

Equality and Public Health Full Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment Id: #170

1.0 Screening Information

Project Name

Establishment of a Mainstream Autism Base at Chaddesley Corbett Endowed Primary School

Name of Project Sponsor

Sarah Wilkins

Name of Project Manager

Lucy Langdon

Name of Project Lead

Zulkifl Ahmed

Please give a brief description of the project

The establishment of a Mainstream Autism Base for 10 pupils in the age range 4-11. This will require a new detached building to be provided on the school site to be funded from the Special Provision Capital Fund.

This project is anticipated to have a positive impact for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and allow them to access education provision that meets their needs while remaining within their local community. This will have a positive impact on their access to services, mental health, and reduce reliance on transport.

Data Protection screening result

Does not need a full impact assessment

Equality and Public Health screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Environmental Sustainability screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

1.1 Background and Purpose

Background and Purpose of Project?

To support your answer to this question, you can upload a copy of the project's Business Case or similar document. Worcestershire Children First (WCF) are seeking to support schools to make capital investments in provision for pupils with Autism and has identified the need for investment in Mainstream Autism Bases (MABs).

MABs are an integral part of the special education provision commissioned by WCF they are classified as mainstream provision in law but are funded as specialist or High Needs provision in mainstream. They provide focused educational provision for pupils whose needs are well matched to a mainstream setting, but who require enhanced autism specific provision that is often difficult to create in mainstream schools, for reasons of accommodation, specialist staff and curriculum flexibility.

Expressions of interest were sought from existing MABs who wish to seek to expand their provision or from schools who do not currently have MAB provision and seek investment to create a MAB. A full assessment of the EOI submitted was undertaken and Chaddesley Corbett marked sufficiently well for us to consider the delivery of a new Mainstream Autism Base at the school. The Base will provide places for 10 pupils with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder and allow more pupils with this need to maintain within their local community.

Upload Business Case or Support documents

No files uploaded

Project Outputs

Briefly summarise the activities needed to achieve the project outcomes.

- Informal Consultation with families and other local stakeholders on the proposed project
- Development of feasibility for building works required and agreement of funding
- Service Level Agreement approved by commissioning service and school
- Approval to formally propose this project following the above
- 4 week statutory representation period
- Decision to formally approve the delivery of the project
- Building worked completed
- Pupils able to access the MAB from January 2022.

Project Outcomes

Briefly summarise what the project will achieve.

The establishment of a new Mainstream Autism Base at Chaddesley Corbett Endowed Primary for 10 pupils with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Is the project a new function/service or does it relate to an existing Council function/service?

Existing

Was consultation carried out on this project?

Yes

1.2 Responsibility

Directorate/Organisation

Worcestershire Children First

Service Area

Education and Early Help

1.3 Specifics

Project Reference (if known)

Not Recorded

Intended Project Close Date *

January 2022

1.4 Project Part of a Strategic Programme

Is this project part of a strategic programme?

No

2 Organisations Involved

Please identify the organisation(s) involved:

Worcestershire County Council

Details of contributors to this assessment:

Name	Lucy Langdon
Job title	Project Manager
Email address	llangdon@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

3.0 Who will be affected by the development and implementation

Please identify group(s) involved:

Service User

Carers

Staff

3.1 Information and evidence reviewed

What information and evidence have you reviewed to help inform this assessment? *

Supply and demand for places in mainstream autism bases (MAB) and their availability across the County
 Feedback from current MABs, parent/carers and children and young people
 Assessment of EOi to service specification

3.2 Summary of engagement or consultation undertaken

Who and how have you engaged, or why do you believe engagement is not required? *

The school have run a consultation with stakeholders from 15 March 2021 to 25 April 2021. This was promoted by the school to parents and the local community. In addition, WCF advised relevant staff, neighbouring LA's, as well as local councillors. There were 2 virtual meetings where a short presentation was followed by a discussion, and the documents with details of the intended facility were made available on the school website and WCC website.

