

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Proposal to increase the funding required to complete the satellite provision of The Beacon Folkestone at the former Walmer Science College

Responsible Officer

Lee Round - CY EPA

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

Project/Programme

Commissioning/Procurement

No

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Children Young People and Education

Responsible Service

Provision, Planning and Access

Responsible Head of Service

David Adams - CY EPA

Responsible Director

Christine McInnes - CY EPA

Aims and Objectives

Background

The Beacon Folkestone is a special school for pupils with Profound Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN). There is no PSCN special school in Dover district, provision has hitherto been made through Specialist Resourced Provision at Whitfield Aspen School (primary) and Dover Christ Church Academy (secondary), together with pupils travelling to special schools in Canterbury, Thanet and Folkestone. In March 2020 this Committee considered a proposal to expand The Beacon School via a satellite site at the former Walmer Science College, Dover, following which the proposal was approved by the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.

The report of March 2020 stated that the estimated cost of delivering the satellite, at that point 168 places, had been estimated at £4m, with the first phase costing £1.6m. This Committee recommended the proposal be amended to deliver 240 places, rather than 168, to enable the satellite to deliver two forms of entry throughout the age structure. It was recognised this would increase the cost. This recommendation was endorsed in the final decision.

The costs of delivering this satellite have increased significantly. The first phase of the satellite opened in April 2021, following the upgrading of a detached block at the College. This provides up to 80 places for pupils aged 4-8 years at a cost of £3.1m. The full scheme is now expected to cost £19,924,438.

Aims and Objectives

- Increase specialist provision for pupils with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs in Dover District. Thus, increasing access to specialist provision for Dover residents.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

Yes

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

Yes

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

A public consultation was held between 6 January 2020 and 14 February 2020, with a public meeting for stakeholders to raise issues and concerns held on 30 January 2020. There were 24 responses to the consultation. Of the responses 24 all were in support and none against.

The following stakeholders were consulted:

- Parents/carers at The Bacon School
- Staff at The Bacon School
- Governors at The Bacon School
- CYPECC Members
- The Local Member/s
- Folkestone and Hythe District Council
- Dover District Council
- Ashford Borough Council
- Walmer Parish Council
- Folkestone Town Council
- The Parish/Town councils
- Headteachers of Ashford Borough, Folkestone and Hythe District and Dover District Schools
- Dioceses of Canterbury and Southwark
- The Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Local MPs

Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?

Yes

Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?

Yes

Section C – Impact

Who may be impacted by the activity?

Service Users/clients

Service users/clients

Staff

Staff/Volunteers

Residents/Communities/Citizens

Residents/communities/citizens

Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?

Yes
Details of Positive Impacts
The proposal will increase the number of outstanding special school places available for pupils who require the specialist support the school can offer. It will also release capacity in The Beacon Folkestone and other PSCN provisions for other need types.
Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions
19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age
Are there negative impacts for age?
No
Details of negative impacts for Age
Not Applicable
Mitigating Actions for Age
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age
Not Applicable
20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability
Are there negative impacts for Disability?
Yes
Details of Negative Impacts for Disability
The most physically disabled may be indirectly discriminated against as the satellite building will support the more ambulant pupils. Therefore, some Dover residents may still need to travel out of the district to attend a suitable provision.
Mitigating actions for Disability
The proposal will increase the number of outstanding special school places available for pupils who require the specialist support the school can offer. It will also release capacity in The Beacon Folkestone and other PSCN provisions for other need types including the most physically disabled.
Responsible Officer for Disability
Lee Round
21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex
Are there negative impacts for Sex
Yes
Details of negative impacts for Sex
As of May 2022, there were 2,460 boys and 1,115 girls on roll in the ten PSCN special schools across the County.
As 70% of the cohort was boys, the proposal will have a greater impact for boys than girls.
Mitigating actions for Sex
No mitigation is required at this point as girls requiring the specialist provision available at The Walmer Site will be able to access this if appropriate to meet their needs.
Responsible Officer for Sex

Lee Round
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
No
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race
No
Negative impacts for Race
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Applicable
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships

Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable