



Consultation

Revised proposals
for redesign
of Resourced
Provision in
Cumbria

How to respond to this consultation

This document contains information about proposals for changes to how children and young people with additional needs are supported in education. It's important that we hear your views before any decisions are made.



Completed paper questionnaires should be returned to:

Cumbria County Council, School Organisation,
First Floor, East Wing,
Parkhouse Building,
Kingmoor Business Park,
Carlisle, Cumbria, CA6 4SJ



You can also complete it online by going to:

cumbria.citizenspace.com

Please note that it is not possible to enter into individual correspondence.
Further information is available at:

cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/school-organisation

Please respond no later than **20 December 2019**

Background

Earlier this year we consulted on proposals for changes to how children with additional needs are supported in education. This is generally referred to as Resourced Provision.

The consultation generated a high level of interest from parents and schools. We have considered the feedback we received carefully.

As a result we are now publishing a revised set of proposals for a further period of consultation.

Please respond to this consultation by 20 December 2019.

How we are responding to the consultation feedback

Our revised proposals for change do not include a number of elements which were opposed by the majority of respondents in the original consultation. These were:

- Creation of a 'hub and spoke' model of provision.
- Giving Special Schools a lead role in monitoring local need and allocating resource.
- Central employment of specialist teaching staff by the Local Authority.

We accept that these proposals created too great a risk of disruption which could have had a detrimental impact on pupils.

The new proposals do include changes intended to address the following problems which were widely recognised:

- Ensuring a fairer and more equal distribution of resources across the county in line with an up to date assessment of needs.
- Removing "ghost places" to ensure that available resource is targeted where it is needed most.
- The increased prevalence of Autistic Spectrum Condition in recent years.

Revised proposals for change

Below is a summary of the revised proposals for change. All take into account the findings from the Ofsted/CQC inspection of SEND services which happened in March, as well as the feedback to the original consultation.

Proposal 1 : Resourced Provision status

In order to improve access to a range of specialist provision, maintain a reasonable spread across the county, and improve continuity between primary and secondary school, it is proposed that a number of existing Resourced Provision schools are retained in either:

- a) their current form;
- b) with additional needs catered for; or
- c) with a change in the needs catered for.

Some schools may currently be resourced to deliver a service which is no longer required in the area. In those cases, where no children are accessing resourced provision, the funding and resource will be moved to an area where the need can be demonstrated.

Schools which are resourced to meet a need which no longer exists may be asked to 're-designate' so that they can meet the need in the area which is most pressing.

Proposal 2 : Removal of "Ghost places"

Funding of unoccupied places, "ghost places", would cease. Funding would be allocated to individual schools based on the number of children accessing the Resourced Provision. Funding would, therefore, be better directed towards meeting need, making for a much more efficient system. It is recognised that for a number of reasons it is inevitable a small number of empty places would continue to be funded in the future.

Proposal 3 : New contractual arrangements

The Local Authority has responsibility for commissioning SEND provision. It is important that services are monitored to ensure high standards.

It is proposed to introduce 'contractual agreements' between the Local Authority and individual schools. These will set out the standards of provision expected, with regular reviews being undertaken, and with the prospect of removal and relocation of the provision if it is not meeting needs.

An expectation of collaboration with special schools will be built into the agreements to ensure that the expertise in the county is put to best use. Time-limiting agreements will ensure flexibility, allowing provision to be amended in line with need/demand. It is suggested that 3 years is appropriate, with reviews every 12 months.

Proposal 4 : Consistency of assessment

The Local Authority already assesses individual children's needs, and the allocation of Resourced Provision places for children with Education Health and Care Plans with reference to the county council's 'SEND Handbook and Criteria'. The original consultation feedback suggested that this assessment is inconsistently applied across the county.

The Local Authority will commit to ensuring that children falling into Bands 4 and 5 of the SEND Criteria are assessed on a consistent basis, so that children are placed appropriately across the county. This will not compromise the flexibility of the Local Authority to agree placements for children falling outside those bands where they would benefit from a Resourced Provision place.

No children currently attending Resourced Provision will experience any change in the support they receive, nor be expected to transfer to a different setting to continue to receive that support.

Please note

Where statutory changes are proposed to Resourced Provision at maintained schools (all of those which are not academies), a further specific public consultation for each school would be required, followed by the publication of notices and a final decision on implementation by Cumbria County Council's Cabinet. (Statutory changes are the removal, addition or change in type of needs catered for).

Arrangements for Academies are different and the Local Authority would work with Academies to agree any changes.

Next steps

Consultation responses will be taken into account and, where changes are proposed to existing Resourced Provision settings, or where we think new settings are needed, further consultation will be undertaken after Christmas. This will be a more detailed process setting out the implications for individual settings. The county council's Cabinet will make final decisions on formal proposals in Spring 2020.



Your views

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Carlisle, Cumbria, CA6 4SJ



You can also complete this questionnaire
online at: **cumbria.citizenspace.com**

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Questions about these proposals can be sent to
school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk and answers will
be shared on **cumbria.gov.uk/schoolorganisation** in the
form of an FAQ page.



**1 Which of the following best describes you, in the context of this consultation?**

- ☐ Child or young person with additional needs.
- ☐ Parent/carer/relative of child or young person with additional needs.
- ☐ Member of staff at a Resourced Provision school.
- ☐ Governor at a Resourced Provision school.
- ☐ Member of staff NOT at a Resourced Provision school.
- ☐ Governor NOT at a Resourced Provision school.
- ☐ Other professional working with children and young people with additional needs.
- ☐ General public.

2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the revised proposals included in this document?**Proposal 1 : Resourced Provision status**

- ☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neither/Nor ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

Proposal 2 : Removal of “ghost places”

- ☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neither/Nor ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

Proposal 3 : New contractual agreements

- ☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neither/Nor ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

Proposal 4 : Consistency of assessment

- ☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neither/Nor ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

Overall

- ☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neither/Nor ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

Please provide any additional feedback on the proposed model:



