



Consultation Report

Elements Academy – Elevate Provision

Satellite Expansion

July 2024



Nurturing inclusive learning communities



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1. Introduction

When Elements Academy opened in 2022 a separate service level agreement with Rotherham MBC, for a provision known as Elevate, was also put in place and delivered by Ethos Academy Trust through Elements Academy.

The Elevate provision is in place to support vulnerable learners in Rotherham with Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) needs that impact on their ability to fully engage in and benefit from education without the provision of significant specialist support.

This service supports children and young people with SEMH to re-engage with education in a continuous and meaningful way so that they can achieve the outcomes that successful education provides and plan for their next destination – be that employment or further education.

Since its inception, the Elevate provision has been operating from Elements Academy, within an outreach delivery model, functioning separately from the education of students on roll at Elements Academy. Due to the success of the service, and in consultation with Rotherham MBC it was felt to be the right time to explore establishing a satellite site which will remain part of Elements Academy, to further enhance and expand the provision.

From September, the Elevate provision will focus exclusively on Key Stage 4 students. This decision was made to ensure that the highest level of specialised support and resources can be provided for this age group. Elements Academy and Ethos Academy Trust are dedicated to working with the 3 students and their families, who are currently accessing Elevate and are not yet in Key Stage 4, in partnership with Rotherham MBC. Our goal is to ensure these students have access to a suitable education provider that aligns with their individual needs.

The proposed site for the satellite provision is at Herringthorpe, Chaucer Road in Rotherham. This site will provide a centrally located, large and secure teaching base in which a high quality full time education offer can be delivered. The new site will offer dedicated space for Elevate, with specialised facilities such as kitchen facilities for life skills training, intervention rooms, nurture classrooms and quiet spaces for focused learning.

Additionally, the central location of the site at Herringthorpe will reduce travel time for both staff and students.

To open the satellite site, a Significant Change Business Case application needs to be submitted to the Department for Education and a consultation with key stakeholders is part of the process.

2. Consultation Methodology

The overall aim of the consultation process was to ensure that everyone who has a stake in the decision of the expansion of Elevate to a satellite location had the opportunity to hear about the plans and to share their views. It was also important to ensure families with children and young people accessing the current Elevate provision who are not yet in Key Stage 4 had the opportunity to understand the proposal and what this may mean for them.

The objectives of the process were to:

- Provide relevant background information for stakeholders;
- Explain the reasons for the proposal;
- Provide significant opportunity for feedback;
- Answer questions raised.

The principles laid down by the project team for the consultation were that it should be:

- An open and transparent process;
- Accessible to all stakeholders in terms of:
 - The times of meetings;
 - The language used (jargon-free wherever possible and acronyms fully explained);
 - Being well-publicised.

A variety of media were used to consult including:

- Direct letters;
- Text messaging;
- Dedicated email address for queries;
- A publicised meeting / drop-in session at Elements Academy to allow for one to one and small group conversations about the plans;
- Frequently asked questions and comments slips;
- Survey (online and paper options);
- Dedicated webpage.

2.1 Direct letters

Letters introducing the consultation were sent to the following groups and sample letters are included in Appendix 1.

- Parents/Carers of children attending Elements Academy and Elevate;
- Staff at Elements Academy and Elevate;
- Trustees of Ethos Academy Trust and Governors at Elements Academy;
- Headteachers of schools in Rotherham;



- Partner organisations;
- Local Councillors (due to the pre-election period we were not able to engage with the local MP).

2.2 Survey

A survey was created in Google Forms and used as a tool to provide everyone with an opportunity to have their say and to gauge reaction to the proposal to open a satellite site for the Elevate Provision at Herringthorpe, Chaucer Road, Rotherham. A paper version of the survey was also sent out with the letter circulated to stakeholders. The survey and results can be found in Appendix 2.

2.3 Publicised drop-in session

Stakeholders were given the opportunity to visit Elements Academy to meet with Senior Leaders from Elements Academy and Ethos Academy Trust on a one to one or small group basis. The offer of a more informal approach was felt to be the most appropriate due to the unique circumstances of the children and young people accessing the Elevate provision, providing the opportunity for individual conversations if needed.

2.4 Staff meetings

Staff were advised of the proposal on 24 and 25 June 2024 during staff meetings and were advised that further opportunity for questions would be given at all weekly staff meetings during the consultation period.

