Consultation Document: Carlton Academy Trust

Sufficiency of Specialist places for Children and Young People with SEND

Proposal for Beechcliffe School to operate two additional specialist school satellite sites, creating 80 places at the Thompson court site and 56 places at the Anerley Street site.

Beechcliffe is a successful and good specialist school for young people aged 11 – 19, and we are proud to be able to offer our young people a safe, joyful learning environment where everyone is encouraged and supported to do their best and reach their full potential whilst gaining the skills and confidence to enable them to succeed in life after school. We are proud to be part of the Carlton Academy Trust and the opportunities this offers us.

The school is a diverse community for pupils with one site specialising in complex needs arising from autism, severe learning difficulties, profound and multiple learning difficulties; some pupils also have complex medical needs. The other site specialising in social emotional mental health needs with a number of pupils having a comorbidity of autism.

Our curriculum is carefully designed using a pathway model to meet the academic and personal development needs of our pupils. Alongside our curriculum the principles of Respect, Resilience and Responsibility underpin everything we do to prepare every child for modern British life.

We know that the support of parents and carers is crucial to the welfare and development of pupils and we work hard to build strong, trusting relationships with home so that the holistic needs of pupils are met.

Carlton Academy Trust

Carlton Academy Trust is a medium-sized family of 9 schools, secondary, primary and special. Our mission is 'excellence for all'. Carlton Academy Trust is a Bradford-based Trust established in 2019, inspired by the remarkable transformation of its founding school, Carlton Bolling. Once known for its tough reputation and labelled 'The Most Broken School in the Country', the school was placed in Special Measures in 2014. Remarkably, by 2017, the school had achieved an 'Outstanding' OFSTED rating, earned the World Class Schools Quality Mark in 2018, and was named 'Secondary School of the Year' at the 2019 Pearson National Teaching Awards.

Driven by this success, the Trust was formed to support more schools and share the expertise developed through this journey. Today, we support nine schools – three secondary, three primary and three special – with nearly 5,000 students and over 980 staff. In 2022, we became one of the first to be recognised as a 'World Class Trust' by the World Class Schools Quality Mark.

Our mission, *Excellence For All*, reflects our commitment to the highest standards. With a sustainable growth plan of around 15 schools, we ensure focused support that helps every school thrive – aiming for each one to achieve 'Outstanding'.

Why are we consulting?

If a school or academy wishes to make significant changes, such as changing the number and/or type of school/academy places and/or where they are offered, they need to have a fair and open local consultation with relevant stakeholders.

After views have been sought and assessed the Academy school must then submit a Tier 1 Application to the Department for Education (DfE) which will then go to approval at the Regions Group for determination.

What are we consulting on?

Beechcliffe School is a Special School with two existing sites within the Bradford district, Beechcliffe School (Keighley) and Beechcliffe School (Thackley).

Proposal 1 – Thompson Court

Beechcliffe School (Keighley) is co-located on the same site as Carlton Keighley on Green Head Road, Utley, Keighley, BD20 6ED. This sites designation is as a generic special school for children and young people (C&YP) with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The most prevalent needs of the C&YP attending the Keighley site are Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC), Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD).

The first of the two proposals outlined here is to expand the Keighley site by acquiring an additional site at Thompson Court allowing for a further 80 C&YP to access the same generic special school offer.

Thompson Court is a former council-run nursing home located at Morton Lane, Crossflatts, Bingley BD16 2EP. The site is adjacent to and shares main access with Crossflatts Primary School.

The planned operational date for Thompson Court is September 2028.

Proposal 2 – Anerley Street

Beechcliffe School (Thackley) is located at Ellar Carr Road, Thackley, BD10 0TD. The site is designated as a special school for C&YP with an EHCP relating to Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

The second of the two proposals is to expand the Thackley site by acquiring an additional site at Anerley Street accommodating a further 56 C&YP with SEMH needs.

Anerley Street is a former district Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) located at Anerley Street, Bradford, BD4 7SY.

The planned operational date for Anerley Street is September 2027.

How will this be achieved?

If approved, the Local Authority will fund and manage both builds. The works would repurpose the buildings so that they can provide suitable learning spaces, support areas and facilities for pupils with SEND. The Anerley Street building would provide 56 places and the Thompson Court Building would provide 80 places.

The Local Authority has a duty to make sure there are enough suitable specialist places for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), where their EHCP states that their needs should be met in specialist provision.

Bradford has seen a significant increase in the number of children and young people with EHCPs who need specialist provision. These places are needed so that children and young people with complex needs can receive the right support, in the right setting, and have the best opportunity to thrive. Demand for specialist places is expected to continue to grow across all sectors.

Evidence of demand:

Bradford District has experienced a significant increase in demand for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision over the past decade. It is projected that demand will continue to grow across all sectors. Despite the decrease that we have seen in the birth rate within the Bradford district, regionally and nationally, the number of children and young people with an EHCP continues to rise.

Current number of children and young people aged 0-25 with an EHCP 9187 August. Up from 7480 in January 2025.

EHCP Rate Bradford (% of school-aged population) 6.1% January 2026. Up from 5.2% in January 2025 National average 6% in Jan 2026. Yorkshire and Humber average 5.7% in Jan 2026.

Sufficiency of places in Bradford Special School is one of the local authority's greatest pressures in SEND. Current specialist provision occupancy (0-25) is 103% as of August 2026.

Who will fund and ensure the project is delivered?

The Local Authority is supporting this proposal and will project manage and fund the development works through appropriate capital funding, including High Needs Capital Funding where applicable.

The provision will be staffed and managed by Carlton Academy Trust, working in partnership with the Local Authority and relevant schools and services.

How can I share my views?

Date	**Activity**
14th September 2026	Consultation period opens for 3 weeks
24th September 3.15 - 5pm	Open public consultation meeting at Beechcliffe (Thackley) for Anerley Street

23rd September 3.00 - 5pm	Open public consultation meeting at Beechcliffe (Keighley) for Thompson Court
5th October	Consultation period closes
By the end of 2026	Decision from the DfE on the proposals

The consultation will be open from **14th September 2026 to 5th October 2026** for you to share your views.

Please follow this QR code or link to complete the survey to share your views and confirm attendance at one of the meetings if applicable.

https://online1.snapsurveys.com/\beechcliffeConsultation

Alternatively methods to feedback:

Response by email to: **catconsultation@catrust.uk**

Response by letter to: **Beechcliffe School Keighley, Capacity Consultation, Green Head Road, Keighley, BD20 6LH**

Beechcliffe School Thackley, Capacity Consultation, Ellar Carr Road, Thackley, Bradford, BD10 0TD