Local authority commissioned special free schools

An expression of interest form for local authorities interested in commissioning a special free school

October 2016

Overview

Since local authorities play a key role in placing pupils with statements or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans, it is important that they shape the range of provision in their area. Previously, proposals to establish special free schools have only been taken forward in consultation with local authorities. We are now providing a further opportunity for local authorities themselves to identify where a new special free school would benefit their area, inform their Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC), and potentially seek proposals for the new school they want, with the Department for Education (DfE) providing capital funding and start-up grants. This is in addition to the central route for special free schools, which continues to operate.

This expression of interest (EOI) form is for local authorities that would like a new special school. It allows them to make a case that a special school would be beneficial in their area, including a case that it would help meet demographic growth, changing patterns of need, and cost pressures, without reducing inclusion. It provides RSCs with the initial information they need to understand what is wanted and why. If the EOI is successful, the opportunity will be advertised nationally, and if a strong proposal comes forward that both the local authority/authorities and the Secretary of State wish to take forward, the DfE will provide capital and start-up grant funding, subject to value for money assessments covering both the affordability of the site solution and the limitations on overall capital availability. Please see the accompanying guidance for further detail.

The form should be completed by a local authority representative (or representatives, if it is a joint bid) with the approval of the Director of Children's Services (DCS).

This opportunity is intended to identify and meet untapped demand for special free schools as a supplement to LA's existing resources. It does not replace the 'presumption' process nor does it replace a local authority's duties to ensure appropriate placements for all children with Special Educational Needs (SEN).

You should use this form to provide all the necessary information and evidence for your proposal. Please:

- email your RSC during October to say whether you are interested and give any headline facts available (email addresses are in the guidance)
- return this EOI, completed, to <u>freeschool.special@education.gov.uk</u> copying in your RSC, by midday on 11 November.

More detailed information about this process can be found in the <u>local authority-commissioned</u> special free schools guidance.

Section A – Key facts about the school and the local authorities that want to commission it

A1: Who is putting forward this expression of interest?

If this is a joint EOI, please fill in the table below for each LA involved and state the lead LA below. The Regional Schools Commissioner's team may need to contact these people to understand more about the EOI. Please note that including a LA on this list means that they have committed to commissioning places.

Name of LA	Name of person leading	Contact details
LEAD LA HOUNSLOW		
EOI SUPPORTED BY EALING		
EOI SUPPORTED BY RICHMOND		

A2: What type of school is wanted?

Please provide key information about the school you would like to commission:

Category of SEN provision (if more than one type, with different top-up rates, please explain)	 TWO SCHOOLS PROPOSED Category of SEN Provision: ASD/social communication difficulties - mainstream pupils educationally, but presenting needs makes a mainstream school/ASD centre difficult for them to access. SEMH - Pupils will be more aware. Whilst unable to make the correct choices for themselves they will understand right from wrong. Given the correct support and input they will be able to make better choices for themselves.
Per-pupil revenue funding you would expect to pay (if a range of rates, please explain)	 ASD/SCD - expected top-up would be in addition to the base funding SEMH - expected top-up would be in addition to the base funding. Higher rate reflects higher staffing ratios for this group.
Age range	Both schools: 11-19
Gender (boys/girls/co- educational)	CO-EDUCATIONAL
Total number of proposed places	2 X 50 pupils 11-16 yrs 2 X 20 16-19 yrs
Early years provision? If so, how many places?	NA
16-19 provision? If so, how many places?	2 X 20
Community use/shared facilities	Hounslow has encouraged all of its 8 free school providers to consider opportunities for shared facilities and community use in developing their provision. We would expect the same approach from providers under this scheme.

Please use this space to expand on any of the key information above [max. 200 words]

Hounslow LA works closely with its Education Improvement Partnership, which includes all schools and the FE college, to offer a spectrum of provision that seeks to maximise appropriate inclusion through a network SEN centres in mainstream contexts. Where the level of need is greater and this approach would not be in the interests of pupils, we strive to ensure access to appropriate specialist provision within the borough or sub-region.

