



PROSPER
LEARNING TRUST

Gilbert Ward Academy

Consultation

7 June 2021 – 16 July 2021

Introductions



- Who's who
 - Trustees
 - Prosper Learning Trust
 - Local Authority
 - Department for Education
- Purpose of today
 - Stakeholder Consultation

The Proposal



Who? Prosper Learning Trust and Northumberland Council

What? 80 place provision for 11-16 Special school children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs and autism

Why? The need, ensuring places locally for all children, improving outcomes

How? High quality staff (incl. leadership and PLT trust context).
Significant adults from partners locally
Bespoke curriculum

Where? Former Princess Louise First school site

When? September 2022 onwards

Who are Prosper Learning Trust?



- Prosper Learning Trust (PLT) were formed officially on the 1 January 2018
- 4 Member schools
- Chief Executive Officer - Mark Jones
- Chief Finance Officer - Martin Proud
- Chair of the Board - Joanne Clifford-Swan
- Prosper's leadership and central team cover areas in education and school improvement / finance / compliance / HR / ICT / Governance and executive leadership

Why did the Trust form?



- To achieve the best possible outcomes for children working in partnership with like minded schools and leaders
- To share effective practice
- To divert resources within the group to those who most need it
- To develop future leaders – succession planning
- Facilitate recruitment and retention of staff by offering career and CPD opportunities
- Generate economies of scale

Our Aims



- To inspire pupils with a nurturing, pupil centred approach
 - To become motivated by their own personal and academic success
 - To aspire to fulfil their own potential
- To offer outstanding education
- To minimise any educational disadvantage
- To develop pupil resilience in overcoming any challenges they face within and beyond school
- To be recognised within 3 years as a centre for excellence both regionally and nationally

A Prosper Learning Trust School



- Headteacher/Head of School
- Local Advisory Committee
- Has an individual identity
- Has its own individual school uniform
- Own allocated budgets
- Individual School Development Plan
- Owns their curriculum
- Access to all aspects of school improvement

Gilbert Ward Academy



- 80 children aged 11-16
- Supporting children with social, emotional, mental health and autism needs
- For children and families in Northumberland and neighbouring local authorities
- Based at the former Princess Louise First School, Princess Louise Road site in Blyth
- Opening September 2022

Gilbert Ward Academy



Why did we choose the name Gilbert Ward Academy?

- When naming a school Prosper like to reflect a local person who has had a positive impact in the community
- Dr Gilbert Ward practised in Blyth
- 50 years he was Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths
- Founder of Blyth's first hospital in the 19th century

