

Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee

21st September 2023

SEND Provision Selby

Selby Special Free School Update

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Across the county it is forecast that the local authority needs to create 350 new special school places in the next 3 to 5 years. This is to keep up with continued demand and ensure that all children who have been identified as requiring specialist provision can have their special educational needs met in high quality local provision.
- 1.2 Currently within the Selby area, children requiring special school places attend schools outside of the district either elsewhere in North Yorkshire or in other council areas. This means that on average they have to travel further than those in other areas of the county to access the provision they are assessed as requiring.
- 1.3 Whilst children from Selby on average travel further than others in the county it should be noted that they have proportionately the same access to special school places as children in other areas. This is evidenced in that currently the district has 14% of the county's children with EHCPs and in line with that has 14% of the special school places commissioned by the council. To keep up with high levels of ongoing demand, and to ensure that children can attend more local provision, North Yorkshire Council are working with the Department for Education and Wellspring Multi Academy Trust to deliver a new special school within the district.

2.0 Selby Special Free School

- 2.1 Whilst there have been considerable delays to the building of the school, in recent weeks progress has been made in moving the plans forward.
- 2.2 Most recently the DfE have awarded the contract for the construction of the school to a main contractor, Bowmer and Kirkland. A further step forward will take place from 4th September when Bowmer and Kirkland will undertake a period of public engagement on the plans for the school's construction prior to a planning application later in the autumn.
- 2.3 The school itself will be run by Wellspring Multi Academy Trust and will be built to the latest sustainability standards should planning approval be given. It is anticipated that opening of the school will take place in the 2025/26 academic year.
- 2.4 The school will provide 100 places for children across the age range of 3-19 years. This would see a genuine local option being provided for children so they are able to attend school closer to home. The additional benefits this brings are significant as children make friends, pursue social and leisure activities within their community and are helped to create links that will last into adulthood as children progress from education into employment.

3.0 Public Engagement

- 3.1 Over the coming weeks the local community will have the opportunity to hear more about the school, its expected design and share their views. The following are key dates associated with the public engagement:

Date	Activity
W/c 4 th September	Letters posted to immediate neighbours
6 th September 2023	Website will go live and local press notified
18 th September 2023	Exhibition will take place at Barlby Library
19 th September 2023	Online webinar will take place
w/c 25 th September 2023	Closing date for feedback

- 3.2 Following this period of engagement feedback will be considered by the contractor before a formal planning application is submitted.

Update Prepared by:

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