

Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 20 March 2018

Title of report: Recommendations from the Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) High Needs Strategic Review – Specialist Provision Capital Fund

1. Purpose of report

The report is an addendum to the report entitled “Summary of Findings from the Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) High Needs Strategic Review” and specifically recommends how the Department for Education’s (DfE) £1m Specialist Provision Capital Fund allocation to Kirklees should be used to develop local provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND).

The purpose of this report is to allocate a specific capital grant allocation, acknowledging that it is not intended to, nor would it be able to, address overall need in the area.

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| Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards? | Yes |
| Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?) | Yes |
| The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny? | Yes |
| Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support? | <i>Date 5 March 2018</i> Steve Walker <i>Date 9 March 2018</i> Debbie Hogg (Eamonn Croston) <i>Date 8 March 2018</i> Julie Muscroft |
| Cabinet member portfolio | Cllr Viv Kendrick Cllr Masood Ahmed Cllr David Sheard |

Electoral wards affected: All wards

Ward councillors consulted: Yes (included in the public consultation)

Public or private: Public

2. Summary

All Local Authorities have been required to carry out a high quality collaborative review of their high needs provision for children and young people in their local area with complex Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

3. Information required to take a decision

3.1 Introduction

The overarching aim of the review considers the effectiveness of local provision with a view to ensuring sufficient quality of local provision which is in the right place at the right time and effectively meets the needs of children and young people with SEND. As a consequence this will enable children and young people to access learning in their local area and will reduce the need for children and young people to travel out of area to have their needs met.

The Department for Education have instructed Local Authorities to publish the planned use of Specialist Provision Capital Funding by March 2018 in order to draw down the funding. The Kirklees allocation of £1m will then be allocated in 3 tranches between 2018 and 2021.

Findings from the High Needs Review are being used to determine the most efficient way of using the capital.

3.2 Background

Please reference the Cabinet Report “Summary of Findings from the Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) High Needs Strategic Review” (Appendix A) submitted to Cabinet on 20 February 2018

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s21928/2018%2002%2020%20HNR%20redacted%20version%20of%20report.pdf>

The Summary of Findings report presented data and information on:

- Existing provision for children and young people with SEND in Kirklees
- Funding arrangements for supporting SEND in educational settings
- Overarching High Needs Assessment data including the SEN Support profile
- School premises and buildings

The report also presented outcomes from the non-statutory public consultation, gathering views from children and young people with SEND, their parent/carers, providers and partners across early years, schools and Post 16 settings.

3.3 Conclusions from the High Needs Review

Responses from the non-statutory consultation reflected a number of key issues, particularly in relation to the growing numbers of children and young people with SEND and increasing levels of complexity of need, particularly around social, emotional and mental health needs and complex communication and interaction needs. This is supported by findings from the data.

3.4 Recommendations for specialist provision capital funding

The High Needs Review shows pressures on specific areas of SEMH and Communication and Interaction, specifically ASD. It has also noted an overall increase in the complexity of need of children and young people across all types of SEND. The capital funding available through this allocation is not sufficient to address all the improvements needed. Further work has been

undertaken to ensure the maximum benefit is extracted from this specialist provision capital funding alongside other funding streams and opportunities.

Following the presentation of key findings and recommendations in the High Needs Plan Survey of Property for SEND Provision in Kirklees, the Capital Development Team carried out feasibility studies:

Ravenshall School – to create additional accommodation
Newsome High School – to resolve identified shortcomings
Honley High School – to resolve identified shortcomings

i) RAVENSHALL SCHOOL: Summary of the Feasibility Study Brief

Continued incremental growth has created additional pressures on accommodation. The increase in pupil numbers will be addressed through the High Needs Strategy and Action Plan.

The objective of the proposals is not to increase the overall number of places in school, rather it is to reduce class size so as to enable the school to meet the more complex needs of children identified through the data. It is important to note that the High Needs Strategy and Action Plan will address how some children with less complex needs, who might previously have attended Ravenshall, can access appropriate provision within their local mainstream school.

