Section 10 Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation report

November 2016
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Spires Academy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation Methodology</td>
<td>4 - 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed Questionnaires and Data Validation</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Findings from the Consultation Survey Forms</td>
<td>8 - 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualitative Responses from the Stakeholders Events</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholders Events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusions</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responding to the Findings</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next Steps</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Appendices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appendix</th>
<th>Page(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appendix A – Promotion of the Statutory Consultation</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix B – Statutory Consultation Questionnaire</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix C – Letters promoting the Statutory Consultation</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix D – Letter of support from Northamptonshire County Council</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Introduction

In September 2015, the Secretary of State for Education decided that the application to establish the ‘Catch22 Northamptonshire Academy’ should proceed to the next stage of the free schools process – i.e. the pre-opening stage. The Academy was subsequently renamed, on 1st September 2016 as The Spires Academy.

This report has been prepared by Catch22 Multi Academies Trust. It details the processes for, and the outcomes of, the Section 10 Statutory Consultation undertaken in autumn 2016 for The Spires Academy, which will be based in Northampton and which will now proceed to open, at a temporary site, in January 2017.

The Catch22 Multi Academies Trust provides young people/students with alternative education in order for them to progress and succeed in sustained education or employment.

The Spires Academy will become a part of the MATs educational portfolio and will aim to provide high quality teaching and learning that will enable its Northamptonshire-based students to learn essential life skills and to attain meaningful qualifications. Essentially the Academy will have high aspirations for those students and will aim to:

- Reduce the attainment gap for its students compared to their peers
- Help its students to (where appropriate) return to a mainstream school (as a priority up to Key Stage 3)
- Equip its students with the qualifications and life skills for their next steps of employment, enterprise or further education
- Deliver the following compulsory subjects: Maths, English, Science, Information and Communications Technology, Personal Social and Health Education, Physical Education and Religious Education
- Provide students with the opportunity to study additional vocational subjects depending on interest and ability

2. The Spires Academy

The Spires Academy is an Alternative Education Provision (AEP) free school that has been proposed by Catch 22 Multi Academies Trust and which is fully supported by Northamptonshire County Council.

The Academy will be a free school that will offer full time (alternative) education and therapeutic support to vulnerable, and in some cases excluded, children and young people aged 4 – 16 years. Therefore, its students will typically have needs that cannot be adequately supported in the localities mainstream schools. With a flexible and broad curriculum that meets national standards, the Academy will support each student’s individual learning needs with a personalised academic and behavioural programme.

Northamptonshire County Council has identified a shortfall in school places for Alternative Education Provision (AEP) across the county. In response, Catch22 Northamptonshire Academy will offer 25 primary age/cohort places and 75 age/cohort secondary places.

The NN1 postcode area of Northampton has been selected as a suitable location for the Academy due to its accessibility by public transport. In terms of its location, the Academy will be based at Northgate House in central Northampton. In 2017, the former office block will be converted into a school designed specifically to meet the needs of its students and staff. The building will be zoned to create separate teaching areas for the primary
and secondary groups and there will also be facilities for separate dining, play and communal areas.

It is planned that the Academy will open at the refurbished premises in January 2018.

**Image 1 – Permanent site for The Spires Academy (map)**

![Image 1](image1.jpg)

**Image 2 – Permanent site for The Spires Academy (photograph)**

![Image 2](image2.jpg)

Fundamentally, The Spires Academy has an ambition of becoming an integral part of the education family in Northamptonshire and of unlocking the learning potential of its marginalised students, whose attainment may have fallen behind their peers.
3. Consultation Methodology

The proposal to establish The Spires Academy in Northampton would not have reached this point, in November 2016, without clear community support. The Catch22 Multi Academies Trust is committed to continuing to work with and involve the Northamptonshire community over time.

The Catch22 Multi Academies devised and implemented a comprehensive Section 10 Statutory Consultation plan which sought to openly and honestly engage with the Northamptonshire community and key stakeholders in fulfilment of the statutory obligation to consult under the Academies Act 2010. The Trust is committed to listen to the concerns raised, and to develop responses to them in order to fine tune proposals for the Academy and to ensure that it continues to carry as much public, parental, student-based and professional support as possible.

