

Title: Lighthouse School Leeds
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Impact Assessment – Section 9 Academies Act Duty

1. Section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 (later as amended by the Education Act 2011) places a duty upon the Secretary of State to take into account what the impact of establishing the additional school would be likely to be on maintained schools, Academies, Alternative Provision and institutions within the further education sector in the area in which the additional schools is (or is proposed to be) situated. Any adverse impact will need to be balanced against the benefits of establishing the new school.

Background on Lighthouse School Leeds

2. The Lighthouse School Leeds is a special secondary school for pupils aged 11-19 in Leeds. It will be catering specifically for the needs of students with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or related communication disorder. The Trust behind the Free School is a group of parents who want to be able to provide children with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder with a well-rounded education.

3. It will be one of the first special Free Schools, opening in September 2012 with an initial cohort of 7 students (growing over 5 years to a maximum of 50 students). The school will offer exceptional individualised education and learning for children with ASD.

4. The school currently has requests for 7 out of their 10 places in September, which are comprised of: 1 current year 6 pupil in Bradford, 3 current year 6 pupils in Leeds, 2 current year 8 pupils in Leeds and 1 currently home-schooled pupil in Leeds.

Location

5. A permanent site has been identified for the school which will provide a setting that will meet the educational, social and personal needs of autistic spectrum children and those with related communication disorders in Leeds and the surrounding areas. The preferred site is a surplus building on the Leeds Metropolitan University campus, in the LS6 area of Leeds. The building is sound, but will require internal refurbishment in order to be fit for purpose. We expect to secure the permanent site by early September 2012 and that it will be ready for September 2013. Therefore the school will operate for one year in the Derek Fatchett Community Learning Centre (CLC) in the LS6 area of Leeds. These premises are fit for purpose, providing a modern learning environment for pupils with ASD. The site also provides a safe area for play and outdoor activities. The temporary and permanent sites are only 2.2 miles apart, so the arrangement offers the opportunity for continued partnership working with the neighbouring secondary school, City of Leeds.

6. The location of this site, as is the permanent one, is a viable commute for out-of-area pupils travelling from Kirklees, Calderdale, Wakefield, North Yorkshire and Bradford local authorities.

Characteristics of the area

7. Leeds is a city with a population of around 798,800 (source: 2010 census) making it the third largest metropolitan area in England. The secondary pupil population in Leeds is predicted to increase by 4.5% between 2001/12 and 2017/18.

8. There are currently 970 pupils of a school age in Leeds who attend a special school and there are 7,665 SEN pupils in the Yorkshire region. 35.1% of the pupils in Leeds are eligible for claiming free school meals which is just below the national average of 36.5% – Source DfE website.

9. In 2005 six Specialist Inclusive Centres (SILCS) were established in Leeds. These centres provide teaching to children and young people who have severe and complex difficulties and are unable to access mainstream provision. There are also a number of mainstream schools with provision on site that caters for children's specific additional needs. Children attending these settings will be on roll at a mainstream school. (Source: Leeds Parent Partnership Service). Currently, none of these establishments provide the provision offered by Lighthouse.

Admissions

10. The Admissions Code is **not** applicable to special Free Schools. Children who attend a special Free School will, in the main, have a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) and are not subject to the normal school admissions round. Therefore a LA commitment to place a statemented child at the school and LA's anticipated placements are suitable sources of admissions evidence.

11. There are numerous (charitable and independent) autism specific schools in the UK and there are 33 Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) schools in the UK and Ireland but none are within the local region. However, the nearest autism specialist school, the Robert Ogden School, is an independent school (non ABA) based in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, which will be over 33 miles away from the Lighthouse School. The school does not have a defined catchment area and the Free School will welcome applications on behalf of children aged 11-19 who either have:

- a diagnosis of autism or a related communication disorder;
- a statement of Special Educational Needs or is in the process of obtaining one; and
- significant difficulties with social communication and interaction, and whose education is impeded by associated cognition, behavioural or emotional difficulties.

