

Barnet SEN Special Places Plan: Position Statement – 31 May 2019

1. Background

- 1.1 In 2017 the government announced the establishment of a one-off pot of capital investment funding – the Special Provision Fund - available to local authorities in recognition of the need to provide more specialist school places for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Barnet's initial allocation was £3m across 2018/19 to 2020/21 (£1m each year), but further announcements by the DfE in May and December 2018 increased this to a total of £5.1m.
- 1.2 Local authorities are expected to plan how to invest their Special Provision Fund allocation and other funding to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people with SEN and disabilities. They are required to update and republish (on their Local Offer) their planned use of their Special Provision Fund allocations announced in 2017, as well as their plans to use the additional allocation announced in 2018, by 31st May 2019. They must also publish details of how they have planned or are planning to consult stakeholders on the use of the funding.
- 1.3 The special provision capital fund is intended to enable local authorities to invest in improving the quality and range of provision for children and young people with SEND aged 0-25. It is intended for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans for whom the local authority is responsible.
- 1.4 Local authorities are required to consult with parent carers and children and young people with SEND. It is also expected that they will consult schools, Further Education colleges and other institutions which offer special educational provision.

2. Developments since the Specialist Provision Plan was published in March 2018

- 2.1 Following consultation on the council's SEND Strategy between November 2017 and January 2018, the council published its plans for developing specialist provision and for the use of its Special Provision Fund allocation on the Local Offer website, as follows:

School	Category	Planned use of the Special Provision fund	Other investment planned	Additional places
Coppetts Wood Primary School	Resourced provision (ASD)	£67,200		10
Chalgrove Primary School	Resourced provision (ASD)	£560,000		14
Whitefield Secondary Academy	Resourced provision (ASD)	£702,135	£641,865	28
Oakleigh Special School	Special provision (SLD)	£1,680,000		0
Totals		£3,009,335	£641,865	52

- 2.2 The investments at Coppetts Wood, Chalgrove and Whitefield are for additional places for children with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) to meet forecast demand and increase parental choice. The investment in Oakleigh School is intended to support improved facilities in the school, which caters for primary-age children with Severe Learning Difficulties and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties.

- 2.3 The development of the 'Additional Resource Provisions' at Coppetts Wood and Chalgrove Primary Schools has now been completed. The development of the ARP at Whitefield Secondary School is currently taking place and is expected to be completed by August 2019 with the first intake of students from September 2019. The development of the facilities at Oakleigh Special School is still at the planning stage with most of the funding being required for the development of a new hydrotherapy pool.
- 2.4 An additional 45 post-16 places were commissioned in 2018. 29 of these are at Barnet and Southgate College, and 16 at Oakbridge (a separate Specialist Post-16 Institution managed by Oak Lodge Special School). These did not involve any draw-down on the Specialist Provision Fund.
3. **Committee Report on SEND Strategy**
- 3.1 In March 2019, the council's Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee considered a report on 'Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy – update'.
- 3.2 The report included some initial proposals to commission additional specialist places for children and young people as follows:
- Additional Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) specialist provision, whilst plans for the Windmill School progress, including an expansion of existing provision in special schools, where possible, with 12 extra places being available by September 2019 for children with complex needs.
 - An increase in Additional Resource Provision for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils by 10 additional places by September 2019. It was reported that discussions were taking place with Claremont school about the possibility of a KS1 and KS2 ARP for ASC.
 - In September 2018, Kisharon School, an independent Special School, became a Special Free School under the Kisharon Academy Trust, providing 33 special school places. It is planned to expand this provision by an additional 39 places from September 2020 for pupils with ASC and learning difficulties.
 - As part of the development of post-16 pathways, there are 10 supported internships with Mencap planned for September 2019.
 - The council has continued to support proposals for the development of the Windmill Special Free School as a 90-place all-through school for children and young people with ASC needs as part of the Oak Lodge Special Academy Multi-Academy Trust. Discussions on the development of a possible site in Barnet are continuing.
- 3.3 The committee noted that it was proposed to review these proposals as part of a 'Needs Analysis and SEND Sufficiency' exercise, which would lead to the production of an updated Special Provision Plan and proposals for the use of the council's Special Places Fund allocation.
- 3.4 The committee agreed to delegate authority to the Executive Director, Children's Services, following consultation with the Chairman of the committee, to produce a draft Special Places Plan and proposals for use of the remaining Special Places Fund allocation and to consult on the draft plan and allocation proposals and, following consultation, agree the Special Places Plan and use of the Special Places Fund.
- 3.5 The committee report also included an update on progress in implementing the strategic priorities in the council's SEND and Disabilities Strategy and agreed to consult on proposed changes to the strategic priorities. There will be a separate consultation shortly on these proposed changes.

