



PaCC Position Statement: Brighton and Hove City Council's proposals to reduce the published admission number (PAN) of 7 primary schools

This is the response of the Parent Carers Council (PaCC) to the proposed reduction in PAN of 7 Primary Schools in Brighton and Hove.

Potential impact on pupils with SEND

PaCC understand the need to reduce the number of reception places across the city due to a projected drop in the number of children needing places. However, we believe it is essential for decision makers to consider the potential impacts of these proposals on children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

PaCC represent parent carers of children with SEND in Brighton and Hove, and we are concerned about the disproportionate impact of the current proposals on this vulnerable group of children and their families, particularly those who also fit in the 'disadvantaged' category.

All but one of the schools are proposed to drop to either 1 or 1.5 form entry, which could impact negatively on their budget. Where stretched budgets lead to reduced staffing levels, PaCC highlight the disproportionate impact on children with SEND, who are highly dependent on support staff. For example, fewer teaching assistants (TAs) for learning interventions and pastoral support, or the use of EHCP-funded 1:1 individual needs assistants (INAs) as classroom teaching assistants. Fewer TAs would also put additional pressure on teachers and their ability to differentiate effectively for pupils with SEND.

We note that many of the schools listed have high number of pupils with SEND and/or disadvantaged, many of whom will fall into both categories.

Specialist SEND facilities

PaCC also highlights the specific cases of the speech and language facility at Carden Primary, and the deaf facility at Bevendean Primary. These facilities are highly valued by families who attend.

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Families have raised the following impacts on their children attending the facilities:

- Will the school be able to sustain the facility if there is a reduction in PAN?
- Speech and language facility pupils integrate into mainstream classes, and this will be a real challenge if there is only one class in each year group
- Larger class size will have a negative impact on deaf children due to noise levels
- Impact on siblings of children attending the facilities, if they are unable to secure a place. Dropping children at different schools is very challenging for families of children with SEND.

Recommendations

We recommend that Councillors and Officers:

- Identify the number of vulnerable pupils in these schools and the potential impact of the proposals on these children;
- Consider the potential impact of the proposals on the specialist facilities at Carden and Bevendean Primary Schools;
- Consider the impact on siblings of reduction in PAN and how this can be mitigated;
- Identify and implement measures to mitigate impact of falling pupil numbers and PAN reductions on disadvantaged children and children with SEND;
- Going forward, ensure co-production at an early stage between Education and Skills, the SEND team and PaCC regarding potential impact on CYP with SEND of any significant changes to educational arrangements.

PaCC welcome any communication on any of the issues contained in this document. You can contact us by emailing **Diana Boyd** PaCC Chair diana@paccbrighton.org.uk or calling **01273 234862**

The Parent Carers' Council (PaCC) is a parent-led forum which represents parent carers with children and young people with any kind of physical disability, learning disability, complex or long-term medical/health condition, mental health issue or special educational need. The group was formed to enable parent carers to work closely together to help improve services and support. It aims to help parents get more directly involved in the strategic delivery of services for disabled children in Brighton & Hove and now has **515 signed up members**. Our position statements are developed using feedback from our Steering Group members and our partner groups.