Proposals

The preferred solution is the construction of an extension that would provide additional classroom space. Consideration should be given to improving storage accommodation for pupils' mobility equipment and alleviating the overcrowding that occurs during lunchtimes in the dining hall.

Notional budget £400k

ii) NEWSOME HIGH SCHOOL: Summary of the Feasibility Study Brief

Newsome High School is a mainstream High School. The school has a total SEND population of about 85 at present which represents about 15% of the NOR. This is slightly higher than the national average. There are well-established dedicated Hearing Impairment and Physical Impairment (PI) Specialist Provisions which are located separately on the ground floor. Both the Hearing and Physical Impairment provisions run with fixed term and transitional places.

Proposals

The preferred option would be to improve teaching spaces and re-develop existing space to create accessible WCs.

Storage across all parts of the provision needs to be carefully considered especially considering the size of equipment and resources in the Physical Impairment facility.

Notional budget £300k

iii) HONLEY HIGH SCHOOL: Summary of the Feasibility Study Brief

Honley High School is a large mainstream High School. The school has a total SEND population of 250 of which 20 are within their Specialist Provision (SP) for Children and Young People with Communication and Interaction Needs (ASD). This represents a SEND cohort of 19% which is slightly higher than the national average.

The Specialist Provision caters for those students with ASD who benefit from the additionality of dedicated staff, space and facilities that enable them to succeed in a mainstream school. At present, the school has dedicated Specialist Provision rooms and students also use a room which is notionally part of the SEND /Inclusion portfolio, causing capacity issues.

Proposals

The preferred solution is to create a designated space that provides the flexibility for small group work, 1:1 support and break out space specifically for Specialist Provision which can ensure a clear focus on meeting the very significant and specific social and communication needs of these students.

Notional budget £300k

4. Implications for the Council

4.1 Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)

The proposals will be part of a wider development programme to ensure that our specialist schools and settings are able to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND locally and in a timely fashion.

4.2 Economic Resilience (ER)

The proposals will afford more flexible accommodation to the identified schools and allow them to further personalise the curriculum offer for their pupils to ensure that they are able to make progress in all areas of the curriculum and transition successfully into adult life.

4.3 Improving Outcomes for Children

The proposals' aim is to improve the space available at each identified school which will facilitate a higher level of personalisation of the curriculum to meet all of the needs of the pupils who attend, leading to improved outcomes.

4.4 Reducing demand of services

The aim of the proposals is to ensure that wherever possible, the majority of our children and young people with SEND can attend a local provision with the appropriate level of specialist support, thereby reducing the need for specialist provision outside of Kirklees, and enabling those pupils to remain within their local community.

4.5 Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

The proposal will help us to increase capacity of appropriate specialist school places within Kirklees, thereby supporting the overall intention of reducing the need for out of Authority placements. It is anticipated that this while this will in time enable us to invest that money in our own provision, it has to be seen in context of being part of a much wider, current strategic review of high needs in the area.

5. Next steps

- To publish the planned use of Specialist Provision Capital Funding to meet the DfE requirement
- To use findings from the data, non-statutory consultations and inspections of school's premises to inform the SEND High Needs Strategic Plan and supporting action plan, to demonstrate how proposals will be implemented.

6 Officer recommendations and reasons

It is important that Kirklees invests this DfE allocation as efficiently as possible in order to derive maximum benefit for our children and young people, and that this initiative is viewed in conjunction with other ongoing Capital projects.

The recommendation is to approve the £1m capital fund allocation as set out in this report.

7 Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

It is important that Kirklees invests this DfE allocation as efficiently as possible in order to derive maximum benefit for our children and young people, and that this initiative is viewed in conjunction with other ongoing capital projects.

8 Contact officers

Mandy Cameron, Head of Service, Education Safeguarding and Inclusion, Learning and Early Support

9 Relevant Papers

App A: Summary of Findings from the Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) High Needs Strategic Review

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s21928/2018%2002%2020%20HNR%20redacted%20version%20of%20report.pdf>