

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

PROPOSED SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS FACILITY AT PRIORY SCHOOL

1. School and local education authority details

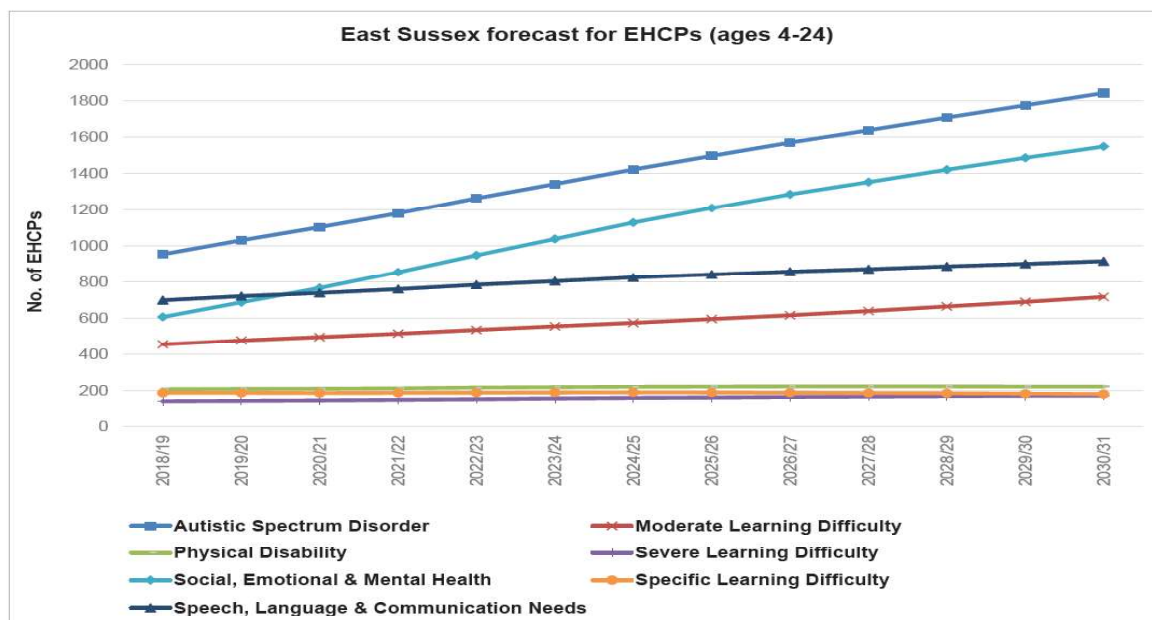
<p>Name and Address of the Local Authority making the proposal East Sussex County Council County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE</p> <p>Name, address and category of school Priory School Mountfield Road, Lewes, BN7 2XN</p> <p>The school is a Foundation School.</p>

2. Description of alteration

East Sussex County Council is proposing to establish SEN (special educational needs) provision in a designated specialist facility on the site of Priory School. It is proposed that the specialist facility would principally be for pupils identified by the local authority with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) naming a primary need of specific learning difficulties, with associated special educational needs (e.g. anxiety and high functioning autism).

3. Evidence of demand

As referenced in the SEN Support Strategy 2019-21, the Council's SEND forecasting model predicts future numbers of children with statements/EHCPs for Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) and numbers in maintained and independent non-maintained special schools. The graph below forecasts that, if recent trends continue more or less as they are, the total number of school aged children and young people (aged 4-18) in East Sussex with EHCPs will rise considerably in the period up to 2030/31. The need with the highest number of children being forecast is autistic spectrum disorder which this facility will help address.



Following a review of special education needs (SEN) provision in the county East Sussex County Council (ESCC) concluded that there is a gap in specialist provision in mainstream secondary schools for pupils with a primary need of specific learning difficulties, with associated special educational needs (e.g. anxiety and high functioning autism) in the west of the county. The Council would like to establish a facility for up to 12 pupils at Priory School to meet this demand.

4. Objectives

In East Sussex specialist facilities promote an ethos of inclusion across the school and help integrate their pupils into the mainstream school for as much of their learning time as their needs allow. The facility would also provide access to a base within the school for more intensive support when required.

The primary objectives of establishing the new specialist facility are:

- To provide sufficient places for pupils with an EHCP and to specifically expand provision for pupils with specific learning difficulties, with associated special educational needs (eg. anxiety and high functioning autism)
- To improve the attainment and progress of pupils with SEN
- To provide more local options for pupils to attend schools within their local community.

The East Sussex model expects that the expertise of staff within the facility provide significant benefits to the rest of the school and other schools in the local area to support all pupils with SEN and create a fully inclusive learning environment.

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

It is not intended that the proposal would have a negative impact on other schools, academies and educational institutions in the area. The proposal would support the development of expertise in SEN provision that would be shared with local schools. The new specialist facility would provide additional places for local children with SEN.

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

The Council, working with Priory School, has identified an area of the school site on which new accommodation could be built. ESCC would fund the building work from its approved capital programme. All building works would be constructed to current design standards to ensure long term value for money.

7. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The proposals are planned to be implemented in one stage, opening from September 2020.

8. Objections and comments

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, i.e. by midnight, 19 December 2019, any person may object to, or make comment upon the proposals, by sending their representations to: Stuart Gallimore, 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