The Statutory Consultation plan (for its coverage) identified the following stakeholders:

- Primary Schools in the target (Northamptonshire) locality
- Secondary Schools in the target (Northamptonshire) locality
- 100 local businesses (as denoted in the 2015 Report: Northamptonshire Ltd 2015)
- Local organisations that represent and work with children and young people including: Northamptonshire County Council Youth Offending Services, Northamptonshire County Council Early Help Department and community organisations including Northamptonshire Boys’ Brigade
- Elected members from the County Council and Northampton Borough Council, including those who represent the ward within which the Academy will be located
- Local dignitaries including the Mayor of Northampton, local MPs and the local Police and Crime Commissioner
- Local libraries including Northampton Central Library
- Northampton-based health centres and GP surgeries
- Major local retailers including the Morrisons located at Victoria Parade in Northampton

All of these stakeholders were notified about the Statutory Consultation, i.e. the plans to establish the Academy – and thus invited to feedback their views.

Details about the Statutory Consultation were explained via the specific The Spires Academy web-page:

www.catch-22.org.uk/services/the-spires-academy

The formal consultation period ran from Monday 19th September 2016 until Sunday 30th October 2016. Electronic copy (via a direct e-mail) and hard copy versions of a Consultation Brochure were distributed to the stakeholders listed above.

Indeed, the methodology adopted for the Statutory Consultation ensured that these target audiences/stakeholders had those opportunities to see information about the Academy and to respond in a way that suited them – including through the on-line consultation questionnaire which could be viewed at: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FK9FJ8C.

In terms of how specific stakeholders were notified at the outset of the process the following methodology/activities were undertaken:

- (237) Local schools received a generic e-mail from Catch22 Multi Academies Trust – which incorporated a link to the consultation questionnaire
- The (100) local employers received a copy of the Statutory Consultation Brochure – which incorporated a link to the consultation questionnaire
- The local organisations that represent and work with children and young people received a personalised letter and a copy of the Statutory Consultation Brochure – which incorporated a link to the consultation questionnaire
- Elected members and dignitaries received a personalised letter and a copy of the Statutory Consultation Brochure – which incorporated a link to the consultation questionnaire
- Local libraries received a generic letter from Catch22 Multi Academies Trust and copies of the Statutory Consultation Brochure – which incorporated a link to the consultation questionnaire
- Northampton-based health centres and GP surgeries received a generic letter from Catch22 Multi Academies Trust and copies of the Statutory Consultation Brochure – which incorporated a link to the consultation questionnaire
- Major local retailers received a Statutory Consultation Brochure which was hand delivered by the project manager for the establishment of The Spires Academy

Residential addresses which were located within a five minute walking distance from the pivot of the proposed site received a Statutory Consultation Brochure. The two key postcode areas within which this was undertaken were NN1 2 and NN1 3.

Image 3 – Radial indicating the geographical area over which a Statutory Consultation Brochure was delivered (to residential addresses and a number of commercial premises)

Finally, 30 parents of students attending the include School at Bellinge, who it is proposed by the commissioner will transfer to The Spires Academy, were sent a Statutory Consultation Brochure. This group was also invited to discuss the proposal at a parents evening on 12th October.

A total of 4,325 Statutory Consultation Brochures were eventually distributed to the stakeholders listed above.
The details of the statutory consultation were issued to the local and regional media in September 2016, including through a press advertisement which can be viewed at Appendix A, page 12 and which was published in the Northampton Chronicle and Echo\(^2\) on Thursday 29th September 2017.

Finally, the school's website and Statutory Consultation Brochure was used to raise awareness of two formal stakeholder consultation public forums, details of which are set out below:

- Public Forum 1 on 4\(^{th}\) October at The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton between 12.00pm – 8.00pm
- Public Forum 2 on 19\(^{th}\) October at The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton between 12.00pm – 8.00pm

\(^2\) The publication has a circulation of approximately 15,000 (readers)
4. Completed Questionnaires and Data Validation

A total of seventeen survey responses were received, in electronic form and hard copy. All were evidently received before the advertised close of the statutory consultation period and appeared to be genuine, and thus all seventeen **live** were included for analysis in the section below. The evident background of the seventeen respondents is presented in the Table below…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What are your circumstances?</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A parent/carer of child(ren) due to start school in September 2017</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A student at a primary/secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An educational professional at a primary/secondary school</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A local employee/employer/business owner</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A representative of a community or youth group</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A local resident</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Those respondents who denoted ‘Other’, specified:

- Teacher in Youth Offending Service
- Educational Psychologist
- One did not specify

The locality of residence of the seventeen respondents is presented in the Table below…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of residence</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Northamptonshire</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Northamptonshire</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Those respondents who denote ‘Other’, specified:

- An employment address in Northampton,
5. Quantitative Findings from the Statutory Consultation Survey

This section sets out the (hard copy and on-line) responses to the consultation survey form.

