

## Elevate Satellite Expansion Consultation

### Feedback, Comments, Questions and Answers

**The following questions have been received by email, during the drop in session or on the online feedback form. Some of the correspondence has been summarised, or has been split into separate questions to ensure that the answers are clear and that no personal information is shared.**

Q1- The letter does not make it clear whether elevate will continue to provide outreach education or not? Or whether there is an expectation that a child who has not accessed a school building since September 2020 will suddenly have to do so

A- Our skilled staff team will work with the children and their families currently accessing Elevate to develop carefully thought through plans that support a phased transition that takes account of each child's starting points, with the aspiration of reaching a time when they able to access a broad and balanced education within the new site. We understand that every young person's starting points will differ and we will therefore take a personalised approach to the work we do. The new proposed site at Elevate's Herringthorpe base is on a much smaller scale than a typical school and only pupils on Elevate will access this site, enabling it to feel very warm, welcoming, safe and nurturing. It includes 1:1 spaces to support pupils to take small steps of progress in accessing learning beyond the home.

Q2 - What is the timescale for the proposed relocation and will my child be affected by it?

A – The building at Herringthorpe requires some development and this work will begin over the summer. It is likely that this work will continue into the autumn term and it is hoped that the new site will be ready for use by the second half of the autumn term. In the interim, a number of learning spaces will be made available at a temporary base for pupils able to transition to on-site learning from September.

Q3 - How many places are allocated? Staffing levels? What age group? Is this post 16?

A - The proposed satellite expansion of the Elevate Provision will initially see 15 places for children at Key Stage 4 (school years 10 and 11, aged 14-16), increasing to 30 places from September 2025.

Q4 - Were parents informed of the proposed elevate provision when children started new to Elements school?

A – The Elevate provision has been in place since Elements Academy opened in 2022 but does run independently of the Academy with its own staff. The proposed expansion detailed in the current consultation is a more recent consideration and therefore families attending Elements Academy will not have been aware until now as long term plans for Elevate were not previously in place.

Comment - It does sound a good idea in principle.

Q5 – Has consideration been given to any fall from height risk at the proposed site?

A - We will ensure where possible that pupils are not able to access areas that would be considered a danger to them. Preferably this will be completely restricted with physical measures but in the unlikely scenario that this cannot be achieved it will be managed via staff supervision and adequate risk assessments.

Q6 - Will staff and Trade Union representatives have the opportunity to complete a site walk, prior to the consultation period ends?

A - Given the tight timescales and the current state of the building it would be more appropriate to conduct any site visits when the works are closer to completion. However in principle we would welcome this and would very much like staff also to visit the site ahead of the completion of the works to have some input into the developments.

Q7 - Will the building meet health, safety and welfare standards for the start of the new academic year (Sep 24)?

A - We are working with an experienced estates project management partner to ensure that all H&S and welfare standards are met prior to opening. We do not envisage opening for Phase 1 until January 25.

Q8 - Will there be a limit on how many pupils will be on roll at the new site?

A - Yes. There will be a maximum of 15 pupils on roll once Phase 1 of the new site is completed. The room sizes have been assessed as being of sufficient size to accommodate this many pupils with the specific needs of our cohort. Phase 2 is planned for a further 15 pupils to be accommodated at the setting. Further building works will be required ahead of this expansion.

Q9 - Will there be changes to the buildings structure?

A - Phase 1 of the developments require less structural work but there will be significant structural repairs and changes in order to adequately accommodate the pupils and staff.

#### Q10 - What will be the staff to student ratio?

A - The staff to student ratio will be 2 staff members to 5 students. In order to meet the specific needs of our students, we will be recruiting additional roles. This will ensure that our students receive the specialised support and attention they require to succeed academically and emotionally.

#### Q11 - Will the whole building be for the purpose of Elevate staff/pupils or will there be parts of the connecting building for other purposes? (Bottom building used to be used for music tuition)

A - In order to ensure strong safeguarding measures the entire site will be for the sole use of Elevate staff and pupils. Additional measures are being taken to ensure enhanced security in and around the site.

#### Q12 – My child isn't in Key Stage 4. They can't attend a school setting. Are these children being provided with similar alternatives?

A -The rationale for Elevate becoming a Key Stage 4 offer was to enable the development of a high quality targeted full time provision with a clear remit in preparing pupils for adulthood, thereby improving outcomes for this age group. For pupils in Key Stage 3, Elements Academy will work in partnership with Rotherham MBC EHCP Team and families to support the transition to a suitable alternative offer.

#### Q4 -

A -

#### Q4 -

A -

#### Comment -

Response -