

Item: High Needs Commissioned Places		Item No.	7
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Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the School's Forum with an update on commissioned places in specialist provision for children and young people with SEND for 2022/23. This includes the specialist provision in Additional Resourced Provisions (ARPs) and Special schools in Barnet.

Background

Decisions about commissioning of additional places are based on the SEND needs analysis and sufficiency review that took place in November 2021, together with data from the placement panels that have taken place in November 2021 and February 2022. There are three panels a year, run by the SEN Assessments and Placement team and all attended by senior managers in special schools and ARPs. The third panel takes place in May and mainly focuses on post 16 placements and mid-year reviews requesting a change of type of provision.

The numbers of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) has increased from 2,682 in 2019-20 to 2,931 in 2020-21, with a forecast figure of 3,268 in 2021-22 which is a 22% increase over 2 years. This increase is not unique to Barnet, and most Local areas in and outside London have experienced the same level of increase. Autism continues to be the biggest area of need in Barnet and nationally, and there is an increasing number of young children coming through with very complex needs requiring access to specialist provision in special schools.

The majority of children and young people with an EHCP will have their needs met in a mainstream school with appropriate support and reasonable adjustments made to meet the objectives in the EHC Plan. The outcomes for children and young people with an EHCP in Barnet are good, and above the national level.

All of the specialist providers, including ARPs and special schools, work very closely with the local authority to secure enough of the right type of provision. This has led to a number of creative solutions over the last two years with the development of satellite bases on mainstream sites for some of the special schools. There is a Mapledown satellite at Copthall school, and an Oakleigh satellite at Queenswell school. In addition, a new Cognition and Learning ARP at Broadfields primary school opened in September 2021 and a new Cognition and Learning ARP is being planned at Friern Barnet secondary school to open in September 2022.

Commissioning plans

1. We are awaiting confirmation of the closure of Grasvenor Infant Academy by the DfE following the listening period currently taking place. Initial consultation is currently underway on a proposal to expand Northway special school through the establishment of an annex on the Grasvenor site if the closure of Grasvenor goes ahead. Subject to that, we will move to the formal stage of consultation over Northway, beginning with the publication of a statutory notice. Subject to the DfE decision on Grasvenor and the outcome of the consultation on the expansion of Northway, the school will become an all through school, with 44 additional places from September 2022, rising to 72 additional places.
2. The new Windmill free special school is due to open in September 2023 and will provide an additional 90 places over the following five years. The school will be managed and run by Oak Lodge special school's Academy Trust.
3. On the basis of the number of children and young people requiring access to specialist provision, additional places have been commissioned from September 2022 as follows. The tables show the number of commissioned places for the ARPs and special schools in Barnet, and the variance from the number of commissioned places of the previous year, 2021/22.

Table 1 - Place numbers for Additional Resourced Provisions (ARPs) 2022/23 and variance with 2021/22

ARP places	2022/23 commissioned places	Variance from previous year
Broadfields (two ARPs – one for Autism and one for Cognition and Learning)	50	+14
Chalgrove	12	-
Childs Hill	12	-
Claremont	13	+1
Colindale	5	-1
Coppetts Wood	16	+2
Livingstone	6	-
Orion	22	-
Summerside	12	+1
Friern Barnet	10	+10
Hendon	38	-
JCoSS	52	+1
London Academy	1	-1
Whitefield	13	+5
Total	262	+32

Table 2: Place numbers for Special schools 2022/23 and variance from 2021/22

Special school	2022/23 Commissioned places	Variance from previous year
Kisharon	72	+22
Mapledown	105	+1
Northway	169	+44
Oakbridge (Oak Lodge post 16)	22	-
Oakhill	47	+7
Oakleigh	116	-
Oak Lodge (pre-16)	207	+7
Total	738	+81

Recommendation

The School's Forum is asked to note the commissioned high needs places for the 2022/23 school year.