

Building Schools for the Future

Transforming the educational opportunities of children and young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD)/Special Educational Needs (SEN) in Hammersmith and Fulham

Consultation Summary

Provision for pupils with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities and Special Education Needs (LDD/SEN) in Hammersmith and Fulham has often been judged as outstanding and is at least good. We plan to use the opportunities provided by the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme to continue to develop our good provision into outstanding provision between now and 2018.

The remodelling of our mainstream school buildings will take account of the need to remove barriers to learning and will create dedicated, flexible spaces to ensure suitable learning challenges are set and provide for optimal teaching and support arrangements.

BSF will help promote our inclusive practice by building stronger partnerships between mainstream and special schools, as well as promoting more personalised learning that will enable pupils to work to their strengths and address their areas of weakness. This will build on our current good practice in outreach support, shared placements and good transition planning. The proposal to co-locate Cambridge School (currently designated Moderate learning Difficulties [MLD]) with mainstream secondary school provision will further enhance capacity for pupils with complex needs including learning difficulties and linked needs. It links closely to the proposals for developing a more inclusive learning partnership with Ealing Hammersmith & West London College (EHWLC) for pupils aged 14-25.

Vision for the future

All pupils with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, whatever their registered school, will have access to a range of support and provision across the LA. This will enable them to access a personalised curriculum to meet their needs and allow good opportunities for future progression. In summary:

- ▶ A broad spectrum of provision will be available locally, in both specialist and mainstream settings. This will include easy access to specialist services provided by a range of partners.
- ▶ Staff in mainstream and special schools will be supported through professional development opportunities, enabling them to respond more effectively to individual needs, including identified special educational needs.
- ▶ Pupils in special schools will have access to a wider range of social and educational experiences in secure and supportive environments.
- ▶ Closer working with Ealing, Hammersmith & West London College (EHWLC) will provide a broader range of 14-25 LDD/SEN provision locally, including vocational options and life skills. This will be the subject of separate proposals led by EHWLC.

Specific Proposals

1. Cambridge School

We are proposing an expansion of the role of Cambridge Special School and its co-location alongside mainstream secondary schools. The school is formally designated Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) but now caters for pupils with a range and complexity of needs including learning, communication and language, Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD). There will need to be an application for formal re-designation of the school to better reflect the range of needs catered for.

Cambridge School will become more of a shared resource for the whole secondary phase through development of its partnership role in continuing professional development, by showcasing good practice (particularly in relation to its proposed specialist status as an Arts School) and by promoting more flexible placement models.

Co-location will provide opportunities for more specialist teaching and support, with the optimal level of pupil and staff integration. Creative and vocational experiences will be enhanced and there will be access to a wider range of sports facilities and other resources.

There will be significant benefits for the pupils of the mainstream schools involved. They will have access to specialist staff on site, as well as opportunities for interacting with a wider peer group, developing their understanding of all members of society. Cambridge School will have a strengthened role in the identification, sharing and development of good practice in anticipating and responding to LDD/SEN issues.

Co-location on mainstream sites offers a more integrated approach, in line with the objectives of the extended schools model, as well as opportunities for shared delivery of health and family support services.

Co-location would enable pupils to move more easily between specialist and mainstream provision as required. Similarly, it would enable mainstream pupils to access LDD/SEN provision. There would be multi-agency provision on one site, shared between the schools involved. Each school would maintain its own identity.

Our proposal is to retain the provision from Cambridge School, but relocate it alongside the proposed Fulham College (working title for Henry Compton/Fulham Cross) and the Phoenix School campus. Cambridge School would retain its own separate identity and governing body. There would be provision for Cambridge pupils on both the Phoenix site and the Fulham sites. One site would also be developed as a professional development resource for all staff at the school and across the LA. At 16+ there would be a choice of pathways for pupils to access accredited courses. These would include staying in the sixth form on either site, transferring to William Morris Sixth Form, or accessing the developing 14-25 offer at EHWLC.

The geographical split would minimise travel times and help pupils access links in their local community, e.g. via the extended schools offer. As well as the benefits for all the pupils involved, staff in all three schools will benefit from a wider range of professional development, as well as from sharing skills and experience.

Opportunities

In summary, this option for Cambridge School to be a full partner in a community of schools with an inclusive ethos provides opportunities for:

- Cambridge pupils to more easily access mainstream provision as appropriate.
- Some Fulham and Phoenix pupils with LDD/ SEN, but without a Statement of Educational Need, to access more specialised curriculum and resources on a short term basis at the Cambridge School provision. Opportunities will also be developed to work with identified pupils from other local schools.
- The development of enhanced multi-professional support services across the community of schools, with sharing of professional development and skills both formally and informally.
- The geographical split to minimise travel times for Cambridge pupils and for pupils from other secondary schools across the borough who will access Cambridge facilities.

