

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

PROPOSED SEN FACILITY AT GROVELANDS COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. School and local education authority details

Name and Address of the Local Authority making the proposal

East Sussex County Council
County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE

Name, address and category of school

Grovelands Community Primary School
Dunbar Drive, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 3UW

The school is a Foundation School

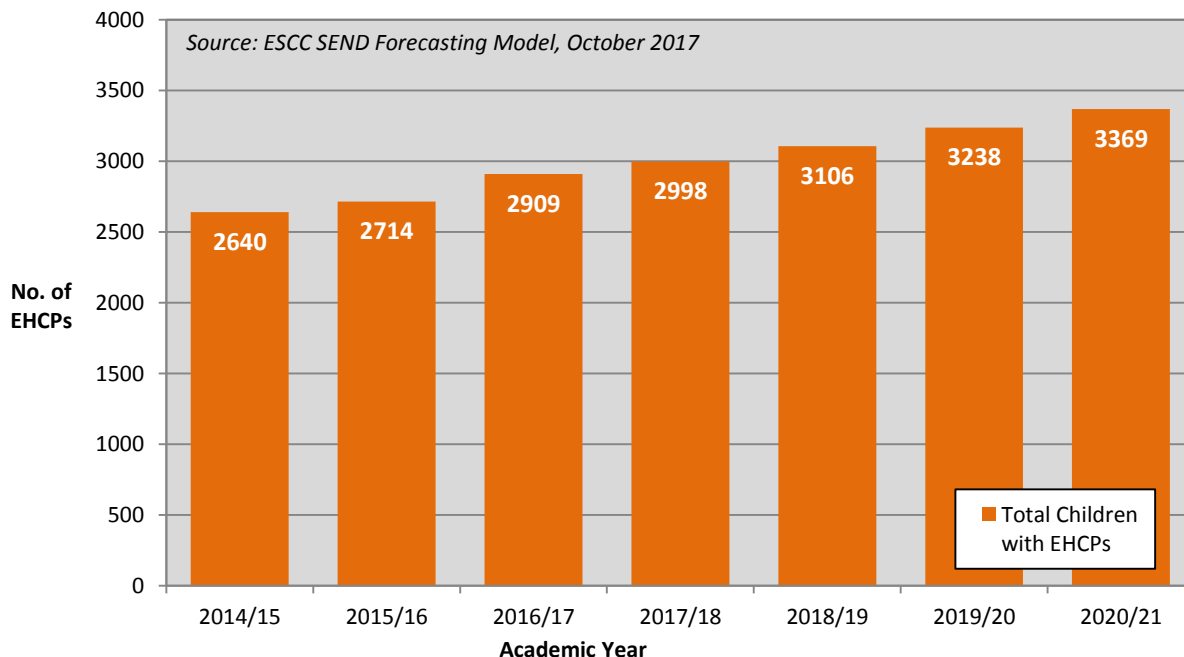
2. Description of alteration

East Sussex County Council is proposing to establish SEN (special educational needs) provision in a designated facility on the site of Grovelands Community Primary School. It is proposed that the specialist facility would principally be for identified pupils with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) naming Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as their specific primary SEN although pupils may present with a complex range of need that would be accommodated by the facility.

