The school would not be adequate to meet the needs of these students.
17	Strongly disagree	These are children with a high level of needs that will be adversely affected by not being in a special needs specific setting with all the additional provisions required. The whole environment, not just the classrooms need to be specially adapted and suitable.
18	Strongly disagree	<p>I have severe safe guarding concerns about young people aged 16-19 with severe and complex needs being placed in an education setting where there are students aged between 5-11.</p> <p>I am also extremely concerned that the delay in providing appropriate education settings for students from Kingsley high School, Woodlands School as well as a range of early years settings will have a significant, sustained and substantial effect on these students being able to continue working towards or achieving their EHCP targets.</p> <p>I would also like to strongly objects to the total lack of information sharing on this entire process with all parents and carers involved as it demonstrate a total lack of awareness of the needs of families in supporting their young people with transition and the extra time needed for this process.</p> <p>I also find the questions below that I am being asked to fill in about my personal information to be totally inappropriate, insensitive and irrelevant to this particular questionnaire.</p>

	Response	Comments
19	Strongly disagree	<p>I have severe safe guarding concerns about young people aged 16-19 with severe and complex needs being placed in an education setting where there are students aged between 5-11.</p> <p>I am also extremely concerned that the delay in providing appropriate education settings for students from Kingsley high School, Woodlands School as well as a range of early years settings will have a significant, sustained and substantial effect on these students being able to continue working towards or achieving their EHCP targets.</p> <p>I would also like to strongly objects to the total lack of information sharing on this entire process with all parents and carers involved as it demonstrate a total lack of awareness of the needs of families in supporting their young people with transition and the extra time needed for this process.</p> <p>I also find the questions below that I am being asked to fill in about my personal information to be totally inappropriate, insensitive and irrelevant to this particular questionnaire.</p>
20	Strongly disagree	<p>Can you absolutely guarantee the safety and wellbeing of the very young and vulnerable children at the primary school? I feel this is a safeguarding issue as there would be adult pupils with potential access to young children. Are you proposing the sen young people being in a locked environment? This is surely not appropriate either. Would you want your child or grandchild to be at this primary school with the potential daily threat of assault, verbal and physical?</p> <p>I understand there is space there but surely there are more suitable settings in Harrow? Part of Harrow college or the civic that had schools there temporarily - as now the council has stopped the redevelopment of civic centre?</p> <p>I think you might find the numbers applying to Weald will drop even further - perhaps that is the plan? To change it from primary to SEN high school?</p>
21	Strongly disagree	<p>I have strong safe guarding concerns about young people aged 16-19 with severe and complex needs being placed in an education setting where there are students aged between 5-11.</p> <p>I am also extremely concerned that the delay in providing appropriate education settings for students from Kingsley high School, Woodlands School as well as a range of early years settings will have a significant, sustained and substantial effect on these students being able to continue working towards or achieving their EHCP targets.</p> <p>Communication from the Head at Woodlands this week, that our children will not be moving classes and year groups is not acceptable and has had an impact on the entire school, therefore all parents should have been consulted in a timely and fair manner.</p> <p>I would also like to strongly objects to the total lack of information sharing on this entire process with all, a distinct lack of awareness of the needs of families in supporting their young people with transition and the extra time needed for this process and the social disruption and class arrangements should a delayed transition take place. Your proposal suggests that the numbers of children with EHCP and SEN is growing year on year, yet there is no shared long term plan to address this increase. There is lack of qualified staff already in the borough how will these children be supported and appropriate staff recruited? Woodlands is not in a position to offer year 7 curriculum and ofstead may also have concerns.</p>

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Comments</b>
22	Strongly disagree	Why adult students put with primary children. Safeguarding Safeguarding Safeguarding I would take my child out
23	Strongly disagree	It is a lot of upheaval for the Kingsley students
24	Strongly disagree	<p>I have severe safe guarding concerns about young people aged 16-19 with severe and complex needs being placed in an education setting where there are students aged between 5-11.</p> <p>I am also extremely concerned that the delay in providing appropriate education settings for students from Kingsley high School, Woodlands School as well as a range of early years settings will have a significant, sustained and substantial effect on these students being able to continue working towards or achieving their EHCP targets.</p> <p>I would also like to strongly objects to the total lack of information sharing on this entire process with all parents and carers involved as it demonstrate a total lack of awareness of the needs of families in supporting their young people with transition and the extra time needed for this process.</p> <p>I also find the questions below that I am being asked to fill in about my personal information to be totally inappropriate, insensitive and irrelevant to this particular questionnaire.</p>
25	Strongly disagree	<p>We are totally against this provision.</p> <p>Our son has severe mental impairment and it was recommended in his EHCP he went to a school that could accommodate his needs to grow and develop in a safe space. Kingsley has all the provisions from a nurse to therapists (he has may health conditions including epilepsy) this setting gave us peace of mind. Also safeguarding without being enclosed is important, from sensory room to outdoor gym Kingsley has it all. We will not have our son confined to a classroom in a main steam school setting. You need to find another way because this is not the solution!</p>
26	Strongly disagree	Special children need the provisions only special need schools can provide.
27	Strongly disagree	Kingsley high is a severe needs school and Weald Rise is a mainstream primary school. The difference in settings and provisions in too huge to be accommodated in a safe way.
28	Strongly disagree	Weald Rise is a mainstream primary school and Kingsley high a severe learning disability school. This will not work
29	Strongly disagree	Unless the provision is a completely separate building with all the facilities for special needs available on site this plan will not work
30	Strongly disagree	My child attends Kingsley high and they have amazing facilities. How can this be duplicated at this new site you are proposing?
31	Strongly disagree	My son has therapies and hydro pool sessions and he will miss out if he is moved to this new place

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Comments</b>
32	Strongly disagree	
33	Strongly disagree	<p>Council have done our Special Needs Pupils a great dis-service by NOT for foreseeing/planning for their continued education, hence the knock on effect Woodlands pupils now having no secondary school place till possibly Autumn half term.</p> <p>How will the specific needs of Kingsley pupils be meet at Weald Rise - ie Hydro, Rebound, specialist facilities etc? Proposal only four rooms allocated.</p> <p>How will Kingsley staffing and staff ratios be meet at Weald Rise?</p> <p>What extra measures are being implemented to protect both Kingsley/Weald Rise pupils: ie safeguarding complex, behavioural, emotional needs etc.</p> <p>Have the council taken into account the emotional effect on Woodlands pupils with their delay to secondary school and only half a term for transition?</p> <p>This proposal is for three years - what is the councils permanent solution to this rising crisis of special needs provision within the borough?</p>
34	Disagree	
35	Disagree	my son just settled at Kingsley , such a move will impact his life because of his needs , lack of understanding and medical procedures he will face in future