

CONSULTATION

A PROPOSAL TO CREATE
ADDITIONAL RESOURCE
PROVISION FOR **EARLY YEARS AT
COMET NURSERY SCHOOL &
CHILDREN'S CENTRE**



Consultation period:
11 January - 7 February 2024

Why are we consulting?

Hackney Council wants to know your views on a proposal to create an Additional Resource Provision (ARP) for Early Years at Comet Nursery School & Children's Centre.

There has been a significant increase of children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in Hackney. This upward trend in Hackney is predicted to continue and is also being seen across London. Our SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) data tells us that we need to create additional places to cater for children and young people with SEND. This proposal outlines plans to create an Early Years ARP (Additional Resource Provision) at Comet Nursery School & Children's Centre by September 2025.

Background

Hackney, like other local authorities, has seen a significant rise in the demand for SEND places.

- The number of Hackney children and young people with an EHCP increased from **2,645** in 2021 to **3,062** in 2022 (**an increase of 16%**).
- The number of Hackney children and young people with an EHCP rose from **3,062** in 2022 to **3,243** in 2023, **equivalent to a 6% increase**.
- The percentage of resident 0-24 year olds in Hackney with an EHCP was the second highest among statistical neighbours (**4%**), and the **9th** highest across England.

We have seen an increase in the number of children with a primary need in the Early Years phase. We know that supporting children with SEND earlier and providing access to targeted support leads to better outcomes and potentially reduces the need for specialist provision later on.

We have a limited number of specialist places available to meet the increasing SEND demand. This means that we have to create more places within mainstream, specialist, and now Early Years settings. During 2021, the Council asked education providers in Hackney whether they were interested in setting up and managing ARPs for children with SEND to meet the borough's future SEND needs. We welcomed responses from several settings, which included Comet Nursery School and Children's Centre.

Comet Nursery School and Children's Centre is an 'Outstanding' local authority nursery school, catering for 122 children aged 2 to 5 years. Comet's curriculum is focused around child-centred learning where communication and language development is threaded throughout the provision. Comet offers an inclusive environment and a dedicated SEND team which supports children with the highest needs. Further information about Comet Nursery and Children's Centre can be found [here](#).

Our proposal

This consultation seeks views from stakeholders on a proposal to create an Additional Resource Provision (ARP) for Early Years at Comet Nursery School and Children's Centre. We are proposing that children will be allocated to the ARP on an assessment basis, which means that the nursery will make an assessment of the child's needs and the type and level of support they might need over a period of time. For some children, the outcome of the assessment will lead to an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) being created, which will outline how the child's needs must be met, either in an Early Years setting with extra help or in a suitable special school. If this proposal is agreed, the ARP will provide 24 (12 full-time equivalent) assessment places by September 2025.

How was Comet Nursery School & Children's Centre chosen for a new ARP?

In June 2021 Hackney Education contacted schools in the borough to assess whether they wished to offer new provision for children with SEND at their school. We received interest from several schools and settings which were then evaluated against a set of criteria. Comet Nursery School and Children's Centre was among those chosen to set up new Early Years support provision for the first stage of a wider programme to deliver new SEND provision in Hackney.

How will the ARP at Comet Nursery School & Children's Centre be organised?

ARPs specialise in providing focussed and specific education for SEND needs and will often have dedicated classrooms and other facilities within the school as well as qualified SEND professionals. Children typically spend part of their time in the ARP and the remaining time with their mainstream peers in class.

How will children receive a place in the ARP?

Children will be allocated based on need and by the Council's Education, Health and Care Panel. Twenty-four Early Years ARP places will be provided for children between two to five years old. The majority of children placed at the ARP will not have an EHCP but will progress to have an assessment of their needs undertaken. The 24 ARP places will be in addition to the Nursery's Published Admissions Number (PAN) of 122.

When will the changes take place?

If the proposals are approved, plans to provide the facility are in the design stages and building work should start on site later in 2024. It is expected that the building works will be completed by September 2025.

Who will make the final decision about the new ARP?

Once the consultation period has ended, responses will be analysed and a report will be submitted to Hackney Education's Senior Leadership Team (SLT). If the Senior Leadership Team decides to proceed to the next stage, a statutory notice will be published with the final decision made by the Director of Education.

Further information

Why is the number of children with Early Years SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) increasing?

The number of children with SEND continues to increase in all settings and school nurseries, reflecting the growing demand for SEND support. Factors that cause or contribute to SEND are not fully understood and agreed, however, it is suggested that the significant increase in rates of SEND seen, may be due to better awareness of conditions as well as increased screening.

How will the new ARP be funded?

The new ARP at Comet Nursery School and Children's Centre is being delivered by the High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA) from 2021. This grant is paid to local authorities to support the provision of places for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and those children requiring alternative provision.

