

## **SEND Capacity Proposals**

### Feedback on the Options to Increase Specialist Provision in Northumberland

Consultation was held between 19 October and 8 December, where we consulted upon options to increase our school capacity and our education provision for children and young people with SEND across Northumberland.

Five public events were held from Berwick to Hexham these events were well attended, by parents, carers, students, education and health professionals who all came along to find out more detail and express their views. As a result of this consultation we received written 206 responses.

The aim of the consultation was to seek views in order to develop a draft place planning strategy to grow specialist provision within Northumberland to ensure children with SEND are educated close to home in high quality education establishments, giving greater opportunity for social inclusion within the communities in which they live.

In order to address the challenges we need a strategy to develop solutions that offer:

- More specialist places for pupils who can't access mainstream education.
- Locally based specialist provision in mainstream schools
- Affordable and sustainable provisions within the current and future national funding streams.

In order to give some structure to the consultation, very broad potential models were developed based on each school partnership area. The views of the consultees were sought on these models, and they were also asked to provide alternative suggestions. The detail on these outcomes is contained in Appendix 2. Whilst in the main each of the proposed models to grow capacity was supported by the consultee's, a more detailed summary follows.

### Alnwick

**Potential Model.**

Create additional capacity and specialist provision for SEMH and SLCN(speech and language)

To meet the needs of at least 25 children. Either on site of Barndale Special School or other school site.

Agree/Strongly agree	Neither agree or disagree/ or no response given	Disagree/Strongly Disagree
101	85	20

**Alternative Suggestions**

1. Need a new school that specialises in ASD
2. Turn Lindisfarne Middle School site into a centre for excellence for SEND children.
3. All mainstream schools should have an additional resourced provision as disability has no geographical bias

### Ashington/Hirst

**Potential Model.**

Demand for additional places will be met through the expansion of the Dales in Ashington. There is also an opportunity to work in partnership with all through academy NCEA to develop services for existing pupils.

Agree/Strongly agree	Neither agree or disagree/ or no response given	Disagree/Strongly Disagree
66	130	10

**Alternative Suggestions**

1. Bespoke 6<sup>th</sup> form provision
2. Use Buzz Learning to grow SEND capacity as they are soon to be an independent special school.
3. Expansion should only be in good or outstanding provision

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## Ashington

### Potential Model.

Additional primary capacity for children with SEMH is already planned with the expansion of the Dales, on the old Ashington annex site, which is Planned to open in September 2018. To become Ashdale Annex for 50 places.

A further option could be to make the new provision all age further increasing capacity across the south east of the county.

Agree/Strongly agree	Neither agree or disagree/ or no response given	Disagree/Strongly Disagree
55	103	48

### Alternative Suggestions

1. Use site of the old Ashington Leisure centre to grow capacity.
2. Use Buzz Learning to run an independent special school from the annex and the Dales extend its age range on its existing site in Blyth.
3. Need to look at ARC's for mainstream schools.

## Blyth

### Potential Model.

Extend the age range of the Dales school to be an all age school, on its existing site.

Agree/Strongly agree	Neither agree or disagree/ or no response given	Disagree/Strongly Disagree
91	106	9

### Alternative Suggestions

1. Improve mainstream provision rather than adding additional segregation by expanding special school provision.
2. Good support for an all age provision as it would better SEMH students as it would provide continuous education linked to stage and not age.
3. Need to fund provision in our entire mainstream schools eg fund a nurture group in each school.
4. Use Buzz Learning to run an independent special school from the annex site in Ashington for 50 places and the Dales extend its age range on its existing site in Blyth.

### Haydon Bridge

**Potential Model.**

Grow an additional specialist provision. There is an opportunity to work with local alternative providers, to create additional capacity within the Haydon Bridge catchment area.

Agree/Strongly agree

Neither agree or disagree/ or no response given

Disagree/Strongly Disagree

80

123

3

**Alternative Suggestions**

There weren't any alternative suggestions put forward as a result of this consultation.

### Berwick

**Potential Model.**

Alternative resource provisions at both Berwick middle and high school already exists. Revise the designation to the specialist provision pupils with SEMH.

Agree/Strongly agree

Neither agree or disagree/ or no response given

Disagree/Strongly Disagree

46

126

34

**Alternative Suggestions**

1. Change the remit of the PRU to facilitate longer stays for KS2/3 SEMH pupils.
2. The provision at Berwick High and Middle Schools should be staffed by specialist teachers and support staff under the management of the local special school.
3. Investigate creating capacity through using alternative providers.

### Bedlington

**Potential Model.**

Increase capacity at Cleaswell Hill with a specialist ASD facility, on the existing or an alternative site.

