

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH TYNESIDE

LOCAL AUTHORITY

Statutory Notice

Alteration of provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs in maintained mainstream and special schools.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspection Act 2006 that the COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH TYNESIDE intend to make a prescribed alteration to maintained schools as described below:

Changes relating to Longbenton High School (DfES no 392/4039)

- Discontinuance of provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs at Longbenton High school (392/4039), Hailsham Avenue, Longbenton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 8ER, by removing the Additional Resourced Provision (known as 'the Melrose Centre') for 25 pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

The above proposals will take effect from 31st August 2020.

Changes relating to Southlands School (DfES no 392/7002)

- An increase in the number of pupils for whom the school is organised, from 115 places to 151.
- A Change in the type of provision for Special Educational Needs Social, from Emotional and Mental Health & Moderate Learning Difficulty; to Autism Spectrum Disorder & Moderate Learning Difficulty.

The above proposals will take effect from 1st September 2020.

This notice is an extract from the complete proposal which is available to download via this link [North Tyneside SEND Local Offer](#). A hard copy can be obtained by contacting the Commissioning Team on 0191 643 8698 or by e-mailing Commissioning@northtyneside.gov.uk

Within five weeks from the date of the publication, any person may object or make comments on the proposals by sending them to:

Head of Commissioning and Asset Management, North Tyneside Council, Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY or by e-mailing Commissioning@northtyneside.gov.uk

Bryn Roberts
Head of Law and Governance
Quadrant
The Silverlink North Tyneside Council Cobalt business Park
North Tyneside
NE27 0BY

Full Proposal:

Alteration of provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs in maintained mainstream and special schools.

1 Proposer – Local Education Authority details:

392 – the council of the Borough of North Tyneside. North Tyneside Council, Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside. NE27 0BY

2 The name, address, and category of the school (s)

392/4039 – Longbenton High School, Hailsham Avenue, Longbenton, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE12 8ER

392/7002 – Southlands School, Beach Road, North Shields, Tyne and Wear NE30 2QR

3 Description of the Proposed Alterations

It is proposed to discontinue the Additional Resourced Provision (ARP) for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder known as The Melrose Centre, located at and managed by Longbenton High School, with effect from 31st August 2020.

It is proposed to increase the number of places available for pupils at Southlands School from 115 to 151.

It is additionally proposed to alter the type of SEN provision at Southlands School from Social, Emotional and Mental Health & Moderate Learning Difficulty; to Autism Spectrum Disorder & Moderate Learning Difficulty.

The pupils formerly on the roll of Longbenton High School and attending the ARP noted above, will move to the register of Southlands School with effect from 1st September 2020.

4 Evidence of need or demand for additional places

There has been a notable increase in the numbers of children in North Tyneside with autism and/or social, emotional and mental health difficulties. The number of children with the primary need of autism increased by 79% between 2016 and 2019, the number of children increasing from 213 to 381. Of those children who have an Education Health and Care plan, autism remains the most common primary need. 28.2% of pupils with an EHC plan have this primary need.

The Melrose Centre at Longbenton High School was established in September 2009 as a 25 place ARP for pupils aged 11 to 18. The 25 places are part of the School's Published Admissions Number (PAN) of 180 places per year group and a total capacity of 1190 pupils. The ARP is well established and highly regarded. The Ofsted inspection report for Longbenton High School (November 2018) highlighted the ARP as a strength: 'The SEN resource area for autism, the Melrose Centre, provides good support for pupils.'

In the case of the Melrose Centre, most pupils spend a much greater proportion of their time in the centre than should be the case for pupils in an ARP. This is

due to the complexity of their needs. Parents often have an expectation that children with autism leaving Benton Dene Special School are accessing specialist secondary provision.

Although the Melrose Centre was not originally designated as specialist provision it has, in effect, become such in all but name. The high esteem in which the Melrose Centre is held is demonstrated by the number of parental requests for places, under the presumption that parents can request access to mainstream provision. Pupil numbers in September 2019 significantly exceeded the 25 places as demand for secondary autism provision across the borough exceeds current capacity.

Longbenton High School has confirmed their view that the increasingly complex needs of the children with autism in the Melrose Centre and the need for access to specialist teaching and resources requires the centre to be placed under the leadership of a special school. The governors at Longbenton High School have confirmed their commitment to continue to host the Melrose Centre on the Longbenton site, with a special school taking over the leadership of the provision. The intention would be for the existing teaching staff to continue under the new leadership.

5 Objectives of the proposal and educational standards

The proposal provides an appropriate curriculum offer and clarity to parents, stability and certainty about the future offer for pupils with autism. It provides clarity about the future for the staff involved. It enables the change to be implemented by September 2020 with no disruption to pupil's education. It allows the number of educational places for children with autism to increase over time, under appropriate special school leadership.

6 The effect on other Educational establishments in the area.

The proposal will benefit other schools by providing a specialist progression route from primary to secondary special provision for children with ASD.

7 Project costs

Capital Costs – The physical capacity to accommodate pupils at Southlands School, on main school site at Beach Road, North Shields and at the Melrose Centre at Longbenton High School site already exists. It is not anticipated that any significant additional capacity or capital expenditure is required at this stage.

Revenue Costs – These will be met through the Dedicated Schools Grant.

8 Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

It is proposed that the ARP provision at Longbenton High School ceases to operate on 31st August 2020 and the proposed increase in capacity via Southlands school is implemented on 1st September 2020.

9 Procedure for responding to this proposal

Any person wishing to submit any comments either in support of, or objection to the proposals may do so by sending them to:

Head of Commissioning and Asset Management, North Tyneside Council, Quadrant,
The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY or by e-
mailing Commissioning@northtyneside.gov.uk

Any objections or comments must be received on or before 1700 hours on Thursday
2nd April 2020.