

Newcastle SEND Strategy 2019-22 Consultation: Closing 28 November 2019

1) SEND Key Priorities:

In July 2019, stakeholders were provided with the current profile of pupils by age and primary need in Newcastle schools along with five key questions to understand what they see as the main priorities for future SEND provision within mainstream and specialist schools and settings.

The main themes emerging from the responses received:

- There are not enough places in the secondary phase to meet the needs of children coming through the system.
- Need for more places and/or support for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) AND for children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) issues.
- Robust training, timely support and sharing of specialist knowledge as a priority (both for staff and parents / carers).
- Earlier identification and support for pupils would improve their ability to access learning and achieve their potential, improve school environment for all and potentially reduce the escalation of needs and reduce exclusions / absences.

Some key issues identified:

- Waiting lists for the Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) assessment and diagnosis are too long.
- Conflicting views as to whether Additionally Resourced Provision /Centres (ARP/C) should be expanded or whether this provision should be reviewed as a whole.
- Mainstream schools require additional support, training and appropriate resourcing to facilitate inclusion of children with more complex needs.

Recommended Priorities

The SEND Executive Board agreed the following priorities to ensure that for all children and young people (0-25) with SEND:

- We can meet the demand for appropriate (secondary) places, including consideration of capital investment where appropriate.
- We develop effective channels to deliver early intervention with specialist support, as part of the city's agreed graduated response to support children and young people with special educational needs.
- We develop expertise in schools, settings and support services which will enable all settings to meet the needs of children and young people with ASD and SEMH, including consideration of capital investment where appropriate.
 - In 2019/20 the local area focuses on the primary need of ASD.
 - In 2020/21, the focus will be on SEMH.
 - In 2021/22, the focus will be on sensory and physical, communication and interaction (other than ASD), cognition and learning
- We address the gap in mental health support for young people aged 16+ which has arisen from separate discussions with post-16 providers.

These priorities have been used to draft the attached **SEND Strategy Overview Plan for 2019-22** which we are now seeking your views on. The draft plan is appended and your comments and views are invited (see **Appendix 1**).

2) SEND Capital Plan

The Government has committed a total of £365 million of capital funding to assist local authorities in achieving their statutory responsibilities for supporting children with SEND, including making sure there are sufficient good school places for them in settings appropriate to their needs.

Local authorities can invest their share of this 'Special Provision Capital Funding' in:

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

Before any funding is released by DfE, local authorities must publish a plan for how their allocation will be spent and the consultation they have carried out relating to their plans.

[DfE guidance document on the 'Special Provision Capital Fund' - 2019 update.](#)

Newcastle's total three-year allocation (2018-21) of SEND capital funding is currently **£1,601,324**. It is not currently known whether there will be additional future allocations of SEND Capital.

As part of Newcastle's new strategic plan, we need to agree how to use our capital allocation to target the areas of SEND provision where capital investment over the next two-three years would have most impact.

A plan for the use of the initial allocation of the SEND capital funds in Newcastle was consulted on and published by the City Council in May 2018. This original plan was focussed on investment in mainstream rather than in specialist provision. Following changes in leadership personnel within the Council, it was recognised that this plan was no longer fit for purpose in the light of available data around primary needs of those children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan currently in the city. The initial proposals were put in hold in April 2019 to enable a deeper and broader consultation to take place regarding SEND priorities and capital fund spending.

Two of the SEND key priorities agreed by the SEND Executive Board include explicit capital investment requirements. Based on these recommendations, the two main areas now proposed for focusing SEND Capital Fund investment are:

- Ensuring sufficiency of places for the growing secondary cohort of pupils with SEND
- Use of the remaining capital funding to facilitate meeting the needs of children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH). This may also include some additional places.

For greater details on specific proposals, see the proposed SEND Capital Fund Plan which is appended (see **Appendix 2**).

3) Consultation on the SEND Strategy Overview Plan and Capital Fund Plan for 2019-2022

We are now inviting feedback on both the Overview Plan and Capital Plan from key stakeholders who have an interest in SEND provision in Newcastle. Please review the information provided in this document and the appendices and let us have your thoughts on the proposals outlined.

