

Following our recent correspondence and MI Sheet 93/06 (<http://www.esinet.norfolk.gov.uk/cadmin/misheet/display04.asp?ID=433>) which contained details of our consultation on the SEN strategy I am pleased to enclose a link to the letter and electronic version of the consultation document designed by the Active Citizenship Team specifically for children and young people. There are 2 versions of the consultation document for children and young people, a version for high schools and a version for primary and special schools. Each of these documents can be accessed electronically via the Norfolk Blurb website www.norfolkblurb.co.uk. The main consultation document can be accessed via www.norfolk.gov.uk/senstrategy.

This consultation is a high profile consultation that will have a huge impact on special schools and mainstream schools within Norfolk, as some of you may have seen on the front of the EDP24 yesterday (June 7th 2006) <http://www.norfolkblurb.co.uk/cms.php?pageid=805>. The Active Citizenship Team have put together the consultation pack and we are asking for your Youth Workers to take it out to all their projects. In the pack is a letter explaining how to get Young People to register on the Blurb Website to complete the consultation and have the chance to win £50 or two runner up prizes of £25! We realise that not all projects will have access to the internet and are therefore attaching a copy of the two versions of the consultation paper that can be printed off and returned to myself for them to be entered into the competition.

Some Young People may need more support to register on the Blurb Website, but apart from that it is accessible and easy to follow.

Children's Services: Active Citizenship Team
Norfolk Youth and Community Service
NYCS Training Unit
School Lane
Sprowston
Norwich
NR7 8TR

Tel: 01603 485999
Fax: 01603 482629
Minicom: 417869
tom.gaskin@norfolk.gov.uk

Please ask for: Tom Gaskin
Contact Number: 01603 485999

Date: Wednesday 7th June 2006
Our Ref: SEN Consultation

Dear Youth Worker,

Re: Paper Version of SEN Consultation

Norfolk County Council's Children's Service's is running a consultation on the Special Educational Needs Services that are available in Norfolk. The changes that may be made as a result of this consultation will affect young people in both Special Schools and mainstream Schools.

As part of the consultation the Active Citizenship Team have produced a method of consulting with young people via the Council's award winning website www.norfolkblurb.co.uk We are aware that some youth work venues and young people may not have internet access so therefore we have copied the content from the Website to ensure it is fully accessible for all young people to take part.

To take part in the consultation and to be in for a chance to win up to £50 worth or two runner up prizes of £25 worth of cinema vouchers young people need to do the following if they cannot access the consultation via Norfolk Blurb:

1. Complete the following registration form if young people are NOT already registered on Norfolk Blurb. If they are registered then they need to provide their name and username.
2. Read the info about the consultation and competition
3. Answer the 10 questions
4. And answer the 10 simple questions
5. They can also provide any other comments they may have
6. Send the registration form and consultation back to us at the Training Unit

The consultation will end on Monday 7th August 2006 and 3 winners will be randomly drawn and notified by Friday 18th August 2006.

We would appreciate it if you could support the young people you work with to take part in this consultation. It's really important that all young people are given a chance to have their say.

If you have any problems or queries about the consultation please don't hesitate to contact me or Sarah Harrison on 01603 485999 (opt.4).

Yours sincerely

Tom Gaskin
Norfolk Blurbs Project Coordinator



Register

Your Real Name: _____

Date of Birth: __ / __ / ____ (dd/mm/yyyy)

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Your Ethnic Origin:

☐ White ☐ Asian ☐ Black ☐ Chinese ☐ Dual Heritage ☐ Traveller
☐ Other

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Your District: _____

Contact Method:

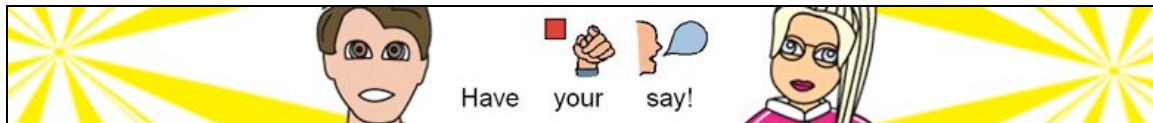
☐ Email ☐ Post ☐ Home Phone ☐ Mobile Phone ☐ SMS

☐ I would like to receive the Blurb Newsletter

☐ I would like to receive Blurb text messages

Please specify a username and password that you would like to be able to access www.norfolkblurb.co.uk with once this form is returned.