Appendix B to this report shows the Statutory Consultation Brochure and within that the questions respondents were invited to respond to (including on-line).

In the section below, each question is taken in turn and the responses are illustrated using Tables.

**Q1: Do you think that the admissions (referral) policy will enable the right pupils to receive appropriate education?**

The following responses were received:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Know</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Table indicates that 71% of respondents believed that the admissions (referral) policy will enable the right pupils to receive appropriate education.

**Q2: Do you think that the Secretary of State for Education should enter into a funding agreement with Catch22 MAT to run The Spires Academy?**

The following responses were received:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Know</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Table indicates that 65% (two-thirds) of respondents believed that the Secretary of State for Education should enter into a funding agreement with Catch22 MAT to run The Spires Academy.

**Q3: Do you have any other comments or queries about the Spires Academy?**

The Statutory Consultation questionnaire generated qualitative feedback on a range of issues.

For example, in terms of general support for the (type of):

“I think this is much needed provision… and I support the ethos.”
“I believe that a safe environment offering full time education is vital. The staff will need to be skilled and experienced in working with children who need extra support. It is essential that staff and children have high expectations of behaviour…”.

Two respondents provided their feedback about the proposed site. Issues which were raised included:

- The suitability of the location – including in terms of the scope for students to have an element of outdoor space
- The logistics of developing the site so as to effectively educate both primary pupils and secondary pupils

Two respondents had thoughts about the Academies curriculum:

“I don't see music on the 'mandatory' section of the curriculum. I know that music is a powerful and transformative subject if taught well and sensitively by the right teacher”.

“I support the school] if an appropriate full-time curriculum is put in place”.

Three respondents provided feedback on specific/individual issues – though all broadly focused on the issue of experience and planning when educating a type of student who may attend the Academy:

“This type of student requires excellence in terms of provision and staffing… including appropriately qualified and post-qualification trained staff. It requires appropriate ‘physical provision’. Excellence is therefore yet to be evidenced… What will make this venture different? How will you ensure that these criteria of quality provision are met?”

“I have concerns that [other] schools may ‘dump’ pupils and students who are unlikely to achieve the desired qualifications, without sufficient attempts to keep them within mainstream school. Any referral criteria should be tight and adhered to. There may be a desire to accept ‘inappropriate’ pupils/students just to fill spaces and attract funding. … Students/pupils with a range of social and emotional difficulties should not be referred before they are subject to an Education, Health & Social Care Plan or an Early Help Assessment which might address difficulties that block educational progress”.

“…Whilst Northampton may generate the largest number of referrals, a significant number are likely to come from Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough. Travel will be expensive and lengthy for these referrals, who may reach the Academy unready to engage in education – particularly if they are travelling in groups with inadequate supervision. It will also take a considerable time to return them home, meaning that the school day for these students/pupils may be extremely long… Many of these pupils/students are likely to have a range of social and emotional difficulties, which can be addressed far more effectively by a local base, enabling networking to take place to resolve issues, and to build links with local provision, including post-16 education & training…”.
6. Qualitative findings from two public forums

Two public forums were held during the Statutory Consultation period:

- Public Forum 1 on Tuesday 4th October at The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton between 12.00pm – 8.00pm
- Public Forum 2 on Wednesday 19th October at The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton between 12.00pm – 8.00pm

A Parents Evening was also held on Wednesday 12th October at which attendees – whose children are likely to attend the academy – were also encouraged to provide any feedback that could contribute to the Statutory Consultation.

Essentially, attendees at all three events were invited to highlight their views and (any) concerns that they had about the development of, and the establishment of, the Academy and to ask questions about it.

