

## **Outcome of the consultation on the proposal to expand the number of places in autism bases in mainstream schools in Herefordshire from 1 September 2023**

The Department for Education (DfE) consider the introduction of mainstream autism base on the site of a school as a 'significant change' to the school. When making a decision on a 'significant change' to a school, a public consultation needs to be held.

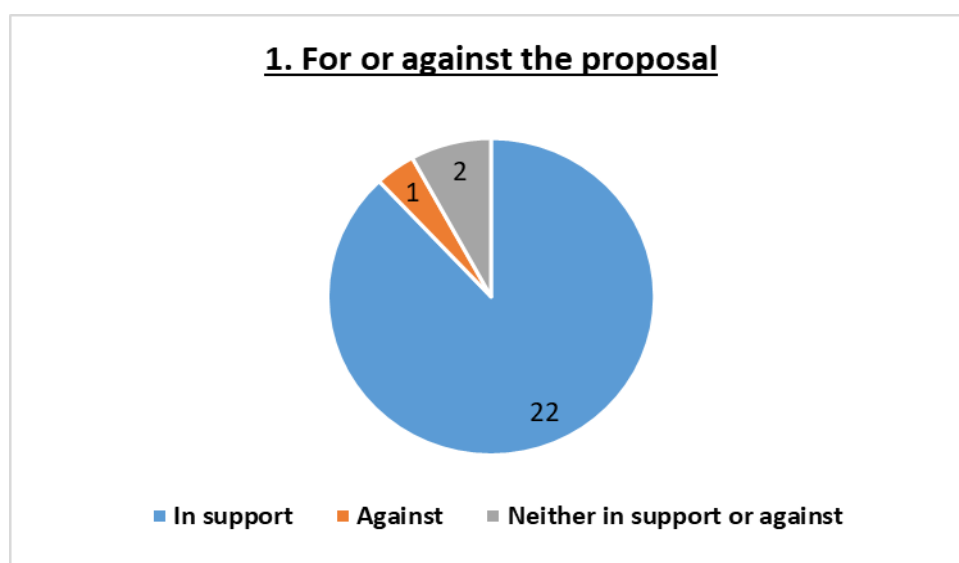
We asked for your views on a proposal to open four new mainstream autism bases (MABs) in schools across Herefordshire, offering a total of 32 new specialist places for children with autism who meet the criteria for this type of specialist provision. The [consultation for the proposal to expand places in autism bases in mainstream schools](#) ran from Monday 20 March until Friday 21 April 2023 and 25 people / organisations responded.

