

Parent Consultation – Hill Park Satellite at the Cedar Centre
6th July 2022 at 11.30am

Questions and Answers

1. Looks like a large space – will the provision be expanded to incorporate more places.

Some research has been carried out by a PhD student and currently it shows that provision for 30 pupils is required. There is a need not to over-commission so there will be a review of need in the future to determine whether this level is sufficient or whether more places are required.

All other provisions that have been researched are small – there is a need not to have large numbers as this will be overwhelming. However, there will be multiple entrances so there could be consideration of multiple small pods to incorporate more places in the future (and depending on the needs of those in the provision).

2. Eligibility – will it be Autism and SEMH, or one of SEMH or Autism?

The primary need will not be SEMH as this is the cohort of provisions such as Homewood College. It is likely that pupils will have high anxiety levels and internalise their anxieties not externalise their anxieties so that it is behavioural.

3. Could there be possibility of pupils being able to take their GCSEs over an extended period of time?

Yes, happy to look at this and work with the needs of the pupils. A Y11 only Sixth Form is also being considered which would give students more time to complete their GCSE's.

4. Where will pupils be on roll? Will they be on-roll at a mainstream school? Will the provision be a first-choice placement or as a result of an issue/failure in a mainstream school?

Pupils will be on roll at Hill Park. It will be a first choice/preference for them but initially it is likely that pupils will be chosen according to need and this may result in students across all year groups. After this first year, a cohort of Y7 should then work their way through, although some students will always need to join in other year groups.

Transitioning – things shared that worked for one child and useful to pass on:

- a. No pressure to attend – ability to sit and look from outside in the car and not have the pressure to go inside
- b. Able to join favourite lessons and flexibility in the lesson planning to provide support for young people to join activities and classes that they enjoy
- c. Timetable – which built on feeling safe and was supportive enough to ensure that anxieties were addressed and disappeared

- d. Ability to have aspirational targets enough that the young person can achieve highly (which is good for self-esteem)
- e. Not to have anything in the building that would not be present in a house

All very important points and key to ensuring that each child is able to relax and feel that they can achieve, reduce their anxiety so that they are able to allow themselves to “fail more” which conversely allows them to achieve more.

- 5. Lots of support for the provision, much needed and hopefully this can be a model of good practice going forward in the city to support pupils with this profile. An exciting development**
- 6. Need clear admissions criteria. Factors that are a concern are later diagnosis/waiting lists/extended behaviour in exclusion and slowness of diagnosis. Need clarity around whether private diagnosis will be considered or not.**

Will likely go forward with those pupils that already have a diagnosis first. There are discussions around private diagnosis, and it is hoped that the position around this will be clearer by the time this provision is available. This is a collaborative process and keen to work collaboratively with parent/carer groups.

- 7. Six places per year group – will this target those that are currently in private provisions or those that are currently not in school?**

Unlikely that the provision will be split into 6 pupils per year group and in the first instance more likely to be a selection of young people in different year groups. Over time, Y7 is likely to be the most common entry point.

- 8. How much will this cost per child?**

Not able to define this at the moment, will be similar to a Hill Park school placement and funding will follow along these lines. The costs of pupil placement will need to cover the costs of admin staff and premises support as well as the class based and curriculum costs as pupil numbers are small. that are likely to be more is for maintenance of the site and the staff required for this (i.e., Caretaker, Front Office and Admin support). The costs will not be as high as independent provision placement costs.

- 9. Will it be a barrier for those with ASC SEMH and Dyslexia?**

Not at all – these needs can be met.

- 10. Are therapy dogs/animals being considered?**

Yes, but have to be mindful that dogs/animals would need to be introduced in a structured way. Grounds are big enough to consider offering animal care as well.

- 11. Will student have to have an EHC Plan already in place?**

Yes.

12. Would children not yet at their age-related expectations be able to apply?

Yes. The provision is mainly for those without a learning disability who may not be able to access an environment rather than those with a learning disability.

13. Is there the option to scale back the offer and extend the places instead so that instead of offering a “Rolls Royce” model for 30 the provision could offer less but cater for 50?

There are other provisions being considered, and this will increase the number of placements for those with autism to 100 across the city. These new resource and satellite hubs will be attached to Primary and Secondary settings and will be offered in addition to the 30 places at Hill Park (HP3). It is hoped that these places will be offered in September 2023 or 2024 at the latest.

14. Will it be the SEN Team or a Panel that will decide on placements at HP3?

It will be a joint decision-making process to start with, and then going forward pupils will be identified at Primary/Secondary transition stage.

15. Will this be something that needs to be considered for transition review stage, and if so then what group of reviews will this need to target (i.e., would those currently in Year 5 be able to apply)?

It is likely that this would be too soon for those currently in Year 5 to apply as provision still has a long way to go until it is ready. Initially thoughts are that this would be filled with pupils from other year groups and then once provision is up and running admissions can be sought from those coming up to Year 7 stage.

Agreed that a clear statement of when parents/carers/pupils can include HP3 as their choice of school and a clear admission criterion is needed.

16. If HP3 is put as first choice but then this is not met – would the pupil, then automatically be able to take a place at Hill Park?