Gilbert Ward Academy



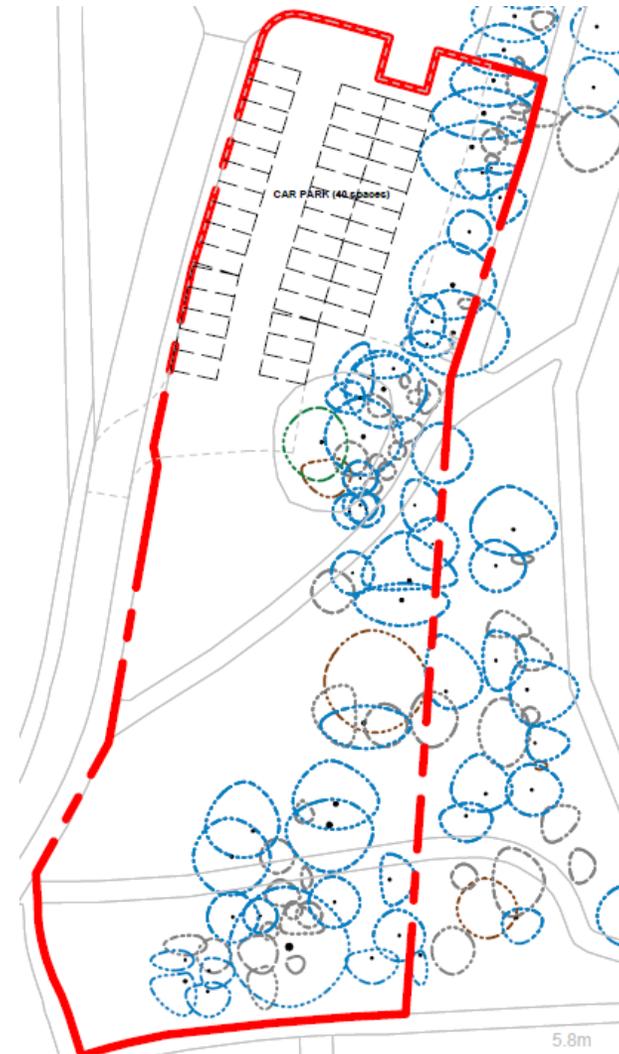
- Anticipated Numbers

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Key Stage 3 (Yrs 7-9)	24	36	48
Key Stage 4 (Yrs 10 - 11)	16	24	32

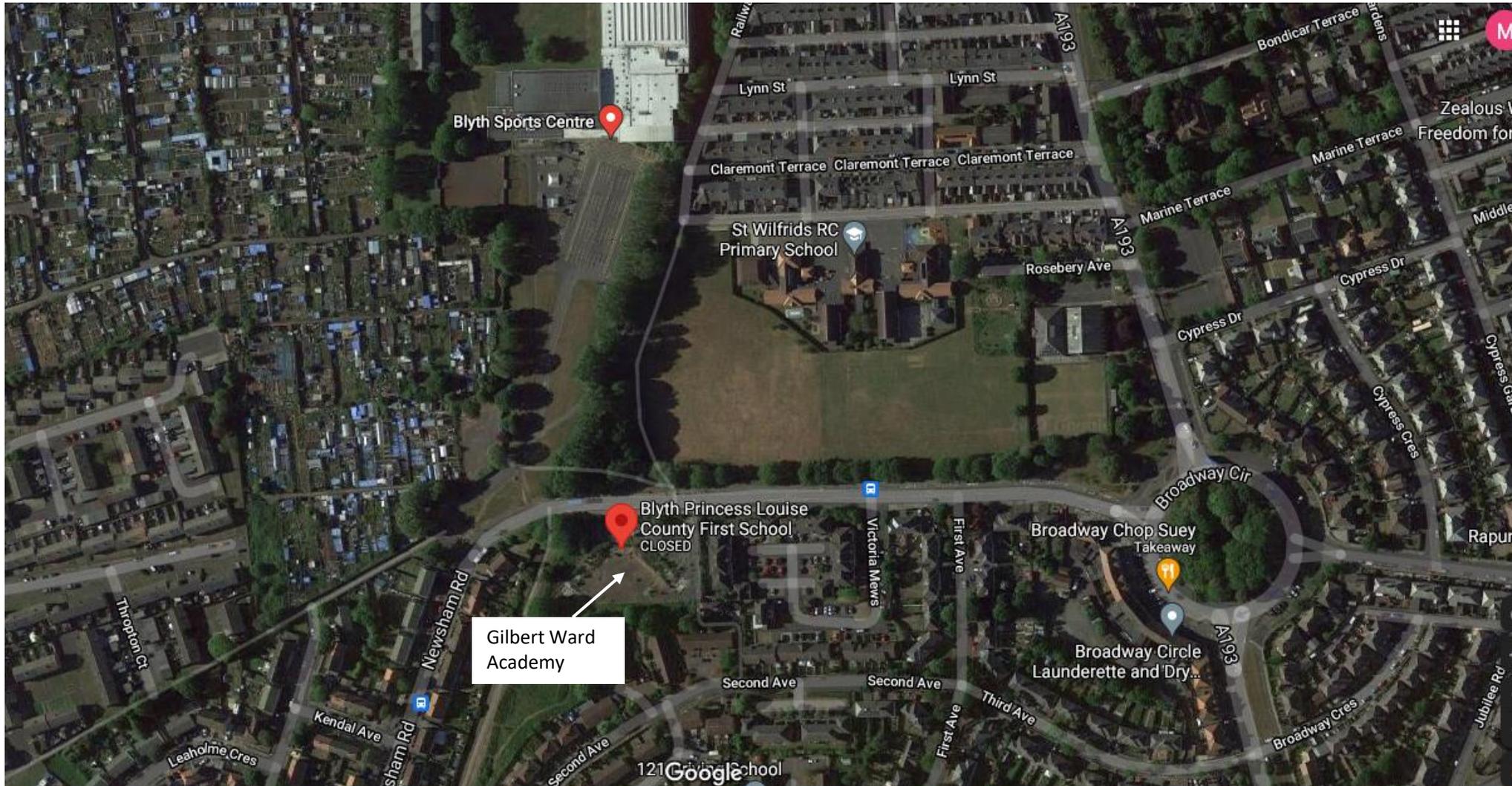
- Statement of Provision (Admissions)

