

11. High Needs Commissioned Places

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Schools Forum with an update on commissioned places in specialist provision for children and young people with SEND for 2021/22. This includes provision in Additional Resource Provisions (ARPs) and Special schools.
- 1.2. Decisions about commissioning of additional places are based on the SEND needs analysis and sufficiency review that took place in November 2020, and findings from the three placement panels that have taken place in November 2020 and February and May this year. These panels are attended by special schools, ARPs and managers of the SEN Team and are chaired by the Head of SEN Assessment and Placements.

Introduction

- 1.3. The numbers of children and young people with SEND in Barnet continues to rise and currently there are 2,992 children and young people 0 – 25 years in receipt of an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Autism continues to be the biggest area of need in Barnet and nationally. Most children and young people with SEND in Barnet are school aged, with an increasing number of pre-school children diagnosed with complex needs, including Autism and requiring specialist provision.
- 1.4. There is good partnership working between the special schools, ARPs and the SEN teams leading to robust decision making for individual placements. The majority of children and young people with an EHCP have their needs met in a mainstream school. Where a child with an EHCP can equally have their needs met in specialist provision or mainstream, with adequate support, and parents want a mainstream placement, additional funding for support is given to the mainstream school on a case by case basis.
- 1.5. On the basis of the number of children and young people requiring access to specialist provision, additional places have been commissioned from September 2021 as follows.

Update on Commissioned Places 2021/22

Additional Resource Provision (ARPs)

1. Coppetts Wood will increase from 8 to 10 places (places allocated);
2. Chalgrove will increase from 10 to 12 places (places allocated);
3. Whitefield will increase from 8 to 12 places (not yet full);
4. There is expected to be a new ARP for Cognition and Learning at Broadfields school, which will have 24 places (places allocated) (pending DfE decision).

Special School Places

All of the special schools have increased their places:

- Northway school will increase from 123 to 125;
- Oakleigh school will increase from 114 to 120 places ;
- Oak Lodge school will increase to 205 places;
- Kisharon school will increase from 43 to 50 places;

- Mapledown school will increase by 11 places to 104, with 5 pupils placed in a satellite provision at Copthall school.

1.6. Windmill special school, which will be managed by Oak Lodge's Academy Trust, is on track to open in September 2023. This is provision for autism, KS1 to end of KS4, with 92 places, and a staggered increase, starting with 30 pupils KS1 to KS3 in the first year.

Recommendation - The Schools Forum is asked to note the commissioned high needs places for the 2021/22 school year