

## **Appendix 1:**

### **Special educational needs and disability (SEND) review**

#### **Feedback on the formal consultation phase on the proposals for the lowering the age range of Hillside & Downs View Community Special schools and the development of a new special facility**

##### **1. Introduction**

The Local Authority conducted a formal consultation in respect of 4 elements of the Reorganisation of Special provision in Brighton and Hove. The period of consultation ran from 6<sup>th</sup> October until 4<sup>th</sup> December. This report provides information about the process of the formal consultation and summarises the feedback on the proposals gathered during that period related to Downs View, Hillside and the new special facility. Feedback from the consultation portal on the closure of Patcham House will be included as part of papers presented to March 2017 Children Young People and Skills Committee.

##### **2. What was this consultation about?**

This phase of consultation focussed on the following proposals:

- A proposed extension of the age range of pupils for which Hillside special school is registered so they can take a small number of children with the most severe and complex needs from the age of 2 years.
- A proposed extension of the age range of pupils for which Downs View special school is registered so they can take a small number of children with the most severe and complex needs from the age of 2 years
- The closure of Patcham House School for children with complex needs in July 2018. (time period for review of feedback to be extended)
- The development of a new secondary mainstream special facility (SF) which would open in September 2018 for up to 20 students with complex needs (location to be agreed).

##### **3. Consultation process**

3.1 This phase consultation began on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016, after the Children Young People and Skills Committee approved the process and timeline for this stage. This included:

- Designing a bespoke consultation plan for the proposals, to ensure that stakeholders have the opportunity to participate
- Publishing a formal consultation paper with key questions to consider

- 3.2 The consultation was promoted through:
- The council website
  - Social media
  - The Local Offer
  - The schools' bulletin
  - The Wave
  - Partner organisations' own internal communication channels
  - Amaze and Parent Carers' Council communications with parents
  - School newsletters and their other communication channels
- 3.3 Feedback was invited:
- via the Council's consultation portal
  - via email,
  - in writing
  - and by leaving a voicemail on a consultation line
  - via personal telephone contact
- 3.4 For all proposals, respondents were asked 2 questions and were offered the opportunity to add their specific comments at the end of each question and more generally at the end of the consultation questionnaire.
- 3.5 Throughout the consultation period we reviewed the number and range of responses in order to make sure that all groups were represented in responses and any further work to make sure all stakeholders were aware of the consultation process.
- 3.6 Process for analysing responses**
- 3.7.1 To analyse results volunteer representatives from the Parent and Carer Council and Amaze joined officers to review the feedback from the consultation using an agreed framework to identify themes and record significant issues for further consideration.
- 3.7.2 The information provided as part of this report is both statistical and from comments made by participants in the engagement period. From initial discussions with stakeholder groups it was clear that there was more interest in the comments than the statistical data. As a result this has been revisited and more information provided in the body of the report.
- 4. Feedback submitted on the consultation proposals**
- 4.1 Respondents were encouraged to participate via the council's online portal but were also able to respond via email or a voicemail service. Both the email and the voicemail service were specifically created for SEND Review consultations and will continue to be open for the length of the review.
- 4.2 108 responses were submitted via the online portal and the quantitative data in this report reflects these responses. Of the 108 respondents 6 identified as representing an organisation or group and 101 responded as individuals. (1 respondent chose not to answer this question).

<b>Please tell us in what capacity you are responding?</b>		
		Frequency
Valid	No response	1
	As yourself	6
	Representative of a organisation or group	101
	Total	108

4.3 All respondents used the online consultation portal to give their views. No additional responses were received in writing or by email or on the review hotline.

4.4 There has been a wide range of respondents and this is demonstrated in the chart below.

<b>Yourself: Please tell us in what capacity you are responding by ticking the box that you most identify with.</b>	
	Frequency
Parents and carers	22
School staff	24
Children and young people	19
Special and mainstream schools	14
Residents	6
Local Authority staff	5
Early years providers	2
Sussex Community Trust	2
Further education colleges	1
Public health	1
Governors	1
Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust	1
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton	1
Trade Unions	1
No response	7
Other organisation or group: Speech and Language Therapy	1

4.5 The groups represented included; Children & Young People, Parents & Carers, Special & Mainstream Schools and Sussex Community Trust.