[Gilbert-Ward-Academy-v1.2_Statement-of-Provision Admissions 28.5.21.pdf \(prosperlearningtrust.co.uk\)](#)

Gilbert Ward Academy



Gilbert Ward Academy



Our Offer



- We will develop a school that will
 - Enable all pupils to reach their full potential
 - Offer an integrated holistic approach to pupil care will enable barriers to learning to be minimised
 - Offer a wrap around provision to both pupils and their families
- To ensure this happens we will
 - Improve the educational experience of all our pupils
 - Recognise and celebrating the achievement of both pupils and staff
 - Provide a stimulating learning environment in which a team of highly skilled staff will deliver quality, well-resourced teaching to meet the needs of all pupils
 - Work in partnership with the local authority, parents, trustees, governors, employers, stakeholders and the wider community

Our Offer



- To ensure this happens we will
 - Value the entire school community, promoting well-being and encouraging spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in an atmosphere that fosters the growth of respect and responsible behaviour
 - Ensuring a safe, secure and supportive environment that allows pupils to become more independent and resilient, where they can be happy and enjoy learning
- Prosper Learning Trust brings a strong governance structure

Our Offer



- Prosper Learning Trust brings the experience of specialised SEMH and autism services
- A curriculum that
 - Has a philosophy that focuses on nurturing the whole individual
 - Develops the knowledge, skills, and character required to move on to the next phase of a pupils education
 - Makes learning meaningful and relevant to all pupils
 - Is flexible and can be widely differentiated to suit the needs, abilities and interests of all pupils
 - Is underpinned with a strong emphasis on developing communication, personal, social and independence skills

Our Offer



The curriculum will be tailored to the specific special educational needs of the individual pupils.

- Pupils will choose a curriculum pathway that is ‘process based’ (a more holistic and immersive approach that aims to mitigate against the learning difficulties of pupils, allowing them to access a broad and balanced curriculum), ‘skills based’ (a highly structured approach in line with the National Curriculum) or a mixture of the two.
- The curriculum will be delivered so that pupils have full access to a wide range of accreditation at every level including nationally recognized qualifications.
- The academy will have a range of teaching, learning and therapeutic spaces, shared by pupils so that they all have the access to every opportunity to learn to the best of their ability, overcoming individual barriers and reach their potential.

Our Offer



Transition will be key to pupils fulfilling their potential. The academy will work closely with Northumberland County Council SEND department and the Education Partnership North East (EPNE) to develop links and make good use of the Local Post-16 Offer. Pupils will be able to access further education in a variety of settings,