No – the admissions criteria at Hill Park Special School is different and they would not be eligible.

17. In that case, could the provisions be called something separate so that parents/carers/pupils are able to name the provision so that it makes the appeals process easier if, say, they ask for a resource base or satellite place attached to a mainstream or specialist school and then are offered a place but not at the resource or satellite provision?

It is a difficult legal point to call satellite or resource bases different names as legally they are an extension of the mainstream provision.

18. Will this only be for Brighton & Hove children?

East Sussex and West Sussex authorities have the right to apply for places for their young people, but it is hoped that priority will be given to Brighton & Hove pupils and those with Brighton & Hove EHC Plans as the data to put the provision in place was based on Brighton & Hove needs.

19. If students are on more flexible timetables, would they still be able to access home to school transport if eligible?

Yes. It is hoped, however, that pupils will be on more flexible timetables so there will be the opportunity for there to be a mixture of home to school transport, parent supported transport and independent travel.

20. Would there be out of school clubs e.g., after school?

Yes, it is hoped that there will be an extended day curriculum once the provision is established.

21. Will there be EOTAs, or Sense Learning put into place in the interim to support those that may need it and before a place at HP3 is available?

Mainstream schools receive resources to provide education to pupils so if a pupil is enrolled in a mainstream school, then there is the availability for the school to organise support, for example through Bright Teach.

22. For families who've had children unable to be in school, it has a huge impact on their ability to work, livelihood etc. Is the hope that school might offer an enrichment programme so that students might be able to have a longer school day, even if it's low demand?

We hope that the negotiated curriculum will give students enough choice to come and engage on site.

23. Is it possible to share the methodology/analysis carried out by the PhD student which identified the 30 places for this provision?

A request will be made to see if the SEN Sufficiency analysis can be shared.

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6th July 2022 at 6.00pm

Questions and Answers

1. Will there be eligibility for Year 10 in 2023?

It is likely that in September 2023 there will be a selection of pupils in a variety of year groups and selected from those pupils that are not in education, so yes those in Year 10 will be eligible. Year 6 pupils will then start to be selected for entry into Year 7.

2. Are autistic advocates being consulted in the refurbishment?

Yes, there are hopes to be able to work with young people with autism to advise on environmental issues and with different groups.

3. Rewards and Sanctions cause anxiety to spike, will this be an approach at this provision

Rewards and sanctions are always negotiated on an individual basis at Hill Park. There will be no behaviour boards or charts or anything public or class based.

4. If a child is accepted and require Art Therapy or OT would that be fully included?

The provision will be working with NHS Sussex for an integrated therapy offer to ensure all needs are met. Whatever is in the EHC Plan will be delivered and the funding model has the flexibility to allow for most therapies. If not, then additional funding will be requested.

5. CAMHS involvement – is it the normal referral process or will there be a speedier direct line approach?

The referral process is the same, the school will make a referral. Generally, the waiting time has not been that long, but aware that there are pressures within the Service that are causing delays.

6. Are therapy dogs/animals being considered?

Yes, but have to be mindful that dogs/animals would need to be introduced in a structured way. Grounds are big enough to consider offering animal care as well.

7. There are views around that all of the spaces are already fully allocated and that there will be no availability – how true is this?

No pupils have been allocated at the moment. There have been queries from lots of interested parties, but the provision will not open until September 2023. It is likely to be a mixture of allocations in the first instance, and then once the provision is up and

running there will be the normal allocation of places into Year 7. A phase-through approach will not initially be in place. Places will be discussed at a Panel where the LA and school will make the decisions together.

8. Will the provision be expanded to incorporate more places?

Some research has been carried out by a PhD student and currently it shows that provision for 30 pupils is required. There is a need not to over-commission so there will be a review of need in the future to determine whether this level is sufficient or whether more places are required.

All other provisions that have been researched are small – there is a need not to have large numbers as this will be overwhelming. However, there will be multiple entrances so there could be consideration of multiple small pods to incorporate more places in the future (and depending on the needs of those in the provision).

There are other provisions being considered, and this will increase the number of placements for those with autism to 100 across the city. These new resource and satellite hubs will be attached to Primary and Secondary settings and will be offered in addition to the 30 places at Hill Park (HP3). It is hoped that these places will be offered in September 2023 or 2024 at the latest.

9. Liaison with Social Communication Resource Unit could be useful to look at the level of demand.

10. If prioritising those who have been out of school the longest – what will this look like at Panel?

There is a need to develop an Admissions Criteria/Statement that can be shared. This is a collaborative process and keen to work collaboratively with parent/carer groups.

11. If students are on more flexible timetables, would they still be able to access home to school transport if eligible?

Yes. It is hoped, however, that pupils will be on more flexible timetables so there will be the opportunity for there to be a mixture of home to school transport, parent supported transport and independent travel.

12. Will it be trauma informed?

Yes, staff are trained in these areas currently in Hill Park and skills will be transferred to the new site.

13. There was a mention about funding – does this mean that the provision may not materialise?

The provision will be in place, funding discussions are about finalising amounts rather than if the funding is there. A paper will be presented at the September Children, Young People and Skills Committee for final agreement, and it is highly unlikely that this will not be agreed as it was already endorsed at the June Meeting.