

# Crofton School – Establishment of Resourced Provision for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder

## Complete proposal

### **In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details**

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

Crofton School (category: foundation), Mark's Road, Stubbington, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 2AT.

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

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

The proposal will be implemented on 1 September 2010, with pupils admitted to the resourced provision in Year 7 and leaving after Year 11. This means that the facility would not reach full capacity before 2014, by which time there would be an even distribution of students across the year groups.

### **Objections and comments**

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including—
- (a) the date by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
  - (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

- (a) the closing date for objections or comments is 19 February 2009.
- (b) objections or comments should be sent to Ian Lawson, School Organisation Officer, Hampshire County Council (Children's Services), The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG.

### **Alteration description**

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The proposed alteration is for the school to establish resourced provision for up to 12 children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

## Implementation

5. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

Implementation will be shared between the local authority, who will build the facilities required and fund the places through its revenue funding formula, and the governing body, who will staff and manage the provision.

## Additional Site

6. (a) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

No additional site will be required for the implementation of these proposals.

(b) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

Not applicable

## Objectives

7. The objectives of the proposals.

The objectives are the provision of a facility for the education of up to 12 students with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, to enable the students to achieve their individual potential, while also helping them to develop strategies to cope in the real world. This forms a key part of the local authority's strategy to cater for students with ASD in specially resourced centres around the county.

## Consultation

8. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—
- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
  - (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
  - (c) the views of the persons consulted;

- (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

(a) Public Consultation was initiated on 16 October 2008 by means of a letter from the Headteacher and Chair of Governors. It received a wide distribution to school staff, parents, local residents, Councils, the MP, local schools, PCTs, media and autism charities and support groups.

(b) Subsequently a Public Meeting was held at the school on 13 November 2008. Those attending received a presentation from the Headteacher, School Governors and representatives of HCC as to what was intended. The Manager of a similar facility at Romsey Community School explained how such provision works in practice.

(c) Prior to the Public Meeting, 5 letters had been received in response to the consultation letter of 16 October. Each of them endorsed the proposal and offered support. Those present at the Public Meeting had an opportunity to ask questions of the proposal. There was a strong consensus that this was a positive proposal. The Committee explained that a recommendation that the project should proceed would be made to a meeting of the Full Governing Body on 26 November 2008. This would be subject to the successful conclusion of extant work on, *inter alia*, funding, design, fitting out, staffing and training issues.

(d) All applicable statutory requirements in relation to these proposals have been complied with.

(e) In addition to a wide distribution, the consultation letter was published on the school web site at [www.croftonschool.co.uk](http://www.croftonschool.co.uk)

### **Project costs**

**9.** A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

The estimated total capital cost of the proposals is £800,000. This will be met in full by the local education authority.

**10.** A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

At the meeting of its Cabinet on 27 October 2009, the County Council agreed to make the funds available.

## Special educational needs

11. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs:

- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

Provision will be made for students with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

- (b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

The proposal is to provide a new specialist facility at the school, comprising a 199m<sup>2</sup> single storey extension and secure external play space, containing flexible learning accommodation and staff facilities. This will include a large, dividable teaching room, a sensory room, a small group room and office space.

- (c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

A maximum of 12 places will be provided.

- (d) details of how the provision will be funded;

The capital cost will be met by the local authority, who will build the facilities required and fund the places through its revenue funding formula, and the governing body, who will staff and manage the provision.

- (e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

Education in the resourced provision will not be provided directly for children who are not registered pupils at the school.

- (f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

Running expenses will be met from the school's delegated budget, enhanced through the local authority's formula.

- (g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

The provision will be established on the existing site of the school.

- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children;

The provision will not replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs.

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

The provision will cater for up to 12 children with special educational needs.

**12.** Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

a. There is currently no mainstream school specialist provision in South East Hampshire for young people with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder who are of secondary school age. The proposed provision at Crofton School would make provision similar to that available in other parts of the County. As such, the facility would allow access to education for this vulnerable group of young people and the capital is to be part funded through the County Council's School Access initiative.

b. Training will be provided on a whole school basis with specialist training for key staff. Crofton School shares a site with Baycroft School which is a specialist school with provision for some young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. As such it is anticipated that there will be opportunities to share facilities, resources and expertise.

c. The proposal includes provision for purpose built specialist accommodation although it is anticipated that pupils would also receive education in mainstream classes.

d. The provision, when fully operational, would provide 12 new places for young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.