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Partnership Learning

**Consultation on Proposals for Partnership Learning to set up a new special Free school provision in Barking and Dagenham**

**1.0 Introduction**

Following a successful application to the Department for Education to set up a new special Free school in Barking and Dagenham, Partnership Learning proposes to open Thames View Bridge School in September 2018, initially located on the site on Thames Road, Barking previously occupied by the Riverside schools.

This document sets out the opportunities for interested parties to give their views on the proposals outlined above.

**2.0 Partnership Learning**

Partnership Learning is a multi-academy charitable trust which already oversees nine schools - eight in Barking and Dagenham and one in Havering:

The Sydney Russell School - a mainstream 4-18 all-through academy in Dagenham

Riverside School - a mainstream 11-18 secondary Free school on Barking Riverside

Riverside Primary School – a mainstream 4 -11 primary Free school on Barking Riverside

Riverside Bridge School – a 4-18 special Free school on Barking Riverside

Thames View Junior School – a mainstream 7-11 junior academy on Barking Riverside

Greatfields School - a mainstream 11-18 secondary Free school in Central Barking

Eastbury Primary School (Primary) - a mainstream 4 -11 primary academy in Barking

The Albany School - a mainstream 11-16 secondary academy in Havering

James Cambell Primary School - a mainstream 4 -11 primary academy in Dagenham

In its work in Barking and Dagenham, Partnership Learning is:

* Focused on improving the educational opportunities and life chances of the young people of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
* Committed to working as a full member of Barking and Dagenham’s existing family of schools and in partnership with the Local Authority
* Committed to providing a high quality range of flagship educational provisions to enable families to access mainstream and special education for all ages in their own local community.

**3.0 Background**

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham has had one of the fastest-growing school-age populations in the country over the last ten years and this is set to continue over the next ten. From 2016 there is a projected 20% increase by 2023 and a 25% increase by 2026. These figures include some known imminent housebuilding but do not take account of significant additional population growth due to be generated by further planned large-scale housing development.

Even if the current proportion of the school population with complex Special educational needs and disability (SEND) were to remain constant, the growth in school-age population will significantly increase the demand for special school places – by 25% by 2026. However, recent history has shown that the incidence of complex special needs within the overall school population is in fact increasing: during the ten-year period 2006-2016 the overall school population grew by 27% but the number of statemented/education health and care plan (EHCP) pupils grew by 40% in the same period.

Partnership Learning responded to this local need by submitting an application to the Department for Education to establish a new special Free school – Thames View Bridge School – in Barking and Dagenham, offering families an accessible, high-quality learning pathway for children with appropriate special educational needs growing up in the local area.

The proposed school will cater for 90 pupils with Education and Health Care Plans aged 6 -19 with a range of special needs, principally Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

**4.0 Our Proposals for Thames View Bridge School**

Riverside Bridge School – the Trust’s first special school – has quickly established itself as a high-quality provider of special school places, has had all planned places commissioned and filled and is highly popular with parents.

Our new special Free school will offer further high-quality provision to meet rapidly rising demand in Barking and Dagenham. In particular, there is currently no special school provision for pupils with SEMH needs in the local authority and our new provision will provide quality placements for pupils who are currently placed in out of borough provision or in mainstream provision whose places may become less suitable as they get older. Local provision will also help to better integrate SEND pupils and their families in the local community. The Local Authority is clear that it urgently requires more special school places and is committed to commissioning them.

Our vision is to promote high achievement through the inclusion of all pupils in the curriculum of the school and the life of the community via effective pedagogy and a personalised learning strategy delivered within excellent facilities. Our key aspiration for the proposed new special school is to raise achievement, reduce incidence of failure and ensure that all children and young people have access to equal, excellent, learning opportunities. All activities will focus on the educational, social, emotional, physical, personal and cultural needs and well-being of pupils.

We will develop provision to provide a long term, sustainable service for both pupils and families to help them acquire skills and strategies for lifelong learning and independent living. We will provide a safe yet stimulating environment for these young people which will enable them to develop personal qualities and skills to enable them to lead successful lives and contribute positively to society.

The proposed school will be an inclusive school where every child is valued and supported to achieve as full and independent a life as possible. The school will be open to children from all religions and will practice tolerance of all faiths and beliefs in the multi-cultural community it serves.

The proposed school will promote social, emotional health and wellbeing, so that children have an authentic sense of belonging and have the opportunity to learn to live together and accept each other’s identity and differences. Support and interventions will be available as early as possible in line with an accurate recognition of pupil needs. We believe that all pupils from an early age should be encouraged to think positively and communicate effectively so that they acquire and develop the vital skills of confidence, oracy, resilience and independence throughout their school and adult life.

