

Children's Services
County Hall
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Norfolk NR1 2SQ

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Email: susan.ladd@norfolk.gov.uk

Please ask for: Suzy Ladd
Contact Number: 01603 638054

Your ref:
My ref:

28 June 2006

All Headteachers

Dear Colleague

Re: Consultation on the Strategy for SEN Provision in Norfolk 2006 - 2009

You will be aware from MI 93/06, which was sent to you at the end of May that we are currently in the process of a 12-week consultation on the strategy for SEN provision in Norfolk.

The proposals contained in the consultation document have been developed in partnership with colleagues across the County, including teachers, head teachers, and partner agencies as part of the review of SEN provision which took place in 2005.

Currently in Norfolk, we have over 20,000 children and young people of school age with special and additional educational needs. The vast majority of these children are well supported and educated appropriately in their local mainstream schools. This is why it is so important for us to hear the views of both mainstream and special school teaching staff on the strategy.

I appreciate that we are nearing the end of the summer term and this is a very busy time of the year for schools, but I would really appreciate it if you could take the time to consider the consultation document and make a response. I have attached to this letter two copies of the consultation paper along with a DVD, which also outlines the proposals. I would like to suggest that this document and DVD is made available to all of your staff including the SENCO and Governors. The

document can also be downloaded and responded to electronically via our website: www.norfolk.gov.uk/senstrategy.

If you would like any further information or would like to discuss any aspect of the consultation please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Suzy Ladd, SEN Review Project Manager.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Michael Bateman
Strategy Manager
Special Educational Needs and Children with Disabilities



Norfolk County Council
at your service

Consultation

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”*

Your views are important.

Please consider and respond to the proposals in this document. There is space for you to make comments and suggestions on the response form at the end of the document.

1. Introduction

Norfolk County Council Children's Services is setting out plans for special educational needs (SEN) provision for 2006-9. We have worked closely with a range of different people who both provide and receive children's services in Norfolk, and have used our experience of what works well for children and young people to do this. All of these ideas have developed from detailed discussions across Norfolk through the Special Educational Needs Review carried out in 2005.

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.

2. Why are we consulting?

We want to provide a range of high quality provision and support options for children and young people with special and additional educational needs and their families. These options might include:

- Attending a local mainstream school with some additional support from local Children's Services specialist support teams
- Attending a local mainstream school with some additional support from a special school
- Attending a local specialist resource base on the site of a mainstream school, which would have a specialism in a particular area of special educational needs such as learning difficulties, autistic spectrum disorder, or behaviour, emotional and social difficulties
- Attending a local mainstream school for some lessons and an area special school for others
- Attending an area special school full time

As we develop the plan to achieve this, we want to know what you think about our suggestions.

The proposals 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.

3. Who are we consulting?

- Children and young people
- Parents and carers
- Mainstream and special schools
- School Governors
- Children's Services staff
- Voluntary and community services
- Youth Offending Team
- Connexions Norfolk
- Primary Care Trusts and NHS Trusts
- Learning and Skills Council and the further education sector
- Unions and professional associations
- Diocesan Authorities

4. How are we consulting

- You can respond to this written consultation by filling out the response form at the end of this document and sending it to:

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

- You can contact us by telephone: 0844 800 8001

Please ask for:

Suzy Ladd, Special Educational Needs Review Project Manager

Or

Michael Bateman, Strategy Manager, Special Educational Needs & Children with Disabilities

They will be able to answer questions or record your views.

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

- You can attend one of the consultation events that will be held in each of the five Children's Services areas

These events will be held from 10am until 8pm on the dates listed below. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend any one of these events.

Each event will be organised on a 'drop in session' basis. Therefore, individuals and groups are welcome to attend at any point throughout the day/early evening. Local authority officers, as well as Independent Parental Supporters, will be available at these events for one-to-one discussions and to provide information on the proposals for the SEN Strategy.

Northern Area on Wednesday 7 June at:

Fakenham Racecourse **Tel:** 01328 862388
 The Racecourse
 Pudding Norton **Web:** www.fakenhamracecourse.co.uk
 Fakenham
 Norfolk, NR21 7NY

Southern Area on Monday 19 June at:

Park Farm Hotel **Tel:** 01603 810264
 Norwich Road
 Hethersett **Web:** www.parkfarm-hotel.co.uk
 Norwich
 Norfolk, NR9 3DL

Western Area on Thursday 22 June at:

Knights Hill Hotel **Tel:** 01553 675566
 Knights Hill Village
 South Wootton **Web:** www.bw-knightshillhotel.co.uk
 Kings Lynn
 Norfolk, PE30 3HQ

Eastern Area on Wednesday 5 July at:

Kings Centre **Tel:** 01493 445949
 The Kings Centre
 Queen Annes Road **Web:** www.kings-church.net
 Southtown
 Great Yarmouth
 Norfolk, NR31 0LE

Central Area on Thursday 6 July at:

Quality Hotel Norwich **Tel:** 01603 741161
 2 Barnard Road
 Bowthorpe **Web:** www.hotels-norwich.com
 Norwich
 Norfolk, NR5 9JB

5. How are we consulting with children and young people?

- Children and young people can visit the Norfolk Blurbs website for more details about the SEN strategy and complete the consultation at www.norfolkblurb.co.uk.
- Young people will also be able to make comments and suggestions about the SEN strategy on Norfolk Blurbs by using their supervised chat room facility.
- Copies of the consultation paper will also be sent to all schools across the County, in an appropriate format, to ensure that children from all schools have an opportunity to respond and have their views heard.

