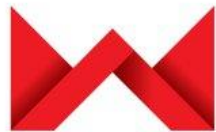


# Springwell Lincolnshire Public Consultation Report

**Published: March 2018**

By Wellspring Academy Trust



**WELLSPRING**  
ACADEMY TRUST

We Make A Difference

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# 1. Introduction

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The Wellspring Academy Trust (WAT), in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council and the Department for Education are investing significant amounts of money in providing the best possible education for the children of Lincolnshire who are unable to access mainstream education and are at risk of permanent exclusion.

The Wellspring Academy Trust is a Multi-Academy Trust, and an approved DfE Academy sponsor. The Trust has academies in Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, Barnsley, Leeds, Calderdale and Kirklees.

Springwell Lincolnshire Academy, part of Wellspring Academy Trust, is an Alternative Provision and has been designed to meet the educational needs of children in Lincolnshire who are unable to remain in mainstream education. Springwell Lincolnshire provides a caring, nurturing and developmental environment for these young people. We are determined that after receiving our support our students will move on to their next destination having felt known, valued, understood and educated.

Springwell Academy Lincolnshire has a core purpose to deliver education programmes for challenging and/or vulnerable children and young people who are not in school for a variety of reasons.

We are responsible for:

- Pupils who are unable to remain in mainstream education.
- Children and young people who are at risk of not being able to remain in mainstream education and be permanently excluded.

It is our intention to develop state of the art alternative provision across the county so that our pupils are given the best possible chance in life.

Four sites have been identified for new schools, which will form Springwell Lincolnshire Academy. The locations are as follows;

- Springwell Lincolnshire Academy - Spalding, Matmore Gate, Spalding, PE11 2PN (A refurbishment of the South Holland Post-16 Centre)
- Springwell Lincolnshire Academy - Mablethorpe, Seaholme Road, Mablethorpe, LN12 2DF (A refurbishment of the Mablethorpe Monks Dyke Tennyson College)
- Springwell Lincolnshire Academy - Grantham, The Grantham Teaching and Learning Centre, New Beacon Road, Grantham, NG31 9LD (New building)
- Springwell Lincolnshire Academy - Lincoln, Myles Cross, Macaulay Drive, Lincoln, LN2 4EN (New building)

The first site, Springwell Lincolnshire Academy - Spalding, is planned to open September 2018.

In order to establish the new schools on an open, transparent and informed basis there is a legal duty on Free School proposers (Academies Act 2010, section 10) that requires that:

- (1) Before entering into Academy arrangements (i.e. a Funding Agreement) with the Secretary of State for Education in relation to a new school, Free School proposers must consult such persons as they think appropriate.
- (2) The consultation must be on the key question of whether the arrangements should be entered into or not.

In line with this requirement, the WAT undertook a formal Statutory Consultation over a nine-week period, from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017 to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. This report sets out the scope and timing of that consultation, the methodology used and key issues identified as part of an open and impartial consultation process.

## 2. Methodology

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WAT developed a consultation plan to ensure all key stakeholders were made aware of the consultation and had the opportunity to have their say. A leaflet was available informing stakeholders about the new schools, the consultation and gave information on an open event.

The consultation was launched on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017 with articles in the following newspapers;

- Lincolnshire Echo
- Louth and Mablethorpe Leader
- Spalding Voice
- Lincolnshire Free Press - Spalding Guardian – Spalding Today

A range of consultation methods and communication channels were employed to ensure as many stakeholders as possible were reached and were able to respond to the consultation, as detailed in the following sections.

### 2.1 Consultation Leaflet

The consultation leaflet that outlined the school's vision, ethos and proposed sites was produced. This was available online and in hardcopy. Stakeholders were able to provide feedback by emailing the Trust directly or accessing the online questionnaire, details were provided on the leaflet. The leaflet also included a tear off questionnaire which could be posted back to the Trust.

The consultation questionnaire centered on the following questions, designed to assess public opinion on the establishment of Springwell Lincolnshire Academy:

1. Do you support the setting up of Springwell Lincolnshire? (Yes; maybe; no).
2. Do you support the signing of a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education? (Yes; maybe; no).
3. Do you agree with placing a school in this location? (Yes; maybe; no).

4. Do you have any other comments to make about the proposal to open these Alternative Academy sites?

A copy of the consultation leaflet is available at **Appendix A**.

## **2.2 Distribution of Leaflets**

Leaflets were distributed to all current parents and also forwarded onto Lincolnshire County Council to distribute throughout their networks, which included schools and councilors. The leaflet was also available on the Springwell Lincolnshire and Wellspring Academy Trust websites. Hard copies of leaflets were available upon request.

## **2.3 Information Held at Open Events**

At the three public open events, the below information was available:

- Consultation Leaflet
- Information leaflets including the schools' aims and vision
- School Policies
- Contact information
- Site addresses and maps

Attendees also had the opportunity to meet the Principal and/or Trust representative and ask any questions in a Q&A session.

## **2.4 Online Questionnaire**

An online questionnaire was developed through 'Survey Monkey' to help promote the nine-week consultation period and gather responses. The questions reflected the consultation leaflet. A link to the questionnaire was included within any press releases and in the consultation leaflet. The use of an online questionnaire proved to be a successful tool in gathering feedback, with 98 responses received.

## **2.5 Radio**

The Trust provided information through a Q&A session with BBC Radio Lincolnshire. This was with Josh Greaves, the Trusts Chief Operating Officer.

### 3. Consultation Meeting

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Official public consultation meetings took place as follows;

- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 5pm until 7pm – Sleaford Council Offices
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 5pm until 7pm – Springwell Lincolnshire, Mablethorpe
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 5pm until 7pm – Spalding High School, Spalding

A consultation evening was held in Sleaford on 8th November. This choice of location is central to all sites (with the exception of Mablethorpe, where a specific meeting was held). However, following feedback, the Trust held an additional meeting in Spalding, to give those in the locality a further opportunity to find out more information, ask any questions and give feedback.

*The meeting on Thursday 7th December, was held at Spalding High School. Please note that Spalding High School was merely acting as the host of this meeting and is in no way affiliated with Wellspring or Springwell, and is wholly impartial in relation to the proposals. The meeting was split into two parts: 5pm until 6pm: meeting for local Head Teachers; 6pm until 7pm: meeting for local residents.*

### 4. Feedback from Events

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The Trust felt that the venues and agenda of the events was suitable, however concerns were raised with Sleaford being used as the location. This was due to Sleaford being a considerable travel distance away for some residents, however the Trust felt this would be a convenient central location. There were also concerns on how the events were advertised and that the times weren't convenient for everyone wishing to attend.

The format of the events allowed stakeholders to ask any questions to a WAT and/or Springwell Lincolnshire representative. All questions were answered openly and honestly.

The below bullets points were noted by the Trust, as the main areas of concern;

- Schools present were disappointed that they did not receive a direct invitation from the Trust and were not engaged with at an earlier stage.
- There was an interest in seeing the schools absconding policy / policy about leaving site during the day and pupil restraint policy.
- Concerns about house prices in the immediate area.
- Concerns from local residents about the use of the MUGA at Spalding as it is situated at the front of the building.
- Residents wanted a more local event to be held at one of the Spalding Schools so more residents could attend.
- Residents would have preferred direct invitations rather than the articles in the local papers.
- Residents wanted reassurance that the site would be secure and pupils would not be climbing into their properties.

- Residents in Grantham would like to influence the design.
- The types of pupils and their behaviour
- An increase in traffic in the area

## 5. Completed Consultation Questionnaires

---

In total 98 completed consultation questionnaires were submitted as follows;

- 96 online questionnaires
- 2 paper questionnaires

Alongside this, The Trust received 28 email responses.

Most questionnaire and email responses appeared to be genuine and valid responses and accordingly were accepted in good faith and analysed in the sections below.

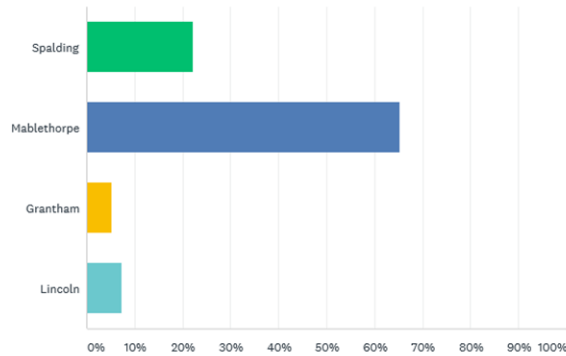
# 6. Findings from the Online Consultation Questionnaire

## 6.1 Visual Analysis – Online Questionnaire

The charts below show a breakdown of the responses received via the online questionnaire, which proved to be the most efficient way to collect responses. In total, 96 questionnaires were completed.