Username: _____ Password: _____












 Children's Services are thinking about making special schools into




 Complex needs schools.



 What does this mean?





 A lot of young people with Special educational needs are travelling





 across Norfolk to get to school because there is not a school







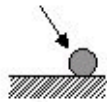
 near to them that can offer what support they need.



Proposal 1: Development of Complex Needs Schools.



Do you think it is a good idea for



there to be at least one Complex Needs School

5



in each of the five areas of Norfolk? (North, South, East, West

and Central).



Do you agree?



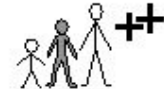
Yes



No



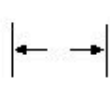
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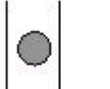
Most of our Special Schools are for children and young people with



moderate and severe learning difficulties. The new complex needs



schools will provide a wide choice of facilities and opportunities for



2

19

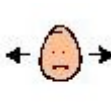
children and young people between the ages of 2 to 19 with the



most complex needs.



Do you agree?



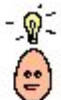






Yes

No





Please enter any comments/views you have on the above:

  Do you think it is a good idea for more  

   residential places in Complex Needs Schools ?

 Do you agree?

  Yes No

  Please enter any comments/views you have on the above:



Proposal 2: Development of Specialist Resource Bases.



Learning Support Centres will become Specialist Resource Bases. These



will have skills in a Specialist area such as:



Learning difficulties.



Autistic Spectrum disorders. (ASD)



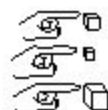
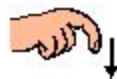
Behaviour and emotional and social difficulties.



23



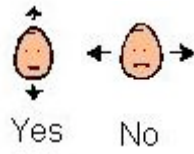
Some of the 23 Learning Support centres might be moved because



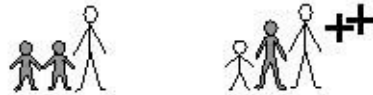
of the needs of each area.



Do you agree?



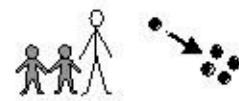
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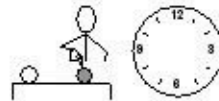
Proposal 3: Provision for Children and Young People with Autistic



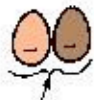
Spectrum Disorders (ASD).



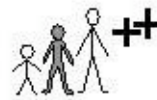
We have limited places for Young People and Children with



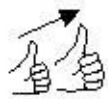
autistic spectrum disorders (ASD) at this time.



We will:



Provide specialist ASD support for Children and Young People.

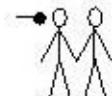


Develop and build good practice in our special schools for

ASD.



Help people understand ASD more and facilitate chances for Children



and Young People to be included in their local mainstream school if



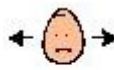
right.



Do you agree?



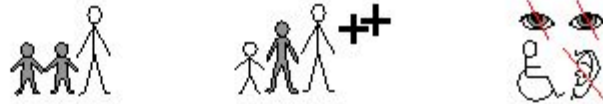
Yes



No



Please enter any comments/views you have on the above:



Proposal 4: Provision for Children and Young People with sensory loss.



At this time all provision for Children and Young People with a



sensory loss is in Norwich.



We are thinking that there should be more provision in other



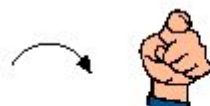
areas of Norfolk for equality of access and to make sure that the



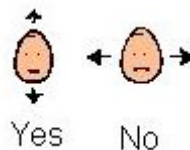
needs of those pupils who need highly specialist and qualified



support are met.

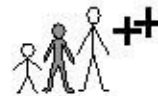


Do you agree?





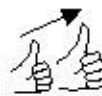
Please enter any comments/views you have on the above:



Proposal 5: Provision for Children and Young People with behaviour,



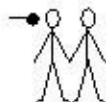
emotional and Social difficulties.



