



## CHILDREN & LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Subject Heading:**

Corbets Tey @ The Avelon – an update on post -16 provision for young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

**CMT Lead:**

Tim Aldridge

**Report Author and contact details:**

**Caroline Penfold, 01708 431743,**  
[caroline.penfold@havering.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.penfold@havering.gov.uk)

**Policy context:**

Council outcomes:

- Communities are resilient and self-supporting;
- A focus on prevention and early intervention to improve residents' wellbeing;
- Improved choice and control over the health and social care people receive;
- Access to 'early help offer' for children and young people most at risk;
- Services cost less to run and are more efficiently delivered; and
- Lower levels of preventable ill-health and people leading healthier lives.

<b>SUMMARY</b>
----------------

Corbets Tey @ The Avelon opened in September 2016 as a provision for young people with special educational needs and disabilities. 8 students aged 16 years and over have attended since the opening. The provision is managed by Cobets Tey School and shares a site with Havering's Adult Services provision: Avelon Road Day Opportunities Centre. There are two phases of building works planned to make the accommodation suitable, phase one has been completed and phase two is due to start imminently. The provision is due to increase its student population to 24 in September 2017.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The report is to provide an update on progress and therefore for Noting only.

## REPORT DETAIL

### Background

Corbets Tey @ The Avelon (CT@TA) was established in September 2016, following agreement at Cabinet in 2013 for a new 16-25 provision for young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Capital funding of £1m was agreed to build capacity to reduce the number of young people aged 16+ who are being educated in out of borough placements. CT@TA shares a site with Avelon Road Day Opportunities Centre.

The provision is currently serving students aged 16-19 years who are not able, or not yet able, to access SEND provision at Quarles College and who would have, historically, had to go out of borough to continue with their education.

Corbets Tey @ The Avelon provides high quality education and skills development opportunities for young people aged 16-25 years. The provision is aspirational in supporting young people to move towards Entry Level 1 qualifications, alongside building their social and employability skills, and then onto becoming an active and contributing member of their community. The provision aims to support young people, and their parents, to aspire to a life which is as independent as possible and which includes some form of work, whatever this might look like for each young adult, depending on their abilities.

Learners are expected to attend for between one and four years (on average), depending on their need and the outcomes set out in their Education, Health and Care Plans. Their time at the provision will prepare learners across all four pathways to adulthood:

- **Employment** – making an economic contribution to their community through: paid work (part-time or full-time), supported internships, work experience or supported voluntary work
- **Good health** – managing their own health conditions, as much as possible, and leading healthy lives, for example, by preparing healthy meals and taking part in physical activities.
- **Independent living and housing** – preparing to live as independently as possible, and looking at a range of housing options available at different stages
- **Friends, relationships and community** – building and maintaining friendship groups, having relationships, where appropriate and being an active and contributing part of their community.

Provision and opportunities along these four pathways continue to be developed as the facility grows.

**Current demand**

The post-16 provision is linked to the Basic Needs Expansion in Havering and maximising the use of this new provision will be key to continuing to meet the increasing complexity of need within the borough. Current analysis of levels of need at Corbets Tey School demonstrate an increase in complex needs, particularly complex Autistic Spectrum Conditions. Children with moderate learning difficulties now make up less than 50% of the school's intake.

Already there is higher than expected demand for the post-16 provision with 14 students having been confirmed at panel to start in September 2017. This will make a total of 24 students from September.

Based on current predictions, we estimate that the provision will need to continue to grow to meet demand. It therefore makes sense to develop the currently unutilised roof space in phase 2 while it is being built and contractors are on site. This will mean that the building is able to meet increased demand as early as possible and at a reduced capital cost.

Planning is underway to shape the provision for students over 19 years and they are expected to start their course, which will be an intensive programme of moving young people into adulthood

**Positive feedback from current users**

The first cohort of students are now two-thirds of the way through their first year and all have settled well into their new provision. Of the current eight students, five of the students are based in the Avelon site, with the remaining three receiving their education on Corbets Tey School site. The split site for the provision is a temporary measure for the first academic year only, while the staff team is small, to ensure that those with complex behavioural needs can be appropriately supported where more staff are available.

A student started mid-term at CT@TA following a break down at another institution. An out of borough provision was the preference of the parents/carer, however the student has enjoyed the interim stay at CT@TA and asked to stay.

Parents and carers have also spoken at parents' meetings about how pleased they are with the provision and how much the young people are enjoying it.

The demand for places for this September can also be taken an indication of the success of the new provision.

**Value for money:**

Providing additional in-borough provision for 16-25 year olds with high levels of SEND requires significant investment but brings numerous benefits. Increasing the amount of post-16 provision for students with severe or complex needs means more young people can remain in their home environment rather than travelling to out of borough provision. By ensuring that these young people maximise their potential for independence, it will not only improve their quality of life and long-term

outcomes but it is also anticipated that they will require less support from Adult Social Care in the future as a result.

If this provision had not been available, the current cohort of young people would have had to go to provision outside of the borough. Many of these placements would have been at a considerable cost to the council. The current cost for young people in the new provision is £36,000 per student per annum. This cost is due to start-up costs and a smaller number of students in the first cohort. This is expected to reduce to just over £20,000 from September 2017 and is likely to reduce further as numbers grow over the coming years. Six of the students accepted for September 2017 have significantly complex level of need which, without CT@TA, would require out of borough placements costing in the region of £50,000-60,000 per student.

In order for this provision to compete with out of borough, independent provision, additional revenue investment is being provided – to cover set up costs for the first 2-3 years while numbers on roll are low. However, this still represents a saving overall to the Council, compared to those students going to out of borough replacements.

Once the provision has been further developed, particularly in relation to those over 19 years, other costs and resources will be factored-in, such as health provision and independent living skills, which may include short breaks etc. Therefore costs from Adults' Social Care, including personal budgets may also contribute to a student's funding package. Some resources may be provided 'in kind', e.g. health services may reallocate existing resources (staff) to the new provision.

A robust and comprehensive offer should allow for savings from all services:

- Children's services: children's services are facing budget pressures due to educating increasing numbers of young people up to 25. However, there are savings to be made due to fewer young people attending expensive out of borough placements
- Adults' services: reduced reliance on adult's services as some young people are able to progress onto (supported) employment or supported internships and therefore create less demand on day services
- Care: young people are able to live as independently as possible, and continue to develop appropriate levels of independence, thereby reducing reliance on services
- Health: young people are prepared for step down in adults' health provision and are better able to manage their own health (with or without support)
- Housing: young people are supported to transition into independent/ semi-independent living. Note: this may cost more initially as young people may otherwise have stayed at home. However, greater costs might have been incurred later when older adults can no longer be cared for at home and may have greater needs due to lack of independence.

### **Building Works**

Phase 1 of the building works is complete and this provides a reception and staff area with flexible space which can also be used for delivery of therapies.

Phase 2 of the building works will provide increased space with a layout which will accommodate those students with more complex behavioural needs. The plans also include using the roof space in the phase 2 extension to provide additional student space. A lift will be installed to make it fully accessible. Several consultations have taken place regarding both phases of the building works and both have been granted planning permission.

### **IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

**There are no current risks with this on-going project.**

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**All papers used in the production of this paper are already in the public domain, i.e. Cabinet Report 2013 and Post-16 SEND Strategy.**