4. Needs Analysis and SEND Sufficiency exercise

4.1 During April and May 2019 the council has carried out a Needs Analysis and SEND Sufficiency exercise. The following approach has been taken:

- We have developed projections of the number of specialist places we will need each year until 2029. By specialist places, we mean specialist places for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans in schools or other education establishments or in training, including special schools and Additional Resource Provisions (in mainstream schools).
- We have assessed the rate of growth in the number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) over the last 3 years (including this one) and assumed that for the next 3 years the growth in the proportion of children and young people aged 0 to 19 with EHCPs will continue at half the average rate of the last 3 years; and that, after that the growth will stop. This is based on an assumption of an initial surge in the number of plans as a result of the SEND reforms introduced in 2014, with growth now slowing down and demand then levelling out, as the cohorts of pupils entering the primary and secondary phases gradually work through the system (those entering in 2014 will move to the next phase in 2021).
- For the 19+ cohort we have assumed a more significant slowing down of growth based on recent figures for new EHCPs for this age group.
- We have assumed that the same relatively high proportion of children and young people with SEN attending mainstream provision will be maintained.
- We have assumed that the distribution of children and young people with SEN across different types of provision (mainstream, special schools, ARPs) will continue in the current ratios and the same for the distribution according to different types of need.
- We have factored in the overall projected growth in the population of children and young people in Barnet, using Greater London Assembly (GLA) data and the same approach we use to project pupil place requirements for mainstream schools.
- In order to offer more choice and greater equity of high quality specialist provision locally, we have included plans to be able to reduce the number of pupils moving into out-borough and independent provision in the Reception Year and Year 7 by 30%, by increasing the local specialist provision on offer in Barnet.

4.2 This analysis is not an exact science but is our best effort to make reasonable projections of need, as a basis for identifying gaps in provision and the nature and location of the extra provision we need to commission in order to meet the projected needs of children and young people with SEND (with EHCPs) and the wishes of their parents/carers.

4.3 If the growth in the number of EHCPs continues at the same rate over the next three years as the average rate over the last three years, rather than at half that rate, as we have assumed, then we would need an additional 46 specialist places by 2024 on top of the projections indicated below. Of these, about 16 would be required in ARPs and 30 in special schools. It will be necessary to monitor actual growth rates carefully, and to revise the projections and plan further expansions, if the growth rate does prove higher than we are assuming in this paper.

4.4 The results of the analysis and our draft proposals for meeting the need for extra places are set out below. For ease of presentation we have divided the types of need into 'Communication' needs and 'Other needs'. 'Other' includes Cognitive, Sensory and SEMH (social, emotional and mental health).

Type of provision	Need	Proposal
Early Years (0-4)	Need up to 6 extra special school places by 2021	To secure these at a Special School alongside existing SEND provision for 0-4 year olds.
Primary ARPs	Need 3 extra places by 2020, rising to 8 in 2021, 11 in 2022, 13 in 2023	Meet through the new ARP developments planned (Chalgrove Primary School in the 2018 plan and a proposed ARP at Claremont Primary in 2019).
Secondary ARPs	Need 5 extra places by 2020, rising to 10 in 2021, 13 in 2022, 15 in 2023, 17 in 2024	Meet through Whitefield ARP (planned capacity up to 28).
Primary Special School – ‘communication’ needs	Need 7 extra places in 2020, rising to 14 places by 2021, 20 in 2022, 24 in 2023 and 27 in 2024.	<p>Discussion with a Primary Special School about remodelling of the site in order to create up to an additional 12 places for communication and other needs in 2020.</p> <p>If the Windmill School is established and opened, it will be able to meet this need in due course.</p> <p>In the meantime, it is proposed to explore other possible sites for the development of an interim facility pending the opening of the Windmill or as a long-term alternative if plans for the Windmill School do not go ahead, and to allocate capital funding for any necessary adaptations.</p>
Secondary Special School – ‘communication’ needs.	Need 7 extra places by 2020, rising to 15 in 2021, 21 in 2022, 25 in 2023, 29 in 2024.	<p>If the Windmill School is established and opened, it will be able to meet this need in due course.</p> <p>In the meantime, it is proposed to explore other possible sites for the development of an interim facility pending the opening of the Windmill or as a long-term alternative if plans for the Windmill School do not go ahead, and to allocate capital funding for any necessary adaptations.</p>

