

New Special School Engagement Event – 14 May 2019

Questions and Further Information Requested by Interested Proposers:

1) Given Newham Council's policy regarding academisation, how will a new special free school be supported?

The Council's policy refers to further academisation of existing maintained schools, and the Council is committed to working with academies including free schools to ensure that the needs of all children and young people are met. The Council recognises the only legally available route to open a new school is as a free school academy. The Council will work jointly with the new school provider to ensure that Newham pupils receive the provision that meets their needs.

2) Further clarification of pupil cohort for the new school was requested including reasons for pupils currently travelling out of the borough or without a school place.

The current cohort of secondary aged pupils without a school place all require ASD specialist provision, with the only special school that can accommodate their needs (JFK) currently full. To ensure there is sufficient provision in the short term, the Council is working with JFK special school to provide a special school annex. The new special school will provide further places to address forecast increases in numbers of pupils with complex ASD. Currently due to insufficient provision within the borough and parental preference pupils are either travelling out of the borough or are without a school place. There is a desire to place pupils locally within their communities.

The range of needs have been reflected in the three sample education, health and care plans which are available on request to interested proposers. It is important to note that pupil cohorts will change over time.

3) Further information requested on assumptions potential sponsors should follow in their financial planning.

Funding has been specified within the published specification with place led-funding of £10,000 per place, and top-up funding of £22,000. Additional funding of up to £11,000 can be made available for those learners that require additional support. For the purposes of the bid proposers should assume

- Place led-funding of £10,000
- To-up funding of £22,000 for 90% of the cohort
- Additional funding of £11,000 (in addition to the top-up funding) to be assumed for 10% of the cohort

Is important to note that pupil cohorts will vary over time and each individual learner's needs are assessed on a case by case basis.

4) Information requested on Key Performance Indicators, how sponsor is to be held accountable.

The Council is keen to see evidence of the approach providers are currently using and what is working. Accountability will be measured through a joint working approach with agreement between the Council and the provider with the focus being on the outcomes for the learner.

5) Additional information requested on the selection criteria that the Council will use.

The Council is keen to encourage innovative approaches, pedagogy and collaborative working from interested providers to find effective approaches to meeting the needs of learners. Ultimately the outcomes the new school will deliver to individual learners, how well the new school will complement the existing mix of provision, and proven experience of delivering such services are important.

6) Information on who will procure and manage the site and capital works. Community impact of road access surrounding site. Confidence of site being used for purpose of special school.

The site is owned by Newham Council and will be transferred on the standard DfE/EFSA lease conditions. All works will be procured and managed by the DfE/EFSA.

The Council has not carried out any specific assessments on road accessibility, this will be undertaken as part of the planning process. Site was previously the former site of Rokeby Secondary school which has now been relocated.. A DfE surveyor inspected the site for use as a 105 places special school, further survey work and feasibility will be conducted by the DfE.

7) Accountability and expectations regarding outreach services, wraparound health services.

Discussion with health partners is taking place, with details to be specified in joint-commissioning arrangements. Proposers would be expected to work with interested stakeholders to ensure outcomes are being met. The Council is keen to explore models of outreach services including partnership workings or any traded services provided by the new school provider

8) Publication of assessment criteria for bid.

The Council has requested this from DfE and is awaiting information regarding this. When received this will be made available.