2.5 Local Authority consultation

The proposed satellite expansion of the Elevate Provision at Elements Academy has been done in full partnership with Rotherham MBC. The following has been provided by Mark Cummins, Transformation Lead, Commissioning, Performance and Quality, Children and Young People's Services at Rotherham MBC, for inclusion in this report.

The LA have been involved at all stages of the development of the Elevate provision, the proposal to utilise a central site has been recommended based on a collaborative multi-agency review of the service.

The continued development of SEMH provision is included within the LA's SEND Sufficiency Phase 5 programme and as part of the Safety Valve delivery programme. All phases of SEND sufficiency are subject to a thorough consultation with key stakeholders including:

Parents/carers, Parents / Carers’ Forum, Community engagement, Schools Pupil Referral Units, Elected Members, DfE, Ofsted, Teaching Staff.

Regular updates are provided on SEND Sufficiency planning to Elected Members through Cabinet and scrutiny with oversight from Schools Forum and the High Needs sub-group.

Recent Cabinet Papers on Rotherham SEND Sufficiency Strategy are linked below:

[Paper June 2023](#)

[Paper March 2024](#)

The Cabinet paper which specifically covers the proposal for Elevate will be discussed on 29th July 2024.

3. Overview of the Feedback received

Appendix 3 contains all the questions, comments and feedback received from emails, meetings and surveys which took place throughout the consultation period. The number of participants in meetings and survey responses are outlined below.

3.1 Individual Engagement

Engagement Method	Details
Emails to Consultation@eat.uk.com	1 email received asking questions and providing feedback. A detailed response was prepared and sent. A further reply was received raising additional questions and concerns. These were addressed through a conversation with the stakeholder (see below)
One to one conversations in advance of the drop-in session	1 telephone conversation with the parent of a child currently accessing the Elevate provision following email correspondence (referenced above).
Questions through the online survey	3 stakeholders raised questions through the online survey which were responded to via email or with a telephone conversation.
Drop-in Session 11.07.24, 9am – 12pm	The drop-in session was attended by 4 Alternative Provision partners and 1 parent.
Home visit	A home visit to one family to discuss the proposal in more detail was completed.

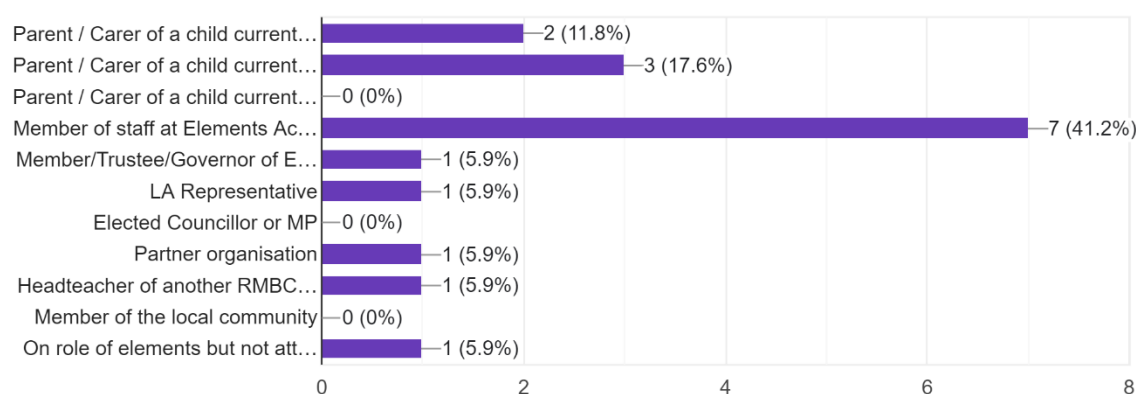
3.2 Survey

We received 17 completed surveys online. No paper survey responses were received. A copy of the survey and the results are available in Appendix 2. A summary of responses is detailed below:

Which best describes the type of stakeholder you are?	
Parent / Carer of a child currently attending Elevate	2
Parent / Carer of a child currently attending Elements Academy	4
Parent / Carer of a child currently attending another school	0
Member of staff at Elements Academy	7
Member/Trustee/Governor of Ethos Academy Trust	1
LA Representative	1
Elected Councillor	0
Partner organisation	1
Headteacher of another RMBC school	1
Member of the local community	0
Other	0

Please tick the box which best describes the type of stakeholder you are? (please tick all that apply)