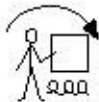


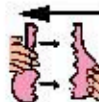

We are suggesting that we improve Pupil Referral Units by :



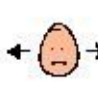
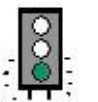





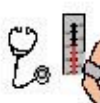

Supporting those who are permanently excluded and help them return to

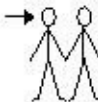





their local mainstream school.






 Educating and supporting those who are on a fixed term exclusion.








 Supporting those who are refusing to go to school.





 And supporting those who have medical difficulties that mean

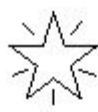
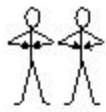

 they can't go to their local school.


 Do you agree?



 Yes No



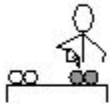
 Please enter any comments/views you have on the above:



We will develop specialist behaviour, emotional and social difficulties



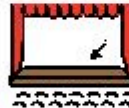
resource bases on mainstream school sites.



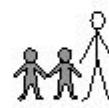
These will:



Try to help stop social exclusion.



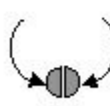
4



Offer support to Key Stage 4 children at mainstream school



who need help with learning key skills.



14

19



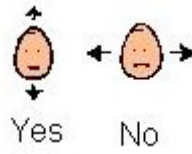
Make sure Young People aged 14 - 19 with behaviour, emotional



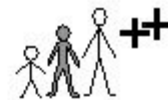
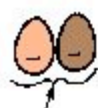
and social difficulties have access to local help.



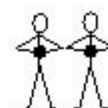
Do you agree?



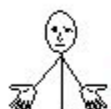
Please enter any comments/views you have on the above:



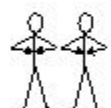
We will develop more provision for children and young people with



Complex behaviour, emotional and social difficulties in our complex



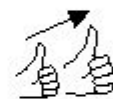
needs schools.



-

We are proposing:

1



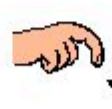
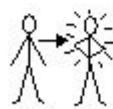
One complex needs school in Norfolk will develop a lead



specialism in behaviour, emotional and social difficulties.



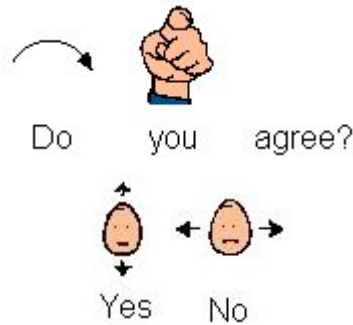
The school that already deals with behaviour, emotional and social



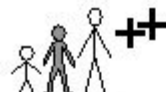
difficulties will become a Complex Needs School for Children and



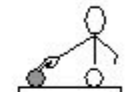
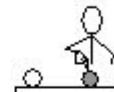
young people with significant complex behaviour.



Please enter any comments/views you have on the above:



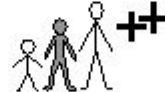
Lots of young people and children with behaviour, emotional and social



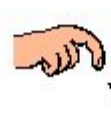
difficulties are at schools outside of Norfolk. This means that



consideration needs to be given to developing another complex





needs school for children and young People with significant complex



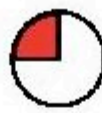
behaviour, emotional and social needs.

 Do you agree? 

 Yes  No



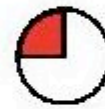
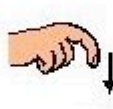
Please enter any comments/views you have on the above:



Thanks for taking part in the consultation!



Remember to be in for a chance to win the £50 worth of



cinema vouchers you need to take part in all 5

3



consultations! 3 winners will be randomly drawn and notified by



Friday 18th August 06.

Consultation

For Children and Young People

On

The Strategy for

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Provision in Norfolk

2006 - 2009

*“Children at the heart of their local learning
community – making partnerships work”*



Norfolk County Council at your service

Consultation Response Form

Strategy for Special Educational Needs Provision in Norfolk 2006 – 2009.
Please tell us who you are: * *

Your name:

Your address or School:

Your Age:

Gender: M / F

Do you have a disability? Yes / No

How would you describe yourself? (Please tick to indicate)

Asian or Asian British:

Bangladeshi... Indian... Pakistani... Other Asian Background, please Specify.....