What will happen if the ARP is delayed beyond September 2025?

If the proposals are approved, the Council aims to deliver the ARP places by September 2025 at the latest, subject to feasibility studies, planning permissions and works to the school buildings. If this timeline is not achieved, the ARP will open as soon as possible after this date.

Are any other new ARPs being developed in Hackney?

We are also consulting on the creation of new ARPs at the following schools:

- Sebright Primary School (Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) ARP)
- Stoke Newington School & Sixth Form (Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) ARP)

You can read the proposals and share your views on the proposals for Comet Nursery School & Children's Centre, Sebright Primary School, and Stoke Newington School & Sixth Form by visiting bit.ly/A-R-P or consultation.hackney.gov.uk or education.hackney.gov.uk/consultations.

The Bridge Academy proposes to open a new Cognition and Learning ARP by September 2024. The Academy carried out a separate consultation (on 22 June to 18 July 2023) in line with the guidelines of the Department for Education (DfE). The Academy is in the process of drafting a business case to the DfE for approval to open the new provision. You can read more about the proposal by visiting: bit.ly/A-R-P or consultation.hackney.gov.uk.

Location

Comet Nursery School & Children’s Centre is located on 20 Halcomb St, London N1 5RF.

Timeline

Please see the timeline below, subject to change.

Thu 11 Jan to Wed 7 Feb 2024	Non-statutory consultation period (4 weeks)
Thu 14 Mar 2024	Comments received during the consultation are considered by Hackney Education’s Senior Leadership Team (SLT). A decision on the publication of a Statutory Notice is made.
Fri 19 Apr to Thu 16 May 2024	Statutory notice/representation period (4 weeks) If a decision is made to publish a Statutory Notice, this will run for 4 weeks.
Thu 4 July 2024	Comments or objections received during the representation period are considered by Hackney Education’s Senior Leadership Team (SLT).
By September 2025	The new ARP opens.

Consultation meetings

If you would like further information about the proposal, or to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal, this can be arranged remotely via Google Meet for a maximum of 10 people. To arrange a Google Meet meeting please email the School Place Planning Team at: schoolplaceplanning@hackney.gov.uk.

Comments

If you wish to comment on this proposal you can find the online form for each school here: bit.ly/A-R-P or here: consultation.hackney.gov.uk, or you can use the paper form at the end of this document.

If you have questions about the SEND provision being proposed which have not been answered in this document, please email: schoolplaceplanning@hackney.gov.uk.

How do I respond to this consultation?

You can state your views on this proposal by completing the consultation response form attached to this consultation document, or online by clicking on the following link: bit.ly/A-R-P or consultation.hackney.gov.uk.

If you choose to fill in a paper response form, please hand it into the office at **Comet Nursery School & Children's Centre**, or send it via post to:

**Hackney Council
Education Services - School Place Planning
Hackney Service Centre
1 Hillman Street
LONDON
E8 1DY**

The deadline for consultation responses is **Wednesday, 7 February 2024 at 11:59pm**

If you have any questions about this proposal, please email schoolplaceplanning@hackney.gov.uk. If you require this document in a different format please contact us and we will get back to you in the next five working days.

This consultation document is being sent to:

- All parents/carers, governors, teachers and support staff of Comet Nursery School & Children's Centre
- All Hackney children's centres
- All Hackney headteachers
- Trade unions representing teachers and other staff at the school
- Ward councillors and MPs
- Church Dioceses
- SEND groups
- All statutory stakeholders



Hackney

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Proposal to Create an Additional
Resource Provision for **Early Years**
at **Comet Nursery School &**
Children's Centre

If you require this document in a different format please email schoolplaceplanning@hackney.gov.uk and we will get back to you in the next five working days.

1. Which of the following best describes your interest in this consultation?

I am a parent, carer or guardian of a child at a school included in the proposals

I am a member of staff or governor at a school included in the proposals

I am a parent at another school in Hackney

I am a member of staff or governor at another school in Hackney

I am an interested member of the public

If other, please specify:

2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to create an Additional Resource Provision for Early Years at Comet Nursery School & Children’s Centre?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

3. If you have any comments on the proposal, please add them in the space below or on a separate sheet.

About you

This information will help us to understand our service users and residents, allowing us to establish if the response to the questionnaire is representative of the borough. All information is used under the strict controls of the 1998 Data Protection Act and the 2016 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

This information is optional and will not be used in a way that identifies you.