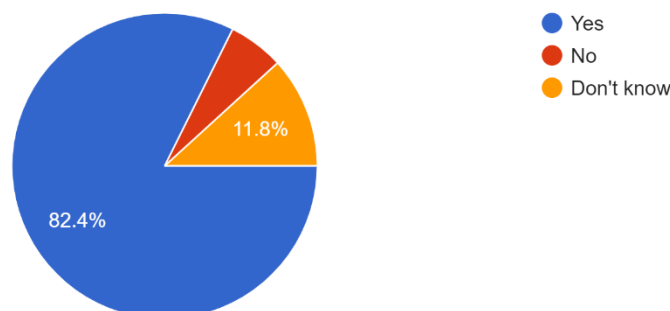
17 responses



Do you agree with our proposal for Elevate to move away from their current space at Elements Academy and open a satellite site at the potential site at Herringthorpe?	
Yes	14
No	1
Don't know	2

Do you agree with our proposal for Elevate to move away from their current space at Elements Academy and open a satellite site at the potential site at Herringthorpe?

17 responses



Of the two respondents who answered ‘Don’t Know’, one was a parent of Elements Academy who asked questions about the Elevate Provision and wanted to know more about it. A response was sent by email and they replied to say thank you for the response and that it provided clarity. They went on to say that they would look forward to hearing more about Elevate in the future.

The second ‘Don’t Know’ response was from a member of staff who had previously worked at the proposed site for the provision. They had some questions as to how the site would work for the provision. Reassurances were provided around the planned investment in to the site to ensure it was tailored to the needs of Elevate.

Themes and Key Messages

Appendix 3 contains all the questions, comments and feedback received from the various consultation events / media used throughout the consultation period. A summary of all the responses and the messages contained therein, with implications for the provision, school and trust are provided in the remainder of this section.

Partner Organisations:

Overall, the conversations with the Alternative Provision (AP) partners who currently provide outreach to children accessing the Elevate provision were positive, with all in agreement that there is a need for the proposed educational offer. Understandably they asked the question around AP usage moving forward and it was explained that Elevate would be working very much in partnership to ensure a smooth transition and there would be a requirement for AP for some students to continue, certainly for those who have started qualifications. It was highlighted that over time, by implementing a curriculum offer that meets the needs of all learners, there would be an aspiration for less AP to be used. They understood this.

Staff at Elements and Elevate:

Questions were raised about the proposed site and its suitability for the provision. Reassurances were provided to address the concerns and confirm the plans for a phased approach to the development of the site, and therefore the number of students accessing the provision. Staff were assured that their input in to the development of the site would be welcome and opportunities would be provided for this to take place.

Parents and Carers of Elevate Students

Concerns were raised around students who are currently not able to access a school setting due to their needs, as to whether there would be an expectation for them to suddenly start to attend school. Reassurances were provided that a personalised learning approach would be in place for each student with an aspiration of reaching a time when all Elevate learners are able to access their education from the new site, however all future plans would be done at a pace which felt comfortable for the learner.

Parents of children who are not yet in Key Stage 4 were interested in learning more about what offer would be in place for their child. Assurance was given that Elements Academy will work in partnership with Rotherham MBC EHCP team and the families to support a smooth transition to an alternative education setting to best suit the learner.

During the drop-in session families expressed a level of anxiety around the proposed changes, however they also understood the need for change. They asked for communication to be effective, with the school working closely to support the transition. Reassurance was given that this would be the case and that a personalised transition would be carefully planned.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

On compiling all the feedback and reviewing the data received, the conclusion that can be drawn is that there are no apparent legitimate reasons why Elements Academy should not proceed with the plans to submit a Significant Change Business Case to the Department for Education to open a satellite site for the Elevate Provision. Stakeholders asked incredibly well considered questions, responses were provided and, where needed, additional follow up conversations took place. Ultimately stakeholders were provided with the assurances that this is the right decision for Elevate, the children and young people attending, staff and the wider school community.

Thank you to school leaders, staff and Ethos Academy Trust for responding to the questions raised.

5. List of Appendices

Appendix 1	Sample consultation letters
	1a. Stakeholder (used for families, school leaders, alternative provision partners, local Councillors, Trustees and Governors)
	1b. Staff
Appendix 2	3a Online survey 3b Survey results
Appendix 3	Feedback received from consultation meetings and online survey