If you have any questions or need this information in an alternative format, such as large print, please contact Ann Banks: ann.banks@newcastle.gov.uk.

Thanks for giving us your views!

The closing date for receiving your views is 28 November 2019.

Appendix 1: Newcastle Local Area SEND Strategy 2019-2022

Overview Plan

When	What	Corresponding milestones
June – July 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NCC graduated response model agreed ✓ 2. Agree and publish SPoC offer Phase 1 (effective from Sept '19) ✓ 3. Agree overview plan 2019-2022 – outline produced for consultation with stakeholder in September 2019 and Board approval in October 2019 4. Stakeholder consultation on SEND priorities, including additional place needs and capital investment ✓ 5. Agree phasing of ARP reviews over Years 1-3 ✓ 6. Agree ToR, including operational matters, for ARP Panel ✓ 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stakeholder groups consulted; signed off by Exec Board ✓ 2. Offer and access doc shared with providers ✓ 3. Stakeholder groups consulted ✓; signed off by Exec Board → October 2019 4. Consultation feedback and recommendations agreed by Exec Board and summary shared with stakeholders ✓ 5. Place data analysed for forecasting; stakeholder groups consulted; phasing written in overview plan ✓ 6. Stakeholder groups consulted; documentation produced; signed off by Exec Board; Panel recruited and meetings scheduled ✓

When	What	Corresponding milestones
<p>Year 1: Sept '19 – July '20</p>	<p>Local Area focus = Autism age 0-25</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint autism specialist with expertise in both health and education to provide additional capacity 2. Amalgamate all the work that has been carried out on autism into a coherent picture of provision, needs and quality 3. Complete the autism projections of places 4. Complete provision mapping exercise with schools, settings, health and social care partners 5. Research good practice 6. Understand legal status of ARCs /ARPs 7. Audit the quality of current provision (ARCs/ ARPs), identify and share good practice 8. Agree Commissioning arrangements for ARCs and ARPs 9. Understand the financial implications / limitations 10. CPD programme developed for implementation April 2020 11. Consultation plan developed 12. Develop a vision for ASD and options paper for consultation 13. Consultation period 14. Identify preferred option and implementation plan <p>SEND Capital Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Complete review of additional place needs and where capital investment needed 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Via Bloom / Specialist to commence in post end October 2019 2. End November 2019, Autism Specialist 3. End November 2019 4. End November 2019, Autism Specialist 5. End November 2019, Autism Specialist 6. End October 2019 7. End November 2019, Specialist staff 8. End November 2019 9. End November 2019 10. End December 2019, Specialist staff 11. End December 2019 12. Agreed by SEND Exec Board December 2019 13. By 14 February 2020 (Half Term) 14. Agreed by SEND Executive Board April 2020 15. Consult on revised SEND Capital plan and publish update by December 2019 including specific allocations where known and notional allocations linked to ASD review

When	What	Corresponding milestones
<p>Year 2: Sept '20 – July '21</p>	<p>Local Area focus = SEMH Age 0-25</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the SEMH projections of places 2. Understand the financial implications / limitations 3. If required, appoint SEMH specialist with expertise in both health and education to provide additional capacity 4. Amalgamate all the work that has been carried out on SEMH and present a coherent picture provision needs and quality 5. Complete provision mapping exercise with schools, settings, health and social care partners 6. Research good practice 7. Audit the quality of current provision (ARCs/ ARPs), identify and share good practice 8. Agree Commissioning arrangements for ARCs and ARPs 9. CPD programme developed for implementation April 2021 10. Consultation plan developed 11. Develop a vision for SEMH and options paper for consultation 12. Consultation period 13. Identify preferred option and implementation plan 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refresh data, end October 2020 2. Refresh data, end October 2020 3. Via Bloom / Specialist to commence in post September 2020 4. End October 2020, SEMH Specialist 5. End October 2020, SEMH Specialist 6. End October 2020, SEMH Specialist 7. End October 2020, Specialist staff 8. End October 2020 9. End November 2020, Specialist staff 10. End November 2020 11. Agreed by the SEND Exec Board, December 2020 12. By 14 February 2021 (Half Term) 13. Agreed by SEND Executive Board February 2021
<p>Year 3 Sept '21 – July '22</p>	<p>Focus on the following areas of SEN Sensory and physical, communication and interaction (other than ASD), cognition and learning</p>	

Appendix 2: Newcastle Local Area SEND Draft Capital Plan proposals 2019-22

1) Sufficiency of places for growing secondary age cohorts of pupils with SEND

In line with overall demographic changes in the city's pupil population, larger cohorts of pupils with SEND who require specialist places are now progressing from primary to secondary age.

