

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Consultation on the Proposed Changes to Penn Hall School

Are you a: *(Please tick as appropriate)*

- ☐ Pupil at Penn Hall School
☐ Parent/Carer of a pupil at Penn Hall School
☐ Member of Staff at Penn Hall School
☒ Member of the Governing Board at Penn Hall School
☐ Other *(Please state)*

Do you agree with the proposals to

- a) Extend the type of needs that Penn Hall School is registered to cater for?
b) Increase the capacity of Penn Hall School?
(please tick as appropriate)

a)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	DON'T KNOW
b)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	DON'T KNOW

Please add comments here and overleaf:

Penn Hall school has an Outstanding reputation for providing excellent inclusive education to children PTO with physical disability and varying degrees of

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The deadline for receipt of responses is 17 June 2018.

Please note all comments received will be acknowledged if contact details are provided.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form.

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

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sensory communication and intellectual problems. Over the last few years there has been a decline in the numbers of children with PD needing or wishing to attend special school and are well supported in mainstream by our excellent outreach service. Hence an increasing number of children with MLD and SLD & even PMLD children have been admitted to the school.

Since Wolverhampton has a serious shortage of places with the latter needs in the existing schools it is appropriate that we admit more of these children given that we have a wide range of expertise among our existing staff.

I have no problem with the change in designation proposed (as long as PD remains in the list) and the increase in places provided that the existing children in school are not compromised and the space in school for such an increase is financially supported by the L.A. such that over crowding is not allowed, and teaching staff are not so overstretched that the children's education and the ethos of the school is not compromised.



The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

New Cross Hospital
Wolverhampton Road
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV10 0QP

Tel: 01902 307999

KH/Gen/027_2018

15th June 2018

Adrian Leach
Head of SEND
City of Wolverhampton Council
Civic Centre
St Peters Square
Wolverhampton
WV1 1RL

Dear Adrian,

Re: Proposed Changes to Specialist Provision

We have received a copy of your letter dated 14th May 2018 where you have outlined the proposed changes to Specialist Provision across Wolverhampton and thank you for the opportunity for RWT to share our views with you.

Upon review it has identified several implications for medical, nursing and therapy provision with these increases likely to result in additional pressures on an overstretched set of services. The consequences of this is that we may have to jointly review what activities RWT can and can no longer provide within current capacity as a result of this additional demand.

I have outlined the general implications below for each service with more specific elements to each service provided within appendix 1.

Nursing support (0-19 Service and Community Children's Nursing Team(CCN))

Both the 0-19 and CCN Service have absorbed increases over the past few years for support required to Special Schools within our current capacity. This proposed increase will therefore put additional pressure on the services and necessitate the need for additional resources to ensure services are not unmanageable.

The nursing provision for Penn Hall is currently provided from the Community Children's Nursing Team, primarily due to the complex medical needs of patients while support for Tettenhall Wood, Westcroft and Broadmeadow is provided from the 0-19 Team (as part of the 0-19 HCP programme) so proposed changes may affect two other commissioners.

RWT propose that the nursing room at Penn Hall School be moved to the Post-16 block to ensure that the room and staff are used appropriately. At the moment, being within the main school building, pupils are attending for first aid (cuts and bruises) rather than medical treatment we would expect to provide in this setting. It is hoped that this move will mitigate against unnecessary usage and would appreciate it if you could review our proposal.

Chairman: Jeremy Vanes

Chief Executive: David Loughton CBE

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Speech and Language Therapy Services (SALT)

SALT have seen an increase over the past few years which has been absorbed within current staffing levels, using skill mix and efficiency measures. Unfortunately proposed increases, including a new SEN provision located at Warstones Primary School will mean the service has reached a critical point in terms of staffing levels. I can confirm that RWT will need to increase staffing in order to ensure quality and provision is not significantly or adversely affected.

Alternative and Augmentative Communication Assessment and Support Team (AAC AST)

The City has for many years had a leading reputation in jointly delivering AAC solutions for the benefit of all Wolverhampton children with the Knowledge Hub located at Penn Hall. AACAST represents ground breaking, forward thinking, child centred provision.

We would appreciate confirmation of the plans for AACAST as Penn Hall School moves to a different cohort. Will children with Physical needs be educated in a range of mainstream and specialist settings?

