



additional spaces for the children that we have identified need that provision in Worcestershire.

There were 83 Worcestershire resident children and young people with EHCPs and a primary need of autism who receive their education at high cost, independent or non-maintained special schools and that might be in Worcestershire, but it's also out of county and that was all based on the bid that we submitted at the time to the Department for Education from the January 22 Census information.

Mel is just going to talk us through a bit of the rationale for the new school.

Thank you very much. So firstly, and I suppose the obvious thing is that the reason we put the bid in is to meet our statutory responsibilities in terms of sufficiency. So Rachel's spoken about that the numbers of children that we have with education, health and care plans, it will be no surprise to you that those numbers continue to go up. We've currently got 5070 children with EHCPs within Worcestershire and we are seeing our numbers increase in terms of children with autism that have a an EHCP, but it's also important to identif

people to be within their own environments. So we are using a lot of the information and the data that we've got from Delivering Better Value to inform what we need to do going forward. Again, it won't be any surprise to you that the numbers that Rachel shared at the beginning were when we did the bid - Those numbers have gone up since then, so we now have the accurate information through Delivering Better Value in SEND programme.

All age autism strategy: So I mentioned very briefly the national strategy and I'm leading on work stream 2 for Worcestershire Children First, which is improving the autistic children, children & young people's access into education and support positive transition. So again that's a theme that weaves through our All Age Disability SEND strategy and also was clearly a driver in terms of what we wanted to put forward as the rationale for the new school.

And finally, again, the education and skills strategy, ensuring a good education for every child in Worcestershire, and I hope what you can see through this is that the this bid was put in based on the all of the strategies that we've got and using accurate data and forecasting and that's why I think one of the reasons why we were successful because we were able to illustrate the need that we have within Worcestershire for children and young people with autism.

Over back over to you, I think Rachel.

Thank you.

So what else do we know in Worcestershire? So we know that there is evidence of a growing number of children and people being diagnosed with autism. As I've said previously, we also know that many of these children experience finding school environments overwhelming.

We are keen to continue to take steps to ensure that we adapt our mainstream schools to ensure that they have an inclusive environment, but we also recognise that the right provision for the right child at the right time is really critical and, as I said previously, we identified a cohort of children who whose only option at the time of our bid was to access independent or non-

school needs to provide an education for children and young people that may experience high anxiety or demand avoidance as a result of autistic presentation support children who are enabled to access mainstream education provision. With support these children and young people have the cognitive ability to access a mainstream curriculum and they will need smaller class sizes. So we are planning to build the school with class sizes of 6 to 8 to support these children and young people's needs and we are assured that the whole school and the staff need to have a dedicated holistic autistic approach to the provision being provided.

So about the actual new school. So the free school will be located in Malvern. For those of you that know Malvern, it will be sited on the existing Poolbrook Centre, which was a former primary school, and the site is owned by Worcestershire County Council.

It will be a special free school all through school opening with 120 places, but I'll show you how that's proposed to be staggered for 5- to 19-year-olds. So Reception through to year 14.

We are proposing that there will be different number of places by key stage, so reception through to key stage two there would be 6 places per year group Key Stage 3 two through



our KPIs with the DfE is to get as many people through to the interview stage as possible. So we process it as the real thing.

So the first two sections of the application are so straight forward, section A is just



Sorry, it's Clive. I've got a couple of questions, if that's OK.

Yes.

I'm from a trust that's currently not within your area at the moment and it's just internal, just a little bit of background of regarding obviously called Worcestershire Children First. So I didn't know if there's just a little bit of clarity around that would just be helpful just for the local knowledge or where we can access that information that would be really helpful.

The other one is in terms of is there any some I've been to a couple of these events now with some of the local authorities it does, is Worcestershire looking at any stage at all to do an early open in a temporary building elsewhere if the need is there because some local authorities are looking within the application to demonstrate ability to and capacity to open early if you need that.

You mentioned the SEND strategy now obviously you've got you on the on the presentation. You put 2 of the seven areas, but I'm assuming in terms of a part of the application will need to evidence all of the seven areas. So just is the seven strategy currently accessible in the public domain?

And then the final one was just around the cognitive capabilities of the pupils because that does have a significant impact on the on the section around the curriculum offer. Now you





only. If other people want to attend the session on Thursday, then please do sign