

# SECTION 19 (1) OF THE EDUCATION AND INSPECTIONS ACT 2006 and the SCHOOL ORGANISATION (PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO MAINTAINED SCHOOLS) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

## PROPOSED SPECIALIST FACILITY AT ALL SAINTS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### 1. School and local education authority details

**Name of Local Authority making the proposal:** East Sussex County Council  
**Address of Local Authority:** County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE

**Name of school:** All Saints CE Primary School  
**Address of school:** All Saints Lane, Sidley, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 5HA  
**Category of school:** Voluntary Controlled

### 2. Description of alteration

East Sussex County Council (the local authority) is proposing to establish a specialist facility for up to 12 pupils with neuro-diverse profiles, such as Autistic Spectrum Disorder and associated Social, Emotional and Mental Health and Speech, Language and Communication Needs on the site of All Saints CE Primary School, All Saints Lane, Sidley, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 5HA, with effect from 1 September 2022.

### 3. Evidence of demand

Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for all pupils, including for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The local authority's SEND forecasts provide clear evidence that we will continue to see an increase in the number of pupils with SEND over the next 10-15 years.

The overall number of children and young people age 4-24 with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) has been rising in recent years and is forecast to continue to rise, as shown in Chart 1. Over the next 5 years, we forecast that overall numbers will continue rising but at a slower rate. From 2014-15 to 2019-20 the number of children and young people with EHCPs rose by 861 to 3503. From 2019-20 to 2024-25 we are currently predicting an increase of 422.

**Chart 1: Overall Numbers with EHCPs – Age 4-24 years**

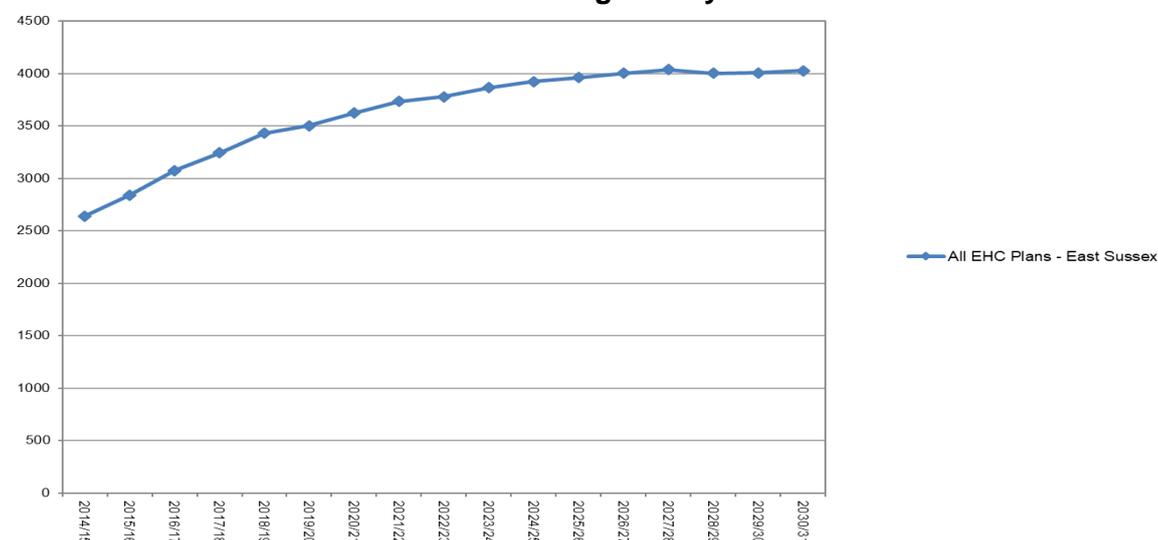
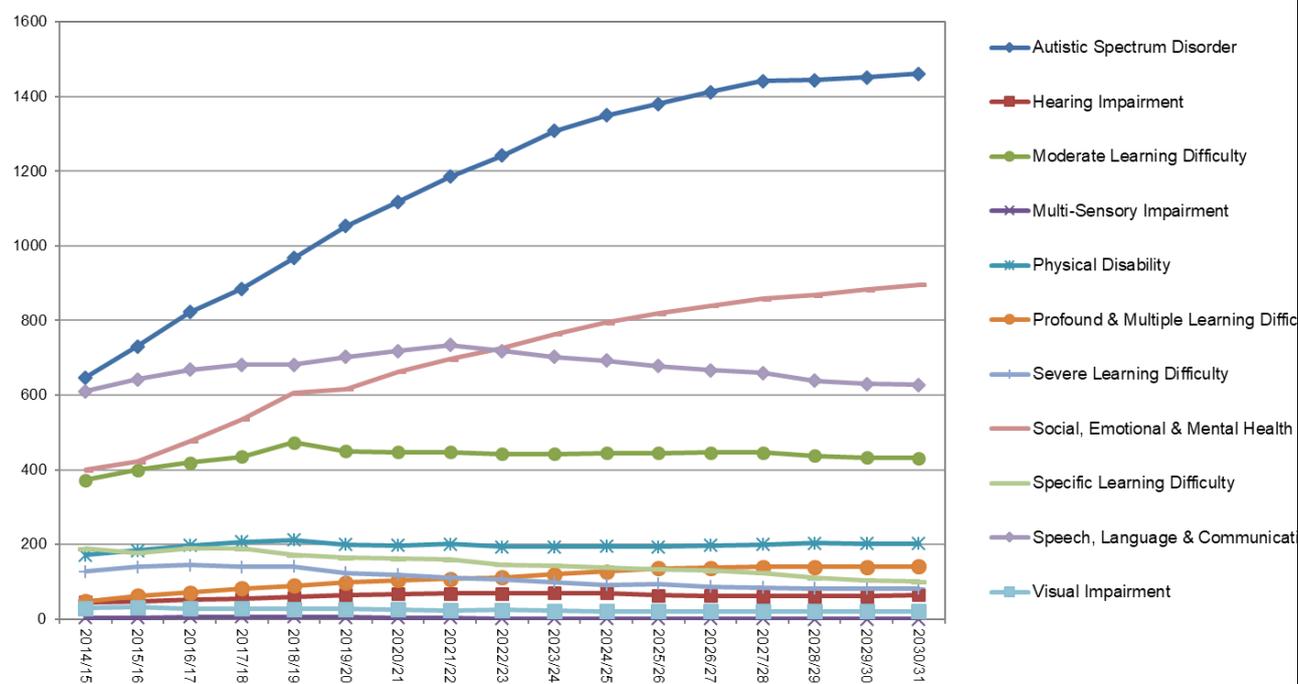