Impact on other schools in the area

12. The average distance travelled to secondary school by pupils in Leeds is 1.7 miles. As the Lighthouse School Leeds is a special school it does not have a defined catchment area and referrals will be made through its own and surrounding Local Authorities.

13. For the purpose of this assessment we have created a proxy catchment area of

all special schools within a 10 mile radius from the Free School. This is because parents would be prepared to travel a much greater distance to access a specialist school.

14. There are thirteen special schools within this catchment area, eleven secondary schools and two primary special schools. Of these thirteen special schools, five are in Leeds, five are in Wakefield, two are in Bradford and one in Kirklees.

15. Below is a table showing the likely impact of the proposed school on special schools in the area. It is our view that due to both the small size and the type of provision offered by the Free School, that it will have a minimal impact on **all** of these schools.

Table 1: Secondary Schools within a 10 mile radius of the proposed site

Name	Distance and Local Authority	Age Range	No of pupils	School capacity	Surplus Places	Ofsted Rating	% of pupils with SEN statement	Impact Rating
North West SILC	1.47 miles Leeds	2-19	220	No data available		Good	100%	Minimal
John Jamieson School	2.65 miles Leeds	2-19	160	No data available		Outstanding	100%	Minimal
Elmete Wood - BESD SILC	3.19 miles Leeds	11-19	105	No data available		Inadequate	100%	Minimal
West SILC	4.15 miles Leeds	2-19	145	150	3% oversubscribed	Good	100%	Minimal
Broomfield South SILC	4.47 miles Leeds	4-19	155	No data available		Good	100%	Minimal
Meadowcroft School	5.95 miles Wakefield	5-19	15	No data available		Good	100%	Minimal
Fairfield School	8 miles Kirklees	3-19	105	107	2% oversubscribed	Good	100%	Minimal
Pinderfields Hospital School	8.17 miles Wakefield	2-19	40	No data available		Outstanding	No data available	Minimal
Highfield School	8.36 miles Wakefield	11-17	145	No data available		Good	100%	Minimal
The Grange School	9.28 miles Wakefield	7-14	10	12	20% oversubscribed	Good	No data available	Minimal
Southfield School	9.57 miles Bradford	11-19	205	No data available		Satisfactory	100%	Minimal

North West Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre – Minimal Impact

16. North West SILC is a mixed school for pupils aged 2–19 in Leeds, 1.47 miles

from the proposed site. One in six pupils speak English as a second language and three quarters of pupils at the school are of secondary age. SILC pupils have a wide range of special educational needs, disabilities and difficulties. Around one third of pupils have moderate learning difficulties, one third autistic spectrum disorders and one third have severe learning difficulties. Pupils are placed in the schools according to their needs. The school has 220 pupils with 31 of these are in the 6th form. The latest Ofsted Inspection was rated as good.

17. This is a large school which caters for a wide range of special educational needs as well as ASD so if it were to lose any pupils the school should still only feel a minimal impact.

John Jamieson School - Minimal Impact

18. The John Jamieson School is a community special school for pupils aged 2-19 in Leeds, 2.65 miles from the proposed free school. This school is the Specialist Inclusion Learning Centre (SILC) for eastern parts of Leeds. John Jamieson provides for students with moderate, severe, complex or profound and multiple learning difficulties. The school has 160 pupils, 62 of which are in the 6th form. The latest Ofsted Inspection was rated as outstanding.

19. This is a large school which has pupils with wide range of special educational needs as well as ASD so if it were to lose any pupils the school should feel a minimal impact.

Elmete Wood – BESD SILC (Behaviour, Emotional, Social Difficulties) – Minimal Impact

20. Elmete Wood specialist learning centre is 3.19 miles from the proposed site. It's a mixed special community school for pupils aged 11-19. This is a school for behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. Each of the students has a statement of special educational needs. Currently only eight of the students are girls. The students homes are throughout Leeds and 17 students are in the care of the local authority. Most students are of white British heritage and none of them speak English as an additional language. The school currently has 105 pupils.