3. Evidence of demand

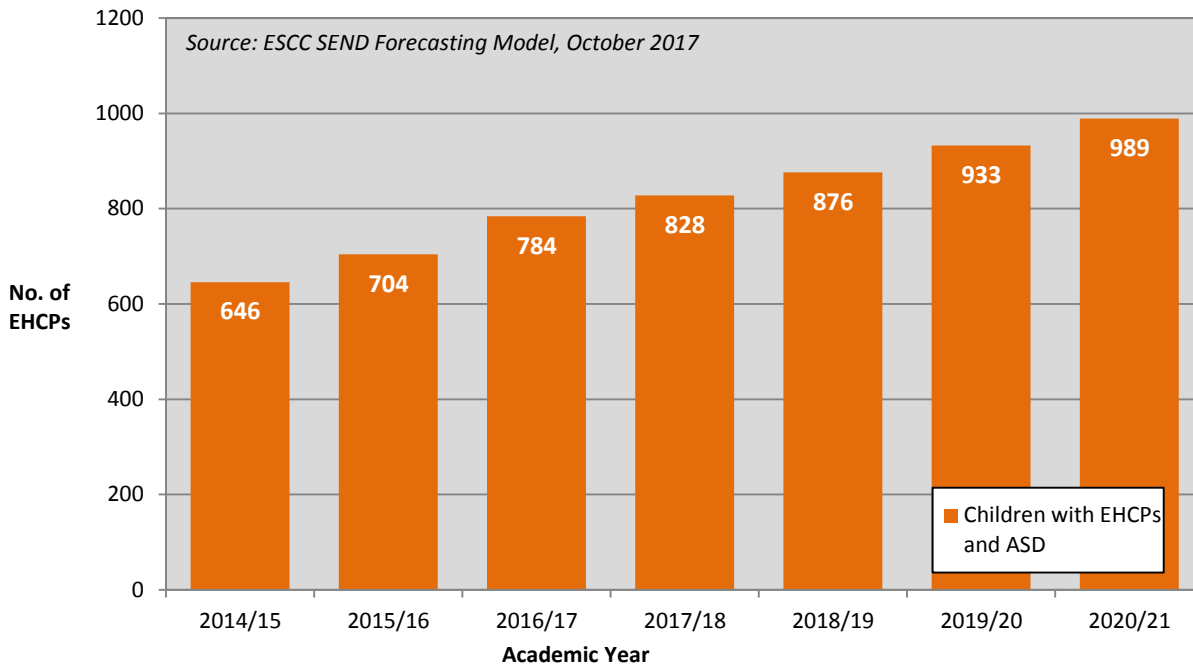
As referenced in the Education Commissioning Plan 2017-21, the Council's SEND forecasting model predicts future numbers of children with statements/EHCPs for Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) and numbers in maintained and independent non-maintained special schools. The chart below forecasts 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 from the 2016/17 total of 2,909 to 3,369 by 2020/21, an increase of 460 or 16%.

East Sussex total school-aged children with EHCPs



If recent trends continue, numbers of children with plans and a primary need of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) could also rise from 784 in 2016/17 to 989 in 2020/21, an increase of 205 or 26%.

East Sussex total school-aged children with EHCPs and a primary need of ASD



The Council recently undertook a review of SEN provision in the county and one of the identified strands of the review was specialist facilities in mainstream schools. The aim of this strand was to review the current provision of specialist facilities and determine whether it is meeting the needs of SEN pupils across East Sussex. The review also sought to identify any gaps in provision. The review concluded that there is a gap in specialist provision in mainstream primary schools for pupils with a primary need of ASD in the Hailsham area. The Council would like to establish a facility for up to 8 pupils at Grovelands Community Primary School to address this.

4. Objectives

The aspiration in East Sussex is that 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. The primary objectives are:

1. To provide sufficient places for pupils with SEND and to specifically expand provision for pupils with ASD
2. To improve the attainment and progress of pupils with SEND
3. To provide more local options for pupils to attend schools within their local community

The East Sussex model increasingly 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 an impact on other schools, academies and educational institutions in the area. The proposal would provide additional places for local children.

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 Grovelands Community Primary School, has identified an area of the school building which could be adapted to provide the accommodation required for the new facility. The Council would fund the building works from its approved capital programme. Any 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 from the beginning of Term 5 of the 2018/19 academic year (23 April 2019).

8. Objections and comments

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, i.e. by midnight, 28 February 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, 4th Floor St Mark's House, 14 Upperton Road, Eastbourne BN21 1EP, or by emailing:

school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk