

Proposal to change the designation of Warden Park Secondary Academy SSC from Additional Learning Needs to Additional Learning Needs and Social and Communication Needs and increase from 20 to 28 places



Consultation ends 23rd March 2020

Introduction

West Sussex County Council has been developing a new Education and Skills Strategy to support the inclusion of all children and young people, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This strategy builds on the SEND strategy for 2016-2019 and the outcomes of the 2018 Ofsted/CQC SEND Local Area inspection.

The new SEND and Inclusion Strategy for West Sussex 2019-2024 has been co-produced during the Spring term 2019, with a wide representation of stakeholders, indeed more than 150 people have participated in the development workshops and events. The stakeholders have included parent carers and young people as well as education providers and other professionals from across social care, health and education to ensure it relates to other County Council strategies.

West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) are consulting on proposals to develop Special Support Centre (SSC) provision in West Sussex Maintained Schools via www.westsussex.gov.uk/sscphase2.

WSSCC, in its role as commissioner of school places, has been working in partnership with ourselves and has asked that we consider changing the designation of our existing SSC from Additional Learning Needs (ALN) to a dual designation of ALN and Social and Communication Needs (SCN) and increase the available places from the current 20 to 28.

As an Academy, whilst the governing body of Warden Park Secondary Academy (Warden Park Secondary Academy) will take the final decision, this will also need to be confirmed by the Regional Schools Commissioner for the South East before any change could be implemented.

We would value your ideas and comments on these proposals and I urge you to read this document and respond to us with your views by completing the response form at the back of this booklet or on-line via [WPSA SSC Consultation](#)

Dom Kenrick

Headteacher

Proposal

Pupil numbers – a national issue

WSSC has been closely monitoring the number of pupils across the country and this number has been rising for the last five years including the number of pupils with SEND.

Pupil numbers – the picture in West Sussex

West Sussex is not excluded from this rise and the County Council has been working alongside schools in recent years to expand the number of places available. The needs of children with SEND is becoming more complex. There is a shortage of specialist planned places locally to meet demand for places.

Depending on the requirements of the Educational Health and Care Plan, children will require a place in a mainstream school, SSC or maintained Special School. In recent years, the requirement for SSC and Special School placements has increased significantly and projections indicate that this trend will continue. Additional capacity is therefore required in both SSCs and Special Schools to enable children to have a school place close to home to reduce revenue costs of Out of County placements in the Independent and Non-Maintained Sector and costly home to school transport costs.

The SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2019-2024 which sets out how the County Council will support the inclusion of all children and young people, with a particular focus on those with SEND.

The vision is that all children and young people in West Sussex will, irrespective of their learning needs or abilities, gain the skills and confidence to live well in their community. They will be supported and nurtured through an educational system that responds to their circumstances and prepares them for adulthood.

Within the Strategy three priorities have been identified:

- Knowing our children and families well (an inclusive, person centred approach).
- Meeting the needs of our children and young people through our schools, educational settings and services.
- Working together towards solutions (collective responsibility).

As part of the new strategy, a review of existing specialist provision has been undertaken. In addition, the number of children with SEND that are educated in placements out of the county as their needs are not able to be met in maintained schools or academies has also been reviewed. Increasing provision for children and young people with SEND through the creation of additional places in SSCs will assist with the aim of enabling children to attend school locally.

Best Start in Life: the proposal will positively impact on the outcomes for children and young people with SEND and enable them to be educated locally. It is also a key part of the SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2019 - 2024.

The needs of children with SEND are also becoming more complex and this is driving increased financial pressures across the system. There is a shortage of local specialist educational provision to meet need, particularly in relation to Social Communication Needs and Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs. This is resulting in the County Council needing to increase the number of children educated in specialist placements with independent providers. There is also an increased demand for top-up funding across all settings.

There is a lack of capacity within mainstream schools to provide a graduated response to additional needs. Many schools are facing financial pressures and therefore do not have the capacity to provide additional support to pupils. As a result, this is driving up the demand for more specialist education services, as children with low level SEND who could potentially attend mainstream schools are being educated in more specialist provision. This is coupled with an increase in the number of pupils being excluded and the need to provide costly alternative provision.

