

COMPLETE PROPOSAL

Penn Hall School

**CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL**

COMPLETE PROPOSAL FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS:

Proposed Change in Type of Designated SEND Needs and Increase in Capacity at Penn Hall School

Community School and Local Authority Details

School Details:

Penn Hall School, Vicarage Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV4 5HP.

LA Details:

City of Wolverhampton Council (Contact: Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RL).

Description of Alteration

The proposed prescribed alterations are that with effect from 1 September 2019:

- The capacity of Penn Hall School is increased from 76 places to 100 places.
- The type of needs that Penn Hall School is registered to cater for are extended from Physical Disability to Physical Disability, Severe Learning Difficulty, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty and Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Please note that the two-forementioned proposed prescribed alterations to Penn Hall School are linked and classified as related proposals.

Evidence of Demand

Penn Hall School is currently designated as a community special school with a capacity of 76 which caters for students with physical disabilities aged 3-19.

As illustrated in Figure 1 below, in recent years numbers on roll at the school have exceeded the registered capacity of the school.

Figure 1: Historic Numbers on Roll

Academic Year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number on Roll	82	83	82

Source: Spring School Census

A temporary change, supported by capital investment via the Department for Education's Special Provision Capital Fund, has been made to the capacity and range of needs catered for at the school for the 2018/19 academic year. This temporary change has facilitated a marked uplift in numbers on roll at Penn Hall School in the 2018/19 academic year.

Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

The prescribed alterations are proposed to enable Penn Hall School to permanently cater for a greater population with a more diverse range of needs. By providing for a larger, more diverse school population Penn Hall School would better support the changing needs of the City's population, enable a wider range of pupils to benefit from the education and support provided by Penn Hall School, and reduce the potential need for expensive out of City placements.

In June 2017, Penn Hall School was judged by Ofsted to be an Outstanding school. Ofsted recognised that "pupils thrive at Penn Hall School" (Ofsted 2017) and suggested that, "Outcomes

Appendix 1: Complete Proposal and accompanying SEN Improvement Test

are very strong across each phase of learning ... The overall learning experience is rich and meets the individual's needs." (Ofsted 2017).

By increasing the capacity and extending the range of needs catered for at Penn Hall School there would be greater opportunity for parental choice to be reflected in placement decisions.

The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

The proposed prescribed alterations would introduce both additional capacity and flexibility into the City's local offer and maximise the opportunity for pupils to access appropriate local provision. A detrimental impact on other schools, academies and educational institutions is not anticipated.

Further information regarding the potential impact of the proposals is available within the accompanying SEN Improvement Test at Appendix A.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long-term value for money will be achieved

Central Government has committed capital funding (through the Special Provision Capital Fund) to help local authorities to create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Penn Hall School has recently benefited from investment, through the Special Provision Capital Fund, to facilitate the temporary uplift in capacity and extension in needs catered for during academic year 2018/19. No further requirement for capital investment is anticipated to support the making permanent of the temporary changes. However, the City of Wolverhampton Council remains committed to working closely with Penn Hall School to ensure that pupils access appropriate provision and receive high quality support.

The proposed prescribed alterations are expected to support long-term value for money by reducing the potential need for expensive out of City placements.

Implementation and any Proposed Stages for Implementation

The proposed date for implementation is 1 September 2019.

Consultation Responses: support; objections and comments

Representation (Formal Consultation) commenced on 10 September 2018 and ends on 7 October 2018.

Any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by writing to:

Tom Knott
SEND Commissioning Officer
Education Department, City of Wolverhampton Council
1st Floor Civic Centre
St Peter's Square
Wolverhampton
WV1 1RL

Or email: SENDETeam@wolverhampton.gov.uk

The closing date for responses is 7 October 2018.

Appendix 1: Complete Proposal and accompanying SEN Improvement Test

Appendix A:

SEN IMPROVEMENT TEST

Current Provision

Penn Hall School is currently designated as a community special school with a capacity of 76 which caters for students with physical disabilities aged 3-19.