Short-term pupil forecasts for the next five years based on existing primary-age pupils in Newcastle special schools demonstrate that there are insufficient places in existing provision for secondary age pupils.

In particular:

- In Sir Charles Parsons, the pupil population has grown by 25% (40 pupils) in the last four years and is now at maximum capacity with 188 pupils on roll
- In Thomas Bewick, the pupil population has grown by 70% (89 pupils) in the last six years and by 33% (54 pupils) in the last four years. There was a substantial expansion of the school in September 2015 to create a new secondary building with 110 additional places. Although the overall pupil numbers are within the existing overall capacity of the school, the secondary building is currently being used to accommodate some of the older primary age children due to the significant increase in pupil numbers

In addition, independent capacity assessments have been commissioned. The assessments will review the current schools' accommodation taking account of relevant DfE guidance on relevant space standards as well as curriculum modelling.

a) Initial analysis and completion of the capacity assessment for Sir Charles Parsons shows that:

- The school has managed and accommodated significant growth in pupil numbers since the new school building was constructed and opened
- Larger cohorts progressing from Hadrian will lead to insufficient capacity in Sir Charles Parsons from September 2020
- Lack of other suitable provision means that increasing numbers of post-16 pupils have remained at the school, including staying into year 14 rather than progressing elsewhere. However, positive developments with Walker Riverside Academy mean that some of this cohort are now able to progress into this setting.

To meet the forecast additional need for places over the next five years and space to better develop the life-skills and preparing for adulthood curriculum, it is proposed to establish a new two-classroom building on the school site but separate from the main school building. Estimated cost of this proposal is £750,000

SEND Capital Plan Proposal: Invest £750,000 in new classrooms at Sir Charles Parsons

The result of not investing in these classrooms would be that around 20 places would have to be commissioned in out-of-authority specialist provision, which would have a very significant financial impact on the High Needs budget for the city as well as preventing children from progressing through school with their existing cohort, displacing them from Newcastle schools and the likelihood of additional home to school transport costs. This would not be a one-off cost, as it would be recurrent throughout these pupils secondary and possibly post-16 education.

b) Similar analysis and capacity assessment work is being undertaken in other special schools but has not yet concluded. A more sophisticated SEND pupil forecasting model is also being developed that will help to identify future place requirements based on primary needs.

2) Local Area focus 2019/20: Autism age 0-25

The **SEND Strategy Overview plan** includes details of the proposed review of existing provision, services and support for children and young people with ASD in mainstream and specialist settings.

Alongside this work, we will complete the capacity review in Thomas Bewick and forecasting of future place needs for pupils with ASD.

Following these, detailed proposals will be developed and costed for additional places needed or other capital investment required to implement the changes needed. It is quite possible that this will require more funding than is currently available through SEND Capital.

SEND Capital Proposal: Allocate all £870,000 remaining SEND Capital allocation up to March 2021 for ASD additional places and investment needed following this review (if any not required would be reviewed and included in 2020/21 focus below)

3) Local Area focus 2020/21: SEMH age 0-25

The **SEND Strategy Overview plan** includes details of the proposed review of existing provision, services and support for children and young people with SEMH in mainstream and specialist settings.

It is not currently known whether the outcomes of this review will include the need for additional places or capital investment. If that is the case, then detailed proposals will need to be costed and developed. If no further SEND Capital allocations are made by DfE, then other sources of capital funding would need to be identified.

SEND Capital Proposal: Allocate any unspent SEND Capital after the above priorities to fund investment required in relation to SEMH and/or identify other potential funding opportunities