



**North Tyneside Council**

**Mark Longstaff**  
**Head of Commissioning and Investment**  
North Tyneside Council  
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**This matter is being dealt with by:**  
**Mark Taylor tel. 0191 643 8755**

**Dean Jackson**  
**Service Director, Education and Skills**  
Well-being and Community Health Services Group  
Northumberland County Council  
County Hall  
Morpeth  
NE61 2EF

1 October 2018

Dear Dean

### **Proposal to Develop a Wave 14 SEN Free School in Northumberland**

Thank you for sharing your intention to bid for Wave 14 funding for a new special school in Northumberland. The issue of increasing demand for SEMH and ASD provision is one that we also recognise in North Tyneside. For that reason we would be keen to discuss your plans in greater detail and to consider how these align with our own strategic priorities.

In particular, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss the school's proposed ethos, scope and curriculum offer, including the range of therapeutic services needed to support children with SEN. We would also want to consider the governance, commissioning arrangements, number of planned places and funding model.

In terms of supporting any North of Tyne collaborative approach, our preference is to explore the opportunity to commission High Needs places in the new school. This would be where there are placement needs for North Tyneside children that cannot be met within the borough. We are not seeking to be a formal partner in a joint bid.

Angela James and I would be happy to meet with you to discuss further.

Yours sincerely

**Mark Taylor**  
**Strategic Commissioning Manager**  
**North Tyneside Council**