21. In May 2011 the school was rated as inadequate by Ofsted and it has since been inspected again in January 2012. The school is now making satisfactory progress in addressing the issues for improvement and in raising pupil attainment. Although the school received an inadequate Ofsted rating in 2011 it is now improving again. Some parents may welcome the Free School but because of its size we expect any impact to be minimal.

Leeds West Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre – Minimal Impact

22. Leeds West SILC opened in 2005 and was designated as a specialist SEN College for Communication and Interaction in September 2010. It's one of five schools in Leeds providing solely for pupils with Special Needs and has buildings on three sites, two of which cater for children who are secondary age. The school is 4.15 miles away from the proposed site. This is a mixed school for pupils ages 2-19. There are 145

pupils at the school. 31% of pupils are eligible for free school meals. The latest Ofsted Inspection was rated as good.

23. This is a popular school with a good Ofsted rating. This school should feel little or minimal impact.

Broomfield South SILC – Minimal Impact

24. Broomfield South SILC is a mixed special community school for pupils aged 2-19 which is 4.47 miles away from the proposed free school. The school admits pupils with a wide range of special educational needs and/or disabilities. The main groups of pupils are those with moderate to severe learning difficulties, those with the autistic spectrum and those with complex and multiple learning difficulties. Many students have communication difficulties. Each student has a statement of special educational needs. There are almost 3 times as many boys as girls on the roll and 18 students are looked after students. 7% of pupils achieve five or more GCSEs or equivalent. The school has 155 pupils with 45 pupils in the 6th form. The latest Ofsted Inspection was rated as good

25. This is a large school which caters for a wide range of special educational needs as well as ASD so if it were to lose any pupils the school should only feel a minimal impact.

Meadowcroft School – Minimal Impact

26. Meadowcroft School is a mixed school for young people with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. The school, which is located in Wakefield, opened in April 2007. It is 5.95 miles from the site of the proposed free school.

27. There are currently 15 pupils at the school, all of whom have a statement of special educational needs. The students come from three local authorities within the Yorkshire region. All the students have been placed at the school because of the extreme personal difficulties they have experienced in their previous schools, which resulted in serious disruptions to their education because of poor attendance and poor behaviour. The latest Ofsted Inspection was rated as good.

28. Because of the size, specialism and location of this school it should feel no impact from the proposed Free School.

Fairfield School – Minimal Impact

29. Fairfield school is a mixed special school for pupils aged 3 -19 in Kirklees, 8 miles from the proposed site. The school caters for pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties and for those with severe needs. All pupils have a statement for their educational needs. Around half of the pupils are of white British background and the other half are of Pakistani origin. One third speak English as an additional language and a higher number than usual is in the care of the local authority. The number of pupils requiring free school meals is above the national average for special schools which is 34.9%. The school provides a support service for other special and mainstream schools in communication and interaction. A 52 week service is provided to

assist families who need support out of school hours. The school has 105 pupils, 27 of which are in the 6th form. Also a significant number of families have two or more children at the school (which is unusual). The latest Ofsted Inspection was rated as good.

30. This is a popular school where a significant number of families have two or more children at the school. It also provides a 52 week service to assist and support families who need it. The impact of the proposed free school should be minimal.

Pinderfield's Hospital School – Minimal Impact

31. Pinderfield's Hospital School is a school for pupils drawn from across the whole of the Wakefield Metropolitan Authority who have medical needs. It provides education to groups and individuals in a number of ways. All pupils remain on the roll of their home school. Numbers fluctuate daily, as in addition to the 40 young people on roll, the school also continues to support the needs of other pupils in different schools. The latest Ofsted rating for this school is Outstanding. The school is 8.17 miles from the site of the free school.

32. Taking into consideration the size of the proposed free school and the nature of Pinderfield's Hospital School we have assessed that the impact on this school will be minimal.

Highfield School – Minimal Impact

33. Highfield School is a mixed community special school for young people aged 11-17. Pupils who attend the school come from a wide catchment area and have a range of needs including learning difficulties and autism. The school is situated in Wakefield, 8.36 miles from the free school. The school has 145 pupils on roll. The latest Ofsted Inspection was rated as good.

34. As this is a large school in Bradford and as the proposed Free School is for only a small number of pupils in Leeds we would expect the new school to have a minimal impact.

The Grange School – Minimal Impact

35. The Grange is a small day special school 9.28 miles from the proposed Free School. It opened in January 2010 and is managed by The Keys Group, which owns several children's homes and schools throughout the United Kingdom. These include Denby Grange Secondary School, with which this school has close links, including a joint headship. The Grange school is registered for 12 boys and girls aged between seven and 14 years of age who are identified as having behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.

36. Pupils are placed at the school by a number of local authorities. Most have been excluded from their previous schools or have persistently not attended school. Currently, there are 10 boys on roll between the ages of nine and 13 years. All have statements of special educational needs. The latest Ofsted inspection was rated as satisfactory

37. Because of the size and specialism of these two schools we expect the Free School to have a minimum impact.

Southfield School – Minimal Impact

38. Southfield school is a 220 place community special school in Bradford 9.57 miles from the proposed site. Over one third of pupils have severe learning difficulties and almost another third have profound and multiple needs. All have a statement to meet their special needs. The proportion of children eligible for free school meals is above the national average for special schools which is 34.9%.

39. This is a mixed school which has 205 pupils, aged 11-19, 65 of which are in the 6th form. This school is a larger than average special school which opened in 2010. The latest Ofsted rating was rated as satisfactory but the school is now improving rapidly.

40. The school is a well-attended, larger than average, special school whose performance is improving rapidly. Some parents may be interested in the Free School but because of the small nature of the school it should feel a minimal impact.

Impact on local primary schools

41. As the Lighthouse School Leeds is a non-faith special school with a small intake of 10 pupils per year (opening with 7 in September 2012) it is highly likely that the impact on local primary schools will be minimal. There are two Primary special schools within the proxy catchment area: Delius and Kingsland Primary School. As pupils will be referred by the LA and not through feeder schools, there should be minimal impact on these schools.

Impact on mainstream secondary schools

42. With the specialism and the small pupil numbers involved with the new Free School it is expected that existing mainstream secondary schools would only feel a minimum impact from the Free School.

Impact on post-16

43. With the specialism and the small numbers involved with the new Free School, it is expected that existing post-16 providers would only feel a minimal impact from the Free School.

Local authority view

44. The Local Authority response was generally positive about the Lighthouse School Leeds. However, they did raise a number of concerns about needing more information about the school before they would be willing to place vulnerable pupils there. The Lighthouse team, supported by the Department, have worked closely with the LA throughout the process, with a greater emphasis placed on this during the summer term. This led the LA to name Lighthouse School Leeds on six statements,

with the seventh pupil coming from Bradford LA.

Consultation

45. The consultation period on this special Free School proposal ran from 23 April until 4 June 2012. Consultation letters providing information about the new special Free School and admissions arrangements were electronically distributed via all Leeds primary and secondary schools. They were also sent to local support groups, selected local councillors, Leeds and all adjacent admissions teams. The consultation was also available online via the consultation website, with a page for responses and comments. In addition, market research was undertaken at Leeds City Centre and Moor Allerton Centre (LS17) to distribute hard copies of leaflets and canvass opinions about the school. Two public drop-in sessions were also undertaken at the Heart Centre, Headingley.

46. There were 172 responses received to the questionnaire and 94.8% of these provided a 'yes' response to the question 'Overall, are you in favour of the proposed Lighthouse Free School?'

47. The responses demonstrated high levels of support for the special Free School proposals, which suggests there is a very high level of community and professional support going forwards. A significant numbers of parents and learners reported they have an interest in the special Free School especially surrounding the aspect of ABA and provision of education for autistic students.

Conclusion

48. Officials believe that because of the size and specialist provision of the Lighthouse School Leeds, coupled with the high demand for this type of provision in Leeds, no other school or educational establishment will feel a high or moderate impact. Any impact felt from a result of opening the new school will be minimal.

49. In the light of the evidence there is no reason why the Secretary of State should not enter into a Funding Agreement as a result of negative impact.