Chinese Dual Heritage:

Chinese... White and Asian... White and Black African...

White and Black Caribbean... Other Dual Background, please Specify.....

Black or Black British:

African... Caribbean... Other Black Background, please Specify.....

White:

British... Irish... Other White, please Specify.....

Other:

Traveller... Other Ethnic Group, please Specify.....

Prefer Not to Say

* Footnote: It would help us in our analysis of the responses if you could tell us this information but you do not have to do so.

Your views are important.

At the heart of our strategy is Norfolk's vision for children and young people:

We believe that all children and young people have the right to be healthy, happy and safe, loved, valued and respected; and to have high aspirations for their future.

1. Why are we consulting?

The suggestions in this document aim to increase choice for parents and carers and therefore do not remove the option of continued education in a special school.

2. What have we done already?

We have:

- Completed stage one of the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Review, which reviewed all special educational needs provision and looked at whether it meets the needs of the children and young people in Norfolk. In particular the following:
 - Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties
 - Autistic Spectrum Disorders
 - Sensory support
 - Specialist resource bases in mainstream schools
 - The role of special schools as complex needs schools in the future.
- Norfolk's definition of inclusion is:

'The process of taking necessary steps to ensure that every young person is given an equality of opportunity to develop socially, to learn and to enjoy community life.'

Inclusion is different from integration. Integration is the process of accommodating children and young people into mainstream schools. In real terms inclusion means that we:

- **Adopt creative and flexible approaches**
- **Give consistent messages**
- **Actively challenge and dismantle barriers**
- **Offer a range of readily accessible provision**
- **Actively involve and listen to the young person**

- **Work in partnership**
- To make sure children and young people with special and additional educational needs get the best possible support and education, all staff need the right skills and knowledge, as well as values and attitudes.

3. What we want to find out?

These proposals are about improving all of our SEN provision to improve choice and increase the opportunities available for all Norfolk children and young people. Our aim is that as many of our children and young people as possible will be educated within their local community, close to their homes and with their peer groups.

These proposals are not about reintegrating all children into mainstream schools against their wishes or those of their parents.

There are 5 proposals and each one is detailed on a separate page. The proposals are about:

[**Proposal 1: Complex Needs Schools \(page 5\)**](#)

[**Proposal 2: Specialist Resource Bases \(page 7\)**](#)

[**Proposal 3: Autistic Spectrum Disorder Provision \(page 9\)**](#)

[**Proposal 4: Sensory Loss Provision \(page 11\)**](#)

[**Proposal 5: Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties Provision \(pages 13 - 14\)**](#)

Proposal 1: Development of Complex Needs Schools

Special schools have an important role to play in making sure children and young people with special educational needs have their needs met within their local learning community.

At the moment, most of our special schools are designated as schools for children and young people with moderate learning difficulties or severe learning difficulties. We are proposing that special schools will become **complex needs schools** to educate children and young people with a wider range of special educational needs.

Specifically, we propose the following model for complex needs school in Norfolk:

- There will be at least one complex needs school in each of the five areas of Norfolk (Central, East, North, South and West). In some areas where the need is greater there will be more than one.
- We are proposing that complex needs schools will provide a wide range of facilities and opportunities for children and young people between the ages of 2 and 19 with the most complex needs.
- We want to develop partnership arrangements with complex needs schools and local mainstream schools, for groups of pupils to have more mainstream opportunities whilst still having their special educational needs met by specialist staff.
- We are proposing that early years provision for those children with complex needs aged 2 – 5 will be developed in partnership with Children's Centres. Further education provision will be developed with the Learning and Skills Council and the local further education providers, ensuring more opportunities for inclusion for 14 – 19 year olds.
- Currently, there is residential provision available in North Norfolk at two of our moderate learning difficulties schools, and in the Central Area at our existing behaviour, emotional and social difficulties school. We believe that there should be further development of residential provision within Norfolk, linked to the complex needs schools. In doing so we believe that this will help us to educate more of our children and young people in Norfolk instead of through placements outside Norfolk.