Chart 2 shows the historic and forecast numbers with EHCPs by primary need group. The chart shows that the two groups with the biggest increases continue to be Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH). Rising ASD pupil numbers reflect increases in diagnosis and an increase in parental and professional awareness of these needs. We are still seeing an increase in SEMH, and schools are reporting challenges in meeting these pupils' needs.

**Chart 2: EHCPs by Primary Need Group**



Over the last few years, the local authority has been implementing its strategy to develop more places for SEND pupils. This includes securing new free special schools and the development of more specialist facilities within mainstream schools. The local authority undertook a consultation in 2021 on its SEND place planning strategy. Feedback from the consultation agreed that a priority for the local authority should be the creation of specialist provision in mainstream primary schools for pupils with neuro-diverse profiles, such as Autistic Spectrum Disorder and associated Social, Emotional and Mental Health and Speech, Language and Communication Needs, in the Rother area. The local authority would therefore like to establish a specialist facility for up to 12 pupils at All Saints CE Primary School in Bexhill to address this.

#### 4. Objectives

Specialist facilities are located within a mainstream school and provide specific support to a limited number of pupils with an EHCP naming a specific primary special educational need. Pupils within the facility are on the roll of the mainstream school and are in addition to the school's published admission number (PAN). The school receives additional funding from the local authority to support the children. Placements are determined by the local authority according to clear criteria and will be drawn from a wider geographical area than the school's usual catchment.

Specialist facilities promote an ethos of inclusion and help integrate their pupils into the mainstream school for as much of their learning time as their needs allow. Specialist facilities also provide access to a base within the school for more intensive learning and support when required. The expertise of staff within specialist facilities provides significant benefits to the rest of the school and other schools in the local area to support all pupils with special educational needs and create a fully inclusive learning environment.

In addition to what is required by law, pupils in the facility would have their needs reviewed

regularly in discussion with parents/carers and professionals to ensure that the facility remains the most appropriate placement to meet these needs.

The local authority expects the new facility to have a positive impact on provision at the school. Specialist staff would work with pupils in the new facility and also work with teaching staff across the school to develop skills and expertise in responding to special educational needs and creating an inclusive environment.

#### **5. The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area**

It is not intended that the proposal would have an impact on other schools, academies and educational institutions in the area. The proposal would provide specialist provision for children that need it in the local area.

#### **6. Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved.**

The school and the local authority have identified the former nursery building on the All Saints CE Primary School site as suitable to accommodate the new facility. Some internal adaptations would be required to the building and the local authority would work closely with the school to ensure these are completed in time for the facility to open. Funding for these adaptations has been identified within the local authority's capital programme for SEND provision. Any adaptations to the building would be undertaken to ensure long term value for money.

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

The proposals are planned to be implemented on 1 September 2022.

#### **8. Objections and comments**

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, i.e. by midnight on 17 March 2022, any person may object to, or make comment upon the proposals, by sending their representations to Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services (FAO: Gary Langford, Place Planning Manager), East Sussex County Council, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE, or by emailing: [school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk)