

6E. SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME

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Schools Capital Programme – Specialist Provision Fund

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Schools Forum with an update on the Specialist Provision Fund and the consultation the council is undertaking in relation to its plans to develop additional specialist places for children with special educational needs who have Education, Health and Care plans and its planned use of the Specialist Provision Fund.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 In 2017 the government announced the establishment of a one-off pot of capital investment funding, the Special Provision Fund, for local authorities to use to provide more specialist school places for children and young people with special educational needs with high levels of need.
- 2.2 Barnet's initial allocation was £3million spread over three years from 2018 (£1million each year). Further announcements by the Department for Education in 2018 resulted in an increased allocation to a total of £5.1million.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The council has now reviewed its plans for allocating the Special Provision Fund to different projects considering the increase in the fund from £3million to £5.1million and in the light of a needs analysis and Sufficiency Review, as outlined below.

3. Needs Analysis and Sufficiency Review

- 3.1 Barnet pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans attend mainstream schools, Additional Resource Provisions (specialist units for pupils with special educational needs that are on the site of mainstream schools) or Special Schools. A number attend independent and out-of-Borough schools and this is often because the specialist provision they require is not available in Barnet. We currently have six special schools in Barnet, and 13 Additional Resource Provisions.
- 3.2 As part of the review of our provision, we have undertaken a Needs Analysis to help us to plan for our future provision in Barnet, making sure we have enough and the right type of provision so that we can meet the needs of our children and young people with special educational needs in Barnet.
- 3.3 Our proposals have been informed by looking at the future gap between the current (January 2019) number of places we have in mainstream schools, Additional Resource Provisions and Special Schools and a forecast of the number of children and young people we expect to have in Barnet between 2020 and 2029.
- 3.4 We have looked at the number of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan in different age groups over the last three years. The number of children in each year has been taken from a set of data from the Department for Education (DfE).

- 3.5 The following tables shows the number of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) over the last three years, and the proportion of children and young people in Barnet with an EHCP for the different age groups.

Table 1: Number of Children and Young People with an EHCP

Year	0-4	5-18	19+	Total
2017	67	1882	276	2225
2018	71	1996	370	2437
2019	91	2075	237	2403

Table 2: Rate of SEND (EHCPs) as proportion of Barnet's population

Year	0-4	5-18	19+	Total
2017	0.25%	2.72%	0.85%	1.7%
2018	0.27%	2.83%	1.13%	1.9%
2019	0.34%	2.90%	0.72%	1.8%

- 3.6 We have also looked at the rate of growth in the number of Education, Health and Care Plans over the last three years, and we have assumed that for the next three years, the growth rate will be slower. This is because, after an initial surge when the SEND reforms were introduced in 2014, those pupils who entered the primary and secondary phases of education at that time will gradually work through the system (for example, those starting primary school in 2014 will be going into secondary school, and those in secondary school in 2014 would have left by 2021).
- 3.7 We have applied these assumed growth rates in the number of children with EHCPs to the Greater London Authority's (GLA's) population forecasts¹ for Barnet. These forecasts incorporate growth (or reduction) in population due to migration, births and deaths and incorporate planned housing developments.
- 3.8 For the 19+ cohort of young people with special educational needs, we have assumed a more significant slowing down of growth based on the recent figures for new EHCPs for this age group.
- 3.9 We have then broken down the total number of Education, Health and Care Plans into Special Educational Needs area of need, type of provision, and early years/primary/secondary/19+. The breakdown was calculated assuming that the 2019 distribution of SEND areas of need and the type of provision that we have in Barnet to meet those needs (Special schools, Additional Resource Provisions and mainstream schools) ARP, would remain the same as now.
- 3.10 The following table shows what type of provision children and young people in Barnet who have an Education, Health and Care Plan are attending and how many are attending the provisions.

