

## APPENDIX 3

### RESPONDING TO THE DFE SEN IMPROVEMENT TEST

#### **Demonstrating likely improvements to SEN Provision in expanding Cherry Garden**

**Identify the details of the SEN benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of:**

- i) Improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment etc;**

Increasing the places and building a purpose built school for children with profound and multiple and severe learning difficulties will improve their access to education locally and enable this group of children to play an increased role in their community. There should be no need to send children in this needs group out of borough as this proposal will increase available local provision. Services outlined in Part 3 of a child's statement can be accessed on the new purpose built site. The school will have the capacity to offer extended services and facilities which are currently restricted. The new school site is also in the middle of the borough, geographically, enabling a shorter travel time for most students which is beneficial in health and educational terms. Specialist equipment suitable for children with these needs will be on the school site to be accessed by all pupils. Because the proposed location for the new school building is between Gloucester and the new Tuke secondary special school, this proposal would therefore enable the two special schools to work together in supporting pupils with severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties and complex needs, particularly at the age of transfer.

- ii) Improved access to specialist staff, both education and other professionals, including external support and outreach services;**

The LA and the school will be working with specialist medical staff to enable more children to be seen in school. This should reduce the travel time of professional staff as all children will be on the same site; similarly multi-agency meetings can be effectively held on site.

**iii) Improved access to suitable accommodation;**

The existing Cherry Garden School is an old building that is not fit for its current purpose and is too small for the needs of its pupils. The new school will give access to a modern building with much improved and necessary facilities.

**iv) Improved supply of places.**

The availability of local specialist places will increase from 46 to 66. The health data on younger children 0-5 who are born with needs that might require a school with the facilities that Cherry Garden can provide has been analyzed. On the data available, all the children of statutory primary age will be accommodated in the increased size school, as well as a smaller number of younger children with the most severe and complex needs.

**LA should also respond to:**

**i. Written statement from all providers.**

All Southwark schools were given the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

**ii) clearly state arrangements for alternative provision**

This is not relevant as the proposal is to increase specialist places in the local area and the current intake will retain their places at Cherry Garden.

**iii) transport arrangements that support access for children:**

All individual transport arrangements will be reassessed when the school moves to the new location, against the Southwark Council Home to School Travel Assistance Policy 2011. As the new school is more central in the borough of Southwark, it is anticipated that most children would have shorter journeys to school, which is beneficial in health terms and educational terms.

**iv) how process will be funded and staffing that will be put in place:**

Increase in places will be funded by DSG – this has been planned for. Fewer children will be placed out of the borough which will reduce the travel costs of transporting these children to school. The Headteacher and Governors of the school will be responsible for the new staffing structure of the new school.