

Consultation Analysis

Proposed removal of boarding provision at Sunnydown
School

June 2021

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SURREY

Consultation Analysis – Proposed removal of boarding provision at Sunnydown School

Introduction

Surrey County Council published an informal consultation from 22 February 2021 to 19 April 2021 to remove the boarding provision at Sunnydown School, Caterham.

This paper is an analysis of the responses received during the informal consultation notice period. A period of statutory representation is proposed to commence from 28 May 2021 to 2 July 2021. The summary and key points give a summary of the findings from the informal consultation. This paper will be submitted to the Lead Cabinet Member for All Age Learning as part of the Lead Cabinet Member report, for consideration in the decision to determine the statutory notices in July 2021.

An Equalities Impact Assessment is being completed throughout the consultation period and all responses received to the consultation will contribute to this.

Consultation Summary

The aim of the consultation was to seek views on the proposal from all interested parties, particularly from pupils and their families who attend Sunnydown School, pupils and their families who may attend the school in the future, and the local community.

The informal consultation was open from 22 February 2021 to 19 April 2021. The associated documentation was published on the Surrey County Council 'Surrey Says' website and circulated to local stakeholders. Interested parties were invited to return responses to the consultation via an online form or alternatively email or post responses.

A public meeting was held virtually on Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 10 March 2021 at 7pm.

Key points from the consultation responses:

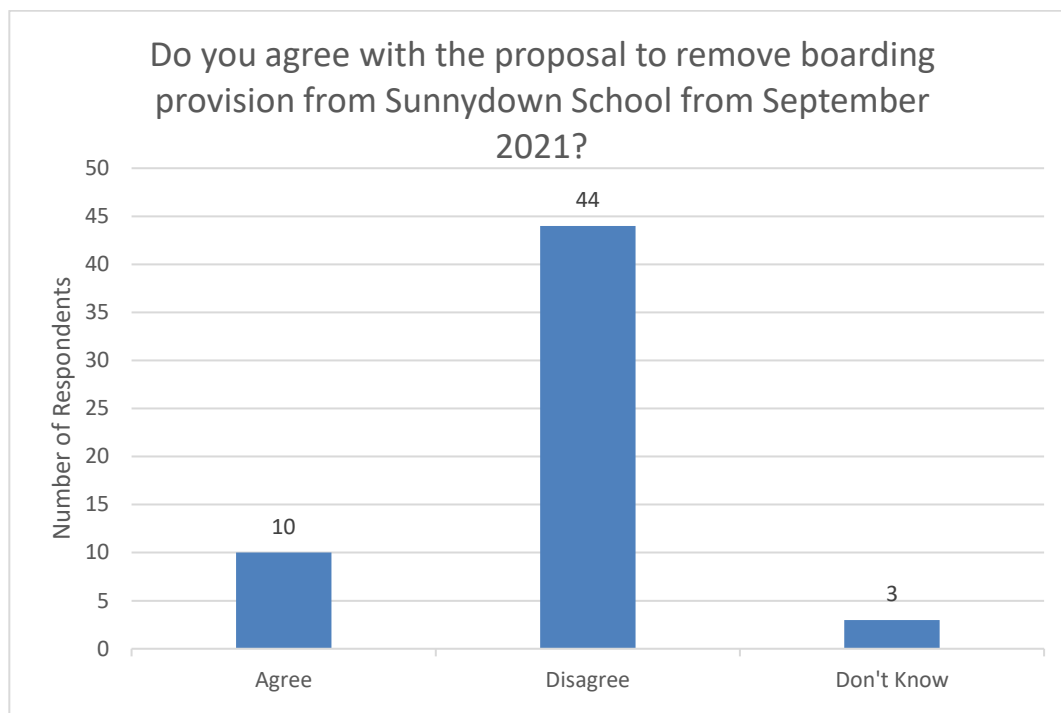
- The majority of respondents (77%) disagreed with the proposal to remove boarding provision at Sunnydown School.
- All of the parents or carers of a child currently at Sunnydown School disagreed with the proposal (57% of total responses).
- The largest group who agreed with the proposal were parents of a child who may attend the school in the future (50%).

