

Dear Resident,

23-25 North Birkbeck Road: New Development

We wrote to you in the summer to advise of our intention to develop 23-25 North Birkbeck Road as a new High Needs Centre and Family Resilience Centre. The existing building (previously the Leytonstone Learning Link) is being demolished in preparation for building new places for some of the most vulnerable children in the Borough. A planning application was submitted in September 2021.

Providing a new High Needs Centre and Family Resilience Centre is a central pillar of the Council's 'Families at the Heart of our Place' strategy, which includes bespoke provision for children excluded from school. Providing this new facility is an opportunity for the Council to deliver 'wraparound' services to some of our most vulnerable children whilst supporting key Council priorities.

The proposal is to co-locate the High Needs Centre (HNC) and Family Resilience Centre in a brand-new facility at 23-25 North Birkbeck Road. Co-location will make it easier for services to work together for the benefit of the children, their carers, and the wider Waltham Forest community.

The High Needs Centre will serve a maximum of twenty students with high levels of educational need and some of whom will have been permanently excluded from school. The children will be attending full-time during an extended school day (8am - 6pm). The facilities will allow them to continue learning English and Maths but will primarily be aimed at supporting them in managing trauma and offering art, music, drama, and sports facilities that support them in their recovery. Employment skills in construction will also be available to students. A range of therapy and counselling spaces and services will be provided. The Centre will be managed by Belmont Park School.

The Family Resilience Centre will include offices for the Youth Offending Service, who are moving a short distance from their base in Cecil Road. The Family Resilience Centre will also offer counselling and will work with those children and their families who have been in contact with the justice system and who are undertaking a range of activities including family therapy and restorative justice programmes. Some children will attend evening sessions and the Centre is likely to be open between 7am and 9pm on Mondays to Thursdays, with Saturday and Sunday hours likely to be 10am to 4pm.

Why are we writing again?

We are planning a public event, and this is going to take place on **Tuesday 2 November 2021**. It will be held at **Downsell Primary School, Downsell Road E15 2BS** between **6:00 p.m.** and **8:00 p.m.**

The architects, and the people who will be managing the Centres, will be able to answer any questions you have. Further details are available on the project website at <https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/northbirkbeck-learninglink> where you can also subscribe for updates on the project. You can also contact us by email at northbirkbeck@walthamforest.gov.uk if you have any questions and comments.

Yours faithfully,

David Kilgallon,
Director, Learning and Systems Leadership

