

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW VOCATIONAL PROVISION

The Harbour School provides special education "alternative provision" and outreach services for children and young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Needs and/or medical needs.

There is an urgent need to move The Harbour School provision at the Fratton site due to the poor condition of the building which does not provide a suitable environment for learners and staff. The Vanguard Centre has been identified as a site which could be refurbished to accommodate the Fratton provision. The council has considered how to use this refurbishment project to best enhance SEND provision in the city.

There is strong national evidence which has demonstrated that a vocational curriculum can have a positive effect and better prepare the young people for further education and employment. The proposed Vanguard centre works will provide appropriate, specialist accommodation for a vocational curriculum, specifically tailored to meet the needs of these highly challenging and vulnerable pupils.

The scheme provides:

- Vocational teaching spaces for the following subject areas:
 - Mechanics (cars)
 - Hair & Beauty
 - Catering
 - Construction
 - Animal Care
- General teaching spaces for English, maths, art etc.

This is an exciting opportunity to have a specialist vocational provision within the city.

The Department for Education has allocated a capital grant to Portsmouth City Council of £0.77m. The purpose of this grant is to support the creation of places and to improve provision and facilities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The council will fund the cost of developing the vocational provision on the Vanguard site, including using the £0.77m grant funding that is available.

The council is consulting with the Empowering Children and Families Forum, the Shaping Better Futures Together (Parents co-production steering group) and with Portsmouth Parent Voice about this proposal. Comments can also be emailed to caroline.corcoran@portsmouthcc.gov.uk.

The closing date for responses is Friday 20th October 2017.

It is anticipated that the new provision at Vanguard will be operational from September 2018.