Please tick which academy will be in your local area;

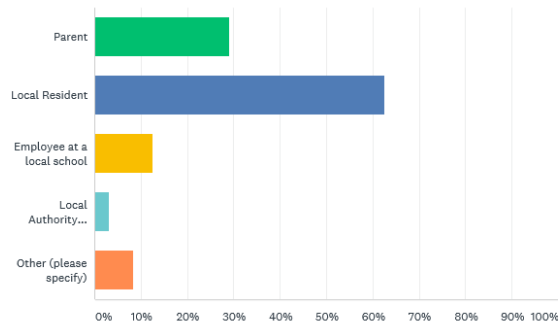
Answered: 95 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Spalding	22.11%	21
▼ Mablethorpe	65.26%	62
▼ Grantham	5.26%	5
▼ Lincoln	7.37%	7
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>95</b>

Please tick the box(es) which best describe you. I am a:

Answered: 96 Skipped: 0

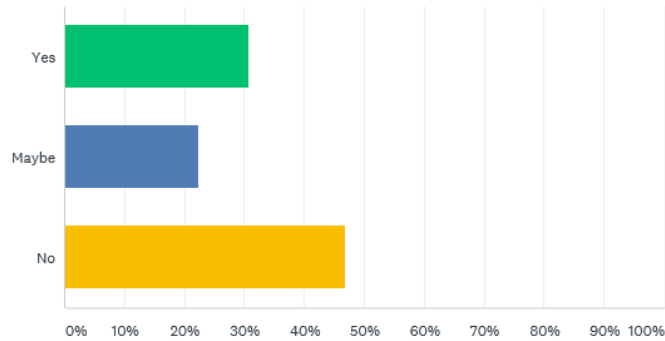


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Parent	29.17%	28
▼ Local Resident	62.50%	60
▼ Employee at a local school	12.50%	12
▼ Local Authority Employee	3.13%	3
▼ Other (please specify)	8.33%	8
<b>Total Respondents: 96</b>		



## Do you support the setting up of Springwell Lincolnshire?

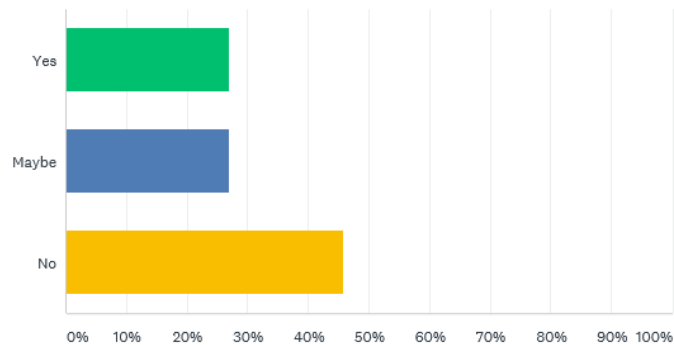
Answered: 94 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes	30.85% 29
▼ Maybe	22.34% 21
▼ No	46.81% 44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94</b>

## Do you support the signing of a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education?

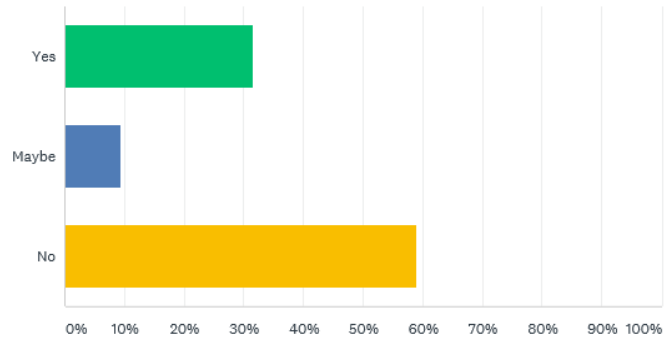
Answered: 96 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes	27.08% 26
▼ Maybe	27.08% 26
▼ No	45.83% 44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96</b>

## Do you agree with building the school in this location?

Answered: 95 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	31.58% 30
Maybe	9.47% 9
No	58.95% 56
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95</b>

## 7. Question and Answer (Q&A) Section

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The comments in this section were submitted to the Trust via email, online questionnaire and hard copies of the questionnaires.

The online questionnaire proved to be a very successful and accessible tool in gathering feedback. Completed questionnaires are broken down as follows;

Spalding	22.11%	21
Mablethorpe	65.26%	62
Grantham	5.26%	5
Lincoln	7.37%	7

The responses in this section have not been split by each location, however the Trust is aware of the main concerns raised locally for each individual site, for example residents in Spalding are concerned about an increase in traffic along Matmore Gate and Mablethorpe residents are concerned about the type of pupils. Some concerns relate to all sites.

*Please Note: We haven't provided a response to every comment received. This is due to the fact that many comments are similar so responses would have become repetitive. Key concerns have been discussed in Section 8.*

***Some comments have not been published as they are unsuitable.***

**Comment** - "It is a worthwhile investment"

"The teaching and learning centre catered for excluded children - would the remit be the same?"

**Response** – Yes, the remit would be the same.

**Comment** - "Looking at the current programme of residential building in the uphill area, it's clear there is going to be a shortage of school places in the not too distant future. By building new schools there will be an opportunity to provide places for all children and also force local schools to improve their standards in order to compete for pupils."

**Comment** - "If this is a move away from testing and a positive move toward vocational qualifications leading to work in local industry or agriculture it would be a benefit to lincs. A forest school would also provide outdoor hands on learning."

**Comment** - "Perhaps a meeting with nearby schools to discuss whether or not provision of a new school close by an existing school would benefit the area. Perhaps discuss whether or not joining forces to create a new build to best serve the area and the future needs of the children of ALL abilities and educational needs would be more beneficial than a competing building. A

thorough poll of local residents should be conducted via letter drop, or door to door knocking to discover whether or not real people want or desire a new school. This would indeed be expensive and time consuming, but would serve the new Trusts, local residents and future pupils well in the long run.”

**Response** – The new schools will not compete with existing schools but provide specialist provision for those pupils not able to attend other local schools. This is essentially supporting the local schools with those children that are unable to sustain mainstream education but will be able to continue their education in their locality.

**Comment** - “Considering the trouble caused by the pupils housed in the temporary buildings there is obviously going to be opposition to the academy, also residents feel that it is unfair on the pupils in Mablethorpe who are having to travel many miles to access education”

**Response** – Working in temporary buildings is, admittedly, very challenging and since the current school has moved out of these temporary buildings there has been a significant reduction in behaviour issues. The Wellspring Academy Trust fully understands the frustrations of the local residents and their frustrations about not having secondary education in the town. However, the building of Springwell Lincolnshire is unrelated to any other decisions made by the DFE regarding mainstream education in Mablethorpe.

**Comment** - “As a resident in Matmore Gate I have concerns for my two young children and other children within the area, I also believe this will have detrimental impact on the area and potential decrease the value of properties in the area.”

**Response** – The Trust takes these concerns very seriously and will work closely with local residents to address any issues they feel may arise. The Trust can’t comment on property values in the area.

**Comment** - “I have concerns as to why the children are excluded from school. I am a pensioner and if this proposal goes ahead I will be left feeling vulnerable in my home. I am unable to make it to the meetings as I don’t drive and my health is not at its best”

**Response** – Springwell Lincolnshire has a core purpose to deliver education programmes for challenging or vulnerable children and young people who are not in school for a variety of reasons. We are determined that after receiving our support our students will move on to their next destination having felt known, valued, understood and educated.

Residents also had the opportunity to provide feedback about Springwell Lincolnshire, through the online questionnaire, paper questionnaire which could be posted to us and/or email the Trust directly.

**Comment** - “Needs to be managed properly, my son attend current TLC centre in Lincoln which was failing at last ofsted. In the six months my son was there management changed 3 times,

communication with and working with parents also needs to be improved. Son didn't progress with education so still catching up now. If this continues to be a temporary placement for children needs to have better systems in place to enable children to move quickly to permanent places. While there is a need for temporary placement, think still need more permanent places or more funding to enable mainstream schools to cope."

**Response** – The new sites will be permanent sites. Springwell Lincolnshire will work hard to implement better systems, communicate well with parents and residents, and ensure children get the most from the curriculum.

**Comment** - "please allow children currently unhappy in other facilities above yr 7 to move asap (child in yr 9 and needs to move asap)"

**Comment** - "We needed secondary education in Mablethorpe. Someone is soon quick to find money for alternative education"

**Comment** - "I wouldn't worry too much about the people that are opposed to this venture. In Mablethorpe people seem to be opposed to pretty much everything."

**Comment** - "The introduction to this survey does not provide sufficient information regarding the nature and purpose of the education provision proposed on the site. It is deficient in the following areas:

- How long interested parties have to respond - there is no closing date;

- The mission and values of the academy - The 'offer' – in terms of curriculum, age range, etc;

- The admissions policy; I do not have an objection in principal to the opening of an 'alternative provision' academy to serve the East Lindsey area. However, I strongly object to the proposal to use the site of the former Monks' Dyke Tennyson College for the following reasons:

a) It significantly undermines the possibility of a mainstream secondary academy opening on the site in the future. Local parents have witnessed numerous problems and incidents involving students attending the temporary Springwell facility on the site since September 2016 and have chosen not to commit to sending their children to a mainstream academy that would be sharing the site with an alternative provision academy.

b) Mablethorpe is on the extreme eastern boundary of East Lindsey and not central to the area that the academy will serve, leading to longer travel times for students and higher transport costs.

c) Significant increase in traffic to and from the site within a short time frame at each end of the day, as the vast majority of students will be transported by private hire means. Drivers transporting the relatively few students on roll in 2016-7 already cause congestion. Such schools normally have a much lower staff: pupil ratio than mainstream schools, again resulting in more vehicles using the site.

d) Few students will be indigenous to Mablethorpe and very unlikely to contribute to the town's economy and community life post-education. Combined with point a) this proposal will have a significant detrimental socio-economic impact on the area.

e) The proposal does not align with the Mablethorpe, Trusthorpe & Sutton on Sea Coastal Community Team Economic Plan, which identifies a mainstream free school as essential: <http://www.coastalcommunities.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Mablethorpe-etc.-CCT-Economic-plan.pdf>

Before approval of the EFA Funding Agreement and any planning application I believe there must be:

- a) A formal Traffic Assessment
- b) A Student & Staff Travel Plan
- c) Provision for local community representation within the Governance arrangements of the Academy
- d) Provision within any Funding Agreement for future exclusive use of the MDTC site for a DFE approved mainstream free school academy”

**Response** – The development of the site as Springwell Academy Lincolnshire is in no way related to any decisions to not provide secondary education in Mablethorpe. The development of the site is subject to strict DFE guidance that the Wellspring Academy Trust, and its contractors follow. This includes traffic and travel plans.