- 4. Postcode:** Please provide the first half of your postcode followed by the first number of the second half. *For example, if your postcode was E8 1DY, you would write E8 1. If your postcode was N16 5HB, you would write N16 5.*

- 5. Gender: Are you...**

Male	Female
Non-Binary	Another term

If you prefer to use your own term please provide this here:

- 6. Age: what is your age group?**

Under 16	45-54
16-17	55-64
18-24	65-74
25-34	75-84
35-44	85+

- 7. Disability:** Under the Equality Act you are disabled if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities. **Do you consider yourself to be disabled?**

Yes	No
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- 8. Caring responsibilities:** A carer is someone who spends a significant proportion of their time providing unpaid support to a family member, partner or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or substance misuse problems. **Do you regularly provide unpaid support caring for someone?**

Yes	No
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- 9. Ethnicity: Are you...**

Asian or Asian British
White or White British
Black or Black British
Mixed background
Other ethnic group
Other (please state if you wish):

- 10. Religion or belief: Are you or do you have...**

Atheist/no religious belief	Jewish
Buddhist	Muslim
Charedi	Secular beliefs
Christian	Sikh
Hindu	
Other (please tell us if you wish):	

11. Sexual orientation: Are you...

- Heterosexual
- Bisexual
- Gay man
- Lesbian or Gay woman
- Pansexual
- Asexual
- Queer
- All other sexual orientations
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please tell us if you wish):

12. Housing tenure: Which of the following best describes the ownership of your home?

- Being bought on a mortgage
- Owned outright
- Rented (Local Authority/Council)
- Rented (Housing Association/Trust)
- Rented (private)
- Shared ownership (part rent/part buy)
- Don't know

Thank you for responding to this consultation.

Please return the completed form to the school office, or send it to: Hackney Council, Education Services - School Place Planning, Hackney Service Centre, 1 Hillman Street, London E8 1DY, by 11:59 pm on Wednesday, 7 February 2024.

If you would like to find out what this document says please tick the appropriate box, put your name, address and phone number at the bottom of this page and return it to the address below.

Bengali

এই দলিলে কি লেখা আছে সে সম্পর্কে যদি আপনি জানতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে উপযুক্ত বাক্সে টিক দিন, এই পাতার নীচে আপনার নাম, ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর লিখুন এবং এটি নীচের ঠিকানায় ফেরত পাঠান।

Somali

Haddii aad jeclaan lahayd in aad ogaato waxa dokumeentigani sheegayo fadlan calaamadi godka ku haboon, ku qor magacaaga, cinwaanka iyo telefoon lambarkaaga boggan dhankiisa hoose ka dibna ku cell cinwaanka hoose.

French

Si vous désirez connaître le contenu de ce document, veuillez cocher la case appropriée et indiquer votre nom, adresse et numéro de téléphone au bas de cette page et la renvoyer à l'adresse indiquée ci-dessous.

Spanish

Si desea saber de lo que trata este documento, marque la casilla correspondiente, escriba su nombre, dirección y número de teléfono al final de esta página y envíela a la siguiente dirección.

Kurdish

Ger hun dixwazin bizanibin ku ev dokument çî dibêje, ji kerema xwe qutika minasib îşaret bikin, nav, navnîşan û hejmara telefona xwe li jêrê rûpel binivîsin û wê ji navnîşana jêrîn re bişînin.

Turkish

Bu dökümanda ne anlatıldığını öğrenmek istiyorsanız, lütfen uygun kutuyu işaretleyerek, adınızı, adresinizi ve telefon numaranızı bu sayfanın alt kısmına yazıp, aşağıdaki adrese gönderin.

Polish

Jeśli chcesz dowiedzieć się, jaka jest treść tego dokumentu, zaznacz odpowiednie pole, wpisz swoje nazwisko, adres i nr telefonu w dolnej części niniejszej strony i przeslij na poniższy adres.

Vietnamese

Nếu bạn muốn biết tài liệu này nói gì hãy đánh dấu vào hộp thích hợp, điền tên, địa chỉ và số điện thoại của bạn vào cuối trang này và gửi lại theo địa chỉ dưới đây.

Urdu

اگر آپ یہ جاننا چاہتے ہیں کہ دستاویز میں کیا لکھا ہے تو ازراہ کرم مناسب باکس میں صحیح کا نشان لگائے اور اپنا نام، پتہ اور فون نمبر اس صفحہ کے نیچے لکھئے اور اسے نیچے دئے گئے پتہ پر واپس بھیج دیجئے۔

Chinese

如果你想知道這分文件的詳細內容，請在方框內打鉤，在本頁下面寫下你的名字、地址和電話號碼並寄到下面的地址。

If you would like this document in any of the following formats or in another language not listed above, please complete and send the form to the address below.

In large print

In Braille

On Disk

On audio tape

In another language, please state

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Return to: Please send this form by **11:59 pm on 7 February 2024**, to

Freepost EDUCATION TRANSLATIONS. You can also email

schoolplaceplanning@hackney.gov.uk with your name, address and the language you require.