Please tell us your views for our plans within **Proposal 1: Development of complex needs schools**

Tick

☐

Agree fully with all of the proposals

☐

Agree with the majority of the proposals

☐

Agree with some elements of the proposals

☐

Do not agree with the proposals

Please provide comments to help us understand your views further.

Proposal 2: Development of Specialist Resource Bases

Learning Support Centres and Assessment and Learning Support Centres in mainstream schools will be redesigned and become Specialist Resource Bases for children and young people with special educational needs.

The Specialist Resource Bases will act as a bridge between the mainstream and complex needs schools, as part of the flexible range of area SEN provision.

Specialist Resource Bases will develop expertise and facilities in a particular area of SEN such as:

- Learning difficulties
- Autistic spectrum disorders
- Behaviour, emotional and social difficulties

Currently there are 372 Learning Support Centre and Assessment and Learning Support Centre places across Norfolk. We will not reduce this number of places, however, it may be necessary to relocate some of them according to the needs of each area.

Please tell us your views for our plans within **Proposal 2: Development of specialist resource bases**

Tick

☐

Agree fully with all of the proposals

☐

Agree with the majority of the proposals

☐

Agree with some elements of the proposals

☐

Do not agree with the proposals

Please provide comments to help us understand your views further.

Proposal 3: Provision for children and young people with autistic spectrum disorders (ASD)

A person with **autism** has difficulties in 3 main areas:

- Social interaction or difficulties knowing how to relate to people or situations.
- Social communication. This can be with understanding spoken words, known as verbal language, or non verbal language such as smiling, pointing and other facial expressions.
- Imagination. This can be difficulty with play where a child or person may copy and repeat tasks.

These 3 difficulties are called the triad of impairment.

Norfolk currently has limited provision for children with autistic spectrum disorders. We will develop further specialist ASD provision for children and young people in both mainstream and complex needs schools in each of the five areas of the county. It will be flexible and adaptable to support the varying needs of children and young people on the autistic spectrum.

We will:

- Provide specialist ASD support for children and young people.
- Develop further ASD provision in our complex needs schools for all ages of children, building on existing good practice and expertise in our special schools.
- Raise understanding about ASD across Norfolk in our schools and Children's Services, to facilitate more opportunities for children with ASD to be included within their local mainstream schools, where appropriate.

Please tell us your views for our plans within **Proposal 3: Provision for children and young people with autistic spectrum disorders**

Tick

☐

Agree fully with all of the proposals

☐

Agree with the majority of the proposals

☐

Agree with some elements of the proposals

☐

Do not agree with the proposals

Please provide comments to help us understand your views further.

Proposal 4: Provision for children and young people with sensory loss

Currently all of our provision for children and young people with a sensory loss is in the Norwich area. This provision includes two mainstream units for children with a visual loss, two mainstream units and a high school resource base for children with a hearing loss as well as a resource base for children with sensory losses at one of our special schools.

Children's Services Sensory Support currently provides a service for all children with a sensory loss and their families from diagnosis through to 19 years of age. They support children and families at home, in early year's settings, schools, special schools and post 16.

The following new approaches are planned for sensory loss provision:

- We are proposing that extra provision is developed in other areas of Norfolk to ensure equality of access for all children and young people
- The needs of pupils who require highly specialist, qualified support, are better met.
- Staff will develop a wider range of skills as they work across provision in children's centres, early years settings, complex needs schools, resource bases and mainstream schools.

Please tell us your views for our plans within **Proposal 4: Provision for children and young people with sensory loss**

Tick

☐

Agree fully with all of the proposals

☐

Agree with the majority of the proposals

☐

Agree with some elements of the proposals

☐

Do not agree with the proposals

Please provide comments to help us understand your views further.

Proposal 5: provision for children and young people with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties

We will develop further specialist behaviour, emotional and social difficulties provision for children and young people in both mainstream and complex needs schools in each of the five areas of the county.

5-A. We will modernise pupil referral units into more suitable, attractive and suitable accommodation to improve opportunities for all children and young people, with particular focus on Key Stages 2,3 and 4 (aged 7 – 16 years).