A number of schools were approached to explore opportunities for the development or expansion of SSC places based on geography and identified need; the potential for development (available land) and the interest from the school in having or expanding such facilities.

There has been a positive response to increasing provision for children with SEND from a range of stakeholders including West Sussex Parent Carer Forum during the consultation process undertaken as part of the SEND and Inclusion Strategy in the summer of 2019.

Warden Park Secondary Academy (Warden Park Secondary Academy) is one of these schools and has been asked to consult on redesignation of our existing Additional Learning Needs (ALN) SSC to a dual designation of Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Social and Communication Needs (SCN) SSC. In addition, to increase the planned places from 20 to 28.

Communication and Interaction (Social Communication Needs)

Within the code of practice, [SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years](#), communication and interaction is defined as follows:

Paragraph 6.28/9

‘Children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others. This may be because they have difficulty saying what they want to, understanding what is being said to them, or they do not understand or use social rules of communication. The profile for every child with SLCN is different and their needs may change over time. They may have difficulty with one, some or all of the different aspects of speech, language or social communication at different times of their lives.’

‘Children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, including Asperger’s Syndrome and Autism, are likely to have particular difficulties with social interaction. They may also experience difficulties with language, communication and imagination, which can impact on how they relate to others.’

Communication and interaction needs could include:

- difficulties with producing or responding to expressive or receptive language
- difficulties uttering speech sounds
- difficulties understanding spoken and other communications from others
- difficulties with understanding age-related social conventions of interaction, such as turn-taking during conversations or appropriate level of physical contact during play.

What is proposed?

Warden Park Secondary Academy – Cuckfield



- Redesignation from Additional Learning Needs to Additional Learning Needs and Social and Communication Needs.
- Expand provision to provide an additional 8 places.

Number of planned places – 28 places

(Redesignation could be from September 2020 but any expansion of places would be from September 2021 at the earliest).

Warden Park Secondary Academy is a secondary academy located in Cuckfield, West Sussex. It has pupils aged 11-16 and currently has an SSC offering provision to pupils with ALN.

What are the transition arrangements for the students currently within the SSC?

Under this proposal, pupils who already have a place in the Warden Park Secondary Academy's SSC, are unaffected whilst their EHCP is maintained through the Annual Review process.

This proposal ensures that, whilst offering an expanded provision to incorporate SCN, places at Warden Park Secondary Academy for pupils with ALN who are in our current feeder schools and local area is retained.

This proposal will not negatively impact the provision offer and education that students receive at Warden Park Secondary Academy. If you have any questions regarding this consultation, please do not hesitate in contacting Mrs Wendy Griggs, SENCO.

Facilities improvement

Should this proposal proceed, WSCC has committed to funding any refurbishment/expansion work costs.

Who is being consulted?

This consultation booklet is being sent electronically to all parents/carers, school governors, teachers and support staff who work at Warden Park Secondary Academy. Copies are also being sent to Headteachers of neighbouring schools in the localities, local council, Mid-Sussex MP, Church Dioceses, leaders of the early years facilities, unions and professional associations.

Copies will be available from Warden Park Secondary Academy by calling 01444 457881 and speaking to reception.

Following the end of the consultation process on 23rd March 2020 responses will be analysed and used to inform the Local Governing Body proposal to the Regional Commissioner of the South East.

Travel implications and safe routes to school

Our existing Travel Plan is not expected to require any changes to be made

Preferred options

The proposal set out in this booklet is part of the County Council's preferred option appraisal, following full discussions with the Academy.

If you have any sound educational reasoning why this proposal is not the best, please include them in your response.

How to make your views known

1. Complete the online survey here: [WPSA SSC Consultation](#)
2. Contact Warden Park Secondary Academy 01444 457881 and speak to reception
3. Complete the response form at the end of this booklet and return to Warden Park Secondary Academy by post/hand or scanned image.

Questions and answers

If you have any questions you would like answering before responding, please ask directly in the Academy.

Timescales for consultation

The consultation will run from 24th February 2020 until 23rd March 2020. Your comments will be collated and analysed before being passed to our Local Governing Body at the end of the consultation. The governing body will then consider the responses and make their decision at their meeting on 6th May 2020.