Whilst Hounslow has dedicated primary provision for SEMH, local secondary provision depends upon places commissioned at our PRU, which is not suitable for a significant proportion of pupils as it offers limited opportunities for this group to be separated from the mainstream PRU students. This makes successful behaviour support for different cohorts challenging.

Of 212 pupils placed in independent specialist provision in 2015-16, 93 are placed across 5 London schools to address a variety of SEMH needs. The average cost of these places is _____.

There is a rapidly rising trajectory of pupils with a primary ASD / SCD need, and a significant proportion of these pupils also have SEMH challenges.

Despite an ambitious expansion programme that will add 440 SEN specialist places by 2020, we are projecting a significant shortfall in provision for these groups.

A3: Conversations with partners

Local authorities (in particular smaller ones) **must** speak to their neighbouring LAs to check whether they want to commit to commissioning places at the new school at the specified top-up rate. If they do not, LAs may put in a solo EOI. Authorities **may** speak to other partners in order to ensure that their EOI will complement the local landscape and be a close match for what families want. If you have not engaged with your Schools Forum before sending this EOI to your Regional Schools Commissioner, you will need to do so if successful.

Who?	Conversation summary (3 points max)
Your neighbouring LAs – please specify EALING RICHMOND Richmond letter.pdf Ealing letter.pdf	 Richmond and Ealing have both identified shortfalls in placements for the groups identified here, given rising projections of need. Letters are attached indicating an intention to commission places. Ealing has identified a need for 10 places from each school. Richmond figures are to be confirmed at this stage. Although Hounslow projections suggest that all places could be used to meet Hounslow needs, we propose an allocation of up to 20% for each neighbouring borough. Further work will identify the specific requirements within each cohort.
Optional: Your Parent / Carer Forum, or other representatives of parents and young people	The Parent Carer Forum will be consulted at a meeting scheduled for 17 November 2016

Who?	Conversation summary (3 points max)
Optional: Any other partners, Schools forum, existing FE colleges etc (please specify) Hounslow's search to find a partner to	 Hounslow Education Improvement Partnership (representing all Hounslow schools) had already undertaken a selection process during May / June 2016 for a preferred partner provider to bid in the central programme under Wave 13. See embedded paper for details. Schools Forum had already endorsed this initiative by Hounslow EIP, given the pressure on the DSG through the cost of out-borough placements. The SEN School Places Strategy, including details of this EOI, is a key agenda item for 15 November Schools Forum.

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Section B – The proposed location and site

Please describe where the school would be located and whether a site has been made available/identified. Making a site available on a peppercorn lease gives the greatest chance of the school opening successfully, and on time.

BOTH SITES ARE ALLLOCATED FOR EDUCATION IN THE LOCAL PLAN APPROVED IN 2015

	_		
SITE	Δ	•	
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Current and previous uses including planning designation (if known)

Vacant brownfield site in EFA ownership following negotiations with TFL after Local Plan designation. Allocated for Education / Residential mixed use (see below – Local Plan detail).

Estimated timescale for formal ratification that the LA will release the site for the school (if agreed)

Already in EFA ownership for the purposes of a Free School, in collaboration with Hounslow LA.

Estimated date the site would be available for works to commence

Immediately

Tenure upon which the site will be made available (if agreed) Site in EFA ownership.

Hounslow Local Plan Volume 2 page 295, Sept 2015 http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/local_plan



SITE B:
Current and previous uses including planning designation (if known)
Allocated for Education. At the time of consultation, but was not deliverable in the required timeframe. Special School Education specific need priority confirmed since publication of Local Plan.
Estimated timescale for formal ratification that the LA will release the site for the school (if agreed)
Estimated date the site would be available for works to commence
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Please provide the name and contact details for the main LA contact about the site. The EFA may
contact this person to ask questions about the site. If you know any of these site details before
submitting your EOI, please let DfE know (by emailing
FreeSchools.EFACAPITAL@education.gov.uk) so we can start conversations with you.