Through our close links with our local partner school (Trinity School), the mainstream schools in our Trust, local colleges and independent providers, we will offer seamless transitions where appropriate and curriculum continuity, both in content and style, making learning exciting and challenging for all pupils.

4.1 Curriculum

Our curriculum model will provide stretching opportunities for all pupils so that they can progress at a challenging rate commensurate with their intellectual capacities and aspirations. All pupils will have wrap-around support to allow them to develop at an individualised pace and to have the right challenges at the right time.

Our proposed curriculum outline for each Key Stage is shown below.

**KEY STAGE 1 & KEY STAGE 2**

Language, Communication, English & Literacy

Mathematics

PSHE/Citizenship/Life Skills

Physical Development

ICT Capability

Creative Development

Knowledge & Understanding of the World

MFL

**KEY STAGE 3**

Language, Communication, English & Literacy

Mathematics

PSHE/Citizenship/Life Skills

Physical Development

ICT Capability

Creative Development

Knowledge & Understanding of the World

MFL

**KEY STAGE 4**

Language, Communication, English & Literacy

Mathematics

Science

PSHE/Citizenship/Life Skills/RE/Employability/Golden Time

Physical Development

ICT Capability

Two vocational options chosen from:

Art

Creative Digital Media Production

Hospitality and Catering

Sport

Duke of Edinburgh

**SIXTH FORM**

In the Sixth Form, the key curriculum focus will remain English and Maths - delivered both as stand-alone subjects and via cross-curricular projects - at a level higher than already achieved in Year 11, ranging from Entry Level to GCSE. Pupils will then choose one school-based vocational option and one college link course. They will also follow an Employability course. These will be highly individualised pathways. In addition there will be extensive support for college visits, applications, interviews, careers advice and living successfully in the community.

Language, Communication, English & Literacy

Mathematics

PSHE/Citizenship/Life Skills/RE/Employability

Physical Development

ICT Capability

One school-based vocational option chosen from:

Art

Creative Digital Media Production

Hospitality and Catering

Sport

Duke of Edinburgh

One college link course

4.2 Extended Provision: before and after school hours

It is envisaged that the school will operate as an ‘extended school’ for pupils both before and after the school day, with a wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer. It will also be available for wider community use at weekends and during school holidays.

Local groups and organisations will be encouraged to participate in the planning of activities and the wider aspects of the school’s life. It is intended that the new school will contribute to community cohesion through its work with local schools and community organisations

4.3 Pupil Numbers and Accommodation

On the opening of Thames View Bridge School in September 2018, places for 30 pupils will be available and the school will then grow year on year until it reaches capacity at 90 places, planned to be by 2024.

The school will initially be located on the site on Thames Road, Barking previously occupied by Riverside School, Riverside Primary School and Riverside Bridge School.

Thames View Bridge School’s permanent accommodation will be a new, purpose-built building on a site to be agreed in Barking and Dagenham. The proposed accommodation arrangements are subject to final approval from the Department for Education.

4.4 Admissions

For a child to be admitted, the school must be named, by a local authority, in the child’s education health and care plan (EHCP).

Parents wishing their children to benefit from our provision should ask their local authority to name our school in their child’s EHCP.

**5.0 The Consultation Process**

5.1 Key Dates for the Consultation

Consultation Period Starts: Monday 4th December 2017

Drop-in Consultation Event:

At Former site of Riverside School, 40 Thames Road, Barking

on Monday 8th January 2018 at any time between 6.00 – 8.00 pm.

Consultation Period Ends: 12 noon on Friday 26th January 2018

5.2 Actions following on from the Consultation

Partnership Learning will read and consider all responses received.

The Trust will produce summaries of the responses to the consultations, which will be published on their website: www.partnershiplearning.com

The Trust hopes to be able to address comments received and will explain in the summary on their website how they have tried to do this and how they intend to take into account in their plans the comments received.

The summary will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education in order to inform the decision on whether to enter into a funding agreement with Partnership Learning to set up Thames View Bridge School in Barking and Dagenham.

**6.0 How to contact us and find out more**

You may find out more about the proposals of Partnership Learning by visiting their website www.partnershiplearning.com - or by emailing Partnership Learning, at:

office@partnershiplearning.com

You are also invited to attend an informal drop-in Consultation Event, to give your views or ask questions, at Former site of Riverside School, 40 Thames Road, Barking on Monday 8th January 2018 at any time between 6.00 – 8.00 pm.

**7.0 Consultation Questions**

The purpose of this consultation, carried out under the requirements of the Academies Act 2010, is to ascertain the views of interested persons on the proposal of Partnership Learning to set up Thames View Bridge School.