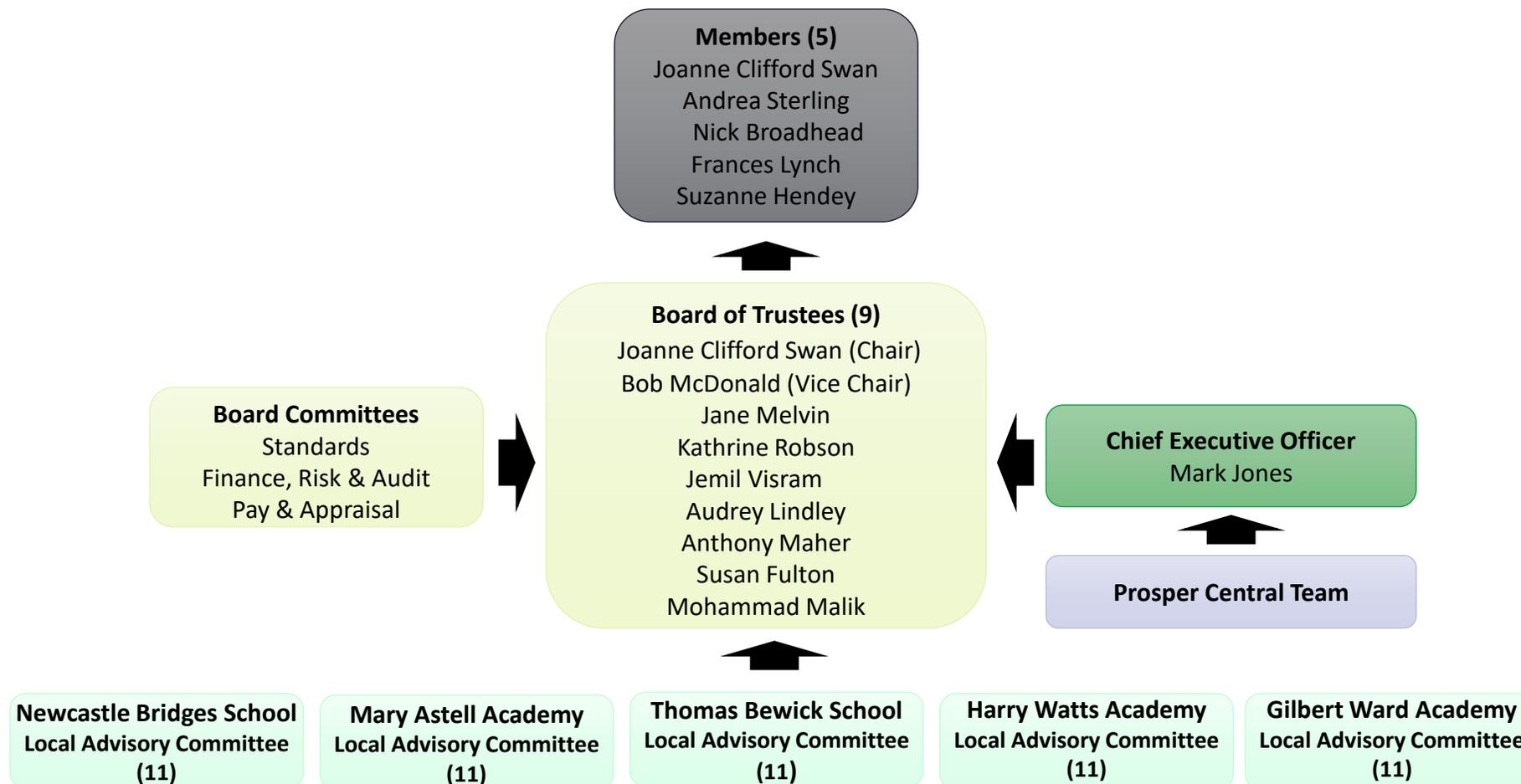
- LA supported study in a mainstream school
- A Foundation course at Kirkley Hall (Northumberland College)
- A discreet course at any local Post-16 college
- Through the partnership between the academy and the EPNE pupils will have access to supported traineeships and internships.
- An organisation that is committed to making Gilbert Ward Academy an outstanding school that the county of Northumberland can be proud of.

What is an Academy?



- Publicly funded schools that are not managed by the local authority
- Can set pay and conditions for their staff and also change the length of terms
- Do not have to follow the national curriculum, must be broad and balanced
- Schools cannot acquire or remove their faith character, expand, become mixed or single sex or introduce selection as part of the conversion process
- Own admissions authority

Governance in Prosper



Next Steps



- Formal consultation until 16 July 2021 with a summary report shared
- Regular communications with stakeholders
- Working group
- Development of further joint working in readiness for the opening
- Funding Agreement with Secretary of State
- Engagement meetings with the build contractor and build gets underway
- Appoint a Headteacher
- Transition activities with pupils, families and predecessor schools

Have Your Say

- Prosper Learning Trust website
- Online Survey
- Email
- Feedback today



Any Questions?

Contact Us

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2. E: consultation@prosperlearningtrust.co.uk
3. T: 0191 229 6020