If the decision is to support the proposal then a Significant Change Application will be made to the Regional Schools Commissioner.

Due to the volume of responses we receive when consulting, we will not be able to acknowledge written responses or enter into correspondence with interested parties during or after the consultation period.

Privacy Statement

Warden Park Secondary Academy will use this survey to collect personal or special category data in order to fulfil a statutory duty. The data will be processed in accordance with the 2018 Data Protection Act, the General Data Protection Regulations and any subsequent data legislation. All data will be anonymised and used for statistical analysis before being forwarded to the Regional Schools Commissioner (if necessary) for further consideration.

The Academy will securely store consultation data electronically until the end of the 2019/20 academic year before being destroying it appropriately.

Warden Park Secondary Academy as a member of Sussex Learning Trust is registered as Data Controller (Reg. No.Z2861239). For further details and information about our Data Controller arrangements please contact DPO@sussexlearningtrust.co.uk

Consultation Response Form

- Please ensure you have read the consultation document before completing the survey
- Children and young people under the age of 13 need the consent of a parent / carer to participate
- Please complete the last section (About You). If you do not wish to provide an answer, please select 'prefer not to say'. The County Council asks 'About You' questions to help it monitor the effectiveness of its consultations. The data provided also helps the school to meet its Public Sector Equalities Duties under the 2010 Equalities Act.

The results of the survey will be anonymised and summarised to remove any personally identifiable details and made available on the Academy website.

1. Please provide your postcode, including a space in between, e.g. PO19 1RH

2. Are you under the age of 13? If so, you will need parental/carer consent from your parent/carer to participate. Please provide their contact details in the boxes provided below so that we can contact them if we need to:

Name of parent/carer:

Contact telephone number for parent/carer providing consent:

3. Are you responding as....? (please tick all that apply)

A parent/carer	
Member of Sussex Learning Trust staff	
Governor	
Trustee	
Local resident	
Student	
Other	

3.1 If you are Parent/Carer how many children do you have and how old are they? Please circle the number:

Pre-school (ages 0-4)	0	1	2	3	4	5 or more
Primary (ages 4 – 11)	0	1	2	3	4	5 or more
Secondary (ages 11 –18+)	0	1	2	3	4	5 or more

4. Please indicate whether you are (please tick one box only for each question)

In support of the re-designation of the SSC within the Academy to Additional Learning Needs and Social Communication Needs

Object to the re-designation of the SSC within the school to Additional Learning Needs and Social Communication Needs

Neither support nor object to the re-designation of the Academy SSC

5. Please indicate whether you are (please tick one box only for each question)

In support of the expansion of places within the SSC

Object to the expansion of places within the SSC

Neither support nor object to the expansion of places within the SSC

6. How much do you agree this school is centred on the needs of the children and learners?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

7. If you have any further views you wish to express about this school or the issues raised above, please use the space below to do so.

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About You

The school asks the 'About You' questions to help it monitor the effectiveness of its consultations and to help undertake an equalities analysis in order to meet its Public Sector Equalities Duties under the 2010 Equalities Act. It is only for these reasons that you are asked to provide the information below and the data you provide will be separated from both the respondent details and the response comments. You do not have to provide this information if you do not wish to. In this case, please choose the 'Prefer not to say' option.

1. How old are you? 12 or under - please do not answer any further questions unless parental consent has been given

13-16 17 – 24 25 – 44 45 – 64 65 plus Prefer not to say

2. Are you?

Male Female Prefer not to say

3. Is your gender the same as the assigned to you at birth? Please select one option only.

Yes No Prefer not to say

4. Ethnicity – what is your ethnic group?

White		Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups		Other ethnic group	
Asian/Asian British		Prefer not to say	

5. Religion - What is your religion?

Buddhist		Sikh	
Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant)		Any other religion	
Hindu		Unknown	
Jewish		No religion	
Muslim		Prefer not to say	

6. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability, which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

Yes, limited a lot Yes, limited a little No Prefer not to say

7. What is your sexual orientation?

Heterosexual Bisexual Gay or Lesbian Other
Prefer not to say

END OF SURVEY