

Full statutory proposal information for prescribed alterations to Downs View Community Special School

In accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 Brighton and Hove City Council proposes to make prescribed alterations to Downs View Community Special School with effect from 1st September 2017.

Local Authority details:

Brighton and Hove City Council
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove BN3 3BQ

School details:

Downs View Community Special School
Warren Road
Woodingdean
Brighton
Brighton BN2 6BB

Downs View provides specialist education to children and young people with learning difficulties, from 3 to 16 years old at Downs View School and from 16 to 19 years old at Downs View Link College. The latter is a city wide provision which is managed by Downs View School. The school is registered for 150 places for children and young people with visual impairment, speech language and communication, autistic spectrum disorder, moderate learning difficulty and severe learning difficulty. There are currently 88 pupils on roll in the main school and 39 on roll at the Link College.

Description of the proposed alteration

To extend the age range of pupils for whom the school is registered from 3-16 years of age to 2-16 years of age.

Implementation date

It is proposed to extend the age range of Downs View Community Special School with effect from 1 September 2017.

Reason for the proposed extension

The current admission age for Downs View is aged 3. The Local Authority has sometimes found it difficult to make appropriate provision for a small number of very young children with complex needs (severe and profound and multiple learning difficulties) in local mainstream preschool provision, who have been too young for admission to Downs View. This has led to requests from parents for costly placements in independent schools which are some distance from the city. Long journeys to these schools are challenging for very young children with complex needs. The extension of the age range of Downs View School would result in:

- More children being enabled to be educated closer to home
- Wider access to an outstanding maintained special school

- No need for young children to be transported long distances by taxi.
- Parents having a wider range of options for a suitable early educational placement for their very young child
- More effective use of the council's resources.

It is intended that the extension of the age range at Downs View is paralleled by a similar change to Hillside Community Special school, a similar school for children and young people with complex needs (severe, and profound and multiple learning difficulties) in the east of the city. As numbers of additional very young children being admitted to the school are likely to be very small, the total number of commissioned places will not exceed the number for which the school is currently registered. Downs View already groups their children according to age, ability and need, and when requesting a place for a very young child parents will be able to discuss with the school which class the child might join. No additional classes will need to be created and thus no building work will be necessary.

No other Brighton and Hove maintained schools are registered to accept children as young as 2. Thus it is envisaged that no other schools within area will be affected by this change to admit very young children with severe and complex needs.

Background

Downs View is a registered community special school which currently makes day provision for boys and girls aged 3-16 with severe and profound and multiple learning difficulties/complex needs. The school serves mainly, but not exclusively, the east of the city and all pupils have a Statement of Special Educational Need or an Education, Health and Care Plan. The school also manages city wide provision for young people 16-19 with similar needs on a separate site at Downs View Link College.

The school is one of the Local Authority's 6 special schools. The school is a valuable asset to the city's provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. In its most recent OFSTED inspection in May 2016, the school was rated as outstanding.

All Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to keep SEND provision under review in order to be able to respond to the changes in need amongst the population of children and young people with these needs. The new Children and Families Act 2014 extends the age range for whom the Local Authority has responsibility to make provision from birth to 25.

In order to comply with the new legislation, but also more importantly to create a better, more holistic and sustainable service for the future, to ensure that the City's provision matches the needs of children and young people, Brighton and Hove conducted a wide ranging review of the city's services in 2014. This took forward its vision:

Brighton and Hove is committed to ensuring that all our vulnerable children and young people have the very best start in life and the best possible outcomes as they move into adulthood. Our vision is to provide inclusive fully integrated disability, care, health and education services of high quality to

children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, including behavioural, emotional and mental health difficulties. Services will be personalised to each child and family. Families will have as much choice and control over services and provision as possible. Streamlined well-integrated systems and efficiencies will enable the vision to be achieved within the value for money framework which the council is required to operate

A report to a joint meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Children, Young People and Skills Committee (CYPS) in February 2015 (attached as **Appendix 1**) presented the outcome of the review, along with details of the consultation feedback and broad recommendations. Both committees approved that the next stage of the review should put forward concrete proposals for change, that address the issues raised by families, schools and services, including providing an alternative to expensive out of city education and care placements via integrated education, health and care provision in the city.



Appendix 1.pdf

Discussions within the city continued throughout the following 18 months, in order to engage a wide range of stakeholders in exploring how more integrated provision could be achieved for a broader range of pupils in a challenging financial climate. A number of project groups were established, tasked with focussing in specific areas of provision. The project group looking at preschool provision consisted of a broad range of stakeholders who might be affected by changes in that field and who together had a breadth of expertise and experience to support the Local Authority in its intentions to co-produce specific options for change on which to formally consult. The membership of the early year's project group is attached as **Appendix 2**:



Committee paper
Appendix Stakeholder

At the CYPS meeting on 3rd October 2016, (paper and minutes attached as **Appendix 3**) Members approved the launch of a formal public consultation on the proposal that Brighton and Hove's provision for early years would include the option for a small number of young children with the most severe and complex needs to be offered a part-time specialist nursery place at either Hillside or Downs View Special school for the year prior to Reception (i.e. from the September after their third birthday). In exceptional circumstances children from 2 could be offered a specialist place.



Appendix 3.pdf

The public consultation, which ran from October 5th 2016 to December 2nd 2016 was posted on the consultation portal on the council's website, and publicised on social media, through AMAZE, the local parent partnership organisation, and the school's newsletter.

There were 108 respondents to the consultation, and 69% supported the proposal. A more detailed breakdown of consultation feedback is attached as **Appendix 4**. The outcome of the consultation was presented to the January 9th 2017 meeting of the CYPS Committee.



Appendix 4 -
Consultation report.d

WHERE AND WHEN THE STATUTORY NOTICE AND FULL PROPOSAL INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE

Brighton & Hove City Council will publish the statutory notice for this proposal on Friday 20th January 2017. The notice will remain in force for a period of 4 weeks i.e. until Friday 17th February 2017. Copies of the notice will be placed:

- At the entrance to the school
- In other places in the community; namely Woodingdean Post Office, Woodingdean Library and the Jubilee Library.

It will also be published in a local newspaper.

A copy of the statutory notice is attached as **Appendix 5** to this document.



Appendix 5 - Downs View statutory proposal inf
Appendix 5 - Hillside statutory proposal inf

On 16th January 2017 the full proposal information (this document plus appendices) will be sent to the following recipients:

- The governing body of Downs View Community Special School
- The parents of every registered pupil at the school

It will also be published on the council's website at the following address www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/school-statutory-notice.

Any person may request a copy of the full proposal information either by writing to Edd Yeo at Brighton & Hove City Council, Room 116, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, BN3 3BQ or by contacting him on 01273 294354 or via email at edd.yeo@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

HOW TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS OR COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL

Any person may object or make a representation or comment on the proposal. This can be done by writing to Regan Delf, Assistant Director Health, SEN and Disability Brighton & Hove City Council, 2nd Floor, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, BN3 3BQ before the closing date of 17th February or via email to her at regan.delf@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Following the closing date for representations, comments and objections, a report will be prepared for the Children and Young People's Committee to decide the proposal within 2 months i.e. no later than 13th April 2017. At the present time it is anticipated that the report will be considered at their meeting scheduled in March 2017

