

Delegated decision report

DECISION UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

DECISION CANNOT BE TAKEN BEFORE 27 MARCH 2018

Title	EXPANSION OF THE PUBLISHED ADMISSIONS NUMBER FOR MEDINA HOUSE SCHOOL
Report to	REPORT TO THE CABINET MEMBER CHILDREN'S SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. On 26 January 2018 Isle of Wight Council started a five week formal consultation by publishing a statutory notice with a view to increasing the capacity at Medina House Special School in Newport from 70 to 83 places. This report confirms the outcome of that formal consultation.
2. No objections were received to the Formal Notice. One comment was received asking for information on future class sizes and school organisation.
3. It is recommended that from 1 April 2018 the published Agreed Place Number (APN) at Medina House Special School be increased from 70 to 83 places.

BACKGROUND

4. In January 2017 Children's Services Officers in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services approved the expansion of accommodation at Medina House Special School with the addition of accommodation on the former Barton Primary School site. This enabled the number of pupils to be increased to 77 pupils; this is 70 plus 10 per cent. The school currently has 77 pupils across the two sites.
5. No formal process was needed to do this as the Agreed Place Number (APN) is 70 and places can be commissioned above that number by 10 per cent without changing the Agreed Place Number.
6. There is continued pressure on places at Medina House School. Recognising the need for additional Primary places, Schools Forum agreed to increase the revenue budget within the High Needs Block to enable six additional places (beyond the 10 per cent increase to 77), to be funded subject to the statutory consultation and consideration of the outcome.
7. Analysis of the Isle of Wight Schools Census Data Collection for the Primary Phase has shown that there is an increase in the proportion of children with

special educational needs and disability (SEND) of Primary School age with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) as against the total school population, increasing from two point two percent in Autumn 2014 to two point nine per cent in Autumn 2017. This increase equates to approximately 50 additional children of which 60 per cent attend a mainstream provision and 40 per cent attend special schools.

8. Given the pressure on places in the primary phase, Officers in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services agreed to start a statutory consultation with a view to increasing the APN at Medina House Special School from 70 to 83 to meet the increased demand evidenced above.
9. This proposed increase in places will create additional places across all year groups as required.
10. It is not proposed that the proportion of children with an EHCP attending a special school will be changed as a result of this proposed increase in places.
11. This paper reports on the outcome from the statutory consultation and any recommendation following the consultation.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

12. The [Corporate Plan 2017-20](#) sets out a commitment to educational excellence. Sufficiency of school places, effectively resourced to meet the range of SEND is a key element of this strategy.
13. More detail is contained in the [Children and Young People with SEND Context and Key priorities 2017-2019](#) document.

CONSULTATION

14. The proposed expansion of places for Medina House School has followed the Department for Education Statutory Guidance for significant alterations.
15. This has included a full proposal document and publication of a Notice for six weeks from 26th January to 2nd March 2018. This was published in the Isle of Wight County press, on the Isle of Wight Council Website together with on the School website and displayed at all Medina House School entrances.
16. The full proposal and Notice are included as Appendices one and two.

One question from the public was received

Question

Are you able to advise whether the intention is to create a new class, or to squeeze additional children into existing classes?

Also, is the school intending to recruit additional staff to support the additional children

Local Authority response

The Headteacher of the school is responsible for the organisation of the class groups in the school so we cannot specifically answer this query. There is an overall number of children the school can accommodate and this is not allocated by year group. However it is not intended that class group size will be increased as a result of this proposed increase in overall numbers. Additional school accommodation has already been provided and can accommodate this increase in numbers. Additional funding generated as a result of increased numbers can be used to support additional staffing

FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

17. There are no capital implications associated with this proposed increase in places as increased accommodation was provided with capital investment in the Summer of 2017. This additional accommodation on the former Barton Primary School site created sufficient additional capacity to accommodate a further 6 pupils without further capital investment.
18. The school currently has 77 pupils which is 70 plus 10 per cent. This capacity is already budgeted within the Dedicated School Grant
19. Additional revenue is required to allow for the increase from 77 to 83.

Funding	2018/19 (81 places April, 83 September)	Full-year (83 places)
Place	51,667	60,000
Top-up	72,333	84,000
Total	124,000	144,000

20. Schools Forum agreed to support this increase in December 2017

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

21. Where a local authority proposes to increase a special schools numbers by more than ten per cent or 20 pupils, whichever is less, then it is required by the School organisation (Prescribed alterations to maintained schools)(England) regulations 2013 to follow the statutory process of prescribed alterations. The local authority is also required to have regard to the statutory guidance issued by the DfE.
22. The statutory process under part 5 of the above regulations requires a 4 stage process of publication of notice, representation, decision and implementation.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

23. The council has statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage

and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation

24. This will have a positive impact as more specialist places for children with SEND will be available and no adverse impact has been identified.

PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

25. There are no property implications as sufficient accommodation is already available to accommodate the additional 6 places being created
26. Additional accommodation with capital investment was created in the summer of 2017 to create an additional seven places. This further increase of six places can be accommodated within existing accommodation.

OPTIONS

27. **Option 1**
Approve the recommendation and increase the APN at Medina House.
28. **Option 2**
Do not approve the increase in APN at Medina House Special School.

RISK MANAGEMENT

29. As outlined in the body of the report there has been an increase in the number of children with more complex SEND. Children and Young people with complex needs, whose SEND cannot be met in a mainstream school, are entitled to a school place that fully meets their needs. The number of children with more complex needs has increased and at the moment there are not enough places at Medina House School to meet this demand.
30. If we do not agree to this increase in places the Local Authority is not meeting its statutory duty to provide sufficient places for all children and young people regardless of need on the Island.

RECOMMENDATION

31. It is recommended that from 1 April 2018 the published Agreed Place Number (APN) at Medina House Special School be increased from 70 to 83 places

RISK MANAGEMENT

[Appendix 1](#) Full proposal document

[Appendix 2](#) Medina House Public Notice

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STEVE CROCKER
Director of Children's Services

COUNCILLOR PAUL BRADING
Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Decision

Signed

Date