We believe that this will have significant implications for the knowledge hub in terms of physical location, co-location of staff and in terms of travel/ time implications for assessment, training and provision/maintenance of equipment.

Orthotics

We understand that the Physiotherapy Service will be re-located outside of the main Penn Hall School building to make room for the increase in students. This, along with the extra activity generated, will generate additional demand against current maximum capacity and will require the children to be chaperoned to and from their classroom for their appointments.

Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Services

The proposed change to designation of special schools will result in increased demand for Therapy Services including support for education staff in embedding appropriate activities within the education setting. Education staff are unfamiliar with other aspects of this activity and will require more support. For example, there will be a number of children who would have gone to Green Park, but are now going to Penn Hall School who will have a high requirement for a Sensory approach. It has been very difficult to successfully integrate this approach with small numbers up until now. This change to the population, combined with increased pupil numbers increases the demand and challenge faced by Therapy teams.

One of the main issues, alongside nurse staffing capacity, is the loss of the Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy base within Penn Hall School with daily pressure from the school to move out by the end of July. Our current base is being converted to a classroom to accommodate the increased pupil numbers and will need to be operational from September along with our accommodation needs.

This loss will impact in a number of ways, and has significantly influences the operation of our teams, affecting most health aspects:

- Clinical space for individual sessions, and standardised tests, including CPIP (Cerebral palsy Integrated Pathway assessments)
- Space for joint working with other services, including CCNS, Mobility services/wheelchairs, orthotics
- Specialist clinics including orthotics and Wheelchairs
- Clinical space for physiotherapy interventions including serial casting (plaster), gait analysis, equipment trials.
- Flexibility of staffing arrangement, so additional staff are easily available if required to support complex transfers etc.
- Office space and IT equipment to enable contemporaneous record keeping, and communication with MDT
- Storage of equipment in regular use, including scales used by CCNS

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- Maintenance of equipment (medical physics)
- Accessible physio and OT advise which can be accessed independently by pupils and staff

Following conversations with the Head Teacher at Penn Hall School, we have been offered alternative accommodation in a separate building which falls short of the standard of accommodation required, with the distance from school presenting additional logistical challenges for both staff and pupils. The Head Teacher is working with Therapy Services to identify a variety of needs included ensuring adequate Infection Prevention and Health and Safety. We have no resources to complete the physical move, once the environment is deemed appropriate. There are also confidentiality and information governance risks which must be addressed.

We would like the commitment from yourselves that you will ensure good multi-disciplinary team working continues, which will require resource commitment from members of education staff.

Dental Service

As you may be aware we have a Dental Mobile that visits each Special School across Wolverhampton to deliver dental treatment to the children. The proposed increase will put extra pressure on the mobile unit both in terms of examination and treatment with additional sessions required.

Hearing Services

As you may also be aware, RWT Hearing Services visit special schools in Wolverhampton to assess children at school entry and then at ages 8, 11 and 14 years. We will also see children on request when concerns arise. Many of these children DNA their appointments at the Audiology base at the GEM Centre so the only contact they have with us is in school.

In the past we have managed to absorb the impact of slowly increasing additional demand, however our Children and Adult's Audiology Services, which shares staffing, are currently both fully stretched to keep up with current demand.

Whilst there may be a period of time when the service is running across two sites with Hearing resource bases during the transition, this may create demands that our service cannot meet. In which case we may need to review the service we provide which may require an amendment to current provision and re-specify the age groups of children assessed.

Westcroft

We believe that these numbers are also increasing from 174 to 184 and complexities are increasing. RWT would appreciate further clarity around this from the Council.

Broadmeadow

We believe this school has now reached maximum intake and has seen an increase over the past few years. RWT would appreciate further clarity around proposed future numbers from the Council.

Green Park School

Green Park School has not been included within your letter but they have seen any increase in children who have complex needs. Pupil numbers on roll has risen each year (2014 – 116, 2018-19-133). This will also present additional pressures on the teams and will potentially also include complex pupils from out of borough.

We would appreciate if you could take service impacts into account when making a decision on proposed changes and would be grateful if you could respond to queries/ suggestions raised within this response.