The Wellspring Academy Trust will actively seek local representation for the governing body.

**Comment** - “What percentage of the total of 63 pupils will be from the Mablethorpe catchment area, bearing in mind the large number of taxis arriving there every day, with one taxi per pupil? From our garden we have had to witness endless behavior problems with pupils on the flat roofs, up trees, etc., over the past year, which have involved the police and fire service - a total waste of vital services. These questions must be addressed at the meeting on 15th November.”

**Response** – There is no fixed percentage of pupils from Mablethorpe as admission to the school is dependent on need and is responsive to all local and regional schools. The places at the school are commissioned by Lincolnshire Council.

**Comment** - “Mablethorpe is a small seaside town with predominantly elderly residents, the locality of the proposed school is within immediate proximity of residential homes. Since this school has been used temporally in the last year for problem children we have had several incidents of verbal abuse, theft, damage to property, littering, to name but a few, from children attending. Residents are fed up of this and feel that the Council are dumping this proposal on our town. As a town we are struggling to raise the reputation which has been damaged by residents of social housing recently built here, to agree a proposal for a school to accommodate problem children in this town would be and is absolutely wrong.”

**Comment** - “Why are the consultation meetings for Graham taking place in Sleaford & Mablethorpe when the proposed academy is in Graham...do Grantham people not count!!”

**Response** – The Trust felt Sleaford would be a central and convenient location for residents to attend the meeting. Upon feedback, the Trust held further meetings in Spalding and Mablethorpe. Residents could also give feedback via the online questionnaire and by email.

**Comment** - “Should be opened in central areas with good transport links not in a seasonal seaside resort with an aging population”

**Comment** - “Matmore Gate (Spalding) is not wide enough for busses to bring extra students each day. This was a major consideration when the existing VI form centre was proposed.”

**Comment** - “The town and area needs a normal school not an excluded school and this whole thing stinks of predecision. Run the original school down. Not support a normal school under the free school scheme then after the unit has been in operation in porta cabins for some time decide to make it a permanent thing with its associated problems for the Town.”

**Comment** - “THE MORE THE BETTER”

**Comment** - “As there are already portacabins on the site and the school has already been operating for a year then it seems a foregone conclusion. However, there was a secondary school on this site and was closed now our children have to travel a long way to school. This new school will not serve those children but will bring in children from other areas.”

**Comment** - “These Schools will have to be policed. We do not have enough police in our area to do this.”

**Response** – These schools will not need to be policed and will have no impact on the local police service. Springwell Academy Lincolnshire have a number of techniques, strategies and measures in place to support our pupils.

**Comment** - “We have had many problems already with the current PRU which has been using the existing buildings. We need assurances that the local law enforcement officers time will not be disproportionately taken up with problems at the new academy.”

**Comment** - “I have seen the pupils climbing on portacabins on the Mablethorpe site - and previously on the roof of the old school building. I do not believe this is a safe location for them. I

question the ability of Springwell staff to successfully teach and keep safe these vulnerable children.”

**Response** – The temporary buildings used to accommodate the current provision are no longer used and more appropriate facilities have been provided. The new buildings are designed with the context of the pupils in mind and will therefore be safe and appropriate for vulnerable children.

**Comment** - “There have been police on site regularly, I know of huge staff changes, high level of restraints, Mablethorpe is not the place. Springwell have got it very wrong for these young people.”

**Response** – Mablethorpe has been identified as a possible location for a Springwell Academy Lincolnshire site. There will be four sites in total, which are spread across Lincolnshire. This will provide coverage of the areas and ensure our pupils don’t have to travel long distances to access education, which some of them currently have to do.

**Comment** - “Not enough information has been provided to residents about the 'alternative' academies. I am concerned about the behaviour of the children that will attend them and how this will impact on people who live in the vicinity and the two adjacent schools. The information meeting for local people is not even being held locally so people who live here will most likely be unable to attend to get the information and get answers to their questions. I am also very worried about how the location of the school will cope with the copious amounts of extra traffic caused by the extra taxis arriving at the school.”

**Comment** - “I have experience of working with Wellspring and find their practices totally ineffective.”

**Comment** - “I find it very difficult to understand why there is no local meeting about this proposed school. Many residents are unable to attend the proposed meetings in Mablethorpe and Sleaford. I worry that this is because you do not want to share certain information. I personally do not feel happy about the proposed school until I have been able to ask the many questions that I feel need asking. I believe that many people that I have spoken to feel the same way. We are not given the opportunity to have our say by you keeping the meetings so far away.”

**Response** – Meetings were held in Sleaford, Spalding and Mablethorpe so residents could ask questions and gather information. We hope that this report answers all queries and gives reassurances to residents.

**Comment** - “I think it would be an amazing resource to have in Spalding and for the local areas. An alternative provision we are definitely missing at present.”



**Comment** - “Springwell have a poor reputation. All I hear is negative comments about how they work with all the young people.”

**Response** – The Wellspring Academy Trust converted the Lincolnshire Teaching & Learning Centre (LTLC) to Springwell Lincoln City Academy in April 2017. At that point the LTLC was judged Inadequate by Ofsted. The development of the new schools, to provide appropriate and high quality accommodation, is one part of a school improvement process that is being put in place by Wellspring. The trust has a reputation and track record for delivering good and outstanding outcomes for children in alternative provision and for children with additional needs.

**Comment** - “This is going to cause major issues with traffic and more importantly, safeguarding our children also. I agree with our next door neighbours in that we have not been adequately consulted surrounding this and received no notification (well in advance) of this proposed sites use. The meeting that is taking place at North Kesteven District Council’s offices in Sleaford tomorrow from 5pm until 7pm; has been very deliberately timed and located. This affects the residents of Matmore Gate a great deal and should be held in Spalding; not Sleaford. Challenging or vulnerable; just what exactly does that mean? Are my children (and others) at risk from them. We have not been properly informed as to the nature of these kids and teenagers that are to be educated there!”

**Response** – The children who will be educated in the new school are those pupils who have been permanently excluded from mainstream education or at risk of permanent exclusion. They are often vulnerable and have unmet and/or undiagnosed special educational needs. They require additional support and care. Pupils at the school will be aged from 5 to 16. Most of these pupils will be at the school for short periods of time as the intention is to return them to mainstream. There will be no risk to local children from these pupils.

**Comment** - “Very concerned about Springwell running this after they have run the PRU in Lincoln for 2 years and they did not get out of special measures”

**Comment** - “We have enough schools already in the immediate area without introducing this challenging prospect.”

**Comment** - “Area and site totally unsuitable for “challenging” students. Not enough outside space etc. Too many schools already in this location. Funding for this project means funding taken away from existing schools who are struggling going to meet the needs of the curriculum and genuine special educational needs.”

**Comment** - “Dear Sirs We would like to register our strongest objection to this proposal for the following reasons.

1. **TRAFFIC/NOISE/DISTURBANCE** The residents are already overwhelmed by the increase in traffic - cars/buses/coaches/drop-off and pick-up vehicles – and these are specifically related to the development of the educational facilities in the immediate location of Birch Grove, Stonegate and Matmore Gate. This disturbance and nuisance, together with parked vehicles, not only occurs on the full length of Stonegate and Matmore Gate but it has also spread to the roads which have access to Matmore Gate including Mulberry Way. There are many occasions when it is impossible to manoeuvre and exit these roads due to volume of traffic and double parking causing instances of damage to vehicles, together with the alarming practice of frustrated drivers mounting the pavement to attempt to make progress and this has dangerous implications to the residents, general public and student pedestrians using the said pavements. As an aside, the Tesco Store on the corner of Matmore Gate has its own problems with the parking of customers and large delivery vehicles. We understand that the children are apparently to be driven to the school, we are not told from where, but which will undoubtedly add to the congestion, disturbance and nuisance to the residents and local area. We would like to point out that the local residents raised their concerns when the Post16 building was first proposed but our protests and objections were totally ignored at the time.

2. **CHALLENGING AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN** What exactly does this mean? Is this a last resort? Should we not be better informed? We consider this building currently to be totally unsuitable for the proposed new use. These children by definition are ‘challenging and vulnerable’ yet there are currently no facilities on this small site for recreation and break-times – will these 60+ children be allowed to wander around the local area with the opportunity to cause behavioural problems to the local residents? As a primary residential area of Spalding we are already suffering the consequences of planning and development which has been approved despite the residents’ objections. Do we now find ourselves in a similar situation?

3. **DOWNGRADING AND NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE PROPERTY AND COMMUNITY** Due to the continued negative impact on the local community from the disruption and nuisance emanating from vehicular numbers via the educational facilities, residents are becoming increasingly frustrated and especially in Matmore Gate where the situation could have an impact on people wishing to sell their properties. Will there be any security implications to add to our plight from unruly children at the academy? Will there be any compensation offered to residents should this prove to be detrimental to the standing and value of the area and properties? There should have been far more open discussion and consultation with the local residents who will be directly effected by any decision made to allow this facility change of use.

