



Establishment of Resourced Provision at Ullswater Community College, Penrith. Consultation Proposal

What is the Consultation about?

Demand for specialist provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) has increased substantially over recent years.

Westmorland and Furness Council has a strategy that aims to secure access to a high-quality continuum of provision for all children and young people, enabling the majority of children and young people with additional needs to access local provision, with appropriate capacity and resources to meet need. The continuum comprises a range of provision including Resourced Provision within mainstream schools.

Resourced Provision is a designated area or facility within a mainstream school that enables support to be provided to pupils with specific types of special educational need. Such provisions allow pupils to access mainstream classes whilst also having access to specialised support and resources tailored to their needs.

The Council has identified a number of schools which have the potential to host Resourced Provision and is now consulting on a proposal to establish such a provision at Ullswater Community College with effect from 3 September 2025.

The Proposal

The Local Authority is consulting on a proposal to establish Resourced Provision with a designation of Social, Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH) to provide up to 25 places for pupils aged 11-16. It is intended that this SEMH Resourced Provision will specifically address the mental health aspects of Social, Emotional, Mental Health needs, with a particular focus on Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA). The provision will be established with effect from 3 September 2025. However, the number of pupils on roll at the provision will be phased in to enable the school to recruit and staff the provision as appropriate.

Places will be allocated at the provision by the Local Authority when the provision is named in a pupil's Education, Health and Care Plan.

The provision will be accommodated within the existing school building.

Who is this consultation for?

The consultation on the proposal set out in this document is aimed at parents, staff and governors of Ullswater Community College and anyone else with an interest, or stake in education in the area.



Background

Nationally, demand for specialist provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) has increased substantially over recent years.

In Westmorland and Furness there has been a significant increase in the number of children and young people with SEND, including a 72% increase over the last 10 years in those receiving an Education, Health and Care Plan. Whilst many of these children and young people will have their needs met in mainstream schools, for some, additional specialist support is needed if they are to achieve their potential.

Following the publication of its Education Sufficiency Strategy, in summer 2024, the Local Authority determined that it needed to increase its offer of specialist provision in response to this growing demand. Analysis was undertaken regarding the demand for provision by both type and location to inform the development of this offer.

The Local Authority's Education Sufficiency Strategy aims to ensure availability of a high-quality continuum of provision for all children and young people, enabling the majority of children and young people with additional needs to access local provision, with appropriate capacity and resources to meet need.

This proposal focuses on the establishment of new Resourced Provision and is one of a number of proposals that will be published for consultation during 2025.

Resourced Provision is a designated area or facility within a mainstream school that enables support to be provided to pupils with specific types of special educational need. Such provisions allow pupils to access mainstream classes whilst also having access to specialised support and resources tailored to their needs.

A specification for Resourced Provision was published by the local authority in the Autumn term 2024 and schools were invited to submit an expression of interest in establishing new provision within their area and Ullswater Community submitted an expression of interest to work with the Local Authority to develop new provision.

Ullswater Community College already has an existing 25 place Resourced Provision for children and young people with a range of SEN needs including profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) and severe learning difficulties (SLD). This existing provision will continue to function alongside the proposed new provision.

The school is part of the Department for Education's national School Rebuild Programme and provision will be made within the rebuild scheme to accommodate both the current and proposed specialist provision. It is anticipated that the Local Authority will be required to make a capital contribution towards the cost of the rebuild in respect of the additional accommodation requirements linked to the new Resourced Provision. These costs are currently being quantified, and will be subject to approval, as part of the process to approve and determine this proposal.

Have your say

The consultation will run from the 28 May 2025 until 17 June 2025.

Anyone interested in submitting their views can do so by completing the online questionnaire (or completing the attached form), or by emailing your comments to the School Organisation Team as below.

It is not possible to respond to individual correspondence, but all points raised during the consultation process will be taken into account before any decisions are taken.

There will also be an opportunity to attend a meeting to be held at the school to ask any questions. There will be a separate meeting for the staff/governors and a drop in session for parents/stakeholders as detailed below:

- Staff and Governors - 4pm – 5pm, Wednesday 11 June 2025
- Parents and other stakeholders - 5.15pm – 6.15pm, Wednesday 11 June 2025

What happens next?

At the end of the consultation, Westmorland and Furness Council's Cabinet will consider all consultation responses and decide whether or not to publish formal notice of the proposal. Publication of the proposal will trigger a four-week representation period during which all stakeholders will have another opportunity to comment on the proposal.

At the end of the representation period, the Director of Children's Services must decide on the proposal, taking into account the feedback received during the representation period.

If the proposal is approved, it is likely that the change would be implemented from 3 September 2025, the beginning of Autumn term.

Where can I find out more information about this proposal?

You can find out more information by following the attached link to the documents that are available on the Council's website. [School organisation | Westmorland and Furness Council](#)

Consultation on the proposal to develop Resourced Provision at Ullswater Community College

1. Please indicate your relationship to the school (tick all boxes that apply)

I am a

Parent/carer of a child at Ullswater Community College

☐

Member of staff at Ullswater Community College

☐

Governor at Ullswater Community College

☐

Other

☐

If other has been selected, please specify

2. Please use the space below to include your comments about the proposal.

Name (please print)

Address (incl. postcode)

Please return by email to: **School.Organisation.WAF@Cumbria.gov.uk** or by post to:
School Organisation, Westmorland and Furness Council, PO Box No. 304, Kendal. LA9 4GY