6. When are we consulting?

This is a 12 week consultation, from Monday 22 May to Monday 14 August.

7. What have we done already?

- We have completed phase one of the SEN Review, which reviewed all special educational needs provision and considered whether it meets the needs of the children and young people in Norfolk. In particular, the SEN Review focused on the following areas:
 - 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
- Following a consultation in 2005, we agreed on an Area Special Educational Needs Partnership model to provide SEN services and co-ordinate provision in Norfolk via local multi-agency working. This will bring together local resources to better meet the needs of children and young people in their local areas. There will be an Area SEN Partnership in each of the 5 areas of the County, North, South, East, West and Central.

Each Partnership will be responsible for:

- Monitoring the allocation and deployment of resources to support children with special educational needs
- Enabling the development of local resources through the adoption of creative and flexible approaches to support local children

- Facilitating partnership working across Children's Services, with mainstream and special schools as well as other agencies
- Co-ordinating the use of resources in the local area, which would include:
 - Local mainstream schools
 - Support from Children's Services
 - Specialist resource bases
 - Complex needs schools
- In 2003 a new model special school for children and young people with complex needs was built in North Norfolk and in 2005 we secured funding to build a further complex needs school in West Norfolk.
- Recognising that at a time of clear and consistent outcomes for children, we must be particularly clear about what inclusion means to us, as part of the SEN Review we agreed a Norfolk definition of inclusion as:

'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. The emphasis within integration is to 'fit' the child into the system. Inclusion is more than just an issue of school placement, it focuses on changes within the system.

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. As part of the wider Children's Services workforce development strategy, we will carry out a training needs analysis to help us find out where areas of expertise currently exist and where we need to provide further targeted training and development so we can provide a better and more inclusive service to children and young people. It will involve schools in Norfolk as well as partner agencies, young people and parents. This will help us plan how we improve and support the skills and knowledge of our workforce.

8. What we want to find out?

These proposals are about developing 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 with SEN 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 8)

Proposal 2: Specialist Resource Bases (page 9)

Proposal 3: Autistic Spectrum Disorder Provision (page 10)

Proposal 4: Sensory Impairment Provision (page 11)

Proposal 5: Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties Provision (pages 12-13)

You can record your comments and suggestions on the response form provided at the end of this form.

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** with an extension to their role. We want to refocus the resources and expertise in our special schools, to facilitate further support to mainstream schools in their local learning community. The development of complex needs schools will allow more inclusion opportunities for those children and young people whose needs were previously met only through special schools, often separate from the mainstream.

Specifically we propose the following model for complex needs schools 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. Our intention is that children and young people requiring placement within a complex needs school will do so as close to their home address as possible.
- We also want to develop partnership arrangements between 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 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 complex needs.
- We are proposing that early years provision for those children with complex needs aged 2–5 will be developed in collaboration 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.

We want to emphasise that where appropriate, the option of a complex needs school placement, as with special schools currently, will be retained for those children and young people whose parents express a preference for this.

Proposal 2: Development of specialist resource bases

Currently there are 372 learning support centre and assessment and learning support centre places across Norfolk. We are proposing that 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. We will develop specialist resource base provision in each of the five areas of the county – Central, East, North, South and West.

It is our intention that specialist resource bases will build upon the good work carried out within assessment and learning support centres but that improvements to this type of provision for children and young people will take place through a focus upon specialisms within different resource bases.

Specifically we propose the following model for specialist resource bases in Norfolk:

- Specialist resource bases will develop expertise and facilities in a particular area of SEN, to include:
 - Learning difficulties
 - Autistic spectrum disorders
 - Behaviour, emotional and social difficulties
- Specialist resource bases will be developed within both the primary and secondary phases to ensure that the specialisms above can be accessed across all age ranges and within each of the five children's services areas.
- Specialist resource bases will be managed and governed by their host mainstream school and will have partnership arrangements with their area complex needs school.
- Specialist resource bases will be an important resource within each of the five Area SEN Partnerships. They will provide a resource, not just for the host school, but also for the local area. 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 be flexible and will also provide an assessment function in partnership with the local authority. With this in mind, we are proposing that children will not require a Statement of Special Educational Needs to attend a specialist resource base.
- We will not reduce the total number of places currently available through assessment and learning support centres. However, it may be necessary to relocate some of them according to the needs of each area.