The one subject that did recur (although not significantly) during this phase of the Statutory Consultation was the admission policy and procedures – specifically an interest in how students would be referred to the Academy. Representatives of the Academy explained that selection would be made by the local authority and the key admissions criteria would be that a student may have been excluded or was at risk of exclusion from their mainstream school and/or required significant behaviour support.

7. Acknowledgements

Catch22 Multi Academies Trust would like to express their gratitude and appreciation to the prospective parents, local residents and representatives of the wider educational community who engaged in the consultation, visited the website, who attended one of the Public Forums and took the time to complete the consultation questionnaire/survey form.

The submitted responses were all gratefully received.

8. Conclusions

The responses to statutory consultation questions (pages 8 - 9) show that two-thirds of the respondents were in favour of the proposal to establish a new alternative education free school in central Northampton.

Some respondents did raise issues that require further consideration and Catch22 Multi Academies Trust will give further thought to how their plans can be developed to accommodate legitimate concerns of local residents and parents.

Essentially, this report fulfils The Spires Academy’s statutory requirement to consult with local stakeholders about its proposals and the Catch22 Multi Academies Trust can proceed with the next phase of the pre-opening in the knowledge that no significant barriers to their proposals have been identified.
9. Responding to the Findings

Whilst the proposal to establish the Academy is clearly supported by the majority of respondents, some issues have been raised that warrant further consideration. These include:

A. The experience and ‘know how’ of the Catch22 Multi Academies Trust, in terms of educating challenging students and establishing an appropriate (therapeutic) environment within which they can specifically be educated.

B. Specific observations about the suitability of the site(s) existing location and its existing architecture.

C. Questions about the detail of the admissions policy and its key features and criteria.

D. Questions and observations about the breadth of the proposed curriculum and the subjects planned to be offered.

Catch22 Multi Academies Trust recognises the importance of these issues/questions and will continue to work in partnership with the local community and local (educational) stakeholders in order to effectively respond to them and provide any requisite clarifications.

10. Next Steps

As a result of this exercise it is recommended that:

1. This report should be now reviewed and approved by a meeting of Catch22 Multi Academies Trust.

2. Catch22 Multi Academies Trust should continue to promote the fact – including within the local education family of Northamptonshire – that it is aware of the (logistical) challenges that its permanent site offers and that its priority is to ensure that the renovation of the building in question will result in an excellent and appropriate learning environment for both its primary cohorts and its secondary cohorts.

3. Catch22 Multi Academies Trust should continue to promote the fact – including within the local education family of Northamptonshire – that it has had significant experience and success in educating vulnerable students and those who are at risk of exclusion (such as at the Ashwood Academy in Hampshire) – and that it comprehensively understands the challenges involved with all facets of meeting addressing such students needs, during all elements of a school day – including the journey to and from a school/academy/

4. Catch22 Multi Academies Trust could consider posting details on its (ongoing) recruitment plans and ambitions and how it will be seeking high quality and appropriately experienced teaching and therapeutic staff.
Appendix A – Advertisement highlighting the Statutory Consultation which was posted in the Northampton Chronicle and Echo
Public consultation: Have your say

- New Alternative Education Provision free school planned for Northampton town centre
- The Spires Academy
- Consultation closes on 30 October 2016
The proposed Academy

The Spires Academy is an Alternative Education Free School that has been proposed by Catch22 Multi Academies Trust (MAT) and is supported by Northamptonshire County Council. The Academy will offer full time education and therapeutic support to 100 vulnerable children in Northamptonshire, aged 4 to 16-years-old with needs that cannot be adequately supported in mainstream schools.

The Academy will be based at Northgate House, 59-77 Sheep Street, Northampton, NN1 2LY. In 2017 the former office block will be converted into a school designed specifically to meet the needs of the young people it will serve. It is planned that the Academy will open at the refurbished premises in January 2018.

Our vision and ethos for the Academy

Catch22 provides young people with alternative education in order for them to progress and succeed in sustained education or employment. We do this through high quality teaching and learning based on effective relationships that enable the achievement of life skills and meaningful qualifications.