With regard specifically to Birch Grove all of the above apply to its residents. We have a wonderful Birch Tree copse at the entrance which is being used as a parking area and where people eat their lunch and throw litter – sandwich boxes, empty cans of drink and glass bottles etc – which the residents voluntarily have to clear up on a weekly basis. In conclusion we feel there has not been enough publicity or consultation regarding this issue. Why was the recent meeting held in Sleaford and not in Spalding? Is it true that there has been a brochure prepared with a photo of the previous Spalding Post16 property already on it? Has this project already been approved without taking the views of the residents? This may be an exciting and profitable venture for the Springwell Academy but it is a body blow to the Spalding residents.”

**Response** – It is the intention of the Wellspring Academy Trust to look carefully at the traffic situation and work with all stakeholders to keep additional congestion to a minimum.

The building at Spalding will undergo significant works to upgrade the interior and provide outside recreational space. Pupils will not be allowed to leave the site during the school day.

The children who will be educated in the new school are those pupils who have been permanently excluded from mainstream education or at risk of permanent exclusion. They are often vulnerable and have unmet and/or undiagnosed special educational needs. They require additional support and care. Pupils at the school will be aged from 5 to 16. Most of these pupils will be at the school for short periods of time as the intention is to return them to mainstream. There will be no risk to local children from these pupils.

The Wellspring Trust & Springwell are not profit making organisations.

**Comment** - "Having put up with these 'vulnerable' children over the last couple of years. I do not agree to the proposal to extend the school. Any child that has to be scanned by a metal detector before entering the building is a big concern. Also the language we have put up with on a daily basis is disgusting. I can't sit outside I can't allow my children or grandchildren to be outside whilst these kids are there. We have had to complain on several occasions. They regularly climb over the 8 foot fences put up to keep them in (without planning permission). They scream abuse at the staff and each other. I have heard threats to kill. I have witnessed furniture being thrown on the roof. I am most definitely against this proposal."

**Comment** - "it's a bitter pill to swallow when the powers that be had already signed MDTC death certificate. Opinions of residents will not count regarding these alternative academies as deals have already been done. Mablethorpe needed secondary education for mainstream students."

**Response** – A Funding Agreement has not been signed so these plans can't proceed until this happens. We value the opinions of residents and will consider all the feedback we have received, we want to build strong relationships with the surrounding community and would be very grateful of any support.

**Comment** - "The children of Mablethorpe were well and truly screwed when their secondary school was shut! Mablethorpe needs a secondary education for all, not just for kids who are bussed in on a daily basis! The problems the naughty kids are causing for local residents is unreal and very stressful for older residents!"

**Response** – The Trust had no involvement in the closing of the secondary school in Mablethorpe, nor is the Trust involved in any future planning of mainstream education in the area. Many of our pupils have undiagnosed special educational needs and/or are unable to attend mainstream education for a variety of reasons. Our intention is to support these pupils, as valued people, and return them to mainstream education. We want to give them the best chance in life and we feel they deserve this opportunity.

**Comment** - “Having never voiced my opinion publicly I feel this was the plan previous to the closure of mdtc, which I feel is a loss to the community and should never of happened. I am also aware of some of the issues in behaviour of the students to date and would hope plans and polices will be robust and auctioned for the good of all concerned.”

**Comment** - “A good thing, especially for the Mablethorpe community.”

**Comment** - “If money can be found to open the academy then maybe it would have been better spent on keeping open a secondary school for our local children, instead of having to fund them to attend schools out of our area. The children are losing out on things like after school clubs, extra tuition ECT, due to no transport being available out of school hours, and if your child becomes ill while at school we have no way of collecting them not all parents can drive and not all parents can leave work, their social network is also affected due to the majority other friends living in the school area.

I believe in looking after the children that are our future of the town rather than sending them away for this town in years to come to turn into a retirement village these are the children that matter and they should never have lost their school we as a community have failed them and opening this academy will stop any chance of us being able to put that right in future. We have had our free school turned down in my opinion for one reason.. the intention was always to open a academy and that was why not enough was done sooner before our secondary school had no choice but to close it's doors.”

**Response** – The Wellspring Academy Trust has had no influence in any decisions made by other parties in the closure of the local secondary school. Neither has it had any influence or participation in the decision not to open a secondary free school on the site. Any involvement by Wellspring, and their free school proposal, was subsequent to these decisions being made.

**Comment** - “School’s need to be local government funded and held accountable by governing bodies not run as businesses”

**Comment** - “Enough with Academisation, it doesn't work and it is just another money making scheme for private enterprises, who give up when the going gets too tough, including some existing schools/ PRUs that they have taken over, which have shown themselves as not being economically viable- regardless of the need.”

**Comment** - “Mablethorpe needs a secondary school open to all students not a school for those that have been excluded. Since the closure of the previous secondary school many local children are now being 'home schooled'. Basically not being educated. These children have been let down by the local authority”

**Comment** - “Give us back our mainstream school.”

**Comment** - “Whilst I agree that students that are not able to be educated in mainstream education should have specialised help, I do not agree that a school that was made for local children should be used and the mainstream students should be moved to other schools”

**Comment** - “It is the wrong location for both students and the community and has not been thought through”

**Comment** - “The Mablethorpe site is wrong because it has taken the place of the secondary school. Our local children should not be penalised and made to travel.”

**Comment** - “This area needs a school for regular pupils who at present have to travel to either Alford or Louth or even further afield for education. The spring well school is for a very limited number of pupils.”

**Comment** - “have heard from quite a few parents, complaining that their kids have to travel so far to be educated. Surely if this academy was set up in the former secondary school it would benefit the kids, the parents (wouldn't have to pay so much to get their kids to school) and would benefit the Mablethorpe economy, jobs etc.”

**Comment** - “It’s about time that non-mainstream children are given the same opportunities and the right to a good standard of education”

**Comment** - “I'm not entirely sure what this academy thing is, I would much prefer a normal secondary school as was there previously. But anything is better than nothing, in respect to a school of some kind in this location.”

**Comment** - “They closed Tennyson because it was not needed but now want open it for kids who need more control”

**Comment** - “As I am right next to this school no one has bothered to say what their plans are or how it will affect me”

**Response** – This was the purpose of the consultation, to give residents the opportunity to find out more information.

**Comment** - "I feel it's important to have alternative provision for young people"

**Comment** - "We need this at Mablethorpe more than anything I have 6 children and the distance they have to travel now is discussing they should have never closed the school at Mablethorpe they should have improved it not closed it now a lot if children are not getting in the house until 5pm and on winter nights that is wrong bring back our Mablethorpe school"

**Comment** - "Mablethorpe is out on a limb. Transportation of pupils into the school will be expensive. Attracting staff of sufficient calibre will be nigh on impossible in the numbers required because over many years Mablethorpe has not had the attractions & facilities to seduce professionals in any profession to come to the coast and stay."

**Comment** - "Unclear as to the purpose of the provision. Seems too broad and not focused enough. Unclear that academy trust has robust plans to secure a good education for these young people"

**Response** – The Wellspring Trust has experience in providing good and outstanding alternative and special education across the region.

**Comment** - "Extremely poor communication with the local community regarding this provision!"

**Comment** – "There are enough problems caused by this school. teachers locked out of classrooms and children on the roof. They do not control the children enough."

**Comment** - "I am in favour of alternative academies, but the Spalding site is a bad location. Traffic and student safety are major concerns for the proposed Springwell academy. I am also concerned that the consultation process has been flawed throughout. Springwell has not sought to properly engage local schools and residents until made to do so. In my opinion, the site should be used for vocational post-16 education instead."

**Response** – The decision to not use the site for post 16 education was in no way influenced by the proposal for the Springwell Academy Lincolnshire free school. The Wellspring Academy Trust fully understands the frustrations of the local residents and intends to work closely with the community to make traffic and student safety a priority.

**Comment** - "I object because no account has been taken of the major impact that the increased traffic will have on the residents in the area. This is already a no-go area between 8am and 9am in the morning and between 3pm and 4pm in the afternoon on weekdays. The offer of being

"flexible on opening hours" is ludicrous as this would extend the time that residents could not go about their business. We already suffer from both inconsiderate and illegal parking. Matmore Gate is the only road into this residential area and is therefore not suitable for the traffic that already exists let alone any massive increase. The fact that the residents only found out about the proposal by chance is disgusting. The fact that originally no meeting was going to be held in Spalding seems to indicate that "Wellbeing" knew that there would be opposition to their plans. The fact that the nearest meeting was planned to be held in Sleaford some 26 miles from Spalding on a Wednesday between the hours of 5pm and 7pm when it would have almost been impossible for many of the Spalding residents to attend is disgraceful. Does this amount to mal-administration?"

**Comment** - "I do not fully support the establishment of an alternative academy in Matmore Gate, Spalding. I appreciate that there are young people who need this type of provision. The main reason I am not supporting this development is that the "playground" (MUGA) is being placed on the south of the school. This should be placed north of the building, on a very small area of field presently part of Spalding Academy. It is my view that the establishment of the MUGA on the southside of the school is a potential safeguarding issue, if behind the school this would not apply."

**Comment** - "if you were to send children who live in Mablethorpe to another school that you run it would work better. Many issues are from the kids who live here...walk home...swearing, spitting riding bikes and scooters in the road causing drivers to slow or stop ...followed by hand gestures and verbal abuse. Take the locals out of the comfort zone where they know they are top dog....or provide transport for them all so residents don't have to put up with it."

### **Email Responses**

The following comments were emailed directly to the Trust or Springwell Lincolnshire.

**Comment** - "We wish to express our concern regarding the proposed change of use for the Post 16 Centre on Matmore Gate.

There are a number of issues here, not least the increase in traffic on already busy local roads serving several schools and a care home, and the very negative impact it will have on the immediate community. However, our concerns lie with the rather underhand nature of this whole process; no proper local consultation for those for whom it has the most impact - Sleaford is far from an appropriate venue for those most affected to voice their concerns. I beg to ask: why could it not have been held at the Centre itself?