Agree/Strongly agree	Neither agree or disagree/ or no response given	Disagree/Strongly Disagree
92	101	13

**Alternative Suggestions**

1. Open a new school rather than expand Cleaswell Hill. There are concerns about the school becoming bigger and the impact this could have on this outstanding facility.
2. Keep the expansion to an additional 20 places, through the provision of 2 additional classrooms.
3. Attached an ASD unit to a mainstream school with the unit being managed by special school this would introduce wider choice for parents.
4. Use an alternative site
5. Expand Collingwood's ASD provision too

### Cramlington

**Potential Model.**

Extend the age range of Hillcrest to become an all age provision, either on the existing or alternative site.

Agree/Strongly agree	Neither agree or disagree/ or no response given	Disagree/Strongly Disagree
96	104	6

**Alternative Suggestions**

1. High quality APR's specialising in ASD across the south east of Northumberland.
2. Mainstream schools in Cramlington should be given the opportunity to be considered for development too.
3. Primary age pupils should be educated in a totally separate unit/building/site.
4. Get Hillcrest and Dales to work together with each site offering an all age school but offer different specialisms?

### Hexham

**Potential Model.**

Expansion of Hexham Priory Special school already planned for September 2018 on its existing site. Develop partnership working with multi academy trusts

Agree/Strongly agree	Neither agree or disagree/ or no response given	Disagree/Strongly Disagree
82	117	7

**Alternative Suggestions**

1. Expand the schools designation wider so that it really meets the local additional needs.
2. LA support Hexham Priory with its application to join a MAT and open a free school.
3. Hexham Priory to provide specialist provision into mainstream schools.
4. Use Haydon Bridge site to provide ASD, and SEMH provision.

### Morpeth

**Potential Model.**

Develop a specialist sixth form college for all post 16 learners with SEND from across Northumberland. This option would release capacity in all the special schools in order grow capacity for younger pupils. Working in partnership with local college or Northumberland Adult Learning Service.

Agree/Strongly agree	Neither agree or disagree/ or no response given	Disagree/Strongly Disagree
107	84	15

**Alternative Suggestions**

1. 6th form provision should be provided closer to Children's homes .If only one provision for post 16 this limits choice..
2. Would like to see this provision in the west of Northumberland.
3. LA to provide support to existing provider to develop non academic courses for post 16 students.
4. Collingwood Special School proposed a range of options on how there school can be expanded to meet the demand for places.

### Ponteland

**Potential Model.**

Develop a new specialist provision within Ponteland in collaboration with the newly established academies.

A site to be determined within the Ponteland partnership area that would be accessible to pupils living in Prudhoe and also across border in Newcastle.

Agree/Strongly agree	Neither agree or disagree/ or no response given	Disagree/Strongly Disagree
69	131	6

**Alternative Suggestions**

1. A joint plan should be developed for the west of the county but this should include Hexham and Prudhoe rather than Ponteland.
2. Provision should be developed that offered an alternative curriculum.
3. It is apparent from the NCC SEND consultation map that there is a need in Ponteland and the Ponteland Academy Trust is keen to meet that need, forge a professional relationship and a provide a facility for children who are in danger of not fitting in to mainstream or special schools.

### Prudhoe

**Potential Model.**

Work with the partnership of schools and potential new academies and Wise Academy to explore the development of a local SEN provision.

Agree/Strongly agree	Neither agree or disagree/ or no response given	Disagree/Strongly Disagree
98	98	10

**Alternative Suggestions**

1. Prudhoe needs a separate special school.
2. Improve provision in main stream schools rather than creating more special schools.
3. Need more time to work up a plan for this area.
4. Partnerships need to be developed between NCC and academy trust to enable better collaborative work and outcomes for the children and young people.

### Coquet

**Potential Model.**

Develop an alternative resourced provision to increase specialist capacity for the partnership schools for children who can achieve in mainstream school on the JCSC site.

Agree/Strongly agree	Neither agree or disagree/ or no response given	Disagree/Strongly Disagree
68	127	11

**Alternative Suggestions**

1. Concerns whether JCSC had the capacity or expertise to run the unit.
2. Use Acklington First school building for an early years Autism/Asperger's unit.
3. Provision needs to be improved at all mainstream setting and an alternative KS4 curriculum needs to be developed.

### Seaton Valley

**Potential Model.**

Change the designation of Atkinson House in order to take girls and also expand the age range. Explore the option of federation with local high school in order to increase SEND capacity

Agree/Strongly agree	Neither agree or disagree/ or no response given	Disagree/Strongly Disagree
80	123	3

**Alternative Suggestions**

1. Explore option of alternative sites and link the provision for younger children to mainstream first and middle schools.
2. Improve provision in mainstream settings
3. Girls are not well catered for, especially those with SEMH so agree to suggestion but location needs careful thought, as not sure the mix on one site would work.

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**PRU**

**Potential Model.**

Expansion plans complete Nov 2017. Work with management committee for further development.

Agree/Strongly agree

Neither agree or disagree/ or no response given

Disagree/Strongly Disagree

**Alternative Suggestions**

1. Have satellite KS3/ PRU's, for example, located in the north, south, east and west.

2. Expand the age range of the current PRU

3. Increase residential places at Killoe