Proposal

The proposed prescribed alterations are that with effect from 1 September 2019:

- The capacity of Penn Hall School is increased from 76 places to 100 places.
- The type of needs that Penn Hall School is registered to cater for are extended from Physical Disability to Physical Disability, Severe Learning Difficulty, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty and Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

By providing for a larger, more diverse school population Penn Hall School would better support the changing needs of the City's population, enable a wider range of pupils to benefit from the education and support provided by Penn Hall School, and reduce the potential need for expensive out of City placements.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS AND THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL

OBJECTIVE	ACTION
<p>Proposals should take account of parental preferences for particular styles of provision or education settings</p>	<p>Pre-publication Consultation commenced on 14 May 2018 and ran until 17 June 2018.</p> <p>A number of supportive comments regarding the proposed prescribed alterations were received from parents during Pre-publication Consultation including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “My son has multiple learning difficulties along with neurological and physical difficulties and these changes could help him as well as other children” • “Penn Hall is such a wonderful school and I think it is wonderful if it can provide for more children, every child deserves the best care and education. So many children are born with additional needs and this school gives them the best possible start. Facilities are amazing, staff are incredible and in general the school provides a safe, happy, fun, stimulating place to encourage and give the best education possible!

Appendix 1: Complete Proposal and accompanying SEN Improvement Test

	<p>The proposal is wonderful!"</p> <p>The school's latest Ofsted report states that, "Parents and pupils are overwhelmingly positive about school life ...One parent commented, 'All staff go above and beyond for the pupils, we feel extremely fortunate to be part of the Penn Hall family'." (Ofsted 2017)</p>
<p>Proposals should take account of any relevant local offer for children and young people with SEN and disabilities and the views expressed on it</p>	<p>Wolverhampton's Local Offer of support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs or who are Disabled can be found at: http://win.wolverhampton.gov.uk/kb5/wolverhampton/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0</p> <p>An analysis of feedback received via Wolverhampton's Local Offer since 2016 suggests that no comments or concerns relating to provision at Penn Hall School have been raised in recent years.</p>
<p>Proposals should offer a range of provision to respond to the needs of individual children and young people</p>	<p>The proposed prescribed alterations seek to both increase the capacity of Wolverhampton's specialist school estate and flexibility of provision within it.</p> <p>The proposed changes would broaden the range of provision locally available to pupils and families and promote opportunity for parental choice to be reflected in placement decisions.</p>
<p>Proposals should take full account of educational considerations, in particular the need to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, within a learning environment where children can be healthy and stay safe</p>	<p>Penn Hall School has been judged to be "Outstanding" by Ofsted since January 2010 and maintained its "Outstanding" judgement during the school's short inspection in June 2017.</p> <p>The school's latest Ofsted report states that, "Penn Hall is an inspirational organisation. The overall learning experience is rich and diverse." (Ofsted 2017).</p> <p>The learning environment has recently benefited from capital investment to facilitate the temporary uplift in capacity and extension in needs from September 2018. The remodelling of provision has ensured that pupils' needs continue to be supported effectively.</p>

Appendix 1: Complete Proposal and accompanying SEN Improvement Test

<p>Proposals should support the LA's strategy for making schools and settings more accessible to disabled children and young people and their scheme for promoting equality of opportunity for disabled people</p>	<p>The proposals align to the City of Wolverhampton Council's strategic aspirations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Wolverhampton's school estate is fit for purpose and meets the full range of more complex needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities now being placed. • Develop local provision in order to reduce the number of children needing residential and out of area education, health and care services. <p>The City of Wolverhampton Council has recently consulted on its draft Schools Accessibility Strategy; consultation ran from 18 June 2018 to 20 July 2018. The draft Strategy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum • Improve the physical environment of schools to enable pupils with SEND to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided • Improve the delivery of information to disabled pupils. <p>The proposed changes to Penn Hall School support these aspirations by maximising the opportunity for pupils to attend high quality local provision.</p>
<p>Proposal should provide access to appropriately trained staff and access to specialist support and advice, so that individual pupils can have the fullest possible opportunities to make progress in their learning and participate in their school and community</p>	<p>The school's latest Ofsted report states that, "The quality of teaching has improved even further since the last inspection as a result of excellent staff training ... Staff are focused relentlessly on meeting the specific needs of every child to ensure they make the best possible progress, both academically and in their personal development." (Ofsted 2017)</p> <p>In addition, and in recognition of the changing needs of pupils in the school, the City of Wolverhampton Council recently agreed to the provision of additional resources in the form of an additionality payment to the school. These resources have been provided to support access to identified staff training and equipment requirements.</p>
<p>Ensure appropriate provision for 14-19 year olds</p>	<p>The proposed prescribed alterations would enable the school to support a broader range of students moving forwards.</p>
<p>Proposals should ensure that appropriate full-time education will be available to all displaced pupils</p>	<p>No children would be displaced as a consequence of the proposals.</p>