3.3 Summary of relevant findings

Please summarise your relevant findings. *

Five written responses were received: four in support of the new facility at the school and one against. The negative response was based on their child's experience with an autistic child and their concerns were discussed individually with the school leaders at a follow up meeting. The school feels these have been resolved and that many of the reasons she gave for not wanting the base have been mitigated.

4 Protected characteristics - Equality

Please consider the potential impact of this activity (during development & implementation) on each of the equality groups outlined below. **Please select one or more impact box(es) below for each equality group and explain your rationale.** Please note it is possible for the potential impact to be both positive and negative for the same equality group and this should be recorded. Remember to consider the impact on e.g. staff, public, patients, carers etc. who are part of these equality groups.

Age

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The new facility will admit any child of primary school age, with a need for educational support due to being on the autistic spectrum .
The assessment for a place will be managed by WCF, SEND team.
The effect will be neutral impact for children above primary school age and all adults.

Disability

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The facility will support children with special educational needs remain nearer their community and allow time in mainstream education, if appropriate, in a sustainable placement.

Gender reassignment

Potential neutral impact selected

Explanation of your reasoning:

Admission is based on educational needs arising from autism

Marriage and civil partnerships

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This facility is for children of primary school age based on special education needs due to autism

Pregnancy and maternity

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This facility is for children of primary school age based on special education needs due to autism

Race including travelling communities

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This facility is for children of primary school age, based on special education needs due to autism, of all races.

Religion and belief

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

Keep it Green, Keep it on the Screen

This facility is for children of primary school age, based on their special education needs due to autism, of all religions and beliefs.

Sex

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This facility is for children of primary school age, based on their special education needs due to autism, whatever sex.

Sexual orientation

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This facility is for children of primary school age, based on special education needs due to autism, of all sexual orientations.

5 Characteristics - Public health

Other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The new facility will increase the supply of special education provision for primary school age children with needs relating to autism.

Health inequalities

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This facility will improve education , and therefore life chances, for children with special educational needs around autism. Children admitted to the facility should be able to sustain their school placement, build strong relationships with teachers and the community and show improved educational outcomes.

Social and economic

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This facility will support primary school age children with their statutory education.

Physical health

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This facility will support primary school age children with their statutory education.

Mental health and wellbeing

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

A child with the correct support for their health needs, should be able to sustain a school placement and build positive relationships with teachers improving their educational outcomes and life chances. This will also support the parents' or carer's mental health too.

Access to services

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This facility improves access to education of children with special educational needs.

6 Actions to mitigate potential negative impacts

You have confirmed that there are no negative impacts for equality protected characteristics and public health characteristics.

7 When will you review this equality and public health estimate(EPHIA)?

There are currently 11 autism bases at mainstream schools and this is the first of three new ones being commissioned. Places and provision for education are reviewed annually against the number of known children to identify future demand and enable places to be created when necessary. This project for 10 new places is a result of that review being matched to available funding.

8 Declaration

The following statement has been read and agreed:

- All public bodies have a statutory duty under the Equality Act 2010 to set out arrangements to assess and consult on how their policies and functions impact on the 9 protected characteristics: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage & Civil Partnership; Pregnancy & Maternity; Race; Religion & Belief; Sex; Sexual Orientation
- Our Organisation will challenge discrimination, promote equality, respect human rights, and aims to design and implement services, policies and measures that meet the diverse needs of our service, and population, ensuring that none are placed at a disadvantage over others
- All staff are expected to deliver and provide services and care in a manner which respects the individuality of service users, patients, carers etc, and as such treat them and members of the workforce respectfully, paying due regard to the 9 protected characteristics

I confirm to the best of my knowledge that the information I have provided is true, complete and accurate

I confirm that I will make sure that Equality and Public Health have been and continue to be considered throughout the project life cycle and that, if circumstances change in the project, a further Equality and Public Health Impact Assessment Screening will be carried out.