

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL DECISION

**DECISION OF: COUNCILLOR JAN BARBER, EXECUTIVE MEMBER
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES
WITH ADVICE FROM: SHEILA SMITH, DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND
COMMUNITIES
DIRECTORATE: PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES**



DECISION NO: PC67 (2017/18 SCHEME)

**SUBJECT: Department for Education SEND Provision Capital Funding for Pupils with
EHC – Publication of Outline Plan**

KEY DECISION: YES

BACKGROUND:

The Department for Education allocated additional capital funding to support initiatives to develop additional and innovative provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The allocation set aside for North Somerset Council was £780,484 over the period 2018-2020. This funding is not provided to meet all needs in this group which are far more extensive, but is available to undertake projects which increase capacity, develop facilities or improve accessibility for children in this cohort and to particularly facilitate their access to schools considered 'good' or 'outstanding' by OfSTED.

During Term 1 and 2 of the 2017/18 academic year, the Strategy and Policy Development Team completed a comprehensive review of the Specialist and Alternative Provision available in North Somerset, including projections of need over the next 10 years. This involved considerable dialogue with schools, and included discussion of potential opportunities where new forms of provision could be delivered to meet growing need, and to evaluate their suitability for wider roll-out as part of the response to the review.

These opportunities are detailed on the attached outline plan. Once published, this will form the basis of more detailed documents which are required at later stages of the process. These opportunities also support and contribute to the wider range of actions arising from the Specialist and Alternative Provision Review, which include:

- The relocation and expansion of Baytree Special School to a new site by September 2020 to meet the current and future demand for pupils with Complex Physical and Learning needs (funding and planning permissions permitting).
- The endorsement or progression of plans for new provision to meet increased; Complex and/or Complex and Severe Learning Difficulties/Mental Health Support. This could be delivered via a New Schools Network or Free School Presumption route.
- To endorse a Free School bid for the delivery of Alternative Provision support and/or a new special school; or to progress future Alternative Provision delivery options at existing schools.
- To support the provision of foundation-stage education on the Westhaven Special School site.

- To support the creation of a short-stay residential unit/unit for independent training on Special School sites as appropriate/funding permits.
- To oversee the addition of specialist provision in new/existing mainstream schools as funds permit to better meet the assessed needs of SEND pupils and young people attending mainstream provision, and to ensure more pupils can attend mainstream local schools where possible.
- To strengthen the remit and decision-making authority of the Out of School Panel.
- To review top-up funding and measure the effectiveness of its use by schools.
- To develop and implement an Alternative Provision Charter and Protocol to be followed by all schools and partners in North Somerset (Fair Access Protocol).
- To provide clarity around the role and remit of the Tuition Service.
- To refocus the role of the Voyage Learning Campus and secure agreements to reintegrate pupils from the VLC back into mainstream settings as soon as possible and as appropriate.
- To consider the creation of a short-term provision to meet the needs of those pupils unable to attend mainstream school, either full or part-time.
- To develop a Commissioning Plan for Alternative Provision to broaden the range of options available to schools in avoiding exclusions.
- To develop training, support and resources for providers to enable schools to work together to meet the needs of pupils with behavioural needs, trauma and attachment issues.
- Work with all establishments offering or capable of offering post-16 provision across the district to secure access and ensure the most effective outcomes for young people aged 16-25 with SEND.

DECISION:

To adopt the attached outline plan, and to publish it on the Local Offer website (<http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/localoffer>) in order to enable payment of the initial tranche of funding, and to progress further work on the initiatives identified.

REASONS:

- To ensure pupils with SEND in North Somerset benefit from enhanced and increased provision as a result of the DfE funding offer.
- To ensure that new forms of provision are explored in order to meet the growing need identified in the next 5-10 years.
- To support children to receive education within North Somerset wherever possible, in line with the principles outlined in the Education Commissioning Strategy.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

While undertaking the review a range of options and potential developments were suggested by schools which are detailed in the supporting papers. The opportunities detailed in the outline plan were selected because:

- They are considered achievable within the funding and timescales available.
- They build on existing opportunities in terms of sites, schools' expertise and need.