We will be contacting all schools with a learning support centre or assessment and learning support centre to talk about these proposals in detail throughout the consultation period. Schools that currently have other specific SEN provision within their school will also be contacted during the forthcoming planning period.

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

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

We will:

- Provide specialist autistic spectrum disorder support for children and young people in early years facilities in both mainstream and specialist settings.
- Develop specialist autistic spectrum disorder resource bases on the sites of mainstream schools for primary and high school age children. These specialist resource bases will include specially trained staff and appropriate facilities with quiet areas for a range of children and young people on the autistic spectrum.
- Work with colleagues in further education and schools to make sure children aged 14–19 with autistic spectrum disorders have access to local provision.
- Continue to work closely with our partner agencies in the voluntary and community sector.
- Develop further autistic spectrum disorder 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 autistic spectrum disorders across Norfolk in our schools and Children's Services, to facilitate more opportunities for children with autistic spectrum disorders to be included within their local mainstream schools, where appropriate.

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

Currently all of our unit/resource 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 peripatetic 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 this area of 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.
- We will develop further sensory provision in both mainstream and complex needs school settings and across all phases of education to ensure more equal access to services for all children with a sensory loss across the county.
- Staff to 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.
- Good practice is shared and developed across the five Area SEN Partnerships ensuring staff in mainstream and complex needs schools develop more specialist knowledge and skills.
- The service will have skilled, specialist staff to deliver a high quality service flexibly across the continuum of provision.
- The development of services with colleagues in further education to enhance local provision, access and support for students aged 14-19 years.
- Project work will commence to determine how best to bring together the sensory support team with the three existing children with disabilities teams and configure five area teams across the county.

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 – Central, East, North, South and West. It will be flexible and adaptable to support the varying needs of children and young people with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties.

5-A. We will modernise pupil referral units into more suitable, attractive and appropriate 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.
- Who are subject to long fixed term exclusion, by providing education and support.
- Who are refusing to attend school.
- Who 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 specialist resource bases will include specially trained staff and appropriate facilities to provide extra support for children with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties. They will work closely with the local authority Children's Services support teams to ensure a high-quality well co-ordinated behaviour support service is made available to all children and young people and education settings within each area 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 alongside the school's commissioned range of alternative curriculum packages.

- Work with colleagues in further education to make sure children aged 14–19 with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties have access to local provision.
- Continue to work closely with our partner agencies in the voluntary and community sector.

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. In addition to the proposals above, Managed Moves will continue to be used, where it is necessary to transfer a pupil to another school.

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. For example, it may 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 outreach 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. The re-inclusion of pupils to the area specialist resource base or mainstream provision will be a priority for this school.
- 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 further capacity for children and young people with significant complex behaviour, emotional and social needs.

9. How can I respond to the consultation?

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

Or you can fill in the response form at the end of this document 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 800 8001 and speak to Suzy Ladd, Special Educational Needs Review Project Manager or Michael Bateman, Strategy Manager, Special Educational Needs & Children with Disabilities

10. 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 & Children with Disabilities

By telephone: 0844 800 8001

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.YourNorfolkYourSay.org

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

Or you can attend one of the consultation events listed in section 4 of this document on page 4.

11. How will we feedback to you?

Your views and suggestions will help Norfolk County Councillors make decisions when they meet 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 put the results on our website www.norfolk.gov.uk/SENstrategy and www.YourNorfolkYourSay.org

12. Who will be making the decision, how and when?

Consultation starts on 22 May and ends on 14 August 2006.

On 6 September 2006, the County Council Children's Services Review Panel will receive a report with a summary of the consultation responses. Members of the County Council will have access to copies of all written responses, including emailed responses.

On 11 September 2006, the County Council Cabinet will receive a report detailing a summary of the responses to the consultation and will make a decision as to whether the proposals should be implemented as outlined in this document, or with changes following the consultation.

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 800 8011 and we will do our best to help

The consultation response form can be removed from this booklet by tearing along the perforated lines.



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 the organisation that you are responding on behalf of:

Your job title if responding on behalf of an organisation:

Please indicate how you would like your response to be categorised:

Are you a parent?

Yes / No

Are you a member of Children's Services staff?

Yes / No

Are you a representative of a school?

Yes / No

Are you responding on behalf of a voluntary / community organisation?

Yes / No

Other, please specify:

If you are a parent:

Does your child hold a statement of special educational needs?

Yes / No

Does your child currently attend a special school?

Yes / No

Does your child currently attend a learning support centre?

Yes / No

* 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Please use this space for any other comments, for example, what do you think might be the impact of these proposals on your local community? Have we missed any important points? Are there any other possibilities that we should consider?

Please return this form by 14 August 2006 by post to:

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

Or complete the form on the consultation website:
www.YourNorfolkYourSay.org or www.norfolk.gov.uk/SENstrategy

Or email your response to: SENstrategy@norfolk.gov.uk

If you have any queries, please contact Suzy Ladd or Michael Bateman by telephone on 0844 800 8001.

We welcome your views and opinions.

Thank you for taking part.

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