Secondly, we wish to comment on the specific nature and structure of the proposed educational process: we have both spent all our working lives teaching students of all ages, and are fully aware of the reality of "challenging and vulnerable young people". We know that all schools explore every possible avenue to accommodate the needs of these students - they do not give up lightly. My wife had a brief personal experience at Stamford College, as part of a team

attempting to provide a meaningful curriculum for students who were permanently excluded from schools - it was not a success for a variety of reasons, notably lack of rigorous leadership, and specially trained and suitably accredited staff.

We do not believe the site is at all appropriate for the proposed provision - there is little useable outside space even with reduction of car parking. The building was designed for meaningful and purposeful post 16 vocational education, and therefore will not meet the needs required without massive financial input. These finances will no doubt be diverted from already struggling mainstream schools, who are having to cope with reduced budgets, resulting in over-large class sizes, reduced staffing levels, leading to a narrowing of the curriculum offered.

If this ill-considered initiative does receive final approval, we cannot stress enough the need for very rigorous control and oversight of these students. We would not expect to see them off site during breaks and lunchtimes.

I hope these comments will receive the serious consideration that they merit and look forward to your response.”

**Response** – The pupils attending the proposed new school will be subject to high levels of supervision and will not be allowed to leave the school site at lunchtimes and breaks. The Wellspring Academy Trust has a proven track-record in providing good and outstanding alternative and special education.

The funding used to finance the places at the school will come from high needs funding that is ring-fenced to provide specialist provision across the entire county. This money is not diverted from mainstream schools but is made available to provide education for permanently excluded pupils who cannot remain in their mainstream settings. Therefore, the funding is allocated to support mainstream school, provide intervention and return the pupils, successfully, to their next phase of education.

**Comment** - “As a Mablethorpe resident, I write with reference to an article published in East Lindsey Target on 1st November and the forthcoming event scheduled for the Mablethorpe site on 15th November. Information reported in the article raises a number of questions.

1. It is stated: "In a leaflet explaining the proposals, the trust has outlined its vision on what it hopes the project will achieve."  
Q: How, when and where are these leaflets being distributed and is it possible to be provided with one, preferably in electronic format?

**Response** – The Consultation Leaflet outlining the school's vision, ethos and proposed sites was available online. Within the leaflet, notification of the consultation period, the options available for feedback (including an enquiry email address and address for written responses) and details of a public consultation event. The document also included a tear off Consultation Questionnaire which could be posted back to the Trust.

Leaflets were available at the consultation events, upon request and information was available in local newspapers, and online.



2. The event on 15th November is described as a 'drop in'. You may not be aware that the public consultation held at the time of the proposed closure of the MDTC site in Mablethorpe was also organised as a 'drop in'. This caused considerable disquiet from residents and parents who felt that this format did not permit the fullest exchange of information, questions, answers and debate and discouraged some from participating. There are many who are intimidated by sitting at tables with those perceived as authority figures to ask questions of them and much prefer to sit quietly, listen to views from all perspectives and then go away to reflect and provide written comments. For others, being able to hear questions by others and the answers provided gives stimulus to asking supplementary questions of their own. There was an overwhelming feeling that the format of the meeting was engineered to avoid more 'difficult' questions and issues being raised and was more like a parents' evening than a consultation.
- Q: To ensure the greatest level of transparency and public confidence in the process, will serious consideration be given to organising the event in two parts?
- o Part A comprising brief introduction by a panel (10 minutes maximum) followed by open Q&A involving all present
  - o Part B comprising opportunity for 1:1 discussions with representatives of Springwell if desired

**Response** – The Trust gave full consideration to residents who attended the events and were fully transparent, answering all questions open and honestly. The Trust felt the format of an open discussion/Q&A was most suitable due to the amount of concerns residents had.

3. A Wellspring spokesman is quoted as denying any involvement of children attending the school in reported instances of anti-social behaviour.
- Q: Would you like me to forward video and photographic evidence of incidents on 5th October 2016 at 11:27am and 2nd May 2017 at 11:25am?
- Q: Having reviewed the evidence I can provide, will the spokesman who made the comment, which I feel is a slur on young people who reside in Mablethorpe, publish a retraction and full apology? Further, if these incidents were not recorded by staff at the school, as I believe they should have been, will the reason for not doing so be investigated?
4. "Initial feasibility work is being undertaken to identify suitable locations and sites."
- Q: Feasibility studies normally consider a range of options to determine the most suitable outcome. Which other sites have been considered as locations for the proposed provision in East Lindsey? If so, how has Mablethorpe been identified as the most suitable to progress further? Will work relating to this work be released? Please consider this to be a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

**Response** – The Trust has no involvement in the location of proposed sites.

**Comment** - "Reference the public meeting on 15th November at Tennyson School site.

Having now seen in The Target newspaper that this meeting is going to be a 'drop-in' meeting my concerns are:-

1. The meeting needs to be of a formal style, where the attendees can sit and hear the comments and questions of others, and the responses from the Wellspring staff.
2. The informal drop-in style did not work when the County Council held their meeting regarding the closure of Tennyson School. Unless anyone wanted to go to a particular desk and ask a question, they were just stood aimlessly around in the hall.
3. It is important that everyone there hears all questions, concerns and answers - after all it is us, the people of Mablethorpe who are affected by this new use of the school.

The comment from a Wellspring representative that the behaviour problems during the last school year could not possibly have been pupils from the unit is disgusting. The site backs onto our gardens and we often witnessed pupils out of control on the flat roofs, throwing items down, staff looking helpless to do anything about the behaviour, and many visits by the police, and once by the fire service. We have video evidence of some of this behaviour. For Wellspring to blame the youth of Mablethorpe for this behaviour is totally unacceptable.”

**Response** – The Wellspring representative was only referring to one specific incident that occurred out of school hours on the school site. At that time there were no Springwell Lincolnshire pupils on the site and no Mablethorpe residents were on the school roll.

**Comment** - “Myself and many other Mablethorpe residents wish to know who made the decision to hold the consultation meeting for the Mablethorpe site in Spalding? This is 50 miles away from Mablethorpe and impossible for many to attend. Perhaps the hope is that by holding it in Spalding there won’t be too many objections and questions from the Mablethorpe residents.

My house backs onto the Portacabin site, where for the past year we have continuously witnessed unruly and abusive pupils parading themselves on top of flat roofs etc on the site. Many police hours have been wasted in call-outs to these pupils and also the fire brigade in one instance.

The article in our local paper this week states ‘pre-opening phase’ and ‘nothing is official yet’ which is an insult to the residents’ intelligence after what we have witnessed over the past year.

The people of Mablethorpe deserve more information on the future of this site, which can only be done by holding a meeting in Mablethorpe.

Answers please!”

**Response** – Springwell accepts that working in the temporary accommodation was exceedingly difficult and there were a number of challenging behaviour incidents. However, these were dealt with appropriately and it is regrettable that this impacted on local residents. However, this does highlight the need for specialist and appropriate buildings. The pupils are no longer educated in portable/temporary buildings and there has been a significant reduction in the number of incidents. The new building will provide appropriate accommodation that is designed with specialist provision in mind.

**Comment** - "My objection to it mainly is that it would create a lot of extra traffic in the area seeing as most of the 63 pupils could arrive in separate taxis, this is excluding staff cars. I also object to the proposal of putting a multi-use games area (MUGA) in the front of the school." He says the proposed fencing for the MUGA at 3m high "would be very obtrusive" and residents close by will be subjected to "shouts and screaming".

**Comment** - "I cannot see why it cannot be put at the back of the school – if this was done it would keep the noise levels down when it is being used."

**Comment** - "I wish you well on your bid for the old Tennyson school building. I have been involved with the school as it was for 20 years and was a governor for the last 8 years it was a school.

I hope you secure the site and allow the children who cannot cope in a 'normal' school environment.

The councillors in the town are only thinking of their own political careers and don't necessarily bring the view of their constituents."

**Comment** - "We would like to register our strong objection to the proposed Springwell Academy at the Post 16 Centre in Matmore Gate, Spalding.

Our objection lies in the wholly inappropriate site where simply identifying a vacant building doesn't make it suitable for such purpose, in 2017 onwards.

Also, unrestricted public access, out of school hours, to the MUGA areas will unacceptably increase noise and traffic in an un-marshalled and irresponsible way.

Residents, and visitors (including a Care Home) in Matmore Gate, Mulberry Way, Morus Close and the numerous roads to the newer developments, are already under siege twice a day with often total blockage of those local roads at school times making access virtually impossible for residents own cars let alone large, or emergency, vehicles.

We all embrace the young and realise the need to educate all - but not in one small concentrated area where there is dangerously no alternative in/out route for residents, or indeed pupils etc. other than via Matmore Gate, all the more so as this project is intended to be open out of school hours.

It's not a matter of if, but when, a serious accident occurs and a life will be lost.

We invite all concerned to visit Matmore Gate, and surrounding area between 3pm - 3.30pm to witness the extent of parking and the highly dangerous traffic issues with coaches, cars &etc. A nice visit during school holidays does highlight the dangers and unacceptability of the situation which it is proposing to add to.

We feel the local council should be taking steps to reduce the traffic issues not actively increase them, thus making the area safer for all.”

**Comment** - “With reference to Springwell’s consultation meeting at the High School in Spalding, 07.12.17 we feel the Academy would have gained invaluable insight had they openly engaged the local community at the very beginning, not the end, of the consultation process and it would have been helpful if the County Council had sent a representative.