Site contact:			
	-		

Please tick the box below to confirm that the relevant Lead Member for Corporate Property has seen this expression of interest and is content with the information provided about site (if provided).

I confirm that the Lead Member of Corporate Property at **[HOUNSLOW]** has seen this expression of interest and supports it.

This application is part of the SEN Place Planning Cabinet report commissioned by the Lead Member for Corporate Property. (November 2016).

Please tick to confirm

Section C - Rationale for School

Please provide an explanation of how and why this provision is required and how it would benefit the local area. [500 words max.]

Please include:

How the school will fit into the broader spectrum of SEN provision in the region (including neighbouring LAs if appropriate

The majority of dedicated SEN places continue to be provided by special schools, but there has also been strong growth in places provided in a mainstream context.

The local authority's strategy has been to increase SEN centre provision, wherever possible as part on the 2016 - 2020 expansion programme for the mainstream primary or secondary schools.

Hounslow seeks to ensure access to a continuum of specialist provision for secondary aged pupils in the borough:

- Oaklands aged 5-19 years: severe learning difficulties including profound and multiple, possibly with ASD
- Marjory Kinnon 5-16 years: moderate learning difficulties with additional needs, complex needs / ASD
- Woodbridge Park: 5-16 years: SEMH commissioned within a PRU context.
- The Rise Free School (Autism Schools Trust) 5-16 years: high-functioning ASD, opened Sept 2014 in Feltham, co-located with Springwest Academy. Serves West London and fringe sub-region with specific ASD profile. (Hounslow currently commissions 20 places).
- **Ambitious College** (Autism Schools Trust) 16-25 years: co-located at West Thames College. Opened in Sept 2016.
- West Thames College (General FE) provides supported learning options for students aged 19+

Ealing has provision for a similar blend of needs although these schools seldom have available places to offer Hounslow pupils: Bellevue (moderate to severe learning difficulties); John Chilton (physical and/or medical disabilities); Springhallow (autistic spectrum/communication disorders), St Ann's (severe learning difficulties or profound and multiple learning difficulties).

Likewise, Richmond has provision for a similar blend of needs with few available places to offer Hounslow pupils: Clarendon (complex needs as well as moderate learning difficulties); Strathmore (severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties and ASD)

How it would help meet pressures on special educational provision

Hounslow is committed to achieving better outcomes for young people with SEN. Whilst all specialist provision is judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding, the capacity of the available schools to successfully address the volume and range of need will be compromised if no additional specialist provision is added

Too many pupils are travelling long distances to school on a daily basis and sometimes incurring residential costs as boarders. This is draining resources on the Dedicated Schools Grant through high cost placements outside the pupils' own community. By attending a school locally we know that our aspirations for even better achievement and progression for our SEN learners will be more achievable.

Where young people and families have access to a local school with the supporting agencies better able to work in partnership, we know this can improve the overall support of the family unit as well as the individual pupil.

The potential impact on inclusion, including (where applicable) types of expert support you would expect the school to provide to mainstream schools in the area

There will also be opportunities for outreach and training support for mainstream schools where the young people are on the continuum of need, but can remain in a mainstream setting with the right support and staffing. This will over time increase the skills and knowledge of the mainstream sector enabling more students to access those schools. This will improve the cost effectiveness of the special schools over time enabling funding to be put into mainstream education for SEN pupils.

The school-led system is developing strongly in Hounslow. Our Hounslow Learning Partnership ensures high quality support and challenge that has delivered some of the strongest improvements nationally in Ofsted outcomes (2015-16). School to school support is central to this model.

Parental demand

As an LA we are aware of a significant number of parents who feel their child is too vulnerable for a large mainstream setting at 11 years old, and therefore continue to request specialist smaller settings that are not available in Hounslow at this time. Having more provision locally will support parental preference as well as all the benefits mentioned above and in section D1.

