

West Sussex County Council
Special Provision Capital Fund Plan

1. Context for the Plan

Local authorities must ensure there are sufficient good school places for all pupils, including those with SEN and disabilities. The Government has committed £215 million of capital funding to help local authorities create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with SEN and disabilities, in consultation with parents and providers. This capital is not ring-fenced and local authorities can use it as they see fit to improve special provision for children and young people with education, health and care plans. This funding can be invested in mainstream schools and academies, special units, special schools, early years settings and further education colleges, or to make other provision for children and young people aged from 0 to 25.

Local authorities can invest their share of the special provision capital fund in:

- Creating new (additional) places at good or outstanding provision
- Improving facilities or developing new facilities

This can be through:

- Expansion(s) to existing provision including at the same site or at a different site.
- Reconfiguring provision to make available the space for the additional places or facilities.
- Re-purposing areas so that they meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Other capital transactions that result in new (additional) places or facilities' improvements.
- Investing in provision that is located in another local authority where this supports providing good outcomes for children in their area.

The Government requires local authorities to complete and publish a short plan that sets out how they intend to invest their allocation, which is visible to parents, carers and other local groups. The plan for local authorities' SEND capital provision allocations should sit coherently with their wider plan.

Local authorities need to:

- Consult with parents and carers of children with SEN and disabilities and young people with SEN and disabilities.

- Work with education providers to agree how the capital can best be targeted.
- Publish a plan on their local offer page by 14 March 2018 showing how they plan to invest their funding, using a template (attached to this document).

The allocation for West Sussex is £1,085,114 for each of the years 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21, a total of £3,255,342.

2. The West Sussex Strategy

The County Council's West Sussex Plan sets out its corporate priorities and includes a commitment to give children the best start in life. The Plan aims to ensure that children and young people are given every opportunity to achieve their potential. This includes a focus on:

- All children and young people are ready for school and work
- Access to education that meets the needs of our community

The County Council has published the West Sussex Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy 2016-2019 (SEND Strategy). The Strategy sets out a vision that all early years settings, schools and colleges in West Sussex are able to deliver high quality education for children and young people with SEND, maximising money from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

The objectives of the SEND Strategy are:

- To build a model of educational provision and support in West Sussex which enables young people, wherever possible, to live and go to their local early years setting, school or college.
- To ensure that local early years, mainstream and special educational provision is effective, of a high quality and delivers the best educational outcomes for children and young people with SEND (0-25 years).
- To ensure that children with SEND are, wherever possible, welcomed and included within their local mainstream early years setting, school and college.
- To deliver an offer that is sustainable and cost-effective now and into the future and takes due account of predicted demand.

Through a provision review as part of the development of the SEND Strategy, WSCC, like many other local authorities, has identified an increased demand for extra provision to meet two specific areas of SEND. These are Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH). Both of these types of need are showing shortfalls in provision across KS2 and KS3 and predominantly in the north of the County. This shortfall is therefore leading to children's needs not being

met within existing provision and thereby often resulting in independent or non-maintained special school (INMSS) provision being pursued and adding to the existing £18m of revenue costs from the high needs block of the Dedicated Schools Grant that WSCC is seeking to reduce. Large numbers of identified ASC in pre-school (figures in one area alone are currently over 100) also mean that some of these children will be requiring Special Support Centre (SSC) provision as they hit primary school where provision is already at or over capacity.

3. Plans for development

Findings from work so far show that several schools are interested in increasing or further developing their provision and several special schools have indicated a wish to be involved in the solution to this increased demand for ASC & SEMH need. There is however a risk that some schools may refuse expansion plans, or that offers of new special provision are not in high priority areas or for the types of need most required.

A number of areas of development for a programme of works for 2018/19 – 2020/21 have so far been identified:

- Our ambition is to open up to 11 new Special Support Centres (SSCs) at primary and secondary schools in areas of unmet need. Further discussions with all our West Sussex schools will be carried out to determine which schools would be interested in having a SSC on their site and secure formal expressions of interest. Discussions with head teachers and governors will be needed before these proposals are finalised.
- Investigate the expansion potential of schools with existing SSCs. A feasibility study for each site will be required to consider any site constraints, buildings requirements and, where appropriate, the need to change designation e.g. from a cohort of need where there is less demand to ASC or SEMH.

This is currently being taken forward at Maidenbower Junior School where it has been agreed that an existing SSC for Additional Learning Needs should be amended to ASC. There will be some capital alterations required linked to this change.

- Extending or adapting provision at existing special schools, where this would increase the supply of places and/or enable greater flexibility to maintain local placements.

This is currently being taken forward at Woodlands Meed Special School where the provision of a permanent additional hygiene room at

one of the two sites will enable physically disabled students to access all the school facilities.

- Investigate other options for broadening the range of flexible provision.

Areas of potential development will be further developed into fully costed proposals and will be presented to the SEND Strategy Programme Board for consideration and decision, in addition to the County Council's usual capital processes.

In addition to the above, the County Council has decided to allocate £2.5m over the next five years to a Schools Access Initiative which will make funding available for small adaptations and improvements to West Sussex maintained mainstream schools to meet the needs of individual children. The adaptations and improvements will improve the educational and social outcomes for children and their families and reduce the requirement for more costly provision, in line with the SEND strategy.

4. Consultation on the Plan

Consultation on the draft plan has taken place through meetings with schools, parents & partners, and a public consultation process that has been publicised and managed through our Local Offer.

Our draft plan was posted on the Local Offer on 22 January 2018 and comments & views about it were requested by 22 February (later extended to 2 March). The consultation was further publicised through a letter to all West Sussex head teachers.

29 responses were received from schools, parents, governors, West Sussex Parent Carer Forum and others. These have been analysed and their views incorporated into this plan and more detailed information about projects contained in the attached document. In general, responses were supportive of the proposals contained in the draft plan e.g. new SSCs, expanding existing SSCs in line with need and extending or adapting provision at existing special schools.

5. Governance

The West Sussex Special Provision Capital Fund Plan will be monitored and reviewed through the SEND Strategy Programme Board.