While the building itself may be highly desired by Springwell’s the location in Matmore Gate is disastrous traffic-wise and being in very close proximity to a large waterway and easy access across to the dangerous A16 road.

Springwell’s stressed the need for a highly secure environment for the safety of the children with virtually one-to-one staffing (+ancillary staff) to aid this. Also advising of individual taxi’s for the c.65 pupils and direct handover to staff members, yet the proposal is to cut parking spaces to just 30.

So, given the very high ratio of staff to students anticipated to be on site daily (plus taxi’s morning and afternoon) that will leave a large number of vehicles without parking facility. Are they to park on road along Matmore Gate thus extensively raising the dangers to Springwell’s pupils and the local community?

The children and young people are highly vulnerable, by nature of the issues which brings them to Springwell’s Academy, and as such are unable to cope in mainstream school or society. Their problems are likely to be accompanied by states of high anxiety and possibly result in angry or psychotic-type episodes so making securing their safety and wellbeing an absolute priority.

Yet before the school day even begins it is proposed to raise anxiety levels by negotiating a slalom of vehicles, busy with noise and other local pupils, to simply arrive at the school gate, despite timing.

It is also possible a student could slip passed your cordon of care after which they are at risk of an unsuitable local environment of extensive car parking, housing estates, rivers, busy roads and open fields.

Safety may possibly be effected by erecting high fences and gates and a boundary security alarm system, similar to a prison, which we trust is against the principles of the Academy. A child taught in such an environment would never cope in open society and such measures would be totally inappropriate to the local community making our environment ugly and homes unsalable.

The proposal of housing such an Academy at the Post-16 college site lacks informed Risk Assessment by all involved, for the safety of the Academy, local primary and High School pupils and the local community at large. This lack is indefensible.

We believe we speak for Springwell’s children and young people when we say ‘Care for us’ ..... CARE FOR US, and the community as a whole and choose a more appropriate site for your much needed school.”

**Comment** - "We live opposite the Post 16 Centre and it's an absolute bottleneck in the mornings and afternoons so the prospect of kids coming to and from the academy in taxis is going to make the traffic problem even worse

I don't think people know much about it and there's a worry about all of the traffic that will be brought to Matmore Gate. "Children will be coming in private hire taxis to be met by escorts at the door and this is something we need more information about."

**Comment** - "We live opposite the Post 16 Centre and, due to the traffic from Spalding High School, it's an absolute bottleneck in the mornings and afternoons. "This makes it impossible to drive down the road so the prospect of kids coming to and from the academy in taxis is going to make the traffic problem even worse. "Also, we can't see why they couldn't have used the Post 16 Centre for the consultation meeting tomorrow when people working, or who have transport difficulties, will be unable to get over to Sleaford for 5pm."

**Comment** - "Is the facility going to concentrate on local children or are they going to be brought in from other areas? "What about questions of security and safeguarding for us as parents with two children of our own? "We'll want assurances that the academy isn't going to cause problems for them as it's a very specialised school where there must be a risk element involved."

**Comment** - "I am writing to you in regards to the proposed Wellspring Academy trust opening of a new school in Mablethorpe. Personally I am in favour of the new unit on the old grounds of Monk Dyke, Tennyson school. It would offer stability for local children in need of a supportive educational environment. During term time I take children with a mixture of learning and behaviour difficulties to school for a council contractor. I always feel kids are wrongly labelled for having behaviour problems. In sociality there is not enough compassion or support out there. The school would allow pupils locally a chance to be taught closer to home and enable parents to be more involved in their educational life. There is quite a bit of scare mongering going on within the community and stigmatising. Please don't be put off opening a new school here. I have seen first-hand how kids with behavioural problems can be turn around. It's about offering them the right support and self-belief they need to succeed.

As well as taken children with learning difficulties. I used to attend a special school for moderate learning difficulties in South London. Back in the early 1990's the school was labelled as a dumping ground for kids that never quite fitted in to a mainstream setting. As a result there were quite a bit of bullying within the community towards us. I do hope that you may consider offering open days or community events involving the kids helping in the local area. Breakdown some of the stigma attached locally. Thankfully now day's special schools are seen as a supportive, learning environment.

I wish you all the best with the process and I hope to see the new school opening in the near future."

**Comment** - “I refer to a recent article in our local press regarding your proposal to open a new school in Matmore Gate, Spalding. As a resident of this street (I live opposite the building) I am concerned that there appears to be little consideration of the views and concerns of local people as the only consultation you appear to arranging is a meeting in Sleaford?

I am aware that at the very least people wish to know more about your proposals and would like re-assurance on how you intend to operate a school for 'challenging or vulnerable children' without this having an adverse effect on the local neighbourhood. Arranging a meeting over 25 miles from Spalding at 5pm means that working people and those without transport will find it extremely difficult to attend. Would you therefore be willing to hold a meeting in Spalding?

At this stage I personally have a number of concerns:

- what security measures form part of your proposals?
- the road is already congested with traffic from the adjacent High School and at peak times it is
- impossible to drive down the road
- the effect your proposals will have on the market value of our properties
- will the intake of pupils benefit problems and schools in our local area or is the new school mainly for children outside our local area?

The only individual correspondence we have received regarding this is a notice of application for planning permission for improvements you wish to make in the school grounds. I consider that your lack of interaction with local residents does not bode well future relationships should your proposals be successful.”

**Comment** - “Can you explain how Sleaford is a central location to Spalding? Perhaps the location and time of the meeting was arranged to deter people with a real interest in your proposals from attending. I know of several people who would have attended if the meeting was held locally. Would you please consider arranging a further meeting in Spalding at your earliest convenience?

I can't see that engagement with residents after the consultation period has ended and this proposal has been agreed is the way forward. This will do nothing other than force the residents to take an alternative steps to have their say before the decision is made.”

**Response** – The Trust felt Sleaford would be a central location for residents to attend, however following concerns, the Trust held further events in Spalding and Mablethorpe.

**Comment** - “In case you assume that just a few residents are unhappy with the proposals I suggest that you refer to the coverage in the local Spalding press particularly in the letters section of these publications. In addition a petition against this is being handed in to the South Holland District Council Offices today.

I really feel that your reluctance to consult with local residents is not helping this situation. The majority of people do not want you to engage with you after the decision has been made and need answers to our concerns now.

I would appreciate your early response to this and my previous e mail or the name and contact details of someone else at the academy who is able to address our concerns.”

**Comment** - “Please can you tell me why there are no proposed meetings to be held in Spalding where the above school is planned to be opened? I am a resident of Matmore Gate, living directly opposite the building, but I am unable to attend meetings in either Sleaford or Mablethorpe. It makes no sense whatsoever to not hold a meeting in the location of the building as the local residents are the ones who will be most affected by any decisions made about the schools future.

I would very much like to find out more information on this proposed school as it will almost certainly have an impact on us as a household and would appreciate a meeting to be held locally.”

**Comment** - “While I appreciate what you are trying to do for these children I don’t think that the site in Mablethorpe is suitable the site is surrounded by retired people who came here from all parts of the country for a peaceful retirement, and it’s also strange that you can find teachers and staff for these badly behaved children when our own children have a 30 mile round trip for their education what we need is secondary education for children that is local.”

**Comment** - “It is understood that you are to open an Academy in the premises of the former 6th Form Academy in Matmore Gate, Spalding in May 2018.

As a retired resident and campaigner in respect of the excessive use of Matmore Gate by vehicles associated with educational establishments, mainly 6th formers of the High School I wish to ask a question in respect to your plans.

This road is the only road into and out of the following residential estates, Mulbery Way, Finley Close, Birch Grove estate, Thornton Close, Heathfield Avenue, Woodfield Close and Matmore Close what is most concerning is the access for Emergency Vehicles and Delivery to properties. The congestion at times can be excessive such that residents, many of whom are elderly are unable to go shopping or, for those in employment find that they are late for work. This was particularly prevalent recently when the 11 + exams were held. These roads were grid locked. I have complained to The Spalding High School Headmistress in this regard particularly as the car park facility to the Academy was locked and empty.

The two specific points I raised were that residents were totally unaware of these events so alternative arrangements might be made also, why could they not use the car park of the Academy? The head informed me that approaches had been made for students to use this car park, with badges and the school holding details of the vehicles of the students and that they be asked to make a payment to the Academy for car parking.

In the spirit of the community please may these considerations be given as there is also a Care Home and Tesco Express on the Matmore Gate. I do have an abundance of correspondence which I have shared with the school.”

**Comment** - “I am emailing in regard to the proposed opening of the above-mentioned academy in Spalding; a provision which is well needed in the local area. I am a local SEN teacher and am emailing to enquire as to, if you get the necessary planning permissions, when and where job advertisements would be shared. I was excited to see the proposed academy and would be very much interested in applying for teaching positions.”

**Comment** - “I am writing to you regarding the above proposed educational facility in the former Post 16 college on Matmore Gate, Spalding and have the following questions, concerns and comments. I would appreciate your help in this matter as I am sure many other local people would as well.

Why haven't we heard more about this proposal long before the deadline of November 12<sup>th</sup> in order for any objections to be raised? When I finally managed to find anything about it online there before me was a picture of the Springwell Academy in Spalding!

Why Sleaford for the local consultation meeting and not at the Post 16 College where residents could attend with ease? This project is not going to affect anyone in Sleaford!

The immediate area is already overcrowded with educational facilities that are already causing chaos on the roads - at certain times of the day it is almost impossible to drive along Matmore Gate. Has anyone from the committee actually visited Spalding during the hours of 8-9am and 3-4pm during termtime?