- They will assist in determining solutions to address projected future need across the area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Costs

There will be potential costs incurred in the assessment of suitable locations for developing provision. These are expected to be met by provision made against the High Needs Strategic Planning funding already received from DfE during 2017/18.

Funding

Publication of the initial plan on the council's Local Offer website, will allow access to the first tranche of funding in summer 2018. Further more detailed plans will be required to release further funding in summer 2019 and 2020.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

The Children and Families Act 2014 s42 places a duty on Local Authorities to secure special educational provision for those children and young people who have an Education Health and Care Plan. Furthermore, s33(2) expects councils to ensure that where possible, steps are taken to ensure that wherever possible education can be provided at a mainstream nursery school, mainstream school or mainstream post-16 institution.

CONSULTATION

Considerable dialogue has been undertaken with primary, secondary and special schools as part of the Specialist and Alternative Provision Review. The findings of the report have been shared widely with the school community by the Education Excellence Partnership Board.

Once approved, the individual projects detailed will be subject to further consultation with both representative groups and individual parents, carers and young people. This consultation and engagement is a requirement for further releases of DfE funding.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Individual capital projects will be scoped and costed as part of the next stage of the process. Once underway, projects will be subject to risk management.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No.

This funding may only be used to support the needs of pupils with Education, Health and Care plans. In working with special schools in North Somerset to consider opportunities, we have ensured that a wide range of needs across the SEND spectrum will be supported via these funds.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Once approved and adopted, this plan will be subject to further development, with projects which progress being subject to the council's usual processes around capital developments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Report of the Specialist and Alternative Provision Review (North Somerset Council, December 2017) - https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/northsomerset/fsd/files/review_of_specialist_and_alternative_educational_provision_in_north_somerset_-_final.pdf
- SEND Provision Capital Funding for Pupils with EHC Plans (Department for Education, August 2017) - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-provision-capital-funding-for-pupils-with-ehc-plans>

SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER(S):

Signed: 

Title: Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services

Date: 12/3/18

WITH ADVICE FROM:

Signed: 

Title: Director of People and Communities

Date: 6.3.18

Footnote: Details of changes made and agreed by the decision taker since publication of the proposed (pre-signed) decision notice, if applicable:

Department for Education - SEND Provision Capital Funding for Pupils with EHC Outline Plan for Project Opportunities 2018-2020

This document outlines the projects identified for further development using the High Needs Strategic Planning fund, and delivery using SEND Provision Capital Funding for Pupils with EHC. All projects are subject to the provision of the expected level of funding by the Department for Education between 2018-2020.

Projects will be subject to further detailed planning and costing between March and June 2018.

Project Opportunity	Locations	Costs/Timescale
<p>To oversee the addition of specialist provision in new/existing mainstream schools as funds permit to meet the defined needs of SEND pupils and young people attending mainstream provision.</p> <p>Our recent review and projections indicate that additional support for ASD and SEMH, delivered locally, will be required in the short-to-medium term.</p>	<p>To be determined by negotiation with several North Somerset schools which have attained good or outstanding inspection outcomes, and with advice of architects on changes of use or new accommodation as appropriate.</p> <p>The locations chosen and number of sites will depend on finding suitable, affordable options for delivering provision.</p>	<p>To be determined via further advice of architects.</p>
<p>To support the provision of foundation-stage education on an existing special school site to facilitate greater access to high quality provision across the whole age range.</p> <p>Provision likely to be commissioned from an existing specialist early years provider which can demonstrate good/outstanding inspection outcomes.</p>	<p>Westhaven Special School - ideally re-purposing parts of existing building.</p>	<p>To be determined via further advice of architects.</p>
<p>To support the creation of a short-stay residential unit which could facilitate effective delivery of independence training and support for pathways to adulthood activity on existing Special School sites as appropriate.</p> <p>Ideally the site will provide access to Assistive Technologies and to support EHC planning into the transition stage, including options for further education and independent living or employment.</p>	<p>To be determined by negotiation with North Somerset special schools which have attained good or outstanding inspection outcomes, and with advice of architects on changes of use or new accommodation as appropriate.</p>	<p>To be determined via further advice of architects.</p>