Type of provision	Need	Proposal
Primary Special School - 'other' needs	Need 5 extra places in 2020, rising to 11 extra places by 2021, 15 in 2022, 18 in 2023 and 19 in 2024	<p>Discussion with a Primary Special School about remodelling of the site in order to create up to an additional 12 places for communication and other needs in 2020.</p> <p>Additional places will also be available as a result of the expansion of Kisharon Special Free School.</p> <p>If all the extra demand cannot be met through the extra places at the Primary Special School and Kisharon, it is proposed to use extra places provided at the Windmill School and the interim facility indicated above, for pupils whose needs can be met there.</p>
Secondary Special School – 'others' needs.	Need 6 extra places by 2020, rising to 12 in 2021, 17 in 2022, 21 in 2023, 24 in 2024.	<p>Additional places will be available as a result of the expansion of Kisharon Special Free School.</p> <p>If all the extra demand cannot be met through the extra places at Kisharon, it is proposed to use extra places provided at the Windmill School and the interim facility indicated above, for pupils whose needs can be met there.</p>
FE, apprenticeships and post-19	Need 4 additional 19+ special school places by 2021, 24 19+ and 2 16-19 places in FE or apprenticeships from 2020, with the 16-19 places rising to 6 by 2022; none of these rising further.	Meet the need through a mixture of supported internships and placements in the Kisharon sixth form and Barnet and Southgate College.

5. Consultation on Special Places Plan and Specialist Provision Plan

- 5.1 Following further discussions with affected schools and other stakeholders, the intention is to develop these proposals further and include them in a Special Places Plan Consultation Document, to be published in mid-June with consultation lasting until the end of this term (23 July 2019). The Special Places Plan will then be reviewed, finalised and submitted to the Executive Director, Children's Services, to approve.
- 5.2 In the meantime, the council is submitting a draft Specialist Provision Plan, which sets out draft proposals for allocating the Special Provision Fund made available by the DfE. The plan is in the spreadsheet format required by the DfE, but a summary and explanation is included in the appendix below.
- 5.3 The consultation from mid-June to 23 July 2019 will include consultation on these proposed allocations of the available capital funding.

31 May 2019

2019 draft SEN Provision Plan

School	Category	2018 Planned use of the Special Provision fund	2019 Planned use of the Special Provision fund	Other investment planned (LBB)	Additional places
Coppetts Wood Primary School	Resourced provision (ASD)	£67,200	£69,844	0	10
Chalgrove Primary School	Resourced provision (ASD)	£560,000	£776,855	0	14
Whitefield Secondary Academy	Resourced provision (ASD)	£702,135	£1,280,381	£671,732	28
Oakleigh Special School	Special provision (SLD)	£1,680,000	£1,680,000	0	0
Claremont Primary School	Resourced provision (ASD)	N/A	£100,000	0	10
Early Years and Primary Special School places	Special provision (SLD)	N/A	£945,000	0	18
Special School places pending the opening of the Windmill Special Free School	Special provision (ASD)	N/A	£250,000	£250,000	40-50
Totals		£3,009,335	£5,102,080	£921,732	120-130

Notes:

1. The updated allocation is £5,102,080
2. The 2018 figures were the initial estimates at the time.
3. The work at Coppetts Wood and Chalgrove has been completed, so these are final figures. The total cost figure for Whitefield (£1,952,113) is the updated figure following detail scoping work. The figure will increase once the cost of furniture is added in and will be funded by LBB if all the SEN capital grant has been fully committed.
4. The costings for the new projects are initial estimates.
5. As the Special Provision Fund is capped at £5.1m the remaining cost of the interim provision pending the Windmill will need to be met by the council.