Who is going to pay for all the taxis to transport the children? Where are they coming from?

It states that these children and young people are Challenging and Vulnerable – how will these children be controlled? Will they be allowed of the school premises unattended?

Is money going to be taken from other mainstream schools' funding in order to finance all this? Funds available to these schools are already dwindling, classes are in some cases far too large and there is a narrowing of the curriculum because of staff cutbacks.

I feel that this is not the best location for this Academy - right in the middle of a residential area where the impact of this academy and its' to quote “Challenging and Vulnerable pupils” is unknown.

I look forward to hearing from you with answers to my questions.”

**Comment** - “Please can you tell me why there are no proposed meetings to be held in Spalding where the above school is planned to be opened? I am a resident of Matmore Gate, living directly opposite the building, but I am unable to attend meetings in either Sleaford or Mablethorpe. It makes no sense whatsoever to not hold a meeting in the location of the building



as the local residents are the ones who will be most affected by any decisions made about the schools future.

I would very much like to find out more information on this proposed school as it will almost certainly have an impact on us as a household and would appreciate a meeting to be held locally.”

**Comment** - “Thank you for your reply but Sleaford is central for whom exactly? Certainly not the residents of where the proposed academy is planned. I feel a meeting with the residents once the consultation period is over is a little like 'after the horse has bolted'.

I have many issues and concerns with this proposal, not least the safeguarding of my children with having this proposed academy opposite us. The school was built to be used for sixth form education for local people not for the students as detailed in the information from out of the local area.

Parking over spill and even more traffic on this residential road which already has one school on it is of huge concern to me as previously most of the children walked to the college but this is most certainly not the case with this proposal as the children are not local and need 'escorts' to school.

I also do not understand why the school would tear up a perfectly good car park that will be required with the volume of staff expected to work at the school to expand an already huge playing field for after school hours. Who exactly will be using this facility?

The local residents have not been provided with any of this information, in fact no information at all, only what we have managed to find out for ourselves.

I will read the leaflet and follow it's guidance on giving my feedback to the proposal but it does not answer any of my questions as above.”

*Please Note: We haven't provided a response to every comment received. This is due to the fact that many comments are similar so responses would have become repetitive. Key concerns have been discussed in Section 8.*

*Some comments have not been published as they are unsuitable.*

## 8. Discussion and Conclusion

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The Trust has analyzed all feedback received and identified the following as key concerns.

### 8.1 Past Reputation of the LTLC (Lincolnshire Teaching and Learning Centre)

The LTLC converted to academy status and became part of the Wellspring Academy Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. At that point the LTLC was judged 'Inadequate' by Ofsted. Now named 'Springwell Lincolnshire Academy', it is an exciting time for the staff and pupils. There have been many changes over recent months and there are many more to come. The Wellspring Academy Trust, in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council and the Department for Education are investing significant amounts of money in providing the best possible education for the children of Lincolnshire who can no longer access mainstream education. The development of the new schools, to provide appropriate and high-quality accommodation, is one part of a school improvement process that is being put in place by Wellspring.

The Trust has a reputation and track record for delivering good and outstanding outcomes for children in alternative provision and for children with additional needs.

It is our intention to develop state of the art alternative provision across the county so that our pupils are given the best possible chance in life. This investment, along with our proven methods will bring successful learning outcomes to pupils. The new sites will be permanent sites. We will work hard to implement better systems, communicate well with parents and residents, and ensure children get the most from the curriculum.

### 8.2 About Springwell Lincolnshire Academy

Our mission is simple, to make a positive difference to the life chances of the children and young people who attend our Academy. Through an unreserved positive approach, Springwell Lincolnshire engages students through creative individualised learning which enables them to gain the academic, social, emotional and independence skills to achieve in learning and in life.

*Springwell Lincolnshire is a place where:*

- *We value every student as an individual, showing everyone respect and tolerance*
- *We see the best in every student, and understand that sometimes mistakes are made*
- *We give students a fresh start every day. Grudges are not held, and relationships are rebuilt.*
- *We want our students to be the very best that they can be – and will try to give them every opportunity to show success*

*Springwell Lincolnshire staff will:*

- *Provide a safe and secure environment for our students*
- *Promote positive learning experiences and plan high quality lessons*
- *Develop a broad and balanced curriculum which allows students to study a variety of subjects, in line with mainstream schools, with a core culture of developing behavioural, emotional and social skills*
- *Value all of our students as individuals and celebrate their personal skills sets*

- *Embed British Values and tolerance at all times, welcoming the integration of those from other cultures*
- *Develop an understanding of environmental issues and promote environmentally friendly practice within the Centres*

### **8.3 Traffic**

It is clear that some residents are concerned about an increase in traffic in the area, this is mainly in Spalding, along Matmore Gate and surrounding roads. In some cases these roads are already busy and residents feel they don't have capacity for any more traffic, especially during rush hour periods. Associated with an increase in traffic is the worry of excess noise and the safeguarding of pupils and local residents.

In response to these concerns, Springwell Lincolnshire Academy will work closely with the local authority to design travel plans and implement any measures to help control the flow of traffic in the area, keeping impact on the roads and noise levels to a minimum. Traffic calming uses physical design and other measures to improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists. It aims to encourage safer, more responsible driving and potentially reduce traffic flow.

The development of any sites is subject to strict DfE guidance that the Wellspring Academy Trust, and its contractors must follow. This includes traffic and travel plans.

### **8.4 Alternative Provision – Why in these areas**

The development of any of our schools is in no way related to any decisions to not provide mainstream education in Lincolnshire. However, Lincolnshire County Council fully support these schools and have provided sites for these schools.

The Wellspring Academy Trust fully understands the frustrations of the local residents and their frustrations about not having mainstream education in local areas. However, the building of Springwell Lincolnshire is unrelated to any other decisions made by the DfE regarding mainstream education.

We feel that challenging and vulnerable children who can no longer access mainstream education still deserve the opportunity to access the best possible education. It is our intention to develop state of the art alternative provision across Lincolnshire so that our pupils are given the best possible chance in life. We believe in second chances, unconditional positive regard and a culture of nurture and support. With that in mind, this provision needs to be accessible to these children and so the locations of Mablethorpe, Grantham, Lincoln and Spalding have been identified. These locations will provide significant coverage so these children won't have to travel long distances to access education, which some children currently have to.

We can confirm that investment will come from the Department for Education and no funding is being pulled away from other schools/educational provision in Lincolnshire. The funding used to finance the places at the school will come from high needs funding that is ring-fenced to provide specialist provision across the entire county. This money is not diverted from mainstream schools but is made available to provide education for permanently excluded pupils who cannot remain in their mainstream settings. Therefore, the funding is allocated to support mainstream

schools, provide intervention and return the pupils, successfully, to their next phase of education.

The new schools will not compete with existing schools but provide specialist provision for those pupils not able to attend other local schools. This is essentially supporting the local schools with those children that are unable to sustain mainstream education but will be able to continue their education in their locality.

### **8.5 Suitability of Proposed Sites**

Lincolnshire County Council have provided the sites for the proposed schools. These sites are then assessed by the ESFA for suitability.

A number of concerns from stakeholders have been raised regarding these sites such as an increase in traffic which has been discussed above.

The Trust can confirm at this point that the sites are not finalized, nor is the layout of any new schools.

The lack of outdoor space for pupils was also mentioned, however these schools won't hold pupil numbers similar to mainstream provision, therefore less outdoor space is required. Sufficient outdoor space will be available to pupils.

### **8.6 How will the buildings be fit for purpose**

We have found that working in temporary buildings is, admittedly, very challenging. Since Springwell Academy Lincolnshire has moved out of these temporary buildings there has been a significant reduction in behaviour issues and improvement in educational outcomes.

With this in mind, all new sites will be designed with input from the Trust, ensuring they are fit for purpose. This includes measures such as high perimeter fencing, intercom systems with gated access, mag-lock systems and robust internal fit-outs. The Trust has extensive experience of alternative provision environments and will be working closely with developers to ensure needs are met.

The pupils attending the proposed new schools will also be subject to high levels of supervision and will not be allowed to leave the school sites at lunchtimes and breaks. The Wellspring Academy Trust has a proven track-record in providing good and outstanding alternative and special education in its current academies, these include Springwell Learning Community, Springwell Leeds and Greenacre Special School.

### **8.7 About our Pupils**

The children and young people who will be educated in the new schools are those pupils who have been permanently excluded from mainstream education or at risk of permanent exclusion. They are often vulnerable and have unmet and/or undiagnosed special educational needs. They require additional support and care. Pupils at the schools will be aged from 5 to 16. Most of

these pupils will be at the school for short periods of time as the intention is to return them to mainstream. There will be no risk to local children from these pupils.

Springwell Academy Lincolnshire has a core purpose to deliver education programmes for challenging or vulnerable children and young people who are not in school for a variety of reasons. We are responsible for;

- Pupils who are unable to remain in mainstream education.
- Children and young people who are at risk of not being able to remain in mainstream education.

Springwell Lincolnshire Academy provides a caring, nurturing and developmental environment for these young people. We are determined that after receiving our support our students move on to their next destination having felt known, valued, understood and educated. We create individual and personalised pathways for our students that are built around their varied needs which will help them achieve positive outcomes and prepare them for their onward destinations into continuing education, work or training. In order to achieve this, we have developed a curriculum that provides opportunities for academic progression as well as vocational learning, whilst being engaging, creative, and innovative.