The pupil referral units will support those children:

- Who are permanently excluded providing them with support to help them return to their local mainstream school or more specialist provision if this is required.
- Provide education and support to those children who are subject to long fixed term exclusion.
- Who are refusing to attend school
- Have medical difficulties that stop them attending their local mainstream school

5-B We will develop specialist behaviour, emotional and social difficulties resource bases on the sites of mainstream schools for primary and high school age children in each of the five areas of the County.

These collaborations will provide the following range of services:

- Support to help prevent social exclusion or exclusion from school. To ensure early identification and intervention.
- Support to Key Stage 4 children at a mainstream school who need key skills input.
- Make sure children aged 14 – 19 with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties have access to local provision.

We hope that these proposals will help us to move towards a situation where, particularly beyond Key Stage 3 permanent exclusion of pupils can be prevented.

We are considering the detail of how this specialist provision might be staffed and would like your views on this. For example, some of the existing

Children's Services behaviour staff could be based at these specialist resource bases.

We are also considering the detail of how this provision might be managed. It could be managed by the host mainstream school or through partnership arrangements with a complex needs school or Children's Services.

5-C We will develop more provision for children with complex behaviour, emotional and social difficulties in our complex needs schools for those children who cannot be appropriately placed in either mainstream or specialist resource base provision. We are proposing that:

- One complex needs school in Norfolk will develop a lead specialism in behaviour, emotional and social difficulties to meet the needs of children and young people with a combination of complex learning, emotional and behaviour needs. This school will also provide support and staff development to other complex needs schools as necessary.
- The existing behaviour, emotional and social difficulties school will become a complex needs school for children and young people with significant complex behaviour, emotional and social needs. Consideration will need to be given to how the current provision can be adapted to also meet the needs of girls. This school will continue to work with children and young people from Key Stage 2 onwards.
- Due to the significant number of children and young people with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties currently placed in out of county independent schools, consideration needs to be given to the development of a further complex needs school for children and young people with significant complex behaviour, emotional and social needs.

Please tell us your views for our plans within **Proposal 5: Provision for children and young people with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties**

Tick

☐

Agree fully with all of the proposals

☐

Agree with the majority of the proposals

☐

Agree with some elements of the proposals

☐

Do not agree with the proposals

Please provide comments to help us understand your views further.

4. How can I respond to the consultation?

Online at: www.norfolk.gov.uk/SENstrategy or www.YourNorfolkYourSay.org or www.norfolkblurb.co.uk

Or you can fill in the [response form](#) and post it to:

SEN Strategy Consultation Response
Norfolk County Council
Room 24, Children's Services
Martineau Lane
Norwich, NR1 2DL

Or email comments and suggestions to: SENstrategy@norfolk.gov.uk

Or telephone 0844 8008001 and speak to Suzy Ladd, Special Educational Needs Review Project Manager or Michael Bateman, Strategy Manager, Special Educational Needs and Children with Disabilities.

5. Where can I go for more information?

For more information about any part of this consultation please contact:

Suzy Ladd, Special Educational Needs Review Project Manager or Michael Bateman, Strategy Manager, Special Educational Needs and Children with Disabilities.

By telephone: 0844 8008001

You can email your questions or views to SENstrategy@norfolk.gov.uk

You can visit our website for more details about the SEN strategy and complete the consultation at www.norfolk.gov.uk/SENstrategy

You can respond directly to the consultation at www.norfolkblurb.co.uk

Or you can write to us at:

SEN Strategy Consultation Response
Norfolk County Council
Room 24, Children's Services
County Hall, Martineau Lane
Norwich, NR1 2DL

6. How will we feedback to you?

Your views and suggestions will help Norfolk County Councillors make decisions when it meets in September 2006. All written responses will be made available for County Councillors to read and we will prepare a summary of the key issues raised. We will also place a link on the Blurb Website.

We will also put the results on our website www.norfolk.gov.uk/SENstrategy, www.YourNorfolkYourSay.org or www.norfolkblurb.co.uk

We welcome your views and opinions.

Thank you for taking part.

Keep track of this consultation and others at www.YourNorfolkYourSay.org



If you need this report in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact Janet Evans on 01603 222377 minicom: 0844 8008011 and we will do our best to help