



## Partnership Learning

**Consultation on Proposal for Riverside Bridge School to extend its age range upwards by three years, from the current 4-16 to a proposed new range of 4-19, in order to provide additional post-16 special school places in Barking and Dagenham.**

### **1.0 Introduction**

As a result of the continuing increased need for post-16 special school places in the local authority, the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham has made a request to Partnership Learning (the academy trust that oversees the school) for Riverside Bridge School to extend its age range. It is proposed to extend Riverside Bridge School's age range upwards by three years, from the current 4-16 to a proposed new range of 4-19, starting in September 2023.

This document sets out the opportunities for interested parties to give their views on the proposals outlined in more detail below.

### **2.0 Riverside Bridge School**

Riverside Bridge School is a day special school in Barking and Dagenham which opened in 2015, serving the special educational needs of young people currently ranging from 4 years of age to 16 years of age, with a maximum legal capacity of 270 pupils.

The school is based on two sites – the original Riverside Campus site on the Barking Riverside development (which is also home to Riverside Primary School and Riverside Secondary School) and the Thames Road (City Farm) site which opened in September 2022.

The school is part of the Partnership Learning multi-academy trust, which oversees thirteen schools in Barking and Dagenham, neighbouring boroughs and Southend-on-Sea.

### **3.0 Background**

All the current state-funded special school provisions for post-16 pupils in Barking and Dagenham are full for pupils with ASD - Autistic Spectrum Disorder, MLD - Moderate Learning Difficulty, SLD - Severe Learning Difficulty and PMLD - Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty.

However, the Local Authority has identified a continuing rise in demand for post-16 places in special schools and is therefore requesting the proposed age range extension at Riverside Bridge School.

## **4.0 Proposals for the expansion of Riverside Bridge School onto a second site on Thames Road, Barking**

The proposal currently being consulted upon is for Riverside Bridge School to extend its age range upwards by three years, from the current 4-16 to a proposed new range of 4-19, starting in September 2023.

### **4.1 Pupil Profile**

The needs profile of the proposed post-16 pupils would remain as current – a mix of ASD - Autistic Spectrum Disorder, MLD - Moderate Learning Difficulty, SLD - Severe Learning Difficulty and PMLD - Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty. The age range of the post-16 pupils would be within the age range of 16-19 years.

It is proposed to phase the introduction of post-16 places. In the first instance it is planned to provide approximately 6 Year 12 places from September 2023 for pupils currently in the school's Year 11. These pupils would then progress from Year 12 to Year 13, giving an overall post-16 roll of 12. However, Year 12 intake numbers are expected to rise within two or three years to approximately 12 each year as successive Year 11 cohorts with more challenging needs work their way through the school, so that the overall post-16 roll is expected to rise to around 24 by 2025/2026.

### **4.2 Organisation and Leadership**

The extended age range would be fully integrated into the leadership and management structure of Riverside Bridge School - following the same curriculum strategy, staffing model, policies and procedures – to ensure exactly the same high-quality provision as currently provided to pre-16 pupils. There would be an appropriate expansion in staffing to provide effectively for the post-16 pupils.

### **4.3 Effect on existing provision at Riverside Bridge School**

The phased, gradual approach to the extension in age range, coupled with appropriate expansion of staffing to provide for them, will ensure that there are no negative effects on existing provision at Riverside Bridge School. The efficient implementation of the age-range extension will be facilitated by the strong, well-established structures and systems that can be efficiently extended to the new post-16 provision.

### **4.4 Premises and Facilities**

The extended age range would be accommodated on Riverside Bridge School's Riverside Campus site, utilising classrooms freed up by the recent expansion onto the Thames Road (City Farm) site which opened in September 2022. Classrooms will be adapted, remodelled and resourced as needed to ensure that the requirements of the post-16 intake are fully met. The Riverside Campus building is well-designed as a flexible school provision so that any remodelling works which may be needed will be able to be efficiently carried out.

## **5.0 The Consultation Process**

### **5.1 Key Dates for the Consultation**

Consultation Period Starts: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Drop-in Consultation Event:

Riverside Bridge School, Renwick Road, Barking IG11 0FU  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 3.00 – 6.00pm

Consultation Period Ends: 12 noon on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

## 5.2 Actions following on from the Consultation

Partnership Learning will read and consider all responses received.

The Trust will produce a summary of the responses to the consultation, which will be published on their website: [www.partnershiplearning.com](http://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 Department for Education in order to inform their decision on whether to approve the proposed age range extension.

## 6.0 How to contact us and find out more

You may find out more about the proposals by visiting the Trust or school websites:

[www.partnershiplearning.com](http://www.partnershiplearning.com)  
[www.riversidecampus.com/bridge/](http://www.riversidecampus.com/bridge/)

or by emailing Partnership Learning, at:

[office@partnershiplearning.com](mailto:office@partnershiplearning.com)

You are also invited to attend an informal drop-in Consultation Event, to give your views or ask questions, at Riverside Bridge School, Renwick Road, Barking IG11 0FU on Tuesday 28th March 2023 at any time between 3.00 pm and 6.00 pm.

## 7.0 Consultation Questions

The purpose of this consultation is to ascertain the views of interested persons on the proposal for Riverside Bridge School to expand its provision onto a second site on Thames Road, Barking.

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

1. Do you think it is a good idea that Riverside Bridge School should extend its age range upwards by three years, from the current 4-16 to a proposed new range of 4-19, in order to provide additional post-16 special school places in Barking and Dagenham?
2. Do you have any further comments on any other aspects of the proposal 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](mailto:office@partnershiplearning.com)

or by post to:

Chief Executive,  
Partnership Learning,  
Parsloes Avenue  
Dagenham  
RM9 5QS

You may also give your views in person at a drop-in Consultation Event to be held at Riverside Bridge School, Renwick Road, Barking IG11 0FU on Tuesday 28th March 2023 at any time between 3.00 pm and 6.00 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 Riverside Bridge School should extend its age range upwards by three years, from the current 4-16 to a proposed new range of 4-19, in order to provide additional post-16 special school places in Barking and Dagenham?***

Yes  No

**Further Comments:**

2. ***Do you have any further comments on any other aspects of the proposal outlined in this consultation document?***

**Comments:**

## Appendix 1 Consultation Summary

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

### Consultation

A consultation is underway regarding proposals to extend Riverside Bridge School's age range upwards by three years, from the current 4-16 to a proposed new range of 4-19, from September 2023, in order to provide additional post-16 special school places in Barking and Dagenham, following a request from the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham to Partnership Learning (the academy trust that oversees the school).

### Background

All the current state-funded special school provisions for post-16 pupils in Barking and Dagenham are full for pupils with ASD - Autistic Spectrum Disorder, MLD - Moderate Learning Difficulty, SLD - Severe Learning Difficulty and PMLD - Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty. However, the Local Authority has identified a continuing rise in demand for post-16 places in special schools and is therefore requesting the proposed age range extension at Riverside Bridge School.

### The Consultation Process

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You may find out more about the proposal by visiting Partnership Learning's website – [www.partnershiplearning.com](http://www.partnershiplearning.com) - or by emailing Partnership Learning, at: [office@partnershiplearning.com](mailto:office@partnershiplearning.com)

### Consultation Questions

The purpose of this consultation is to ascertain the views of interested persons on the proposal for Riverside Bridge School to extend its age range from the current 4-16 to a proposed new range of 4-19, in order to provide additional post-16 special school places

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

1. Do you think it is a good idea that Riverside Bridge School should extend its age range upwards by three years, from the current 4-16 to a proposed new range of 4-19, in order to provide additional post-16 special school places in Barking and Dagenham?
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