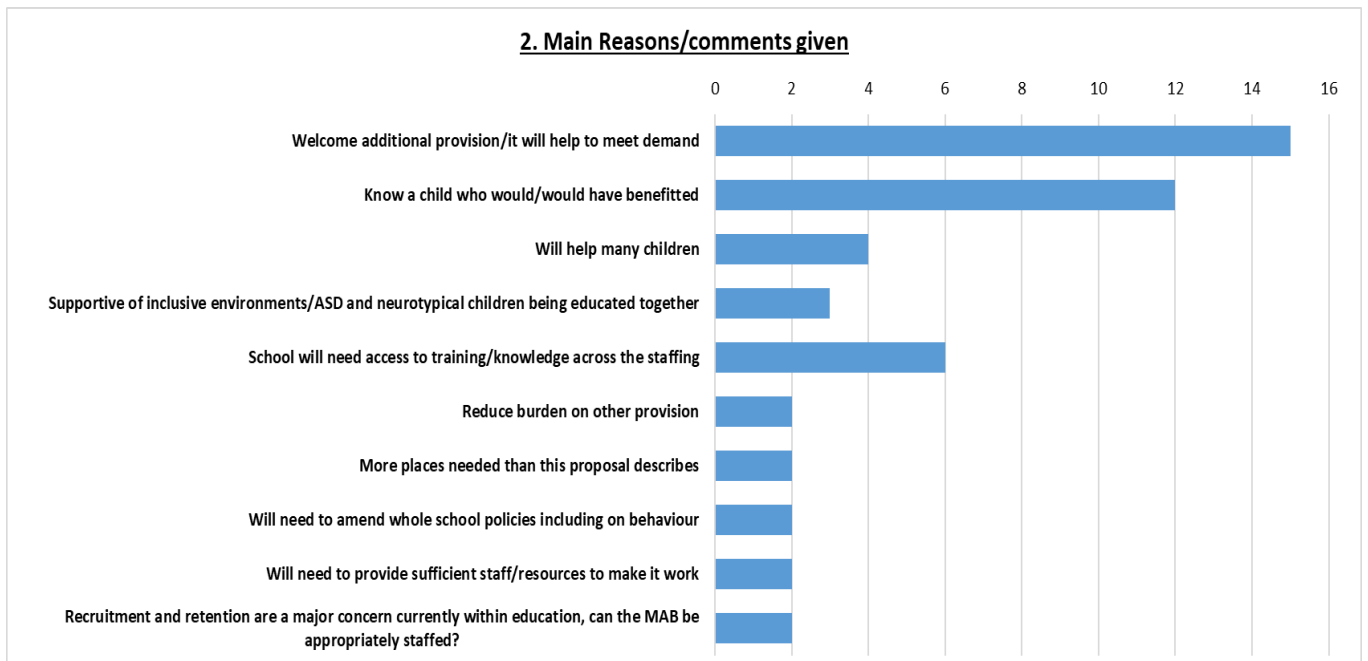
We would like to thank all those who have taken the time to feedback and for the constructive comments that have been provided. Herefordshire Council has carefully considered all of the responses. Due to the level of support for the proposals the council has made the [decision](#) to introduce the autism bases at the three schools maintained by the Local Authority (Earl Mortimer College, Leominster, Leominster Primary School and Aylestone School in Hereford).

Where concerns have been raised in the consultation feedback, the council and the three schools will carefully consider these concerns and work towards resolving the issues.

The fourth school site, St Weonards Primary is an Academy and therefore the decision to introduce a mainstream autism base is the responsibility of the Regional Schools Director. The feedback gathered during the consultation will assist with this decision.

### **Summary of Responses**

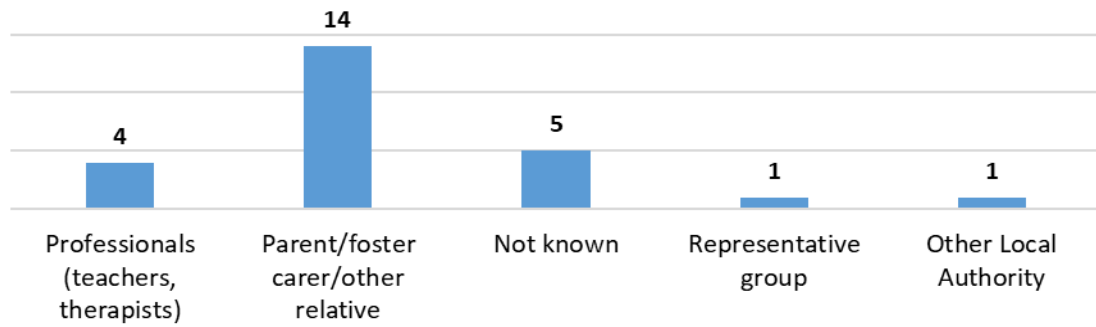




**Other individual comments:-**

- Need to have specialist support in Early Years. No autism provision in Early Years.
- Clarification that it is funded in addition to existing school budgets.
- Will all children with ASD be offered a place?
- Pity it was not in place when my child was at school.
- Concern that speech and language support will not be provided with new provision.
- Child will not have to change school to get the support they need.
- Geographical location should reduce transport need.
- Will there be separate entrances for pupils attending the MAB?
- Will the staff be trained in neuro-affirming ways and from training led by and from Autistic voices and experiences? This would need to include knowledge of the masked presentation of autism?
- How will pupils be supported to attend lessons with their peers?
- Concern about possible congestion around the school if more pupils attend.
- Enhancements to the school facilities and numbers are welcome and will only benefit sustainability.
- Places will not be spread evenly across year groups.
- Will lead to a disproportionate number of children with autism in school population.
- We would welcome a common approach across Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

### 3. Type of respondent



### 4. Which school did the response relate to?