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We would be happy for our teams to meet to discuss these implications in more detail if you feel this would be beneficial and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

#11

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, June 15, 2018 3:50:06 PM
Last Modified: Friday, June 15, 2018 4:02:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:49
IP Address:

Page 1: Proposed Changes to Penn Hall School

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Other (please
state):
Headteacher

Q2 Do you agree with the proposals to (Please tick as appropriate)

a) Extend the type of needs that Penn Hall School is registered
to cater for?

Yes

b) Increase the capacity of Penn Hall School?

Yes

Please add any comments:

Thank you for supporting the expansion of provision for SEND pupils across the city. I have been asked by the Governors of Green Park to request further clarification on the admission criteria to both schools and also Tettenhall Wood school as we will all have similar /overlapping designations. Historically there was a similar situation which resulted in longer journey times for children and additional transport service costs to the council. It is unclear in the proposal how pupils will be allocated to each school and if this will impact on the future intake, provision and strategic vision for pupils attending Green Park. We would appreciate you feedback on how parents and pupils will be guided in making their choice about a future school. Thank you for taking the time to read this response. We look forward to your feedback.

Q3 Contact Details

Name (including title):

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

#8

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 1:21:29 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 1:22:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:05
IP Address:

Page 1: Proposed Changes to Penn Hall School

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Parent / Carer of a pupil at Penn Hall School

Q2 Do you agree with the proposals to (Please tick as appropriate)

- a) Extend the type of needs that Penn Hall School is registered to cater for? **Yes**
b) Increase the capacity of Penn Hall School? **Yes**

Q3 Contact Details

Name (including title):

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

#9

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, June 14, 2018 7:09:21 AM
Last Modified: Friday, June 15, 2018 10:39:12 AM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address:

Page 1: Proposed Changes to Penn Hall School

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Member of Staff at Penn Hall
School

Q2 Do you agree with the proposals to (Please tick as appropriate)

Please add any comments:

There is certainly a need for Wolverhampton to reassess the education requirements for present and future students in the city. This need should be provided in suitable local schools except in very special circumstances. I consider this consultation to be a sham; it is a fait accompli the decisions had already been made and started to be implemented before someone remembered stakeholders should be consulted; a failure of good management. However, I will provide my comments as requested. I accept:-

- The recent bulge in births has put pressure on school places.
- That "inclusion" and "parental choice" has changed the historic demarcations of many schools.
- Government cuts have severely affected schools.
- Academies' have affected the ability of the LA to manage student placements.
- Penn Hall needs to provide for the needs of Wolverhampton children in a planned and organised way. Penn Hall has experienced many changes since I started working here. We have always had a cohort of students with SLD and PMLD with many students with diagnosed and undiagnosed ASD. The common factor has been the need to provide for their physical disabilities. Penn Hall is recognised as a regional centre of excellence for children with complex sensory, communication and physical needs and has children from up-to seven different LA's at any one time. Many of our current children require continuous medical support to even attend school. I find the proposed changes problematic for a number of reasons:-
- The building is struggling to cope with the present number of students due to their medical and equipment requirements. The proposed changes would increase class sizes in rooms that are already too small.
- The hall and arena are small and we struggle to fit 80 students in for school events.
- Toilets; most of our students need intermit care, most of the toilets are

Consultation on the Proposed Changes to Penn Hall School

designed to meet this need. With a massive increase in ambulant students, will this mean they will have to share staff toilets? • At the moment, the average year group is 5-6 pupils, this means that on average 5-8 pupils leave every year. Increasing a year group by up to 8 pupils will cause, a year bulge to go through the school in subsequent years, this could mean that PD students might not be able to get a place. Surely the sensible thing to do would be to increase the school size by 5 each year so that the effect would not distort our year numbers and allow the school to evolve. What will be the LA's answer to the same student number problem next year? • We have worked very hard to ensure that wherever possible, our PD students are able to move around the school and grounds freely, I can see this being adversely affected by the safety needs of ambulant ASD students. • Playtimes will be a serious issue, many of our student are vulnerable and a number have a peg feed whilst in the playground, this will pose serious problems. Are the current students going to be restricted so that ambulant and/or boisterous students enjoy their play? • I know school transport and staff parking is a minor issue but has it been addressed? The LA missed the opportunity to sufficiently plan for Wolverhampton's future needs during BSF. You are now attempting to paper over your shortcomings by looking for badly thought out quick fixes. I doubt even the minor planned building changes can be successfully implemented by September. I do not think that the best interests of our, or future, students is the driving force for these changes.

