

Equality Impact Assessment

Name of project/proposal Hampshire's new special free school for SCN/ASD
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Department Childrens Services
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Description of Service / Policy

As part of the bidding process for a special free school we are required to complete an equality impact assessment.

Geographical impact* All Hampshire

Description of proposed change

Hampshire has a statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places including appropriate provision for those with the most severe, complex and long term special educational needs. As part of this planning, Hampshire is bidding for a new free special school for 125

pupils aged between 4 and 16 to be located in Basingstoke on the existing Chineham Park School site. This special school will be for children with Social Communication Needs linked to autistic spectrum disorders. As this is to be a special school, all pupils given a place here will have an EHCP

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Planned

Formal consultation will commence once Hampshire has been notified that the bid has been successful. All school headteachers have been informed via a schools communication of our intention to submit this bid. Hampshire Parent Carer Forum are also aware, and are supportive of the proposal.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

Statutory considerations

Impact

Age Impact Positive
125 children aged between 4 and 16 will have access to a specialist provision to meet their complex educational needs

Disability Impact Positive
This additional provision will have a positive impact on the availability and choice of special school places for children with special educational needs and disabilities across the county of Hampshire. There has been an increasing demand for specialist provision and this will therefore have no detrimental impact on the existing special schools within Hampshire

Sexual Orientation	Neutral
Race	Neutral
Religion and Belief	Neutral
Gender Reassignment	Neutral
Gender	Neutral
Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral
Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral

Other policy considerations

Poverty	Neutral
Rurality	Neutral

Additional Information

The proposal will have a positive impact on the special educational provision available in Hampshire and will complement the specialist provision already available within the existing 26 special schools. Detailed analysis has shown a growing number of children unable to attend mainstream schools due to the complexity of their social communication difficulties, often associated with a diagnosis of autism. Hampshire currently has no special school specifically for children presenting with these needs. The provision will enable the attendees to access appropriate provision within county, and for them to achieve positive outcomes, in a specialist setting designed to meet their Special Educational Needs.