**Learning Pathways and Educational Provision for Young People with**

**Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Aged 16+**

**What We Are Proposing**

We want to ensure that young people in Gateshead achieve the best possible outcomes as they prepare to move into adulthood. In recognition of alternative provision and the Council’s focus on early preparation (see below), we propose to:

**Who Will Be Affected By The Proposals?**

Young people aged 16 and over attending or wishing to attend a special school sixth form in future.

* Discontinue Year 14 provision in Gateshead special school sixth forms (other than in exceptional circumstances);
* Discontinue Year 13 provision in Gateshead special school sixth forms except at Dryden and Hill Top special schools where the young person has severe/profound and multiple learning difficulties and/or severe autism;
* Change the designated age range for Hill Top and Dryden Special Schools from 11-19 years to 11-18 years.

*[If approved, these proposals would take effect from 1st September 2020].*

**Alternative Provision and Early Preparation**

The SEND Code of Practice indicates that students aged 16-19 should follow a study programme providing stretch and progression to achieve the best outcomes in adult life. A range of alternative options to staying in school have been developed in Gateshead that are available to post-16 students with SEND. These include vocational courses at local colleges, supported internships and apprenticeships.

We are also reviewing the format of Education, Health and Care Plans for pupils from Year 9 onwards to ensure there is a greater focus on young people’s preparation for adult life which should help them prepare for leaving school at an earlier point. This way of working, coupled with the provision of alternative learning pathways, offers the opportunity for young people to become more independent at an earlier point.

There is severe pressure on the High Needs funding for children and young people with SEND which has had an unsustainable overspend in the last two years. This is due to a change in the Department for Education’s expectations for post-16 SEND provision meaning that they will only fund year 14 places in specific circumstances.

**About You**

**Q1. Please indicate your main interest in this consultation?**

*(Please tick one option only)*

□ Young person with SEND

□ Parent or carer of a young person with SEND

□ Staff member at a Gateshead special school

□ Staff member at a post-16 institution other than a Gateshead special school

□ Gateshead resident

□ Other

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| --- |
| *Please tell us your interest in this consultation:* |

**Q2. Do you think that these changes will affect you or someone in your family?**

□ Yes □ No □ Not sure

**Q3. Do you/your child currently attend a Gateshead special school?**

□ Yes □ No □ Not applicable

**Learning Pathways and SEND Provision**

**Q4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

**Agree Disagree Not sure**

Young people should be encouraged and supported to become □ □ □

independent as early as possible to help them achieve the best

outcomes in adult life.

Pupils with SEND should be offered a range of learning opportunities □ □ □

that stretches their progression and encourages their continuing

development and independence.

**Q5. Do you agree or disagree with the following proposals?**

**Agree Disagree Not sure**

Year 14 provision in Gateshead special school sixth forms should be □ □ □

discontinued (except in exceptional circumstances).

Year 13 provision in Gateshead special school sixth forms should be □ □ □

discontinued (except at Dryden and Hill Top schools where the young

person has severe/profound and multiple learning difficulties and/or

severe autism).

The designated age range for Hill Top and Dryden schools should □ □ □

change from 11-19 years to 11-18 years.

**Q6. Do you have any further comments about the proposals?**

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**Thank you for completing this survey**

We will use your response along with all other responses we receive to inform the final decision made by the Council’s Cabinet later in the year. The outcome of Cabinet’s decision will be available to view in the ‘Agendas, minutes and reports’ section of the Council’s website.

***Please return the survey by 24 May 2019 to:***

*Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Service, Gateshead Council,*

*Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HH*

[*senteam@gateshead.gov.uk*](mailto:senteam@gateshead.gov.uk)