

The person dealing with this matter is:

Amber Burton

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Dean Jackson, Service Director, Education & Skills
Well-being & Community Health Services Group
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County Hall
Morpeth
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Date: 08/10/18

Our reference:

Dear Dean

Re: Proposal for a wave 14 free school application

Thank you for your recent communication regarding your proposed wave 14 free school application, designed to meet the needs of children and young people who have needs related to autism and social, emotional and mental health.

Newcastle shares the same issues re: rising demands for provision in relation to these specific areas of need. As you will also know, we have a higher than average number of children and young people in special schools, which means we are looking at how we can stop this escalating.

However, we do feel that a special school provision as you describe, would benefit us in terms of addressing the high cost placements we are making in the independent sector. We would be keen to discuss your plans with you further, so that we could begin to consider the finer details in terms of cohort and the schools proposed offer. At the same time, we will look at the potential positive impact this may have for us in terms of commissioning high needs places in the future.

Yours sincerely



Amber Burton

Head of Inclusive Education