We believe all children and young people have the capacity to learn regardless of their life situation. It is our role to unlock that learning potential. We apply our methodology to open the door to learning and to re-engage excluded or marginalised young people, whose attainment has fallen behind their peers in mainstream education. We have high aspirations for our learners and aim to:

• close the attainment gap of our cohort compared to their peers
• help them return to a mainstream school as a priority up to Key Stage 3
• equip them with the qualifications and life skills for their next steps of employment, enterprise or further education at Key Stage 4.
Education and curriculum

The Spires Academy will support each young person’s individual learning needs with a flexible and broad curriculum that meets national standards. There will be personalised academic and behavioural programmes and the Academy will deliver an education that:

• meets individual requirements, based on assessed needs
• prioritises academic attainment
• has a specific emphasis on behaviour interventions and therapeutic support
• provides multiple progression pathways.


Students will also have the opportunity to study additional vocational subjects depending on interest and ability. These may include Art, Food Technology, Design Technology and Enterprise.

Demand for the Academy

Northamptonshire County Council has identified a shortfall in school places for Alternative Education Provision (AEP) across the county. The local authority has confirmed there is a need for 100 full time students aged 4 to 16 to be supported outside of mainstream education with personalised academic and behavioural programmes.
Admissions

The Academy will specialise in providing places for learners who have been excluded or are at risk of exclusion from their mainstream school and require significant behaviour support. There will be places for 25 primary and 75 secondary age learners and these will typically be offered for a minimum of two terms and a maximum of two academic years.

To acquire a place at The Spires Academy a young person must meet these criteria and will be referred to the school by the County Council. The Spires Academy is committed to equal opportunities and will admit pupils/students across the full spectrum of academic abilities. All pupils/students have equal access to the curriculum.

Access and transport plans

The Spires Academy will support learners from across the county and Sheep Street in Northampton town centre has been selected as a suitable location for the academy due to its accessibility by public transport.

There is good bus access from across the town and county to the North Gate and Drapery Bus Station and the Academy is within five minutes walking distance from here. Visitors to the town may also arrive by rail at Northampton Railway station, to the west of the town centre, a short walk from the town centre and also served by a selection of buses.

The Academy will support sustainable travel initiatives and staff will be encouraged to arrive by public transport wherever possible. For those staff and learners who are able to travel by cycle, onsite storage facilities will be provided.
The majority of learners will be eligible for free school transport, travelling by bus to the town and then walking, or if required by their Education and Health Care Plan, Northamptonshire County Council will arrange transport from their home direct to the Academy.

There is on-site car parking offering a small number staff spaces with priority given to car sharing. The existing parking spaces on Sheep Street will facilitate the drop-off and pick-up of those learners being delivered by car. These measures should minimise the impact of access on the local community.
Why are we consulting with you?

It is our intention to open The Spires Academy in the 2017/18 academic year and your opinions count.

In September 2015, the Secretary of State for Education decided that our application to establish The Spires Academy should proceed to the next stage of the free schools process (the pre-opening stage).

As part of this planning process we have a legal obligation to consult interested parties on whether the Secretary of State should sign a Funding Agreement with Catch22 MAT which will enable The Spires Academy free school to open. The Funding Agreement is a contract that details key aspects of the Trust’s responsibilities and how the school must function, such as how it abides by the Admissions Code and SEN Code of Conduct. It also outlines the circumstances in which the Secretary of State can intervene should the school’s performance be considered unacceptable. A copy of the model funding agreement can be found on our website.

What you need to do

Please visit catch22mat.org.uk/spires-academy where you can find all the relevant information and complete the survey online.

You can also complete the survey on the following pages, remove it from the brochure, seal it and post to arrive no later than 30 October 2016.

Thank you,

Tracy Pepper, CEO
Catch22 Multi Academies Trust
Consultation
Catch22 Multi Academies Trust
27 Pear Tree Street
London EC1V 3AG

Place stamp here

Fold here
The Spires Academy Public Consultation Survey

Note: You can also complete this survey online at www.catch22mat.org.uk/spires-academy.