Q3 Contact Details

Name (including title):

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

#10

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, June 15, 2018 10:57:57 AM
Last Modified: Friday, June 15, 2018 3:36:16 PM
Time Spent: 04:38:19
IP Address:

Page 1: Proposed Changes to Penn Hall School

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Member of Staff at Penn Hall
School

Q2 Do you agree with the proposals to (Please tick as appropriate)

a) Extend the type of needs that Penn Hall School is registered to cater for?

No

b) Increase the capacity of Penn Hall School?

No

Please add any comments:

How can this be considered a consultation when both the stated aims will have been put in place by September 2018 rather than the stated date of Sept 19. The School is heading for 97 on roll in September and is admitting able bodied pupils who would not have been considered previously. The speed of change in the past 6 months has been staggering and it is unlikely that we will be ready and fully prepared to meet the needs of the additional numbers which is around 20 -25% of our current population. We have outstanding and experienced staff at the school but the new cohort of children will need a range of new skills which will not be in place for September. I fully understand the need, in terms of both the schools inadequate budget and the need to place pupils across the authority. But why so urgently? Who should have been aware within the LA of this bulge in the SEN population and why wasn't it prepared for over the past few years? In terms of the huge difficulties and constraints placed by a rapidly diminishing budget upon those of us working at this school how can the LA, with conscience, take 80k as a punitive measure at the end of last year? Penn Hall has been an outstanding school for a long time – I fear that by diminishing or diluting its specific strengths in terms of expertise that this is under threat.

#12

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, June 17, 2018 1:09:14 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, June 17, 2018 1:14:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:50
IP Address:

Page 1: Proposed Changes to Penn Hall School

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Member of the Governing Board at Penn Hall School

Other (please state):

Ex student. Residential independent visitor. Cqc expert by experience

Q2 Do you agree with the proposals to (Please tick as appropriate)

a) Extend the type of needs that Penn Hall School is registered to cater for?

Yes

b) Increase the capacity of Penn Hall School?

Yes

Please add any comments:

As an ex student with physical disabilities I am proud to continue supporting Penn Hall. Being a governor has enabled me to help with decisions like these. Opening up to a wider range of needs will change the persons life for the better. I feel I had a great support network academically and physically from the teachers, staff and physiotherapy team. Penn Hall also offers valuable lessons such as life skills for post-school and introduces adaptive equipment depending on pupils disability. Sports and forest school activities make learning fun and motivates the children to see the positives and not so much the negatives. Penn Hall has a brilliant residential hostel which has also achieved OFSTED rating Outstanding along with the school. They both help to break down barriers and concentrate on working to the best of pupils ability. Children like to have tea visits and opportunities to have sleepovers with friends which can be difficult if they're at home. Fiona Gillespie is a great addition to the school, I can already see a brighter future and if the capital scheme is agreed- this will help Penn Hall achieve more goals, tick as many boxes and continue to put a smile on people's faces. Thank you.

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Consultation on the Proposed Changes to Penn Hall School

Are you a: <i>(Please tick as appropriate)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pupil at Penn Hall School
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parent/Carer of a pupil at Penn Hall School
<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of Staff at Penn Hall School
<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of the Governing Board at Penn Hall School
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other <i>(Please state)</i>

Do you agree with the proposals to						
a) Extend the type of needs that Penn Hall School is registered to cater for?						
b) Increase the capacity of Penn Hall School?						
<i>(please tick as appropriate)</i>						
a)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	DON'T KNOW
b)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	DON'T KNOW
Please add comments here and overleaf:						
PENN HALL IS SUCH A WONDERFUL SCHOOL AND I THINK IT IS						
WONDERFUL IF IT CAN PROVIDE FOR MORE CHILDREN, EVERY						
PTO CHILD DESERVES THE BEST CARE AND EDUCATION. PTO						

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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!

THIS PROPOSAL IS WONDERFUL!