What we offer Students:

- Small class sizes with about 1 adult to every 3 to 4 children, so that no learner is left without help.
- Experienced, qualified teachers who can make sure that our students make rapid progress in their learning, through delivering lessons that excite and motivate them.
- A curriculum that matches mainstream expectations at KS2, KS3 and KS4 and will prepare all of our leavers for their next steps into further education or training.
- Specific support based on the needs of each student including a range of therapeutic interventions to support social, emotional and mental health needs
- Support for students to develop and improve appropriate behaviour

These children and young people are not a threat to residents and new sites will be secure.

## **8.8 Impact on the Local Community**

We cannot comment on whether house prices will be impacted as some residents have raised as a concern. There is no supporting evidence relating to how housing values may be affected. Some residents are also concerned about the wellbeing of the community. We want to work with local communities and welcome its support, we want to build strong relationships and see this as key to success. We want to build these relationships with students, parents, carers and the wider community to help ensure that our academies are welcoming safe places for children to learn and prosper.

The Wellspring Academy Trust will actively seek local representation for the governing body

## 8.9 Communication

We understand there was some frustration with how the Trust decided to engage with local communities. It was not the Trusts intention to make it difficult for stakeholders to have an opportunity to feedback on these proposals. Upon concerns raised around the consultation, the Trust acted swiftly by hosting further consultation events and extending the consultation period. Section 2 of this report discusses how the Trust used a variety of methods to make the consultation accessible to all stakeholders.

We feel the consultation events gave attendees the opportunity to gather information, ask any questions and raise concerns, all of which have fed into this report.

### 8.10 Are the proposals finalized

Although the Trust and Lincolnshire County Council support the development of these new schools, development can't proceed until a Funding Agreement has been signed between the Secretary of State and Wellspring Academy Trust. Please see Section 9 for further information.

## 9. Next Steps

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This report stands as an independent record of the consultation exercise undertaken by the Wellspring Academy Trust to ascertain the views of parent, key local stakeholders and the wider Lincolnshire community on the proposal to open Springwell Academy Lincolnshire.

This report together with its Appendices will be sent to the DfE and will form part of the evidence used to make a final decision about whether to sign a Funding Agreement or not in respect of Springwell Academy Lincolnshire.

Information from this report will also be made available online to consultees, key stakeholders and the wider local community to provide feedback to them on the consultation process and the contributions that have been received.

## 10. Stakeholders

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Several stakeholders have been involved throughout the consultation process, a list of those is below:

- Local residents
- Local businesses
- Parents
- Local schools
- Local Authority
- Ward Councilors

- Local MP

Each stakeholder has been proactively engaged.

# Appendix A – Consultation Leaflet



**WELLSPRING ACADEMY TRUST**  
We Make A Difference

## Springwell Lincolnshire

Free Schools Consultation - Friday 27th October until Sunday 31st December 2017.

Springwell Lincolnshire is introducing a new Academy in your area and we would like to hear your thoughts.

This leaflet gives you information about the Academy, the Academy Trust and our plans. It also gives you an opportunity to give us feedback on how you feel about the new Academy, you have 9 weeks to do this, between Friday 27th October and Sunday 31st December 2017.

Subject to receiving the relevant planning permissions, Springwell Lincolnshire is opening four Academy sites in the following locations;

- Springwell Academy Spalding, Matmore Gate, Spalding, PE11 2PN (A refurbishment of the South Holland Post-16 Centre)
- Springwell Academy Mablethorpe, Seaholme Road, Mablethorpe, LN12 2DF (A refurbishment of the Mablethorpe Morika Dyke Tenryson College)
- Springwell Academy Grantham, The Grantham Teaching and Learning Centre, New Beacon Road, Grantham, NG31 9LD (New building)
- Springwell Academy Lincoln, Myles Cross, Macaulay Drive, Lincoln, LN2 4EN (New building)

**Consultation Event 1**  
Wednesday 8th November 2017, 5pm until 7pm, Sleaford Council Offices, Eastgate, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7EB

**Consultation Event 2**  
Wednesday 15th November 2017, 5pm until 7pm, Springwell Lincolnshire, Seaholme Road, Mablethorpe LN12 2DF

**WELLSPRING ACADEMY TRUST**  
We Make A Difference

www.springwell-lincs.co.uk  
Wellspring Academy Trust, Digital Media Centre, County Way, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 2JW. T: 01228 720142  
www.wellspringacademytrust.co.uk

**Springwell Lincolnshire**

### About Springwell Lincolnshire

Springwell Lincolnshire Alternative Provision, part of Wellspring Academy Trust, provides a caring, nurturing and developmental environment for young people who are unable to remain in mainstream education.

We are determined that after receiving our support our students move on to their next destination having felt known, valued, understood and educated.

Students supported by the school  
Springwell Lincolnshire has a core purpose to deliver education programmes for challenging or vulnerable children and young people who are not in school for a variety of reasons.

We are responsible for:

- Pupils who are unable to remain in mainstream education.
- Children and young people who are at risk of not being able to remain in mainstream education.

### Number of places available

Springwell Lincolnshire will provide education for up to 250 pupils across four Alternative Provision Free Schools for young people aged 5-16. These are broken down as follows:

Mablethorpe	Spalding	Grantham	Lincoln
63	63	61	63



**About Wellspring Academy Trust**  
Wellspring Academy Trust is a Multi-Academy Trust and an approved DfE Academy sponsor.

Senior Leadership within the Trust and the Local Leaders within Springwell Lincolnshire have a wealth of experience in schools. We believe that access to the best education is a right for all children.

Our aim is to build the very best school, offer the very best education and achieve the very best for our children and families.

We are building four new schools in Lincolnshire under the Free Schools Programme. The Trust is working with Partners in the Department for Education to build schools in Mablethorpe, Lincoln, Grantham and Spalding. As the schools open they will be named Springwell Alternative Academy, followed by their location.

#### Have your say...

Come along to the Consultation Events  
Find out more information about all Springwell Lincolnshire Academy sites at our opening evenings.

#### Consultation Event 1:

- Wednesday 8th November 2017
- 5pm until 7pm
- Sleaford Council Offices, Eastgate, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7EB

#### Consultation Event 2:

- Wednesday 15th November 2017
- 5pm until 7pm
- Springwell Lincolnshire, Seaholme Road, Mablethorpe, LN12 2DF



**Email us**  
You can email us and let us know what you think: info@wellspringacademies.org.uk

**Complete the online questionnaire**  
Please visit the following link and complete the online questionnaire: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XRZJDO3>

**Please note:**  
We must receive all correspondence and feedback by Sunday 31st December.

**Complete the questionnaire below**  
Please complete the questionnaire below with your responses and hand in at one of the consultation events.

Alternatively, you can complete and post to: Wellspring Academy Trust, Digital Media Centre, County Way, Barnsley, S70 2JW by Sunday 31st December 2017.

#### Have your say... Complete the Springwell Lincolnshire questionnaire

1. Please tick which Academy site will be in your local area:  
 Spalding  Mablethorpe  Grantham  Lincoln
2. Please tick the box(es) which best describe you. I am a:  
 Parent  Local Resident  Employee at a local school  LA Employee  Other
3. Do you support the setting up of Springwell Lincolnshire? (tick as appropriate)  
 Yes  Maybe  No
4. Do you support the signing of a Funding Agreement\* with the Secretary of State for Education? (tick as appropriate)  
 Yes  Maybe  No  
\*An example of a model funding agreement can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-multi-academy-trust>
5. Do you agree with placing the Academy site in this location? (tick as appropriate)  
 Yes  Maybe  No
6. Do you have any other comments to make about the proposal to open these Alternative Academy sites?



## Appendix B – The Reintegration Process

### The Reintegration Process

#### Permanently Excluded Pupils Back to Mainstream

Stage One - Monitoring	Stage Two – Placement Meeting and Reintegration Pack	Stage Three	Stage Four
<p>SPLCA pupils are screened using <i>Doyle's Readiness for Reintegration</i>, three times per year.</p> <p>The screen may also be used outside the main round for individual pupils.</p> <p>BOSS, PRT and LD have fortnightly meetings to review progress of pupils towards reintegration.</p> <p>When a pupil has been identified, then a date for placement meeting will have been agreed with the family prior to this meeting, by SPLCA SENCO and/or Centre Lead, cutting out need for subsequent emails between PRT and centre leads.</p>	<p>Reintegration pack is completed by SPLCA, SENCO and emailed to PRT and BOSS.</p> <p>Placement meeting goes ahead with school preferences ascertained. PRT, SENCO and Snr BOSS worker attend. Consent for BOSS involvement is secured.</p> <p>A BOSS worker is allocated and support for pupil begins.</p>	<p>PRT contacts preferred schools and arranges admission meeting.</p> <p>The admission meeting comprises SPLCA SENCO, allocated BOSS worker, school staff. Support is agreed and formalised through transition plan, written by the SPLCA SENCO and shared with all involved in process.</p> <p>The review date is agreed as part of the transition plan.</p> <p>When pupil is accessing both SPLCA and new school, SPLCA organises transport.</p> <p>Pupil begins at school as per agreed transition plan.</p>	<p>The transition plan is reviewed and the pupil is removed from the SPLCA roll when review confirms this is appropriate. In some cases, a further review will be scheduled.</p> <p>When pupils have been permanently excluded twice, it is agreed that a PX will not be necessary if the mainstream placement breaks down, even after this review period.</p>

#### Intervention Place Reintegration

The period of lead-in between panel decision and placement is two weeks with SPLCA ensuring schools are advised of any delay and supported. The admission PSP meeting is attended by PRT and Snr BOSS as well as SPLCA since all are part of the broader intervention pathway. The extent and nature of BOSS involvement during SPLCA intervention placement is agreed at the admission meeting.