Informal Consultation

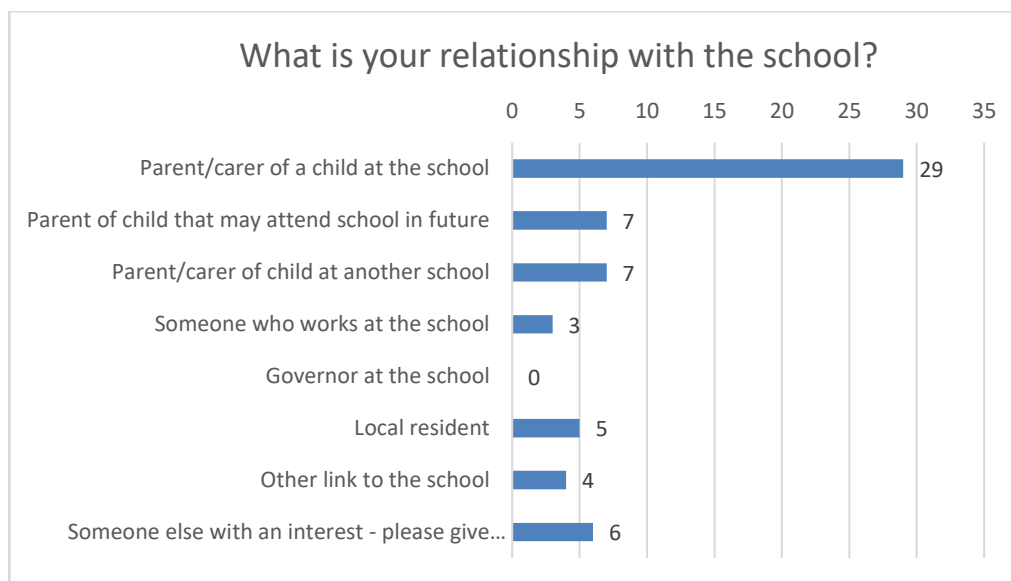
Quantitative Analysis

In total there were 57 responses to the consultation. Respondents were asked "Do you agree with the proposal to remove boarding provision at Sunnydown School from September 2021?"

77% of respondents disagreed with the proposal, 18% of respondents agreed with the proposal and 5% of respondents said they didn't know. The chart below shows the number of respondents in each category. The highest percentage of respondents selected "Disagree" (77%).



The chart below shows the distribution of respondents to the consultation. Respondents were able to select more than one category for this answer.



Percentage of total responses by individual groups

Please note that some respondents selected more than one category.

Responses from parent/carer of a pupil attending Sunnydown School (51% of total responses)

No parents agreed with the proposal, 29 disagreed with the proposal, 0 didn't know.

Responses from parent/carer of a pupil who may attend the school in the future (12% of total responses)

5 agreed with the proposal, 2 disagreed with the proposal, 0 didn't know.

Responses from parent/carer of a child at another school (12% of total responses)

2 agreed with the proposal, 5 disagreed with the proposal, 0 didn't know.

Responses from staff at the school (5% of total responses)

2 agreed with the proposal, 1 disagreed with the proposal, 2 didn't know

Responses from local residents (9% of total responses)

2 agreed with the proposal, 2 disagreed with the proposal, 1 didn't know

Responses from people with other links to the school or with an interest (11% of total responses)

3 agreed with the proposal, 7 disagreed with the proposal, 0 didn't know.

Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey and 51 respondents did so. Comments left in reply to free-text questions were tagged drawing on seven possible tags. Each response could have more than one tag attached. The overall frequency of each of the tags provides an indicator of respondents' main concerns regarding the proposal.

Tag	Number of responses	Prevalence (% out of total responses)
Negative impact on pupil outcomes	42	74%
Negative impact on transport	4	7%
Impacts on staff	2	4%
Negative response	23	40%
Positive impact on pupil outcomes	1	2%
Positive response	7	12%
Wider SEN policy	12	21%

Note: some comments have been tagged with multiple themes.

There were two key themes that emerged from the consultation responses:

Negative impact on pupil outcomes

The majority of responses from parents were around the benefit that boarding has had on their children in the past, and the loss incurred if it were to be removed in the future. Parents said that boarding had been beneficial to their children and the word “*independence*” or “*independent*” was mentioned 50 times. One respondent commented that these skills are “*essential in helping children with ASD and similar grow into productive adults*”. Another common response was that boarding enabled pupils to develop “*social skills with peers outside of the classroom*” in a way which would not be possible in a day setting. At the public meeting, several attendees noted that this is due to the difficulties pupils attending Sunnydown School can have in accessing extra-curricular activities close to home.

Some additional comments made were:

“The boarding provision offers the boys that attend Sunnydown the chance to learn real life skills, to learn social skills with peers outside of the classroom and most importantly to learn independence!”

“Having the boarding option available at Sunnydown provides these boys the essential opportunity to learn and practice their social etiquette in an environment where they feel safe and accepted. Taking it away will very likely have a negative impact on their ability to become much more successful and independent adults.”

“the residential provision at Sunnydown plays a very crucial part in supporting the boys’ holistic development”

There were concerns from parents that, for the many pupils who do not live close to Sunnydown, the removal of the boarding provision would increase the frequency of their journeys to and from school, which some of them find tiring and difficult. One respondent advised that commuting to and from school was having a ‘*detrimental affect*’ on their child’s ‘*mental health*’ which impacted the pupil’s ‘*attitude to school and life in general.*’

Wider SEN policy

Several respondents commented on the broader SEN policy of Surrey County Council. One respondent described the policy as “*short sighted and designed on cost cutting rather than what is in the best interest of the young men.*”

Many parents have identified that boarding offers them respite from their caring responsibilities as well as giving the pupils a change from their home life. While this is not the primary purpose of the boarding facility and respite may be available through other routes, one respondent sums up the views of several saying: “*I remain unconvinced that [Sunnydown families] will meet the threshold for such support, nor that the service available would meet the unique needs of many ...students.*” A further comment stated that “*the council’s assumption that the residential provision is “in effect being provided as a form of respite care,” highlights in my opinion how little insight the council have into exactly what this provision provides for the pupils.*”

Suggestions were made by respondents for alternative ways forward. Five responses asked that the provision be phased out, rather than being removed from current boarders. Other

suggestions were to use the residential facility to offer respite only, or only for Key Stage 4 pupils, to prepare students for life after Sunnydown.

Positive Response

The positive comments referred to the fact that removal of residential provision would allow Surrey County Council and the school to increase the number of day places, although a change of this type would be the subject of a future consultation. One respondent commented:

“Residential provision for young people where it is not specified in their EHCP is a luxury the public purse cannot afford and a two tier offer compared to other types of SEN where schools for those designations do not offer this. Removal of this offer is long overdue and reinvestment to create additional day places is entirely sensible.”

Public Meetings

A virtual public meeting was held on Wednesday 10 March 2021 at 7pm. There was a short presentation followed by 45 minutes for attendees to ask questions.

48 people attended the meeting.

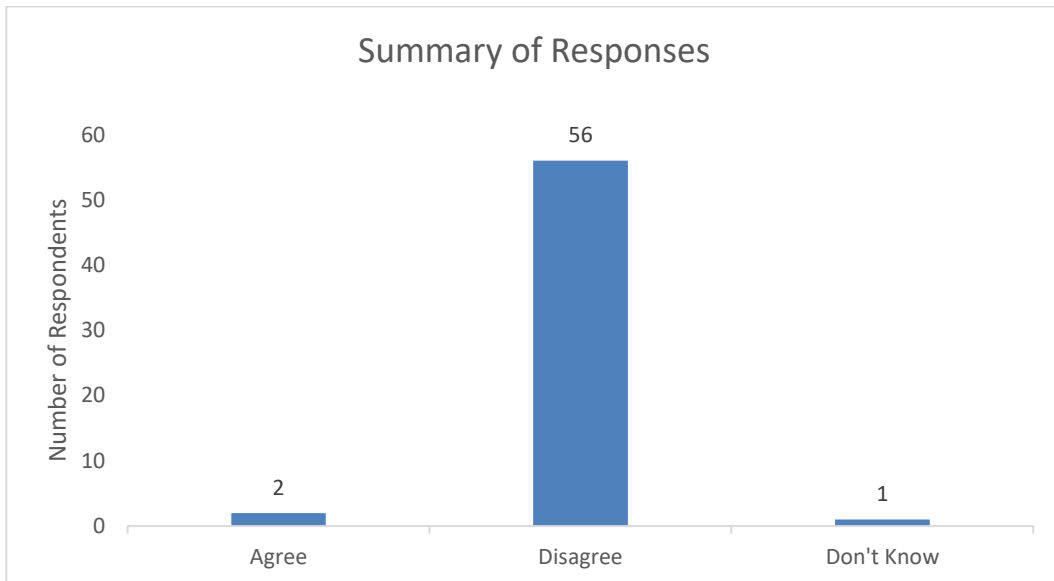
Themes arising from the public meetings reflect the themes from the responses to the consultation. After the public meeting a questions and answers document was produced which will be published on *Surrey Says* alongside the consultation information. This can be found as an appendix to this report.

Part 2 – Statutory Notices

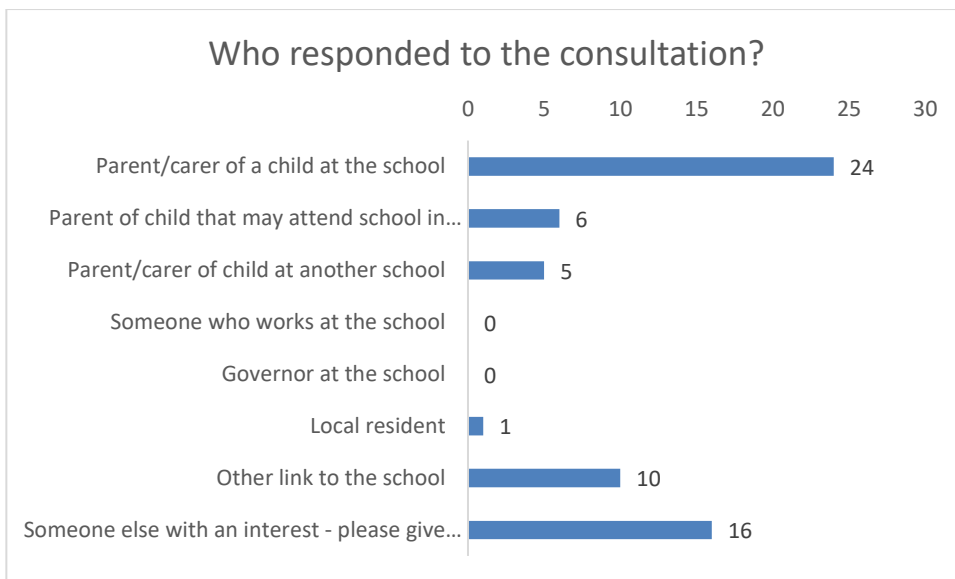
Note: The figures below are correct as at 30 June 2021. The consultation closes on 2 July 2021 and final figures will be provided in a separate document once the consultation closes.

Quantitative Analysis

There were 59 responses to the consultation. 3% of respondents agreed with the proposal, 95% of respondents disagreed with the proposal and 2% of respondents said they didn't know.



The chart below shows the distribution of responses to the consultation. The highest percentage of respondents selected "Disagree" (95%).



Percentage of total responses by individual groups

Please note that some respondents selected more than one category.

Responses from parent/carer of a pupil attending Sunnydown School (41% of total responses)

No parents agreed with the proposal, 24 disagreed with the proposal, 0 didn't know.

Responses from parent/carer of a pupil who may attend the school in the future (10% of total responses)

None agreed with the proposal, 6 disagreed with the proposal, 0 didn't know.

Responses from parent/carer of a child at another school (8% of total responses)

1 agreed with the proposal, 4 disagreed with the proposal, 0 didn't know.

Responses from local residents (2% of total responses)

None agreed with the proposal, 1 disagreed with the proposal, 0 didn't know

Responses from people with other links to the school or with an interest (44% of total responses)

2 agreed with the proposal, 23 disagreed with the proposal, 1 didn't know.

Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey. Comments left in reply to free-text questions were tagged drawing on 7 possible tags. Each response could have more than one tag attached. The overall frequency of each of the tags provides an indicator of respondent's main concerns regarding the proposal.

Tag	Number of responses	Prevalence (% out of total responses)
Negative impact on pupil outcomes	45	76%
Negative impact on transport	1	2%
Impacts on staff	0	0%
Negative response	46	78%
Positive impact on pupil outcomes	0	0%
Positive response	1	2%
Wider SEN policy	2	3%

Note: some comments have been tagged with multiple themes.

Key themes from the consultation

There was a strong response to the consultation with one key theme, that the proposal would have a negative impact on pupil outcomes. One respondent said that the closure of boarding would have a detrimental effect on their son's "mental health", damaging his relationships with others and so causing him to be socially "isolated". Another response was that Sunnydown provides a "unique education" which may not be available if boarding provision was removed: "The boarding facility enables children to learn to work alongside others and that the world does not revolve totally around them". A concern was also expressed that the boarding provision offered respite to families who might not otherwise receive this.

There were questions about whether this was the best time to make this change, given that the pupils had already suffered disproportionately due to COVID because of "activities hugely impacted due to social distancing etc) and through difficulties of this cohort engaging in on-line learning" and the removal of boarding would disadvantage them further: "This is a time when the boys should be given extra support to make up time".

Many respondents took the opportunity to relate the personal experiences they or their children have had of the value of boarding: that it helped with friendships, with learning life skills, and it contributes to the pupils' positive self image:

"If it wasn't for boarding, I would most likely have very few good friends at college"

"It has helped me a lot on my own life skills"

"The boarding provision at Sunnydown is essential to giving the boys the self esteem and confidence that they need to become independent adults."