Having considered the information in this brochure or on the website, please answer the following by drawing a circle around your response to each question:

1. Do you think that the Admissions (referral) Policy will enable the right pupils to receive appropriate education?
   YES    NO    DON'T KNOW

2. Do you think that the Secretary of State for Education should enter into a funding agreement with Catch22 Multi Academies Trust to run The Spires Academy?
   YES    NO    DON'T KNOW

3. a. If you answered NO to any of the above, please give your reasons here:
   b. If you have any other comments or queries please list them here:

About you
Please circle any of the following that applies to you:

4. Which group best describes you:
   • Parent/carer
   • Student: primary/secondary
   • Work within primary/secondary education sector
   • Representative of local community or youth group
   • Local business/employer
   • Other
5. Where do you live?
   - Northampton
   - Corby
   - Kettering
   - Wellingborough
   - Daventry
   - East Northamptonshire
   - South Northamptonshire
   - Other

6. Would you like to hear from us?

   Please tick here if you want to be contacted by a member of Catch22 MAT regarding this consultation or to receive updates about the Academy opening from Catch22 MAT:

   [ ]

   If you ticked the above, please give your contact details below:

   Name:
   Address:
   Email:
   Telephone:

Thank you for completing the consultation survey. Please remove the survey from the brochure, seal it and post to arrive no later than 30 October 2016.

Catch22 MAT will not share your information with external parties. Consultation ends on 30 October 2016; any forms received after this date will not be included in the survey.

Please continue on blank sheet overleaf if required.
Catch22 Multi Academies Trust

Catch22 is a Department for Education approved Academy Sponsor, and the Catch22 Multi Academies Trust (MAT) is the vehicle for our sponsorship. The MAT focuses on learners who can benefit from small, supportive alternative education provision.

With our existing wide experience of alternative education provision, we bring a focus on academic and behavioural improvement leading to re-integration back to mainstream provision up to Key Stage 3, infrastructure support, improvement to pastoral provision and greater focus on preparing young people for the world of work.

We look to increase access to one-to-one and mentoring opportunities through a mixture of off-site and extra curricular events in order to improve the self-esteem and self-confidence of learners. We also implement speech and language development programmes.

We offer a full national curriculum as well as a nurturing environment for primary and vocational subjects for older students. We have high aspirations for all learners, with an expectation that all secondary learners will work toward achieving at least five GCSEs.

Catch22 works at every stage of the social welfare cycle from cradle to career. It means we bring a wealth of insight, including experience in delivering successful employability programmes. Our focus is on better preparing learners for the world of work by providing access to apprenticeship opportunities, a wider choice of career experiences and promoting the development of the right mindset for successful and sustained employment.
Join us at one of our public open forums

You can find out more about Catch22 MAT, our plans for The Spires Academy and ask any questions you may have at one of our open days. The public open forums will be held at The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE on 4 October and 19 October, and you can drop in any time between 12.00pm and 8.00pm.

Catch22 Multi Academies Trust Limited company no. 08298181. Part of the Catch22 group.
Dear [Name],

As a respected and influential leader in the Northamptonshire community, I wanted to write to you personally to let you know that Catch22 Multi Academies Trust is proposing to open an alternative education school in Northampton, supported by Northamptonshire County Council.

While formal consultation is a requirement for opening any new school*, it is a fundamental part of our vision for education that the school is truly integrated into its local community. In many ways the success of the school will be directly linked to how well it is valued and embedded in the community.

Your local insight and views really matter to us
During our six week consultation period from 19 September to 30 October, we invite you to ask any questions and share any thoughts or ideas you may have. A copy of our consultation brochure is enclosed and we invite you to complete the consultation questionnaire.

Join us at a public open forum
You are also invited to join us at one of our public open forums where you can find out more about Catch22 Multi Academies Trust, our plans for The Spires Academy. The public open forums will be held at The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE on Tuesday 4 October and Wednesday 19 October. You can drop in any time between 12pm and 8pm. There will also be a presentation at 6.30pm on both days, where you will have an opportunity to meet and talk to me and a number of my colleagues.

I look forward to meeting you and sharing our exciting plans for The Spires Academy. It would help with our planning if you could please RSVP to Stephanie Williams by email Steph.Williams@catch-22.org.uk or telephone on 020 7336 4841. If you are unable to attend, I'd be happy to speak on the phone or there is a questionnaire you can complete online or by post.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Tracy Pepper, CEO
Catch22 Multi Academies Trust

*In September 2015, the Secretary of State for Education decided that our application to establish The Spires Academy should proceed to the next stage of the free schools process (the pre-opening stage). As part of this planning process we are obliged to consult interested parties on whether the Secretary of State should sign a Funding Agreement with Catch22 Multi Academies Trust which will enable The Spires Academy free school to open.
Dear Practice Manager:

The Spires Academy is an alternative education school that has been proposed by Catch22 Multi Academies Trust and is supported by Northamptonshire County Council.

