

# SEND Sufficiency update

## Improving Lives Select Commission

**8 March 2022**

# Definition of SEND

- Special Education Needs are defined within the Code of Practice 2015 as:

“A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her”.

“A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions”.

# What is the SEND Sufficiency?

Rotherham Borough Council has a statutory duty under The Education Act 1996 Section 14(1) to ensure that it provides sufficient school places for all pupils who are resident within the Borough. It has specific duties to ensure that there is sufficient provision for pupils with SEND where an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan has determined that the provision should be met in designated specialist provision.

# SEND Sufficiency in Rotherham

- Our SEND Sufficiency Strategy set out a plan to look at meeting our emerging SEND provision needs against a structured profile of identified SEND needs in Rotherham.
- Three phases of SEND Sufficiency aiming to address key areas of need against a context of increasing SEND demand.
- Fourth phase is in initial planning informed by SEND areas of demand.

# Three Phases: Current Position

- Phase one completed: **additional places in special schools**
- Phase two 90% completed: **resource units at mainstream schools**, post-16 provision

Key update – awaiting Department of Education Approval to support 16-19 academies to take post 19 SEND students to access Level 3 Learning

## Three Phases: Current Position

- Phase three: Rebuild of Newman Upper School/ movement to Dinnington site. **New SEMH Special School** due for completion in 21/22 academic year (transferring students with EHCPs from AP)

Key update – Newman Special School upper students moved into Dinnington campus in November 21

Free School Presumption is due to be discussed by Regional Schools Commissioner Advisory Board on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 with decision expected.

Newman upper school rebuild – moving through approval process to seek to start demolition and start of rebuild from April 2022 for a one year programme of rebuild.

# Future Phases and link to strategy a.

- Ongoing work to refresh needs assessment has started with identified needs linked to Autism Spectrum Conditions and Social, Emotional and Mental Health as key areas of need and demand
- Refresh of needs assessment to be completed by early March 2022.
- Work to focus on developing a range of mainstream SEND resource bases which are SEND specialist provision built into mainstream schools.

# Future Phases and link to strategy b.

- SEND Capital allocations to support investment in building SEND provision will be shared with Local Authorities by end of March 2022, early indications are additional investment will be made in this area from central government.
- Impending national SEND review from Department of Education (DfE) along with Education White Paper will inform next stage of planning and updates to our SEND strategy.
- RMBC is working closely with DfE to look at development of sustainable High Needs budgets and capital investment to support long term SEND provision development in the borough.



Any questions?

