

BRIEFING PAPER FOR IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION

1.	Date of meeting:	12th September 2017
2.	Title:	Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Sufficiency Strategy update
3.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

4. Introduction

- 4.1 The Primary mainstream school population has increased by 15% and the Secondary mainstream school population has increased by 1% since 2010 as confirmed by the latest Department for Education (DfE) School Capacity and Planning (SCAP) scorecard for Rotherham. There is a projected further 5% increase in the school aged pupil population from 44,627 to 46,858 by 2021, further increasing the need for additional SEND places to be created in the Local Authority area.
- 4.2 The annual Department for Education (DfE) verified increase in pupil numbers and future projections for Rotherham has led to a programme of school expansions across the borough to increase the number of primary school places available between 2012 and 2018 by 1,500 and, the Local Authority has subsequently commenced a programme of secondary school expansions following approval of the expansion strategy by Cabinet on 11th July 2016 to accommodate the expected rising cohort numbers in future years.
- 4.3 It should be noted that the secondary phase increase of 1% only at present is due to places being allocated in the normal admissions round for entry in to secondary education to extra district pupils in the distance category up to the schools Published Admission Number (PAN), meaning that schools on the border with neighbouring Local Authorities have consistently remained full or oversubscribed even when pupil numbers at secondary level have been reducing.
- 4.4 As the primary pupil population has increased in recent years, there has been additional demand placed on the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision currently available within the Borough.
- 4.5 Since 2012, there has been an increase in SEND provision of 20 places across the Borough at a cost of £190k. All current special education provision in Rotherham is full. This lack of SEND provision growth has been constrained as the annual basic need funding allocation from the DfE has been focussed on the need to increase mainstream education place numbers to meet the demographic growth profile.
- 4.6 Following completion of the SEND sufficiency analysis (see Appendix 1), an additional 125 SEND places will be needed across the Authority to meet current

and expected future demand up to 2021. 75 places are required to reduce out of authority placements by half and 50 places to add additional capacity and provision within the Borough to support future increase in demand from population increase.

- 4.7 The Local Authority are investigating options around the creation of a Special Free School in the future with the Nexus Academy Trust to meet additional demand from 2020 onwards.

5. Key Issues

- 5.1 The implications of not having enough SEND provision in the Local Authority area are that there are rising numbers of Rotherham children with Special Educational Needs having their needs met in provisions outside Rotherham. This means some of our most vulnerable children have to travel the furthest distance to school. The number placed outside the Local Authority is continuing to rise and stands at 177 at the time of writing this report, an increase of 24 since December 2016.
- 5.2 The Dedicated Schools Grant (High Needs Budget) is overspent. Indications are that there will continue to be significant increases in out of authority placements, leading to further demand on high needs funding allocation. 'Out of authority' placements are significantly more expensive than 'in authority' placements.
- 5.3 The increase in SEND provision within the Authority is necessary due to the increased pupil population since 2010 as outlined in section 2.1 of this report and projected future growth, linked to a rising demographic profile and new housing developments in the local plan.
- 5.4 The creation of additional in borough provision will lead to a longer term saving on high needs funding as in borough placements cost on average £17.5k per annum as opposed to an out of authority placement which costs £ 35K on average but can rise significantly up to £60k and beyond per annum dependant on the type of provision required.

6. Key actions and relevant timelines

- 6.1 A paper has been prepared for cabinet which details a plan of works to address SEND provision across the range of presenting need and age for Rotherham. This will be delivered through a programme of additions and extensions to our current provisions already judged as good or better, increasing by 125 places (please see Appendix 2).
- 6.2 Funding for the projects will come from:
- A new funding allocation of £500k has been allocated to the Local Authority from the DfE in 3 equal instalments for, the 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years to support the development of SEND strategies and

provision, subject to meeting the requirements to consult on and publish proposals as outlined above.

- £240k which is the remainder of a £1m (2 x £500k) capital allocation from school capital for special educational needs as approved at Cabinet / Commissioners decision making meeting on 13th March 2017 (item number 186) and 11th April 2016 (item number 66).
- The estimated total cost of the projects is £1.2m leaving a shortfall of £490k; it is proposed to submit a strategic outline business case to the Asset Management Board as a long term invest to save business case.

6.3 The SEND Sufficiency paper will go to October Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making meeting in order to gain approval to consult on the planned programme. Should approval be gained the consultation timeline is detailed below in order to meet the deadlines to release funding from the Department of Education.

Date by	Consult with
1st December 2017	SEND specialists: Autism Communication Team, Inclusion Support Services, Educational Psychology Service, Special School leadership, Mental Health Services, Children's Disability Team
1st December 2017	Focus / parent groups, specialist groups, Parents and Carers: Rotherham Parents Forum, SEND Information and Advice Support Service, Rotherham PVI Consortium Young Person's Consultation Forum, Autism Stakeholders Group
1st December 2017	Elected Members, MP's, Parish Councils
1st December 2017	Schools All / FE Colleges / Private providers
1st December 2017	Neighbouring Local Authorities
1st December 2017	Other interested parties and stakeholders

February 2018	Report to Cabinet and Commissioners on the outcome of consultation and seek approval of proposals

6.4 Timeline for implementation (as set by a DfE letter from Edward Timpson)

By Wednesday 14 March 2018	Local authorities must publish the short plan on their local offer page (template provided)
Summer 2018	local authorities that have published the plan and consulted with parents, carers and young people will receive the first tranche of funding
March 2019	local authorities should update and republish their plan to show what they have spent on so far
Summer 2019	local authorities will receive the second tranche of funding
March 2020	local authorities should update and republish their plan again
Summer 2020	local authorities will receive the second tranche of funding
March 2021	local authorities should update and republish their plan a final time, to show how all money was eventually spent

7. Recommendations to Improving Lives Select Commission

- 7.1 That the Improving Lives Select Commission receive and note the information in this briefing and the progress made towards a completion of a SEND Sufficiency Strategy.
- 7.2 That the Improving Lives Select Commission seek a further update on the progress being made on the SEND Sufficiency Strategy, should authorisation be given by Cabinet and Commissioners to develop the strategy, and when consultation has taken place.

8. Name and contact details

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