¹ GLA 2016-based Demographic Projections, London Ward population projections Housing-led model, accessed from: https://data.london.gov.uk/download/projections/0b73a55d-fb0a-4dfc-b23f-2b4c1ab35975/ward_housing_led_2016_base.xlsx

Table 3: Numbers of children and young people by type of provision

Type of provision	0-4	5-18	19+
Early Years	7	1	0
Additional Resource Provision	7	366	2
Mainstream	40	760	10
Special schools and alternative provision including the Pupil Referral Unit	29	709	29
FE and apprenticeships	0	147	169
Other/not recorded	8	92	27
Total	83	1983	210

- 3.11 The following table shows the number of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan according to their main area of special educational need. Children’s special educational needs are generally defined in the four broad areas of need: Cognition and learning; Communication and Interaction; Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) and sensory and/or physical needs (SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 years, paragraphs 5.32 and 6.28).

Table 4: Numbers of children and young people by main type of need

Area of need	0-4	5-18	19+
Cognition and learning	10	326	67
Communication and interaction	65	1166	112
SEMH	2	299	23
Sensory and/or physical needs	10	233	32
Other/not recorded	4	51	3
Total	87	2059	235

4. Recent developments of additional special educational provision in Barnet

- 4.1 In the last year, two new Additional Resource Provisions at Coppetts Wood school and Chalgrove school have opened. These are for children with who have an Education, Health and Care Plan with their main special educational need being Autism.
- 4.2 There is a new Additional Resource Provision for secondary aged young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan for Autism opening at Whitefield school in September 2019.
- 4.3 Kisharon school became a Special Free School in September 2018, expanding their places for young people with Autism and Learning difficulties from 2020.
- 4.4 Investment has been agreed for Oakleigh Special School to improve their facilities (the hydrotherapy pool).
- 4.4 An additional 45 post-16 places were commissioned in 2018, 29 of these at Barnet and Southgate College and 16 at Oakbridge (a separate Specialist Post-16 institution managed by Oak Lodge Special School).

4.5 There are continued discussions on a site for a new Special Free School which will provide 90 places all through for children and young people with Autism (part of the Oak Lodge Special Academy Trust).

5. Number of additional SEN places we need

5.1 Taking account of what our data is telling us, the following tables show the number of additional special educational needs places we need in Barnet over the coming years.

5.2 As an example, in Table 5 below, in 2020 we will need one additional specialist provision place for Communication and Interaction needs for 0 – 4 year olds compared to the provision we currently have for this age group.

5.3 For ease of presentation, we have divided the types of need into “Communication and Interaction needs” and “Other needs” (“Other needs” include Cognition and learning, Sensory and/or physical needs and SEMH – Social, Emotional and Mental Health). This is because we know that our main areas of special educational need in Barnet are in the areas of “Communication and Interaction” needs, including speech, language and communication and Autism.

5.4 We are doing further detailed analysis of what we have and what we need in Barnet for some aspects of the “Other needs” category, particularly SEMH and Hearing Impairment. A lot of this work is around making sure we have a joined-up approach and that we are making best use of our existing resources.

Table 5: Early years (0-4) – Additional places needed in each year compared to 2019

	Communication and interaction needs	Other SEND
2020	1	0
2021	3	2
2022	4	2
2023	4	2
2024	4	2
2029	3	1

Table 6: Age 5-18 – special school places and ARP places – Additional places needed in each year compared to 2019

	Primary		Secondary	
	Communication and interaction needs	Other SEND	Communication and interaction needs	Other SEND
2020	9	6	10	8
2021	19	14	21	16
2022	27	19	29	22
2023	32	23	35	27
2024	36	24	39	30
2029	33	22	38	31

Table 7: Age 5-18 – special school places only – Additional places needed in each year compared to 2019

	Primary		Secondary	
	Communication and interaction needs	Other SEND	Communication and interaction needs	Other SEND
2020	7	5	7	6
2021	14	11	15	12
2022	20	15	21	17
2023	24	18	25	21
2024	27	19	29	24
2029	26	17	29	25

Table 8: Age 5-18 – ARP places only – Additional places needed in each year compared to 2019

	Primary		Secondary	
	Communication and interaction needs	Other SEND	Communication and interaction needs	Other SEND
2020	2	1	3	2
2021	5	3	6	4
2022	7	4	8	5
2023	8	5	9	6
2024	8	5	10	7
2029	8	5	9	6

Table 9: Age 19+ – Additional places needed in each year compared to 2019

	Communication and interaction needs	Other SEND
2020	18	15
2021	17	14
2022	17	13
2023	16	13
2024	16	13
2029	24	19

6. Consultation on proposals for specialist places and use of the Special Provision Plan

- 6.1 The DfE requires local authorities to keep their specialist places plans under regular review and to consult stakeholders on their plans for the development of specialist places and use of the Special Provision fund. The council launched such a consultation on the Local Offer on 18 June. The consultation can be found here:

<https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/barnet-special-educational-places-plan>

This report to the Schools Forum reflects what is in the consultation document.

