



Shropshire
Gateway
Educational Trust

Proposal to create SEND resource provision at Lacon Childe School.

Address: Love Lane Cleobury Mortimer Shropshire DY14 8PE

Local authority: Shropshire_(893)

Headteacher: Mr Darren Reynolds

Age range: 11 to 16

Phase of education: Secondary

School type: Academy

Gender of entry: Mixed

ID: URN: 141451, DfE number: 893/4412

Background

The Children and Families Act 2014 sets out a statutory duty for local authorities to keep provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) under review, in order to ensure that the provision reflects and addresses local needs.

In October 2017 Shropshire Council commissioned a comprehensive review of its high needs provision as part of the **Specialist Provision Strategic Review and Development Plan**

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/parentcarers/strategy-policy-and-guidance/>

which made a number of recommendations as to how additional capital funding available from the Department for Education should be invested.

The report highlighted that there are particular gaps for learners who are academically able to access some aspects of the national curriculum but who may struggle with some of the environmental and/or social aspects of mainstream school life. The analysis strongly suggests that the key priorities should be:

- The development of specialist provision attached to mainstream schools in order to meet the needs of complex learners - particularly those with communication and interaction difficulties - enabling them to be educated closer to home.
- These provisions could be either mainstream school led (known as **Resourced Provision**) or special school led but based on mainstream school sites – (known as **Satellite Provision**).

In accordance with The School Organisation (Making Prescribed Alterations) Regulations 2016, the Local Authority - Shropshire Council – proposes to establish a resource provision at Lacon Childe School and offer up to 20 places for secondary aged learners with **Moderate Learning Difficulties** and **communication and interaction difficulties (including Autism Spectrum Conditions)** from September 2021, subject to the completion of any required building works.

A four-week representation period of consultation will run from Monday 11th January 2021 to Sunday 7th February 2021. A final decision will be made following the end of the consultation period, taking into account all representations and comments made during the consultation period.

Contact Details

Any person may make comments or object to the proposals by writing to the school c/o the Headteachers PA, Resourced Provision Consultation, Lacon Childe School, Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire DY14 8PE or by email to sue.broad@laconchildeschool.co.uk

All schools were approached by the Local Authority some time ago and asked if they would consider hosting a resourced provision.

Mr Darren Reynolds, Head Teacher of Lacon Childe School, expressed an interest in this provision.

Lacon Childe School, part of The Shropshire Gateway Educational Trust, is delighted to be engaging with Shropshire Local Authority to develop a specialist provision in the local area for children with specialist needs.

Lacon Childe is more than just a school and, with the staff experience and expertise we have, we are ideally placed to expand our current provision extending the excellent education already offered to all of our pupils including those with additional learning needs.

As a Trust we believe that every child should have access to the best education to

equip them with confidence and skills needed to enhance their wellbeing.

The Trust is a caring community which believes that every learner matters. We strive to be the best at ensuring every child has access to quality learning in their local community.

Having established the school's willingness to participate in the project, this consultation document is about turning the school's commitment from a vision into a reality.

This document marks the start of a genuine and open consultation process. We would like as many people as possible with an involvement or interest in the school, or in Secondary education in the area more generally, to contribute their thoughts on what should happen. There is a questionnaire at the end of this document which we would like you to fill in and send back to us.

Resourced provision for children with Moderate Learning Difficulties and communication and interaction difficulties (including Autism Spectrum Conditions) in Shropshire.

Overview

Shropshire Council has made a long and successful commitment to inclusive and high-quality education for pupils with special educational needs. Shropshire Council continues to make available the highest levels of inclusive mainstream provision to pupils of all ages in comparison with other local authorities in England.

In an effort to extend the range of inclusive learning opportunities for children, the Council intends to develop a network of additionally resourced provisions within mainstream primary and secondary schools throughout Shropshire.

For more information on resourced provision and the principles that have underpinned their development, follow the links to **Specialist Provision Strategic Review and Development Plan on the Shropshire Council** website, details of which are given in the introduction.

The Council believes that these developments will, through the inclusion of pupils with a wider range of special educational needs, enhance the learning opportunities for all pupils by:

- enrichment of the curriculum through social awareness and community responsibility
- developing the quality and skills of the staff
- improving the buildings and offering better facilities.

Inclusive learning expectations

The Council recognises that its policy of establishing a network of resourced schools is, by its very nature, less inclusive than making provision in each and every local mainstream school. The rationale for this policy centres on the lack of expertise, specialist support and resources to be able to offer suitably enhanced provision in every school. Resourced schools are seen as a key development in extending the range of provision available to pupils across Shropshire. Our ultimate aim is to reach a position where all schools can meet the needs of all pupils, regardless of the complexity of their needs. However, for the learners identified, the siting of skills, resources and expertise within a resourced mainstream or academy school is a way of achieving a position that is close to the inclusive ideal that we strive for.

By developing resourced provisions within selected schools in the county, the Council believes that it is enhancing the range of provision for children and parents within Shropshire. Furthermore, the Council considers that this strategic response:

- meets the continuing needs of pupils in the area
- fulfils its responsibilities to parents and families to provide a range of local services
- enriches opportunities for all pupils
- complies with the legislation set in the Children and Families Act 2014.

What is most important for pupils is that they are educated in a supportive educational environment which offers the opportunity for inclusive learning. This should take place in a school that is willing to adapt to the needs of the individual, rather than expecting the individual to cope with what is provided for others.

Considering the possibility of establishing resourced provision

General

In order to bring about school organisation change, it is necessary to publish what are known as statutory proposals. A formal proposal to bring about a 'prescribed alteration' is needed to establish resourced provision at Lacon Childe School.

As we have explained, by developing resourced provision within Shropshire, the

Council will be providing a local option that extends the range of provision for pupils in the area. The Council feels that the case for establishing resourced provision at Lacon Childe School is very strong. The leadership team at Lacon Childe School has indicated that it feels the same way.

We would like to have your views on the possibility of establishing provision for **learners with Moderate learning difficulties and communication and interaction difficulties (including Autism Spectrum Conditions)** at Lacon Childe School, and there is a questionnaire at the back of this document to help. This consultation document will help you to form your opinions on the subject.

We look forward to receiving your completed questionnaire or online response as your views are important and will influence the decision which is eventually taken.