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Summary of the Consultation for the relocation of Crosshill School

Our proposal

From Thursday 11th February 2021 to Thursday 11th March 2021 we consulted on the potential relocation of Crosshill Special School to what is formally known as the Sunnyhurst Centre in Darwen. The relocation addresses are identified below:

Current school location	Proposed school location
Crosshill School within Blackburn Central High School Haslingden Road, Blackburn BB2 – 3HJ	Sunnyhurst Centre Salisbury Road Darwen Lancashire BB3 1HZ

We are passionate about providing a high-quality education for our learners and school community and in order to provide this bespoke offer for our learners and their families we require a high-quality learning environment. We as a trust and school strongly feel that the relocation of the school to a standalone site, designed with learners with SEND in mind will ensure we can achieve this successfully. We want to ensure that every learner within Crosshill has an appropriate environment and curriculum/therapeutic offer that fully meets their needs effectively whilst ensuring we truly prepare our learners for adulthood and the world of work within an ethos of high expectation.

The Proposal

The new proposal will join all of our learners on roll from our key stage 3 and key stage 4 main site location (within Blackburn Central High School) and our key stage 5 satellite site (near Shadsworth Industrial Estate). It would also allow for expansion of PAN within Blackburn with Darwen for Special School places as may be potentially required by the LA within the future. Admissions of learners to the school would still be the decision of the Local Authority, in consultation with the school, due to all learners on roll requiring an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The consultation

Crosshill School carried out a public consultation which started on 11th February 2021 and ended on 11th March 2021.



The consultation was a comprehensive, open and transparent process and consisted of:

- A consultation letter document that was distributed to key stakeholders (parents, students, staff, local school and post 16 providers, Governors, trustees, schools within the Champion Education Trust, medical, social care and any external professionals currently working with learners within Crosshill School, BwD Local Authority, residents surrounding the Sunnyhurst Site, local council and community members)
- Access to the consultation document and optional communication response through the school website
- A newspaper article via a local daily newspaper regarding the school's proposal to relocate
- The school also held a remote consultation meeting and invited all parents, stakeholders and members of our local council and communities to login too and provided with a panel question opportunity and platform to share their thoughts on the proposal after a detailed presentation regarding the relocation. This was held on 11th February 2021 via Zoom, due to COVID 19 National Lockdown.
- Daily prompts via social media platforms to remind stakeholders of opportunity to consult with us and reminders via newsletters and school communication
- Nearing the end of the consultation all stakeholders were given the opportunity to complete a short survey giving their final view on the relocation of Crosshill School and a final opportunity to ask any further questions or make comment

Summary of responses

Remote consultation meeting

Number of attendees - 54

Online Survey Response

Number of responses received – 106



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Based on the information given by respondents:

- 65% were extremely happy, it will definitely benefit the children
- 20% were happy, I can understand the reasons behind relocating
- 6% were not bothered either way
- 8% were unsure about the relocation
- 1% did not want the relocation to happen

Responding to feedback

We are grateful for the feedback on our proposal. The outcome was the 91% of all respondents supported the proposal.

Questions to address

Set out below are the key questions raised and concerns which emerged from the consultation. These have been considered by us and our responses are below.

Questions raised in the remote consultation via TEAMS to our panel

How will the current road traffic be affected with the new school opening and student transport?

As Crosshill Schools day begins at 8:30am this would limit the amount of clash with neighbouring schools' traffic. Also, the CET explained that the traffic would be monitored and confirmed that students would continue to be brought into school on mini buses, just like they are now. There are currently about 10-mini buses used and it is much less, then each child being dropped off personally. CET confirmed that the Trust would continue to liaise closely with the LA about any traffic concerns that may arise. As the site has previously been a number of schools in the past, we believe that this should not cause an issue within the community and do plan to ensure adequate parking for staff and visitors to the school.

Will the new site cater effectively for children and young people with physical disabilities?

CET can confirm that a new lift will be installed and suitable access into the building will be completed prior to relocation. A well-designed medical room/disabled toilet has also been planned to meet the needs of all our students that require a specialist space for changing and bathroom use. The building is being designed to ensure that the learners have specialist environments and spaces that they are entitled to within a special school, the



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relocation will allow this to happen as where we currently are we have to access resources off site to provide this opportunity to our learners.

Will the post 16 provision stay where it currently is or will it also relocate to the new planned location?

CET can confirm that the post 16 provision will move to new located site and in phase 2 of the renovation project (planned for completion September 2022) will incorporate a specifically designed building due for post 16 learners that will be designed to prepare them for life and work effectively as part of their curriculum offer in Key Stage 5.

Will the school uniform remain the same?

Yes, we have no plans to change the uniform and it will remain as it is for all key stages.

Will there still be opportunity for joint working with Blackburn Central High School?

As BCHS and Crosshill School are part of the Champion Education Trust (CET) Academy group we are family! The schools will ensure that the joint working relationship continues and that students across both schools still benefit from our partnerships in terms of learning and support. We know parents have chosen Crosshill School/BCHS due to our colocation and as popularity of both schools has increased demand on space has been extremely difficult the past few years for us to provide the high-quality environment our learners deserve.

What will be the transition plan for learners?

All learners currently at Crosshill have been part of this consultation in terms of student voice and their questions have been specifically answered as part of their consultation meeting this month. The students are overwhelming excited about the relocation and the opportunity it will pose to them in the future. Throughout the next few months, they will be updated via our social media platforms and monthly assemblies on the progress of the renovation. We will also provide social stories and booklets about the new school once building work is nearing completion. We will also have further transition days near the end of the summer term/summer holidays for learners that we feel may require this prior to relocation, the SENCo (Ms Hadfield) will communicate with the families where we feel this may be necessary. All students attending Crosshill or due to join us in September will be offered a through transition into the new building and will ensure that they are fully informed and prepared for their next journey at Crosshill School.



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Our conclusion

We have considered all of the responses and still firmly believe that relocation of Crosshill School will be within the best interests for our learners, their families and the local community. We believe that this move will provide our learners with a stimulating specialist environment for them to achieve the greatest possible outcomes in relation to learning outcomes (qualifications) and preparation for adulthood. The support for this has been overwhelming from all stakeholders. We are aware that the relocation of Crosshill School will potentially cause logistical problems for a small number of learners, but we as a school and trust will be fully committed to removing any barriers you may have and to ensure that all children/young people and their families are fully happy and supported throughout their educational journey in Crosshill. We look forward to welcoming you all to our new school and you will be treated to same supportive, family feel environment you have now but just within a much more suitable provision and environment for our learners.

Summary and next steps

We as the multi academy trust, taking into consideration the Department for Education's guidance on making changes to open academies, would like to recommend to the Regional Schools Commissioner that this project is approved.

