

Date: 7 January 2019
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Dear Parent/Carer

Consultation on the development of new specialist provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

In March 2018 the County Council Cabinet agreed the Leicestershire SEND Strategy 2017/20. The strategy sets out clearly our vision for children and young people with SEND to achieve well in their education, to be cared for in safe and supportive families, participate and be involved in their communities and lead happy, safe and fulfilled lives.

We are mindful that one of the challenges for Leicestershire in the past has been the lack of enough specialist places in our schools, creating more places is a key aim in the Strategy. We believe that by tackling this and developing more high quality provision we will not only improve choice for parents and pupils but we will also make better use of the funding available to us, hence we have now developed proposals to achieve this.

Our proposals are challenging and ambitious, they encompass expanding our existing special schools and enhanced resource bases in mainstream schools, developing new enhanced resource bases for children with Communication and Interaction difficulties, including ASD and for Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs known as SEMH. Longer term we would also like to open up to four new special schools.

Further details on these proposals are provided in the consultation document available via the following link www.leicestershire.gov.uk/send-consultation

For our plans to be successful we will need to continue to work in close partnership with our schools, with families, and with other providers and agencies for example Health and those that have an interest in meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND.

Before we progress any further we would like to know what you think about our proposals and how effective you think they will be to help meet the increasing demand for SEND places. Specifically we would like to hear your views on how the new specialist provisions should look, how they should feel and how they might work. This is explained further on the response form accompanying the consultation document.

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Jane Moore, Director, Children and Family Services

www.leics.gov.uk

The consultation extends until midnight on Sunday 31st March.

Your views are important to us. Please be assured that the County Council will not make a decision on change until we have heard what everyone thinks.

We will of course keep you informed of progress, however should you have any questions at this stage please do not hesitate to get in touch via the contact details given in the consultation document.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

Jane Moore
Director of Children and Family Services