You are therefore invited to give your views on the questions of:

1. Do you think it is a good idea that the proposed School – Thames View Bridge School - should be set up?
2. What are your views on the proposed location of the school?
3. The Trust that will run Thames View Bridge School is required to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, an example of which can be found on the DfE website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-multi-academy-trust>

Do you agree that Partnership Learning should sign a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to set up Thames View Bridge School in Barking and Dagenham?

1. Do you have any further comments on any of the proposals outlined in this consultation document?

You may send your views and comments at any time during the consultation period to the following email address:

office@partnershiplearning.com

or by post to:

Chief Executive,

Partnership Learning,

c/o The Sydney Russell School,

Parsloes Avenue,

Dagenham, RM9 5QT

You may also give your views in person at a drop-in Consultation Event at the Former site of Riverside School, 40 Thames Road, Barking on Monday 8th January 2018 at any time between 6.00 – 8.00 pm.

Alternatively, or in addition, you may wish to respond by answering the questions in the Consultation Questionnaire below and sending your answers by email or post to the addresses above.

**8.0 Consultation Questionnaire**

1. ***Do you think it is a good idea that the proposed School – Thames View Bridge School - should be set up?***

**Yes □ No □**

**Further Comments:**

1. ***What are your views on the proposed location of the school?***

**Comments:**

1. ***Do you agree that Partnership Learning should sign a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to set up Thames View Bridge School in Barking and Dagenham?***

**Yes** □ **No** □

Note; The Trust that will run Thames View Bridge School is required to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, an example of which can be found on the DfE website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-multi-academy-trust>

**Further Comments:**

1. ***Do you have any further comments on any of the proposals outlined in this consultation document?***

**Appendix 1 Consultation Summary**

***This is a summary - for full consultation document visit:*** [*www.partnershiplearning.com*](http://www.partnershiplearning.com)

**Consultation**

A consultation is currently underway regarding proposals to set up a new co-educational special Free school in Barking and Dagenham, following an application to the Department for Education by Partnership Learning.Partnership Learning intends to establish Thames View Bridge School in Barking and Dagenham, opening in September 2018. The school will cater for 90 pupils with Education and Health Care Plans aged 6 -19 with a range of special needs, principally Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, with an initial intake of 30 pupils.

**Background**

There is rapidly rising demand for special school places in Barking and Dagenham. In particular, there is currently no special school provision for pupils with SEMH needs in the local authority. Partnership Learning responded to this local need by submitting an application to the Department for Education to establish a special Free school.

**The Consultation Process**

Consultation Period Starts: 4th December 2017 Ends: 12 noon on 26th January 2018

Drop-in Consultation Event to give views in person or ask questions:

Former site of Riverside School, 40 Thames Road, Barking on Monday 8th January 2018 at any time between 6.00 – 8.00 pm

You may find out more about the proposal of Partnership Learning by visiting their website –www.partnershiplearning.com - or by emailing Partnership Learning, at: office@partnershiplearning.com

**Consultation Questions**

The purpose of this consultation, carried out under the requirements of the Academies Act 2010, is to ascertain the views of interested persons on the proposal of Partnership Learning to set up Thames View Bridge School.

You are therefore invited to give your views on the questions of:

1. Do you think it is a good idea that the proposed School – Thames View Bridge School - should be set up?
2. What are your views on the proposed location of the school?
3. The Trust that will run Thames View Bridge School is required to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education. Do you agree that Partnership Learning should sign a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to set up Thames View Bridge School in Barking and Dagenham?
4. Do you have any further comments on any of the proposals outlined in this consultation document?

You may send your views and comments at any time during the consultation period to the following email address: office@partnershiplearning.com

or by post to:

Chief Executive, Partnership Learning,

c/o The Sydney Russell School,

Parsloes Avenue,

Dagenham, RM9 5QT

**Appendix 2 Public Notice – Published in Public Notices Section of the Barking and Dagenham Post, week commencing 4th December 2017**

**Public consultation regarding proposals to set up new special Free school provision in Barking and Dagenham, following an application to the Department for Education by Partnership Learning**

Following a successful application to the Department for Education to set up a new special Free school in Barking and Dagenham, Partnership Learning proposes to open Thames View Bridge School in September 2018, initially located on the site on Thames Road, Barking previously occupied by the Riverside schools. The school will cater for 90 pupils with Education and Health Care Plans aged 6 -19 with a range of special needs, principally Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, with an initial intake of 30 pupils

Consultation Period Starts: 4th December 2017

Consultation Period Ends: 12 noon on 26th January 2018

Drop-in Consultation Event to give views in person or ask questions:

Former site of Riverside School, 40 Thames Road, Barking on Monday 8th January 2018 at any time between 6.00 – 8.00 pm

For more information, a copy of the full consultation document and an explanation of ways to give your views, please visit www.partnershiplearning.com or email Partnership Learning at office@partnershiplearning.com