"Boarding offers an important framework in helping to educate them and assist them as they transition from boys into well rounded, kind and helpful young men."

"He has matured and grown so much from being in boarding and made many new friends across different year groups"

Many respondents reflected that the boarding experience was part of a bigger picture, not only enhancing academic and life skills but also improving the pupils' long-term future:

"The boarding facility has played a huge part to how my son became confident and help understand communication with others - he now has a full time job in an IT company."

"My autistic son...[has] gained so much confidence that he's about to go to university in September."

"It's not all about money, it's about a child's future, confidence, independence, self esteem and Surrey Council are proposing to damage exactly that for numerous future pupils!"

"If boarding is no longer there to help with these skills, then there will be many families fearing for the hugely detrimental effect on their boys' academic results and achievements as well as the social damage inflicted. I cannot begin to tell you how the news that Surrey is proposing closing boarding has affected [my son]. He is upset, frustrated, sad and confused."

"The boarding facility contributes hugely to the boys' mental health and plays a crucial part in developing independence skills, vital for many of the boys if they are to move towards

leading independent lives. It helps them develop study skills and how to work and study outside of the normal school hours.”

“Removal of boarding will just mean more expense for SCC in the long run, skills and experience missed out on now will only ensure that our boys will need a higher level of intervention and support as young adults in college/vocational education when this could be avoided in the first place.”

Respondents questioned the assertions in the consultation document that boarding has been undersubscribed and that there were difficulties in making it financially sustainable:

“I really do not understand why it has been said that the facility has been underutilised. I know for a fact that there are lots of boys waiting and keen to take up a boarding place or wanting to increase the number of days they currently board. They were told to wait by the school. The numbers for making boarding work are there...Surrey should not ever say that boarding is not currently full or that demand is falling as that is simply untrue.”

Respondents also challenged the idea put forward that participation in after school clubs would provide the same experience as boarding, because pupils would not be able to access it:

“The idea that, ‘shared transport, independent travel training and walking buddies, etc’ could help with travelling home after any after school activities is completely unachievable ...as it would involve a journey home of around 2 hours and 32 minutes including walking, buses, trains and a lot of waiting. Sadly, this means that without a boarding provision at Sunnydown ... many boys will be unable to access any potentially supportive after school clubs.”

Questions and Answers from the Public Meeting about the proposal to remove the boarding provision at Sunnydown School

Special Educational Provision at Sunnydown School:

Sunnydown School is a single sex, local authority maintained, residential special school in Caterham for boys aged 11-16 years. The school provides highly specialist teaching and support for pupils with a diagnosis of Autism, as well as those with identified social communication & interaction needs. The Department for Education ASD school designation is known locally in Surrey as High COIN.

Pupils who attend Sunnydown School are academically able, with many obtaining top GCSE grades across a wide range of subjects. The broad range of opportunities presented throughout the school day for developing resilience and emerging belief in their own abilities enables the pupils to be encouraged, enabled, and empowered for a successful life beyond Sunnydown. The school has a 'Good' Ofsted rating from the most recent inspection on 12 July 2016.

Proposal:

Surrey County Council (SCC) is proposing to remove the boarding provision at Sunnydown School from the end of term in July 2021.

Should the proposal be agreed, it will provide the school and SCC with future opportunities to expand the day provision so there are more specialist school places for children and young people who have SEND to attend their nearest most appropriate school in Surrey. Any future plans to make further changes to the school will be subject to a separate consultation process.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Response
What is the demand for boarding provision at Sunnydown School?	<p>There is an appetite for boarding provision and it does benefit the pupils on roll; however, it is being utilised by pupils without a statutory entitlement.</p> <p>None of the current pupils on roll at Sunnydown School have direct or deemed special educational provision, health provision or social care provision in the form of boarding or that beyond usual school hours specified or quantified in Sections, F, G or H of their Education, Health or Care Plans.</p> <p>The total number of beds have not been used at 100% capacity operating at approximately 75% capacity. During Covid-19, the residential provision has operated at approximately 50% capacity. This was a strategic decision made by the leaders of Sunnydown to continue to give pupils the opportunity to board, while maintaining a Covid-secure and safe environment as possible.</p>

The 24 pupils who currently access boarding in any capacity (a majority of boarders are not full time, even outside of Covid restrictions), represents approximately 27% of the total number of pupil who attend Sunnydown School.