Please tell us which group or organisation you are representing.		Frequency
Valid		
	Children and young people	1
	Early Years Providers	1
	Governors	1
	Parents and carers	1
	Special and mainstream schools	1
	Sussex Community Trust	1
	Total	6

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## 5.1 Consultation Portal Data - Question 1

### Background

We are proposing that the provision for Early Years would include the option for a small number of young children with the most severe and complex needs for a part time specialist nursery place at either Hillside or Downs View Special Schools for the year prior to Reception (i.e. from the September after their third birthday). In exceptional circumstances children from 2 years could be offered a specialist place.

Parents of eligible children would also still have the option of a place at the Jeanne Saunders nursery either on its current site or when re-located within an inclusive mainstream nursery. Additionally parents of children with SEN and disabilities will still have the option to choose their local nursery where support will be provided for identified needs.

### Question

In order to extend the choice to include a special school nursery option we are consulting on extending the age range of:

- a) Downs View School - this to become 2-19 years rather than the current 3-19 years
- b) Hillside School – this to become 2-16 years rather than the current 4-16 years

### **Summary of response**

108 responses were made. Only 21 out of those added a comment to reinforce their answer to question 1a & 1b.

The large majority of respondents (69% re Downs View and 70% re Hillside) agreed with these proposals.

Comments identified that the proposals:

- gave more choice to parents
- meant more specialist support and fewer transitions for the most complex children
- extended the range of options for very young children with complex needs
- make best use of the expertise available in these schools
- help young children to transition smoothly into special school

There were some concerns by a small number of respondents about

- transport entitlement
- whether early admission to a special school would mean some pupils could access the support earlier than in the integrated nursery. However these issues were only identified by a very small number of respondents.
- whether this supported the inclusion agenda

There were a number of questions raised in the comments about details, which are also being debated within the Early Years Project Group and will be considered as part of the development of provision as it moves to greater specificity.

## Key Quotes

“I feel this gives parents more choice. It also enables those children who don’t need to be ‘assessed’ as their needs are already identified, an appropriate placement in an environment where their need can be met and they won’t have to go through further transition at Yr R”

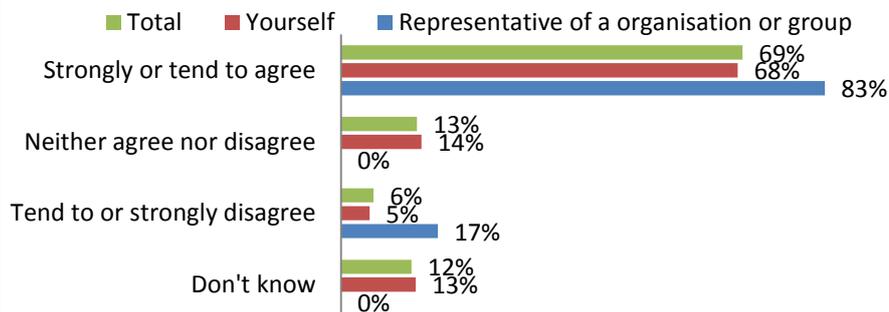
“this gives us parents more choice about what sort of place I feel can meet my child’s needs best”

“Good to have nursery provision based on school site as will ease the transition to school for child and parents. Think needs to be on both sites so that easier for parents to get to.”

“Early specialist placements are very expensive and I believe that younger pupils benefit from more mainstream inclusion.”

**Q1a. In order to extend the choice to include a special school nursery option we are consulting on extending the age range of: Downs View school - this to become 2-19 years rather than the current 3-19 years**

### How much do you agree or disagree with the proposal?



**Q1b. In order to extend the choice to include a special school nursery option we are consulting on extending the age range of: Hillside School - this to become 2-16 years rather than the current 4-16 years In relation to the proposals to extend the age range for Hillside and Downs View as above:**

### How much do you agree or disagree with the proposal?

