

**Consultation – Online Q&A Session
Coteford Infant School
Wednesday 2nd October 5pm – 6pm
Notes**

LA Officers (O): Gary Binstead, Sonal Sisodia & Nav Minhas

Consultees (C): 1 Attendee

C: What stage are we at in the process?

O: The proposal is to close the Physical Disability SRP at the school and the consultation started on 25th September and will continue to 25th October enabling people to express their views on the proposal.

C: Would the children still have access to private provision?

O: Pupils would have access to the same level of support, but not necessarily through the private therapists currently employed by the school. The children will be supported at the same level as they are currently in line with their EHCP.

If the proposal is approved there would be no changes this year, and any changes would take effect from September 2025. There has been a lot of communication with our Borough wide therapy provider regarding the proposals and there will be a clear and robust handover for the therapist to continue to provide the appropriate support.

C: Not confident as there are large waiting lists. From what has been observed the children have had a much richer experience. Concern is that waiting times will be long and support will not be consistent, and services will not be similar.

O: The current Borough wide therapy provider is expected to provide appropriately skilled and experienced therapist to all children across the Borough, and this could include Coteford Infant school. There are not expected to be any delays to the therapy required for children on roll at the SRP

C: Have parents with children accessing SRP been consulted?

O: Yes, EHC Co-ordinators within the Councils SEN service have already spoken with the parents of all 3 children directly impacted, and a letter has been sent to the families following the discussion to offer ongoing support. Pupils on roll at the SRP would continue to access mainstream provision.

C: SEND pressures are being recognised nationally and do not want to take away from families. Parent was told that the SRP had closed.

O: Officers are not able to discuss specific cases during this meeting, but no decision has been taken yet regarding the proposed closure of the SRP. A decision will be made following the consultation. Officers will meet with any parents separately to discuss specific cases.

C: Inclusivity is at the heart of the school. Children have come from mainstream schools who could not meet needs.

O: Schools are expected to make reasonable adjustments, to be inclusive and accessible to all children and young people. The Council have published the SEND & AP Strategy with a range of ambitions. All mainstream schools should be inclusive and be able to meet the needs of children and young people with physical disabilities.

C: What do you think might change NHS waiting list. SLT assessment is impossible, and this is not viable. Have heard of therapist support not being provided.

O: The Borough wide therapy provider did not miss any contacts for children and young people last year as outlined in the EHCP's. Conversations are ongoing with the Borough wide therapy provider to ensure that high levels of service delivery are provided.

Any assessments for an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment will be carried out in line with statutory duties and detailed in the SEND Code of Practice.

Every child with a EHCP will continue to receive funding in line with their assessed needs and their EHCP.

C: Will speak to parents / friends to get more information. School is a great example of inclusivity and does not want to change the ethos.

O: Officers agreed that the school is demonstrating inclusive practice, and that the needs of children are at the centre of the proposal. The consultation ends on 25th October at 5pm. If there are any concerns, parents/guardians can contact Officers, or respond to the consultation.