The table below shows how the uptake of boarding provision has decreased year on year:

Academic Year	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Number of beds	33	33	33	33	23	23	23
% Occupancy	81	90	87	79	72	76	76
Approximate Number of boarders	27	30	29	26	16.5	17	17

Why is the boarding provision not being phased out over the next couple of years?

There have been ongoing discussions between SCC and Sunnydown School about the non-statutory provision for boarding since 2014. This was because not all of the boys on roll at the school can, need to or do board.

The boarding provision is funded through the High Needs Block and there is pressure on this budget in Surrey due to the very high number of children and young people who have special educational needs and/ or disabilities across the county.

Surrey receives a set allocation of funding for high needs from the Government to support the local area in meeting all of its statutory responsibilities for children and young people with SEND, determined by the Children and Families Act 2014. As is the case with other local authorities nationally, the budget allocated doesn't cover all of the statutory provision and services that are needed to meet the total of local demand.

The decision to formally consult on the removal of boarding in July 2021 was agreed between the school and SCC at the beginning of February 2021, along with initial discussions around future opportunities to expand the day provision at the school through utilising and adapting existing space that is currently used for boarding.

Surrey County Council considered multiple options for the proposal but felt that implementing

	<p>the consultation in line with the academic year would minimise disruption to pupils and their families.</p>
<p>Prior to Covid, was boarding used to maximum capacity?</p>	<p>No. Prior to Covid, the care staff at Sunnydown School worked with the families of pupils at the school to increase the numbers on roll in the boarding provision to help with the sustainability of the provision through trying to maintain accommodation above 70% capacity. At 60% occupancy each night, the school breaks even financially. On any night of the week where the boarding occupancy drops below 60%, the school has to utilise funds from the main school budget.</p>
<p>Please can you explain about the boarding being underutilised? I understood that occupancy of 50% over the last year was due to Covid, not lack of demand.</p>	<p>It was a strategic decision to limit occupancy to 50% maximum during the last year to ensure social distancing aligned with mandatory Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. Surrey County Council has supported the school to maintain the boarding provision during this time.</p>
<p>Please could you share facts about the bigger picture of special school provision in Surrey?</p>	<p>Surrey County Council has one of the largest EHCP cohorts in the country (over 10,920), and demand for specialist school places is increasing. Historically, the size of the specialist school estate has not matched the needs locally, so SCC has had to rely on out-of-county placements and non-maintained independent school provision to meet this demand. In 2019 Surrey initiated a programme of specialist place planning to ensure that there are enough specialist school places year on year that are matched appropriately to SEN need-type, phases of education and geographic locations across the county.</p> <p>SCC is delivering a Cabinet approved combined capital investment programme of £79.6m to create over 1,600 new specialist school places in Surrey over the next 5 years. This will be achieved through the development of new build and Free School schemes to expand maintained special school provision. The programme is also creating new SEN Units in primary and secondary schools through utilising and adapting undersubscribed mainstream schools and SCC owned assets. Over 1,000 of the new specialist school places are for children or young people who have autism or social communication & interaction needs.</p>

	<p>As an example of demand for specialist school places, this year there were 68 applications for 16 places for Year 7 admissions at Sunnydown School. Less than 30% of pupils on roll at the school access the boarding provision. If the consultation to remove the boarding provision is agreed, Surrey County Council and the school are committed to exploring the possibility of expanding the day provision.</p>
<p>Is this a done deal?</p>	<p>No – this statutory consultation is about whether Surrey County Council should remove the boarding provision at Sunnydown School. The Cabinet Member for All Age Learning will make the final decision in July 2021. This will be based on the feedback from the informal and statutory consultations, as well as the wider context detail, including the need for a more efficient use of resources and the increasing demand for specialist school places.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for All Age Learning may approve or reject the proposal or approve the proposal with modifications or subject to conditions.</p>
<p>Is this a reaction to Surrey County Council’s financial deficit and a cost cutting exercise?</p>	<p>The aim of this consultation is to repurpose funds that are currently used to maintain a non-statutory provision, to increase the availability of statutory provision for children and young people with SEND who have the highest needs in the county.</p> <p>Funding for SEND provision is currently overspent which puts a greater pressure on council reserves. Surrey County Council is investing £79.6m capital to provide 1,600 new specialist school places closer to home. This will enable better outcomes, with more children and young people who have SEND attending their nearest most appropriate school and better connected to local communities and support services.</p>
<p>When did Surrey County Council recognise that its SEN provision was falling behind demand?</p> <p>How many new SEND schools are being opened as part of this plan?</p>	<p>Surrey’s Cabinet approved the first phase of SEND Capital investment in September 2019. There are three new ASD special schools being built in Surrey. Two of these are being delivered by the Department for Education (Fox Grove Academy and Betchwood Vale Academy) and one which is funded by SCC.</p> <p>Twenty-four special school expansions are in process and SCC is also creating 6 new ASD SEN Units in mainstream primary and secondary schools.</p>

