



Proposals to expand Woodley School and College

Consultation on the proposal to expand the number of special school places at Woodley School and College ahead of, and leading up to, the completion of a new, larger school building.

Introduction and Background

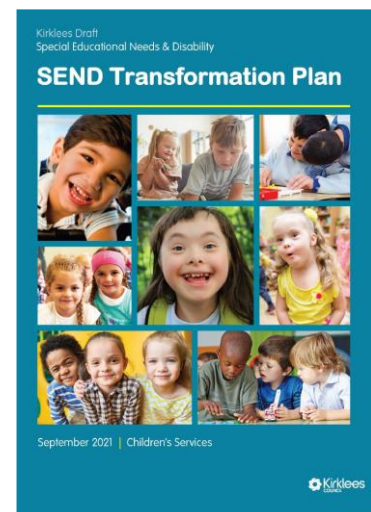
Our vision for children and young people in Kirklees is that they have the best start in life. Our aspirations for children and young people with SEND are no different to those we hold for all children.

Our partnership across Education, Health and Social Care aims to improve the lives and life chances of children and young people (aged 0-25) with SEND. We will achieve this through delivering our [SEND Transformation Plan](#) which focuses on early identification of needs, key strategic investment to flexibly increase capacity and sufficiency, effective transitions for our children as they grow, and a focus on inclusivity across all our settings and provision.

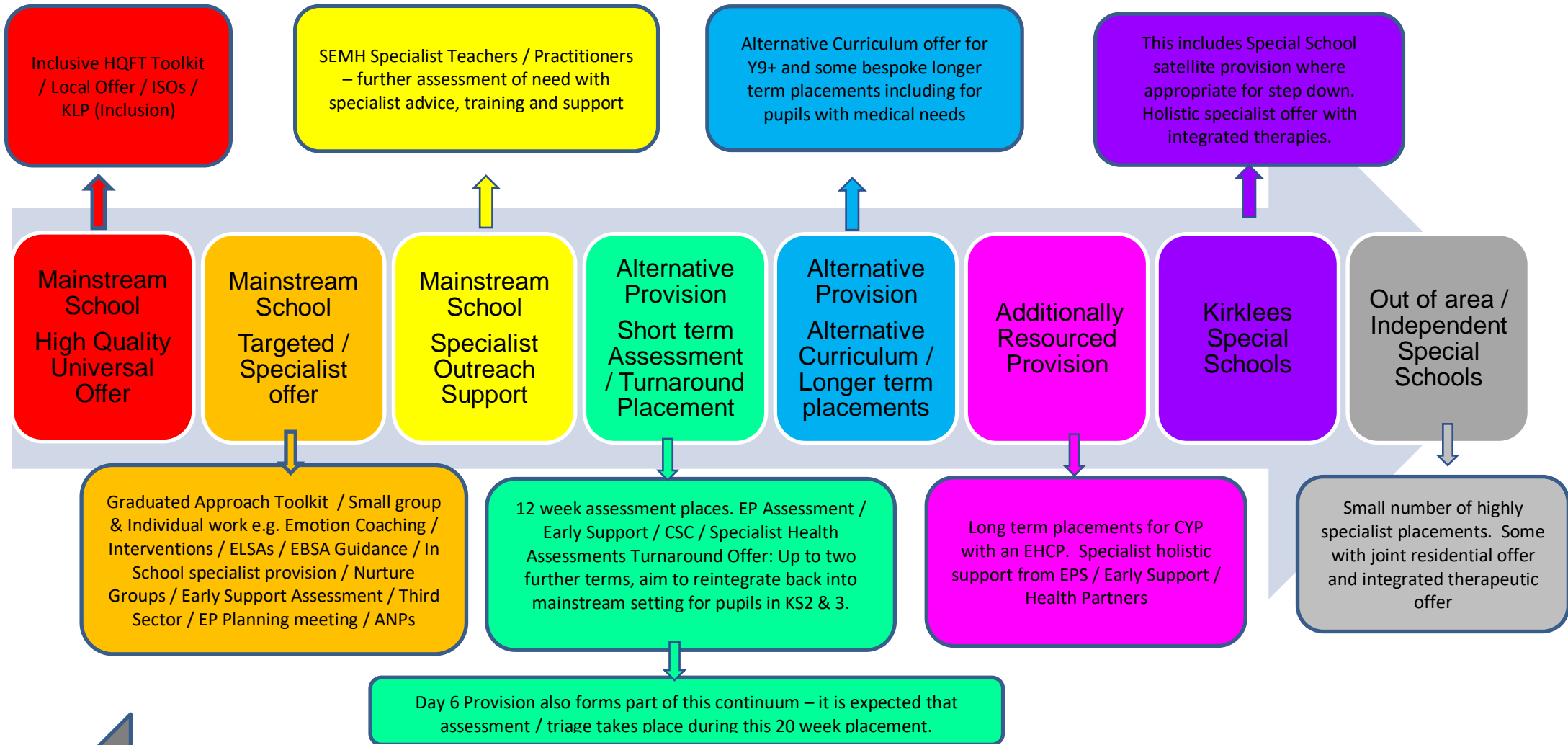
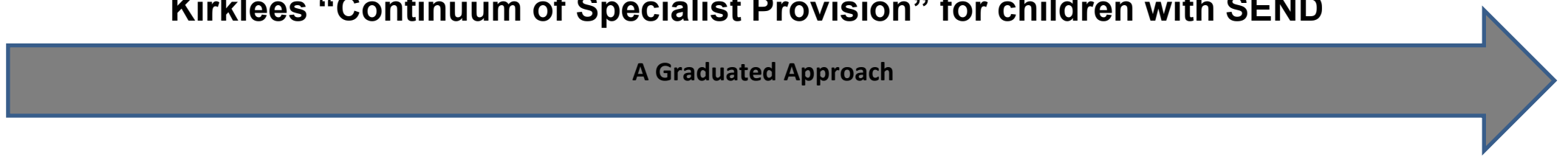
Within our SEND Transformation Plan we have worked with stakeholders across Kirklees to develop our 'Inclusive Ambitions', which are:

