



**North Tyneside Council**

David Griffiths  
Interim Assistant Director for Education Learning and Skills  
Langdale Centre  
North Tyneside Council  
Langdale Gardens  
Howdon  
Wallsend  
NE28 0HG

**Tel: (0191) 643 7100**

13 November 2019

Dear

I am writing to let you know about some changes we are proposing to improve education in North Tyneside for some of our children who have special educational needs. The proposal is about the Melrose Centre at Longbenton High School and Southlands School.

Our vision in North Tyneside is for all our children and young people with special educational needs to have every opportunity to take control of their lives, be as independent as possible and achieve their full potential. We want to make sure that children who have special educational needs are well supported during their education in primary and secondary school and in their transition to adulthood. We have been working with schools to look at the changing needs of our young people and the range of options in place.

As a result of our work we would like to consult you about our proposal that the Melrose Centre at Longbenton High School should become part of Southlands School. The Melrose Centre would become special educational provision under the leadership of Southlands School.

The location of the Melrose Centre would not change and the staff working at the Melrose Centre would continue to work there. It would mean that Southlands School would support children who have additional needs due to Autism Spectrum Disorder as well as those who have Moderate Learning Difficulties.

We are proposing the change because the number of children with Education Health and Care Plans who have Autism Spectrum Disorder has increased in recent years. There is a need to develop the secondary education offer for children with ASD and to create appropriate pathways for children moving from primary special school provision into secondary education.

The proposal would mean that children attending the Melrose Centre would benefit from access to special school provision led by Southlands School.

You may have questions about the proposal. We would like to invite you to come along to one of the consultation events which are taking place on:

**Tuesday 26th November** at Benton Dene School. The first consultation session is from 1.30 to 2.30 pm and the second session is from 5 to 6pm.

You can also e-mail feedback, comments or questions about the proposal to: [commissioning@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:commissioning@northtyneside.gov.uk)

You can get impartial information and advice from the Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS). SENDIASS is a specialist service that can help and guide you in all aspects of special educational needs. Contact Details: Amanda Durrant or Nicola Gregg tel (0191) 643 8313 or (0191) 643 8317 or email: [SENDIASS@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:SENDIASS@northtyneside.gov.uk)

If you would like to discuss your child's Education Health and Care Plan or any related issues you can contact the SEN Support Service on 0191 643 8684.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style.

David Griffiths

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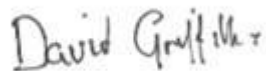
**Monday 25th November** at Longbenton High School. The first consultation is from 9.30 to 10.30am and the second session is from 5.30 to 6.30pm.

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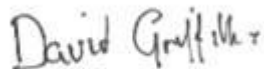
**Wednesday 27th November** at Southlands School. The consultation session is from 9.30 to 10.30am

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