



## **Consultation on establishing a ten place Resourced Provision at Dane Bank Primary School**

With the support of Tameside Local Authority, the Trustees of the CLIC Trust and the Local Governors of Dane Bank Primary School would like to hear your views regarding a proposal to open a specialist Resourced Provision.

### **Context**

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to keep under review the specialist provision it makes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). As a school, we are also committed to ensuring we are an inclusive setting that can offer the highest quality provision for children with additional needs. Working in partnership, schools and Local Authorities must ensure there are sufficient specialist places available to meet the needs of the growing SEND population both in Tameside and nationally. Over the last 10 years there has been a year on year growth in the number of children who have Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) and, according to data forecasting undertaken in the Local Authority, this trend does not appear likely to slow down – hence, there is more demand than ever on schools to provide specialist support. Establishing a Resourced Provision at Dane Bank Primary School will contribute to ensuring that this demand is met. We intend that our provision would offer 10 places to children with EHCPs where their primary need is Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and/or Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).

Our proposal is contingent on the receipt of capital funding to make necessary adjustments to facilities in school and this application has been submitted to the Local Authority for discussion at the cabinet meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Without this funding being agreed, the project will not go ahead. If the funding is agreed, it is proposed that the Resourced Provision would open at the beginning of the Summer Term 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter.

### **What is a Resourced Provision?**

Resourced Provision bases are located within a mainstream school and provide specific support to a limited number of pupils within an EHCP. Specialist facilities typically include higher staff:pupil ratios. The facilities are developed in a way that meet the needs of pupils with SEND, e.g. – different classroom layouts, access to different resources, inclusion of a small sensory room within the provision.

### **Why do we want to add a Resourced Provision at Dane Bank Primary School?**

A specialist Resourced Provision provides places for children with SEND who have an EHCP within a mainstream school. Children are taught in smaller groups with additional staff within the provision, but they also have access to mainstream classes and wider school life as their individual needs allow.

As outlined above, the demand for specialist places within Tameside is ever-increasing with ASC and SLCN being two of the areas of needs that appear to be particularly prevalent. This important new provision will both support Tameside Council to ensure that there are the necessary specialist places across the borough to meet need and demand, and also increase opportunities for younger children to gain early access to the specialist support and interventions they need.

The Executive Cabinet of the Council considered a report on 23 June 2021 which explained the need to increase the amount of resourced provision in the borough:

*“The Forward Plan for SEND Provision 2019-2024 identifies the need to develop additional Resourced Provision across the borough to meet the needs of pupils identified as requiring enhanced provision but not a special school place.*

*Targeted provision is provision that is more specialist than mainstream schools, providing a higher level of support for children and young people with SEND, but not a special school. This may be shorter term provision to support a child into the most appropriate provision, or a longer-term placement attached to a mainstream school. Tameside Resourced Provisions do not all provide a longer-term option for placement, which means that children and young people may move straight from mainstream to special school when their needs could be met in a longer-term targeted mainstream placement. This is a gap in the borough’s provision.*

*The Forward Plan identifies that the Council will begin to commission new targeted mainstream provision model with a greater emphasis on highly supported Resourced Provisions for a small number of children. This will:*

- Be related to the level and type of need in different neighbourhoods across the Borough.*
- Be small group focused provision, for both boys and girls, attached to mainstream schools.*
- Be provided for primary and secondary pupils.*
- Include a higher level of specialist staffing to meet need, linked with social care and health provision where appropriate.*
- Prioritise the two greatest areas of need: Communication and Interaction (including autism) and SEMH, (however, consideration needs to be given to lower levels of need that are currently in Special Schools in order to free up places.).”*

#### **What would the benefits of having this Resourced Provision be to Dane Bank Primary School?**

- As a school we are committed to offering high-quality inclusion and feel that the offer of a Resourced Provision in school will allow more children in need of specialist support to access it, but also that it will enhance our offer to other children within our mainstream classes who have some additional needs albeit not to the level of needing a specialist place. For example, children in our mainstream classes who require additional Speech and Language support could access that intervention through the provision.
- We anticipate that having the provision will have a positive impact on the education and social understanding of other pupils within the school.
- All our staff within school (regardless of whether they work directly within the provision) will have access to an enhanced training offer in order that the entire team develop/improve their understanding of how to support children with additional needs.
- We would be able to repurpose areas around school that are not currently used to their maximum potential – this would be of benefit to all pupils and staff.
- Where children with additional needs may join our school, we will be better placed to ensure they receive the right level of support much more quickly.

#### **How would pupils gain a place in the Resourced Provision?**

- In order to access a place within the provision a child must have an EHCP which identifies that their needs can be met in a Resourced Provision within a mainstream school and that their primary need is ASC and/or SLCN.
- Admissions to the Resourced Provision will be determined by the Local Authority, in consultation with the Headteacher.
- Pupils currently attending Dane Bank Primary School, who may benefit from being taught in the Resourced Provision, will be assessed in the same way – this will be assessed through the normal EHCP review process.

**Will having a Resourced Provision mean that much of the school's budget will go to supporting this and there would be less money for the rest of the school?**

- In short, absolutely not.
- In order for the proposal to go ahead, we would need to secure additional capital funding to undertake the enhancements needed to the school building. It is proposed that the current steel band room would be repurposed to create a specialist classroom.
- Additional transitional funding will be given by the Local Authority to support the school whilst the places are filled within the Resourced Provision.
- Supplementary SEND funding will also come from the Local Authority to support the children within the provision as part of their EHCP.
- The school's budget will continue to be spent in the same way as it currently is for the rest of the school.

**Will having a Resourced Provision mean there are fewer mainstream places at Dane Bank Primary School?**

- In short, absolutely not.
- The commissioned number of places within the Resourced Provision will be 10 – these places will be in addition to the Published Admission Number (PAN) so will not impact on the number of pupils admitted to the mainstream school each year.
- Our current PAN is 210 – 30 children in every year group from Reception to Year 6. With a Resourced Provision our PAN would increase to 220.

**Why are we consulting on this proposal?**

- The opinions of our stakeholders are always important to us.
- We have a responsibility to consult with the wider community on any prescribed alteration of significant change to the organisation or structure of the school.
- The Department for Education set out how the consultation should run and we are following those guidelines.

**How can you have your say?**

- You can have your say by completing our online form via the link here:  
<https://forms.office.com/e/RwWuu1Npiy>
- If you would prefer a paper copy of the form, these can be requested from the school office.
- Alternatively, you can email your response to school using the [admin@danebank.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:admin@danebank.tameside.sch.uk) email address.
- The consultation period will begin on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 and will close on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.

**Useful Links:**

Tameside Local Authority SEND Strategy 2020-2023:

<https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/policy/SEND-Strategy-SEPT2020.pdf>

Tameside Local Authority Forward Plan for SEND Provision 2019-2024:

<https://tameside.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s66934/ITEM%20%20-%20SEND%20Forward%20Plan%20Appendix.%20%20FINAL.pdf>