Challenges

- The coherence and strong sense of identity that pupils and parents/carers currently feel for Cambridge School may be reduced.
- Specialist resources, e.g. sensory and therapy rooms, as well as staffing, may need to be duplicated across both sites, with financial implications.

Conclusion

This proposal envisages a transformational role for Cambridge School in responding to a more complex profile of needs and promoting a more inclusive school system across all schools. We propose to consult on changing the designation of the school (currently MLD) to reflect the current and future profile of needs. The outcomes of the informal consultations so far, conducted via BSF, suggest there is a consensus that this proposal offers the best chance of providing the most successful outcomes for current and future pupils with SEN/LDD. Views are sought on this conclusion and on the other issues raised in this paper.

2. Woodlane High school

We propose to maintain Woodlane High School as provision for vulnerable pupils with complex needs, including a range of learning, social and emotional needs, medical and mental health needs. The school will continue to provide an outreach service for medical and mental health needs. We envisage that pupils at Woodlane High School will gain more inclusive educational and social experiences through closer collaboration with Burlington Danes Academy and an extension of the current collaboration with William Morris Sixth Form and EHWLC.

3. Jack Tizard School

Jack Tizard is an all-age school for pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) and severe learning difficulties (SLD). It serves an increasingly complex profile of needs. If this pattern continues, space may become an issue. It provides high quality outreach and partnerships with a range of local schools. The school will be retained at its current location, and the council is currently developing plans to provide a hydrotherapy pool. The school will have a key role in developing flexible learning and family support models, as well as embedding its high quality outreach provision to the benefit of a wide range of pupils across the borough. It is likely the school will apply for specialist status.

4. Queensmill

Our plan is to introduce secondary provision in Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) by developing Queensmill School as a 3-19 school. We consulted on this plan in the main BSF consultation in July 2008 and received very clear support. We have published the statutory notice to extend the age range of the school from 3-11 years to 3-19 years with effect from September 2009, ahead of proposals for a new school to be built on a different site. Until the new building is completed, arrangements will be in place to support secondary aged pupils on the Queensmill site, or, alternatively, on the Gibbs Green site.

Should all the Council's proposals go ahead, we would look to build the new school on the current site of the Bridge Academy in Fulham.

5. Bridge Academy

The Bridge Academy provides alternative secondary provision that includes some specialist provision for pupils with behavioural difficulties. It provides a personalised curriculum, which includes innovative online learning, to all pupils. It already collaborates closely with both mainstream and special settings in responding to pupils who have experienced great difficulty in accessing mainstream curriculum. We plan to develop further some of the best aspects of the Bridge Academy, which will include the delivery of therapeutic outreach services and support to mainstream schools. We would like to extend the Academy's offer to include some post 16 provision. This would be a new departure and will be fully explored through consultation.

Should all the Council's proposals go ahead we would look to relocate the Academy in a brand new building on the present Cambridge School site.

Tell us what you think

Thank you for taking the time to read our proposals. Please let us know your views by completing the response form and returning it in the post to:

BSF Consultation, Childrens' Services, Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, London W6 9JU

Alternatively, you can respond online by visiting: www.citizenspace.com/local/lbhf

Please respond no later than 19 January 2008

You can also find out more and tell us what you think at the following meetings:

The Bridge Academy	2 December	@ 3.30 - 5.00pm
Woodlane High School	3 December	@ 3.30 - 5:00pm
Phoenix High School	4 December	@ 5.00 - 6.30pm
Jack Tizard School	5 December	@ 10.00 - 11.30am
Henry Compton School	8 December	@ 5.30 - 7.00pm
Fulham Cross Girls School	11 December	@ 5.00 - 6.30pm
Cambridge School	12 December	@ 4.00 - 5.30pm

Response form

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

I am a: (tick all boxes that apply)

Pupil Parent Teacher/Staff Member Governor Other (please specify)

I am associated with: Cambridge School Woodlane High School Jack Tizard Special School

Bridge Academy Queensmill School Local Community Other (please specify)

Do you agree with the vision for special schools outlined in this paper?

Definitely agree Tend to agree Tend to disagree Definitely disagree

Comments:

Do you agree with the proposal to relocate Cambridge School alongside mainstream secondary school provision?

Definitely agree Tend to agree Tend to disagree Definitely disagree

Comments:

What would you most like to see in the relocated school?

Comments:

Do you agree with our ambition to extend the Bridge Academy to post 16 for some pupils?

Definitely agree Tend to agree Tend to disagree Definitely disagree

Comments:

Do you have any comments on the proposals relating to Jack Tizard School or Woodlane High School?

Comments:
