



STATUTORY PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO A MAINTAINED SCHOOL

Local Authority Proposal

1. School and local authority details

Springfield School
Crewe Green Road
Crewe
CW1 5HS

Springfield School is maintained by.
Cheshire East Borough Council
Westfields
Sandbach
Cheshire
CW11 1HZ

2. Implementation

September 2026

3. Proposed Alteration

We are consulting on a proposal to expand Springfield School on to a satellite site located at the premises formally known as Cledford House, Long Lane South, Middlewich, Cheshire CW10 0DB.

Cledford House in recent years was used as a Council office building and previous to this was a local authority maintained infant school.

The proposal, if agreed, would involve the refurbishment and remodelling of Cledford House to create the required accommodation for up to 60 pupils aged 4-11, with a range of Special Education Needs including Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC), Severe Learning difficulties (SLD) and Multiple Learning Difficulties (MLD).

In 2023 the Council published online its updated Sufficiency Statement for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs. This document highlights the specialist provision necessary within the Borough and provides the evidence base for the associated SEN plan 2023 – 2026.

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/livewell/sen/send-sufficiency-statement-forchildren-and-young-people-with-special-educational-needs-2023-2026.pdf>

4. Need or demand for additional places

The Council's Sufficiency Statement and 3-year plan has informed of the need for additional specialist places in the Borough. An opportunity to provide for these additional placements at this new site in Middlewich has been identified and this will become part of the Springfield School campus.

Springfield School is a popular and successful Special School and is rated OUTSTANDING by Ofsted. The provision of a satellite site for Springfield School at Cledford House allows for the strategic planning of additional Special School places in the central locality of the borough for SEN learners.

5. Objectives of the Proposal and Educational Standards

The Council's SEND Sufficiency Statement for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs states: -

Cheshire East is committed to supporting our children and young people to access the best education to meet their needs and to ensure they achieve the best possible outcomes. Having the right educational placement is key to supporting children and young people to achieve their potential and to develop the range of skills and experiences they need to equip them for adulthood.

We want all our children and young people to be happy, healthy, and safe, and to be able to live a life that is full of opportunities to learn and develop.

Our Children and Young People's Plan is based on what children and young people told us was most important to them. It has six priority areas that we are working to achieve across the partnership to ensure that Cheshire East is a great place to be young. We want to ensure that all our children and young people:

- 1. Have a voice, and are actively involved in decisions that affect their lives and communities*

- 2. Feel safe*
- 3. Are happy and have good emotional and mental health*
- 4. Are healthy and make positive choices*
- 5. Leave school with the best skills and qualifications they can achieve, and the life skills they need to thrive into adulthood*
- 6. Children and young people with additional needs have better chances in life*

The statement contributes to the authorities work across all of these priorities, but it is particularly related to priority 6; ensuring that children and young people with additional needs have better chances in life.

It's also important to us that we make the very best use of our resources so that we can provide the best quality service possible to all children and young people that need support. This means ensuring that we use our resources innovatively, match our services to the needs within our population, and also that we don't duplicate services. This also means reducing costs on any additional expenditure that doesn't contribute to children and young people's attainment or wellbeing, such as travel costs for long distance travel.

Through developing our SEND provision, we want to:

- Enable children to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people.*
- Ensure that there are the right number and type of places to meet children and young people's needs.*
- Ensure that children and young people can have their needs met within their local community wherever possible.*
- Make the best use of resources.*

*The focus for the plan is **RIGHT time, RIGHT support, RIGHT place**, which is embedded within the SEND strategy and the Dedicated School grant Management Plan.*

Will there be movement of pupils between the three sites?

Due to the nature of the Special School our intake on all the Springfield sites will serve a large population across Cheshire East. There is very limited specialist provision within the Local Authority, so pupils are not always necessarily based within their local community. We do have pupils that travel a distance to attend our school. We would hope that some of these pupils would be closer to their communities by attending this satellite site.

How will facilities & resources be shared across the three sites? *Due to the distance between sites it would not be possible to share facilities however, the only facility not available would be hydrotherapy. If this was required we would ensure pupils are based at Crewe.*

How will whole school activities be managed?

All Springfield sites have an advanced internet installation that has been future proofed for growth in Technology. We are currently using online methods for all our whole school events at current sites and will continue to do so across the three sites.

For events needing face to face contact for example, sports day, we will use our current vehicles to transport pupils to this site or utilise TSS (Cheshire East Transport) to support with this. The current site has acquired an additional car park for parents if required.

Will staff be employed on contract to work on all the Springfield sites? *Due to the school being a maintained school all contracts require all staff to be able to work anywhere within Cheshire East. We do envisage a blended approach of existing staff working on the new site alongside new appointed staff to ensure we maintain the level of expertise. Due to there being limited Leadership opportunities within Special Schools, we see this being an opening for excellent*

opportunities for our existing staff. Staff would also be used to cover between sites if required.

What governance, leadership and management arrangements will be put in

place to oversee the new site(e.g. will the new site be governed by the same GB and school leadership team)

The Governance will remain under the same Governing body as the existing Springfield Crewe and Wilmslow sites. We have a very experienced Governing body who are committed to creating more provision for Children with SEN within Cheshire East.

The current Headteacher would maintain overall responsibility for all Springfield sites, with a Head of school located at each site. Due to the current leadership team being established and experienced, the school feels confident with this model.

6. Effect on other Educational Establishments in the Area

The next nearest Cheshire East School delivering similar provision to Springfield School is Park Lane School in Macclesfield.

7. Project costs and Value for Money

The authority believes that to provide long term value for money it is right to expand schools with permanent accommodation where possible. Permanent expansion provides new facilities providing reassurance to parents and providing children with the most favourable good quality learning environment.

A full detailed feasibility will be undertaken to ensure the project delivers the accommodation required for the additional pupils. The costs for the scheme are yet to be confirmed following completion of the feasibility study. Subsequent works will be procured in line with the Councils frameworks.

8. Objections and comments

Within 4 weeks from the date of publication of this proposal i.e., by **11th October 2024** any person may support, object to, or make comments on the proposal by: -

- Completing the electronic survey at the Councils website at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk
- Via email to SOCS@cheshireeast.gov.uk
- Completing the Feedback Form and handing it in at the school or post it to the school at -
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(School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013)