Section D - Pupil data and existing SEN provision

The purpose of this section is to help us to understand the need for a new school in the context of how existing provision is used, and future expected growth in need. We want to approve EOIs that:

- address demographic growth
- help LAs meet what pupils and parents want
- help LAs manage within their budgetary constraints

We do not want to approve EOIs that have the side-effect of decreasing inclusion in mainstream schools, or of creating excess spare capacity in existing special schools. (eg. if several LAs each want a similar school, any one of those might make sense on its own but in aggregate there might not be enough need.) In this section you need to explain how the places in this school would be filled and where the pupils would come from (D1). You also need to explain the general demographic trends and placement trends for *all* pupils with EHC plans (D2).

D1: Pupils who would go to the new special school

Please indicate how you expect the places in this school to be filled, and the impact on inclusion. [500 words max.]

Where the pupils will come from – what is the balance of demographic growth (eg new housing developments) vs changing patterns of need (eg which are the schools the pupils would attend if this school did not go ahead)?

The impact on numbers and proportion of students with SEN at mainstream schools

Hounslow, like the rest of London, has experienced a very rapid increase in demand for SEN provision far exceeding growth in other regions. In common with our neighbouring boroughs demand has outstripped supply. Between January 2011 and 2016, the number of pupils educated in dedicated SEN places in London rose 23% over twice the growth rate in the rest of England.

Demographically, Hounslow growth in pupil numbers is 5th in London. At primary level we have added over 5000 additional places since 2011. This growth is now moving into the secondary phase, which will be supported by additional provision from 4 new mainstream free schools. Hounslow is also working to meet significant housing targets and has two new approved Housing Zones. The central Hounslow Housing Zone is expected to generate 920 housing units and the Feltham Housing Zone is expected to generate 3000. Any permanent changes to pupil capacity including SEN will need to reflect the impact of the new Housing Zones.

Given local availability of placements outlined in section C, Hounslow currently accesses places for pupils in 48 specialist providers beyond the borough borders. For those with SEMH and ASD primary needs placed within the West London sub region this includes (2015-16 figs).

Hillingdon Manor: ASD (47 pupils)

• Insights: SEMH (25 pupils)

- Heathermount: ASD (8 pupils)
- North West London independent: SEMH and ASD (9 pupils)

The number of children receiving a diagnosis of ASD is rising sharply. There has been an **92.3%** increase in ASD and SCD Hounslow resident pupils with statements or EHCPs since January 2013, up from **312** to **600** in October 2016.

The number of young people displaying mental health needs is increasing and a particular cause for concern.

The waiting list for CAMHS is currently 172 (38 waiting for Tier 2 and 134 waiting for Tier 3). In 2015 there were 31 hospital admissions and 15 young people admitted to tier 4 units. Our PRU special unit for mainstream students with mental health needs has expanded by 100% in 5 years to offer 40 places. This provision will be expanded to 60 places in 2017.

For pupils placed out of borough there are difficulties for families accessing all the services they require. Our local model of wraparound services and professionals (CAHMS, social care, local family and voluntary services) empowers families to engage with services via the school.

In Hounslow 3 of the 10 specialist SEN centres in mainstream schools have an ASD focus and for these pupils, who can manage at least part of the curriculum in mainstream classes, these ensure the maximum level of inclusion whilst still receiving appropriate support. Projections suggest the need for specialist centres will continue to rise in addition to special schools. We encourage all new school providers to offer a specialist centre.

How the school would be financially sustainable within budgetary constraints in the long term, including (if applicable) how it would help deliver wider value for money (for example in reducing transport costs)

With no additional High Needs funding being anticipated, any growth in current demand will result in an additional cost pressure to the DSG, which will have an impact on the Council's general fund if the funding gap cannot be fully met from within DSG allocation. By increasing provision in borough through new free school provision, the Council is anticipating to control cost pressures. The additional revenue cost (after taking into account transport cost savings) is estimated to be between Transport costs for the SEMH / ASD/ SCD pupils based in 5 West London independent schools is

D2: Trends in your specialist provision for all children with EHC plans

Please use the table below to describe the recent, current and projected trends of specialist provision that caters for **children with EHC plans living in your LA(s)**, **of the age range for which you want the new school** (drawing upon <u>SEN2 Data</u>). If this is a joint bid, ie. other LAs are committed to commissioning places, either fill in the table once for the LAs together, or copy/paste the table and fill it in for each LA (please say which you have done). **The projected data for 2020 should show the pattern you expect if this EOI is successful.**

	No. of Settings	Please indicate the no. of pupils with an EHC plan living in your LA who are placed within these settings			
		2012	2016 (as at Sep 2016)	2020	
Resourced provision and units inside LA	6	52	65	115	
Resourced provision and units outside LA	6	11	6	11	
Special schools (either maintained or academies) inside LA	3	153	159	203	
Special schools (either maintained or academies) outside LA	17	63	96	123	
Independent / non-maintained special schools inside LA	0	0	0	0	
Independent / non-maintained special schools outside LA	31	92	134	173	
Mainstream schools inside LA	18	45	213	271	
Mainstream schools outside LA	32	52	69	118	
General FE colleges (if relevant) inside LA	1	0	45	57	
General FE colleges (if relevant) outside LA	11	0	43	74	
Specialist FE providers (if relevant) inside LA	0	0	0	0	
Specialist FE providers (if relevant) outside LA	1	0	1	2	

Please note the following assumptions made when completing the table in **Section D2**:

- Currently shows only **Hounslow** data
- No. of Settings current number of settings (schools) used under each provision type
- 2012 number of pupils attending each provision type using the 2012 SEN2 return
- **2016 current** number of Hounslow resident secondary age pupils with statements or plans attending each provision type
- **2020** current mode projections. Where figures were not broken down by the model (eg, the number of pupils in independent special schools etc.) the current proportions of pupils in each provision type have been applied to the number projected.

Please provide a brief explanation of any recent trends and the rationale for future projections [200 words max.]

Please include:

Anything the RSC should know about why you are expecting the changes you have described from now to 2020.

The embedded appendix provides the position from the 2015 baseline and shows the requirement for further SEN places broken down by SEN categories, across primary and secondary phases in SEN Special Schools and Centres across the Local Authority by 2020 and 2024. The projections include the increased capacity that will be delivered through the expansions of the Marjory Kinnon and Oaklands special schools. (Since publication of these projections the categories of ASD and BESD have changed to reflect new regulation and the use of SEMH more widely applied).



Any changes to capacity you are already expecting (eg. planned expansions / closures)

Hounslow expansion programme for SEN 2016-20 – Secondary highlighted

	2015	Places	2017		2018	Places
Centres	Hounslow Heath Infant Hounslow Heath Junior (MLD)	20				
	Strand on the Green Infant and Junior Schools (ASD)	21				
	Feltham Hill Infant School (SCD/ASD)	8				
Centre Total		49				
Schools	Cedars Special School (SEBD)	24	Marjory Kinnon School Prim / sec	64 64	Oaklands School (Secondary/Post 16)	224
	Lindon Bennett Nursery (ASD/SEBD/PMLD/SLD)	12			Oaklands School (Primary)	100
	Lindon Bennett School	29				
School Total		65		123		252

Bolder Academy Free School will open a SEND unit for pupils with complex needs in 2020 (approx. 20 places)

Details of any wave 12 free school applications

There are 2 pending applications	There	are 2	pei	nding	ap	plica	itions
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- Twickenham Free School (4FE secondary)
- Hounslow Community Free School (6FE secondary)

Both have names the	is required for SEND.
Please contact:	

Confirmation

I confirm that the Director of Children's Services at **[HOUNSLOW]** has seen this expression of interest and supports it.

Please tick to confirm

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	11/11/2016

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