6.2 The balance of provision

6.2.1 In forecasting the future need we have assumed that, like now, the majority of children and young people with special educational needs will have their needs met in a mainstream school (this is in line with the expectations of the SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 years). We are also assuming that the ratios of children and young people with special educational needs in the different types of provision (Special schools, Additional Resource Provisions and mainstream schools) will stay roughly the same in the future.

6.2.2 What this means is that for the majority of children and young people with special educational needs, including those with an Education, Health and Care Plan, they will have their needs met in mainstream schools. For some children and young people with greater needs, they will have their needs met in an Additional Resource Provision (ARP), and for those with the most complex special educational needs, they will have their needs met in Special schools.

6.2.3 In our consultation, we asked stakeholders:

- To what extent do you agree with our proposal to aim to have the majority of children and young people with special educational needs, including those with ECHPs, in mainstream schools?
- To what extent do you agree with our proposal that for some children and young people with greater needs, they will have their needs met in an Additional Resource Provision (ARP)?
- To what extent do you agree with our proposal that for children with the most complex special educational needs they will have their needs met in Special schools?

6.3 Developing places locally

6.3.1 We know that for children and young people with special educational needs, connections with their local community during the school years and beyond are important to them and their families, and help to prepare young people for adulthood and independent living.

6.3.2 In order to offer more choice in Barnet for families of children and young people who have special educational needs, we have included plans to be able to reduce the number of pupils moving to out of borough and independent schools by having enough high-quality special educational needs places in Barnet.

6.3.3 In our consultation, we asked stakeholders:

- To what extent do you agree with our proposal that we should aim to offer more high-quality specialist places (ARPs and Special school places) locally, i.e. in Barnet, in order to reduce reliance on, and placements in, out-borough and independent schools?

6.4 Proposals for meeting the need for extra specialist places in Barnet

6.4.1 Taking account of the need for additional specialist places set out in the tables in Section 5, we have considered in the table in Appendix 1:

- a) Plans to expand existing provision so that we have more places in Additional Resource Provisions and Special Schools in Barnet, and

- b) The additional specialist places we need to create or secure in order to meet any outstanding need, including extra specialist places we may need in the short-term pending the establishment of the Windmill Special Free School in 2023 and/or in case that provision is delayed beyond 2024.

6.4.2 In our consultation, we asked stakeholders:

- To what extent do you agree with our proposals for meeting the need for extra specialist SEN places in Barnet, as set out in Appendix 1?

6.5 Proposals for allocating the SEN Provision Fund

6.5.1 The table in Appendix 2 sets out the 2018 plan (in column 3) and the revised, 2019, plan (in column 4) for allocating the Special Provision Fund to different projects.

The key points in this plan are:

- The updated allocation is £5,102,080.
- The 2018 figures were the initial estimates at the time.
- The work at Coppetts Wood school and Chalgrove school has been completed, so these are final figures. The total cost figure for the Additional Resource Provision at Whitefield school (£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 Council if all the SEN capital grant has been fully committed.
- The costings for the new projects are initial estimates.
- 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.

6.5.2 In our consultation, we asked stakeholders:

- To what extent do you agree with our proposals for allocating the Special Educational Needs Provision Fund to the projects that we have outlined in Appendix 2?
- If you disagree, do you have any other suggestions how to allocate the fund?

7. Recommendation

7.1 The Schools Forum is invited to comment on the proposed approach to the development of specialist provision and the planned use of the Special Provision Fund.

Appendix 1

Barnet Special Plan: Proposals for meeting the need for additional specialist places

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.

Appendix 2

Special Provision Plan: Proposals for allocating the SEN Provision Fund to projects

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.