- Responsive and holistic early intervention
- Culture of trust with parents and families
- Inclusive practice in the community and within education settings
- Children and young people thriving in education settings and celebrating more holistic outcomes and achievements
- An integrated system
- Embedding a shared culture of proactivity, holistic skills and knowledge
- Supporting children to have clear aspirations with a focus on preparing for adulthood

A key strand of the SEND Transformation Plan is 'Commissioning and Sufficiency', which includes improving local sufficiency of places across a graduated approach model.



Kirklees “Continuum of Specialist Provision” for children with SEND



Woodley School and college

Woodley School and College is a Kirklees Local Authority aspirational, inclusive and outward looking special school in Huddersfield for children aged 5-19 with complex autism. There are currently 153 pupils on roll.

The school is rated as 'Good' by Ofsted (March 2023), holds Advanced Autism Accreditation and is the Autism Education Trust licensed training provider for Kirklees schools and Post-16. This recognises the highest standards of autism expertise and practice and underpins the school's important role as a schools training hub.

Further details can be found on the school website: <https://www.woodleyschool.org.uk/>

Special School Re-build

In October 2021, Kirklees Cabinet agreed an ambitious plan to rebuild two existing special schools, Joseph Norton Academy and Woodley School and College. Not only would the plan provide modern facilities for existing pupils, but the schools would also be built to accommodate more pupils to address the growing demand.

For Woodley School and College, the agreed plan is to build a 180-place new school building on Fernside Avenue, Almondbury. It takes time to design and build a new school, so it is not expected to be complete until around Autumn 2026.

Further information is available in the Cabinet report:

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s43155/210924%20Special%20Schools%20-%20Cabinet%20Report.pdf>

Satellite opportunities

Special school satellite provision is where a special school increases its capacity by expanding onto an additional site. The additional site may be on the site of a mainstream school which provides some physical space for satellite purposes, or it could be a suitable building not occupied by another school. Pupils attending a special school satellite provision remain on the roll of the special school. The satellite provision remains under the leadership and governance of the special school, and its staff are employees of the special school. Examples already in Kirklees include:

- Ravenshall Special School hosted by Headfield CE (VC) Junior School
- Ravenshall Post-16 provision based in an old library building
- Southgate Special School hosted by Newsome Academy
- Woodley Post-16 provision based in a shop in Huddersfield town centre

Ahead of, and leading up to, the completion of a new, larger school building for Woodley School and College, the local authority, working with the Governing Body of Woodley School and College, believes there is an opportunity to establish a further satellite site to enable a gradual increase in the number of pupil places.



This opportunity would support the planned strategy of enabling more children and young people to secure places and thrive in local education settings.

Pupil placements at special school satellite provision

Admissions to special schools are made through the Kirklees SEND decision-making groups. These groups include representation from the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Assessment and Commissioning Team, Educational Psychology, School Head Teachers/Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinators, and other multi agency professionals. It is then for the special school to work with parents to select which children might benefit from the environment provided on a satellite site.

The proposal

The places available at Woodley School and College be increased to 194 pupil places gradually over time, using satellite provision, ahead of and leading up to the new school rebuild.

The proposed 194 places include 180 places in the planned new school rebuild, and up to 14 places in the existing Woodley Post-16 satellite provision based in a shop in Huddersfield town centre.

What happens next?

This consultation is open between **29 September and 27 October 2023**. During this time, we are inviting feedback on the proposals outlined in this consultation. You can express your views online, by email, or in person at a consultation event.

Once the consultation has finished, all feedback will be published in a consultation outcome report. This will inform a decision by the local authority on whether to move to the next stage. Moving to the next stage would mean the publication of legal notices and another chance to view the proposals and comment on them before a final decision is made. The following table shows the next steps involved in the process. Dates are subject to change and would be dependent on approval to move to each stage.

Milestone	Date
Publication of consultation outcome report	October/November 2023
Publication of statutory notices and representation period	November 2023
Final decision by Cabinet (within 2 months)	January 2024
Implementation from	Implementation will be gradual from January 2024

Have your say

Online: You can take part in the consultation by completing the online consultation form on our website at:

www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation

In person: If you would like to talk through the proposals you can attend a drop-in session at Woodley School and College. Details will be published on the following website:

www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation

Email: Please note that you can contact us via email should you have any queries regarding these proposals. Please send emails to: school.organisation@kirklees.gov.uk

Please make sure you respond by **Friday 27 October 2023** to ensure that your views are heard.