

To all Parents/Carers

Monday 10th October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

PROPOSED CHANGE TO LOCATION OF NORTHUMBERLAND PRU

We are commencing a consultation with staff and trade unions regarding the relocation of the Northumberland PRU from our current site at Hepscott Park, Morpeth to the old Atkinson House site, Pitt Lane, Front St, Seghill, NE23 7EB from 1 January 2023. As part of this process, I would like to also seek the views of our parents and carers.

The purpose of this consultation process is to ensure that we have afforded everyone the opportunity to raise any questions.

The rationale for this change of location is as follows:

- The current Hepscott Park site is no longer fit for purpose in relation to the changing needs of Northumberland PRU. This follows a change to provision delivered on site requested by Northumberland Local Education Authority, supported by the Management Committee, from September 1 2022 where the education of key stage 2 learners has been removed from the remit of Northumberland PRU. From 1 January 2023 Northumberland PRU will expand to provide education to both key stage 3 and a new 'offer' for key stage 4 pupils.
- The current Pupil Admission Number (PAN) for Northumberland PRU is 40 pupils. This is expected to increase to 80 pupils for September 2023. The current site will not enable this increase in student numbers to be accommodated at Hepscott Park
- The current site at Hepscott Park does not currently allow appropriate provision for staff and students in relation to catering and dining facilities, social areas or designated areas specific to developing curriculum needs i.e indoor/sports areas/facilities, appropriate cooking classrooms, practical technology areas, communal dining area, fitness suite and standard of ICT technological services.
- The recently vacated Atkinson House site at Seghill is ready-built for purpose and can offer facilities to better suite the curriculum needs of Northumberland PRU as well as offer a more amenable standard of working environment for both staff and pupils

- The Atkinson House site offers improved safeguarding systems to ensure the continued safety of staff and pupils whilst on site
- The Atkinson House site also offers the opportunity to expand access to a vocational curriculum offer to pupils in the areas of motor vehicle maintenance and construction as well as ready-made areas to support the development of an on-site Forestry school for pupils

As all students attending Northumberland PRU are transported to and from the current Hepscoth Park site and this arrangement would remain the same if the PRU does relocate to the proposed Seghill site in January 2023, families and pupils would not experience any impact to current transport arrangements.

The newly proposed Atkinson House site at Seghill is 6.2 miles away from our current site and approximately 15 minutes away in terms of transport time.

We have determined that a two-week consultation process will allow time for us to meet with any individuals who wish to discuss any concerns or issues that they may have in relation to the proposed change.

Please contact myself directly via school email on admin@pru.northumberland.sch.uk if you would like to ask any questions or raise any concerns in relation to this proposal.

Yours Sincerely,

R.L. Carr

Richard Carr
Headteacher