<p>Would the capital investment also be used to fund further support for SEND children in post 16 education?</p> <p>Will Surrey publish its geographical, development and capacity plans before terminating current provision? Short term gain without understanding the long-term issues and impacts to the boys</p>	<p>Yes. Six of the special school expansion projects include additional Post 16 provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the introduction of The Children and Families Act, 2014 and revised SEND Code of Practice in 2015, Surrey has seen the number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) increase by between 11-18% each year, resulting in the projected demand for 5,100 specialist school places. Surrey’s ambition is to ensure sufficient maintained placement availability for the cohort of children and young people who have SEND and need specialist placements. • Current plans for expansion and development approved by Cabinet are available to the public and published on the SCC website: Surrey County Council - Browse meetings - Cabinet (surreycc.gov.uk) and Surrey’s Local Offer website: Surrey County Council SEN capital funding plans and consultations Surrey Local Offer
<p>To what degree have you considered the effect that this could have on the outcomes on this cohort of pupils. Ofsted rated the boarding provision ‘Outstanding’ due to resilience, independence etc being built by the pupils attending.</p> <p>One year of COVID has already had a huge effect and the boarding provision contributes hugely to this. So we need more for these children not less!</p>	<p>Sunnydown School’s boarding provision was rated as Good by Ofsted in February 2016 and the team have built it up since then. In the last inspection (February 2020), for the first time since then, it was awarded Outstanding in all categories.</p> <p>Sunnydown’s school provision was last inspected in summer 2016 and was rated Good. The Ofsted inspection regime and school have changed substantially since then and the school’s leadership team and Governing Body are very confident that the day provision offers outstanding education.</p> <p>Prior to Covid, Sunnydown ranked inside the top 10 Special Schools nationally (out of approximately 1400) for academic progress (Progress 8). This included pupils that accessed boarding as well as those that did not. There is no statistical evidence to indicate that boarders performed better academically than day students. It is recognised however that pupils who board are able to complete their homework at school with supervision from staff (seldom a class teacher) and this may alleviate some pressures from home.</p>

	<p>The day provision at Sunnydown School provides excellent opportunities for all pupils to develop and enhance their holistic life skills.</p>
<p>Is it possible to add residential into an EHCP?</p>	<p>A child or young person’s special educational needs and the provision to meet those needs would need to be reassessed before any changes are made to an EHCP following Annual Review. It is not possible for residential provision to be added in to an existing EHCP without a reassessment of needs.</p>
<p>Section F can specify residential accommodation if appropriate. It is not logical to state that the residential care is not needed, it may be that it just has not been specified on the EHCP, possibly because it is known that admission to Sunnydown is at the discretion of the school. Residential care is NOT simply in the domain of the Care and Health elements of the plan (SEN Code of Practice 2015). If it ‘educates and trains’, it can be stipulated in Section F.</p>	<p>There would need to be an assessed need for direct or deemed special educational provision, health provision or social care provision in the form of boarding or that beyond usual school hours specified or quantified in Section F of an EHCP. This isn’t the case with any of the pupils who currently access the non-statutory boarding provision at Sunnydown School.</p>
<p>The boarding provision was graded outstanding by Ofsted– why take it away? You’re removing an essential provision.</p>	<p>Day provision at Sunnydown is also excellent. Pupils benefit from boarding but if the decision is made to remove boarding, day provision will continue to be the success that it is. Sunnydown, like other special schools, focuses on the personal development of individual pupils as well as delivering the specialised school curriculum. The school will work with Surrey County Council to create social opportunities for pupils, should the proposal to remove the boarding provision be agreed.</p> <p>In 2015 the School’s Vision and Mission were reviewed and as a result of wide consultation, aspects of personal development such as Resilience, Independence and Cooperation were written into these strategic aims of the school. Since then, the day curriculum has been enhanced to increase opportunities for all pupils to develop these important life skills. For example, the PSHE and thought for the week curriculum are intertwined and designed to cover National Curriculum Expectations, but to be</p>