The Academy will offer full time education and therapeutic support to 100 vulnerable children in Northamptonshire aged 4 to 16-years-old with needs that cannot be adequately supported in mainstream schools.

We need your help

We are keen to reach as many people in Northamptonshire as possible, since we have a legal obligation to consult the community on whether the Secretary of State should sign a Funding Agreement with Catch22 Multi Academies Trust which will enable The Spires Academy free school to open. It will help greatly if you can please display the enclosed consultation brochures in your medical practice until 30 October 2016.

Yours sincerely,

James Moore
Project Manager
Catch22 Multi Academies Trust
Dear Library Manager,

The Spires Academy is an alternative education school that has been proposed by Catch22 Multi Academies Trust and is supported by Northamptonshire County Council.

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We are keen to reach as many people in Northamptonshire as possible, since we have a legal obligation to consult the community on whether the Secretary of State should sign a Funding Agreement with Catch22 Multi Academies Trust which will enable The Spires Academy free school to open.

It will help greatly if you can please display the enclosed consultation brochures in your medical practice until 30 October 2016.

Yours sincerely,

James Moore
Project Manager
Catch22 Multi Academies Trust
Dear Parent

I am writing to let you know that Catch22 Multi Academies Trust is proposing to open a new alternative education school in Northampton, supported by Northamptonshire County Council.

While formal consultation is a requirement for opening any new school*, it is a fundamental part of our vision for education that the school is truly integrated into its local community. In many ways the success of the school will be directly linked to how well it is valued and embedded in the community.

Your local insight and views really matter to us
During our six week consultation period from 19 September to 30 October, we invite you to ask any questions and share any thoughts or ideas you may have. A copy of our consultation brochure is enclosed and we invite you to complete the consultation questionnaire.

Join us at a public open forum
You are also invited to join us at one of our public open forums where you can find out more about Catch22 Multi Academies Trust and our plans for The Spires Academy. The public open forums will be held at The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE on Tuesday 4 October and Wednesday 19 October.

I look forward to meeting you and sharing our exciting plans for The Spires Academy.

Yours sincerely,

Kerrie Henton
Head Teacher
The Spires Academy, Catch22 Multi Academies Trust

*In September 2015, the Secretary of State for Education decided that our application to establish The Spires Academy should proceed to the next stage of the free schools process (the pre-opening stage). As part of this planning process we are obliged to consult interested parties on whether the Secretary of State should sign a Funding Agreement with Catch22 Multi Academies Trust which will enable The Spires Academy free school to open.
Appendix D – May 2015 Letter from Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire County Council

Please ask for: Alex Hopkins
Date: 26 May 2015

Free Schools Applications Team
Department for Education
3rd Floor
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

Dear Sir, Madam

Confirmation of support:
Catch22 - Alternative Provision Northamptonshire Free School

I confirm that Northamptonshire County Council supports Catch22's Alternative Provision Free School application.

We understand that Catch22's Alternative Provision Free school is for pupils age 4 to 16, specialising in working with young people with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties and associated risk factors, who are unable to sustain a place in mainstream education. We expect it to be based in Northampton and cater for 100 FTE pupils in total from Northamptonshire. We support the view that it should open in September 2016. I confirm that we agree there is a need in Northamptonshire for the type of provision proposed by Catch22. We commit to there being total placements of at least the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) numbers of pupils at the school as shown in the table below, with top up funding at the rates given. The precise mix of Primary and Secondary FTE may vary from that shown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>2016-17 FTE</th>
<th>2017-18 FTE</th>
<th>Top up funding per pupil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>£8,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>£6,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The top up funding excludes any Pupil Premium funding that may be due and which will be paid to the school as an additional payment. It is also on top of the current £10,000 per pupil base funding provided by the Education Funding Agency. We understand that, from the third year of operation of the school, the current base funding per pupil will be deducted from Northamptonshire’s DSG.

Yours faithfully

Alex Hopkins
Director Children, Families and Education