	<p>flexible enough to respond to local situations, or current events.</p> <p>In 2019 the Vision and Mission were again reviewed and enhanced. The school are committed to providing opportunities to all pupils currently enrolled to develop their life skills through the day curriculum.</p> <p>The Friday curriculum is exclusively aimed at enhancing the holistic development of each pupil, offering opportunities as diverse as travelling into Croydon on public transport to buy cooking ingredients, to landscaping, outdoor adventure activities, college, and extended work experience. This day provision is accessed by 100% of the students.</p>
<p>Sunnydown is an academically able SEND school, with a focus on children doing as many exams as they are able. Boarding is part and parcel of that, providing boys with fundamental opportunities to access skills. To take opportunities they must access social skills and if you take away boarding what will you put in place instead?</p>	<p>The focus for the school has always been to make sure that the basics are right: resilience and independence. Through applying the philosophical principles of Maslow’s Hierarchy to all pupils and in all decisions, Sunnydown achieves a phenomenal amount and the majority of the pupils on roll do not access the boarding provision.</p> <p>The majority of Special Schools in Surrey are rated ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted and the majority don’t have boarding but still provide a well-rounded curriculum that produces better long-term outcomes for pupils. Sunnydown School will continue to work closely with colleagues in other schools to learn how they maximise opportunities for socialisation and independence.</p>
<p>Will any after-school provision be available if boarding is removed? In order to help the social aspect for the boys? There is very little (if any) provision for similar in the area, as it is</p>	<p>After school clubs are being considered by the school.</p> <p>Some of the day pupils already access the extended day curriculum. However, there is a charge for this to families and transport has to be arranged by families as opposed to being provided by SCC in line with home to school travel arrangements.</p> <p>SCC and the wider SEND Partnership are enhancing their Local Offer website and through the county wide All Age Autism Strategy and work with voluntary and charitable organisations, may</p>

	<p>be in a position to sign-post families to more local social opportunities for the boys.</p> <p>Families who may be interested in exploring eligibility for respite care or ‘short breaks’ can find more details here: CS3675-Short-Breaks-Leaflet-February-2018.pdf (surreycc.gov.uk)</p>
<p>Many children have long journeys to school and if you remove boarding, they will have to do that more often. Financially SCC will be paying for more taxis so it will cost Surrey more. I can't see the logic in removing the provision.</p>	<p>The cost of a night in the boarding provision is £136 per night per pupil.</p> <p>The school currently has pupils utilising home to school transport which may be able to accommodate pupils who are currently attending the boarding provision, limiting the potential cost increases to the transport budget.</p> <p>There are currently 17 routes transporting 65 Sunnydown School pupils. The total weekly cost of which is £10,629.50, an estimated annual cost of £403,921 for the school year. In comparison, the boarding provision has a total weekly cost of £15,640 and an annual cost of £594,320.</p>
<p>This proposal could be prejudicial against West Surrey residents who now face long commutes every day. There is no comparable provision elsewhere in the county.</p>	<p>Three new ASD special schools are being built in Surrey, two of which will provide all-through education for pupils with higher functioning autism and social communication & interaction needs, like the pupils at Sunnydown School. One of these new special schools will be located in the west of the county and is expected to open in 2023. The second DfE funded school will be located in Dorking and will open in 2023.</p>
<p>There is already a traffic trouble with the three schools on the Whyteleafe Road campus with the concomitant problem with pollution. Closing the residential provision will increase daily vehicle movements and make worse the danger of vehicle exhaust to all people utilizing the site. Surrey County Council's duty of care should be remembered.</p>	<p>The three Headteachers responsible for schools who directly utilise the roundabout are in close communication. A collaborative Governing body/SLT working party have been working on the issue of traffic flow for several years, including consulting with SCC representatives.</p> <p>Closing the residential facility itself will not increase traffic as the taxis that already pick up and drop off pupils will remain the same. On days when some pupils are boarding, the same number of taxis still arrive as there are other who do not board but are on that particular taxi route.</p> <p>Sunnydown currently contributes 20 taxis per day to the traffic issues impacting all three schools.</p> <p>If the decision is made to close boarding is made, SCC and the school are proposing a subsequent</p>

	<p>consultation to increase student numbers at Sunnydown, officially from 80 to 100. However, again this will have negligible impact on the traffic since Sunnydown already have 88 students transported to school. Another 12 students may increase the number of vehicles by between 3 and 5 cars.</p>
<p>If the boarding provision is removed, and there is an after-school support programme put into place, will Surrey County Council work with taxi firms with pickup/drop off, so they can get the most out of it?</p>	<p>SCC provides SEND transport for all pupils who are eligible between home and school for regular school hours.</p> <p>Families will need to make separate travel and collection arrangements for pupils who attend after school clubs. This could take the form of shared transport, opportunities to develop independent travel training, walking buddies etc.</p>

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