

SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA ITEM

For Action For Information

Brief Description of Item (including the purpose / reason for presenting this for consideration by the Forum)

This is a progress report on the SEND and SEHM reviews. This report also responds to the information requested at the last meeting, as recorded in the minutes, including mapping (diagrams) of the current SEMH continuum of provision, and the current structure of alternative provisions, and of what the Authority is working to establish.

Background / Context & Details of the Item for Consideration

- **Expansion of Specialist places**

It is projected that the demand for SEND provision will continue to grow across all sectors in the Bradford District. The Schools Forum agreed in January 2019 to commission an additional 354 places as presented as part of the draft outline plan.

The initial consultation phase, to gather and share information, closed on 11 April 2019. Discussions have taken place with a number of special schools and mainstream primary and secondary schools to explore the options for creating the agreed additional 354 places. The proposed 354 places will consist of:

Special School places – additional 175
 DSP places - additional 44
 New Resourced Provision places – additional 135

The proposals that are linked to Local Authority maintained schools are subject to formal statutory prescribed alteration processes. The proposals linked to academies are subject to consultation and approval from the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC).

The Local Authority is working closely with all the schools and academies involved to ensure that the formal consultation processes run in parallel. The Authority intends to publish statutory notices on 23 May, which will fully detail all the proposals linked to Local Authority maintained schools.

The admission arrangements into the new Resourced Provisions and the existing expanded provisions will be through the single EHCP integrated panel, which meets on a weekly basis.

Recruitment to the teaching posts within the new Resourced Provisions began in week commencing 13 May. Subject to the formal consultation processes, and the approval (under delegated powers) of the Strategic Director, Children's Services, the Resourced Provisions and new/expanded provisions will be operational from September 2019.

- **High Needs Capital Funding**

Over the last few years the Local Authority has received minimal funding to support SEND capital costs. The previous expansion of 360 additional specialist places across the District of for children and young people with SEND was delivered by using monies allocated from Basic Need allocations.

The building works required to deliver this latest phase of schemes (the additional 354 places) will be funded from a combination of the remaining Basic Need allocation and SEND capital monies received, including the latest allocation of capital monies announced in December 2018 (£306K).

- **Primary Behaviour Centres**

There are 4 Primary Behaviour Centres, located within primary schools. Bradford currently commissions up to 45 places in these Centres to support primary-aged children who are excluded from their mainstream schools or who are at risk of permanent exclusion. These places are funded from the High Needs Block (with the cost of the top-up element now being met by the commissioning schools in the case of placements that are not the result of permanent exclusion).

The Local Authority is currently undertaking a review of these Centres and is assessing the future need for this type of provision. Discussions are underway with the Headteachers of the Centres to look at the potential future options for delivery of primary-phase SEMH provision.

- **Ellar Carr PRU**

The Local Authority can confirm that the original plan to re-designate Ellar Carr PRU to become a new special school will not go ahead. This is because the only option to progress a re-designation would be via the Special Free School route as, under the Regulations, this would be considered a new school. Due to the lengthy timescales involved and the need to identify an appropriate sponsor, the Authority is no-longer pursuing this option. However, as part of the overall SEND sufficiency strategy, a number of options are currently being considered to ensure we have sufficient provision for children with SEND across the District. Consideration is being given to a range of options, which are still at an early developmental stage. Therefore, the current position for Ellar Carr is for it to continue for the time-being as a PRU.

- **SEMH Free School**

Following the unsuccessful appointment of a sponsor to run the 72 Place SEMH Free School, the Local Authority has provided an options appraisal to DfE colleagues for consideration. This outlines a number of potential options for next steps.

There is no further update available at this time; however, there is still very much a longer-term need for this specialist provision for our children and young people.

- **Alternative Provision – Secondary**

The Local Authority commissions 50 places for permanent excluded pupils from Bradford AP Academy – Central.

The Local Authority will also commission up to 80 places on behalf of schools, for dual registered pupils, at District PRU. These places will be funded from the HNB at a cost of £10k per place until September 2020. The commissioning school will be responsible for the cost of the top up element of funding above the £10k.

During the transition period, May 2019 to Sept 2020, District PRU and the BACs will work together to consider the options, and look at the needs of pupils, to create the provision that best meets pupils' needs. By September 2020, the commissioning schools will be required to pay the full cost of each place, this includes the £10k place element as well as the top up element.

The Local Authority and Exceed MAT continue to work closely. However, following their due diligence process, Exceed have withdrawn as the identified academy sponsor of District PRU. District PRU has an Academy Order and the Regional Schools Commissioner and her team are continuing to work to identifying an appropriate sponsor.

Currently the Local Authority, through the HNB, funds a number of places in independent Ofsted registered providers on behalf for schools. There will be no funded provision for new placements from September 2019; the Authority will only continue to fund, for the 2019/20 academic year, Yr10 students moving into Yr11 at September 2019 who have been removed from a school's roll.

- **Further information/clarification**

The School Forum requested clarification on a number of definitions, seeking to improve their understanding of SEMH provision and Pupil Referral Units.

A diagram showing more clearly the map of provision was also requested. This is attached at Appendix 1.

Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)

Is the replacement term for SEBD (Social, Emotional and Behavioral Difficulties) as outlined in the 2015 SEN Code of Practice and subsequent government publications.

Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs are a type of special educational need in which children/young people have severe difficulties in managing their emotions and behaviour. This means that they have trouble building and maintaining relationships with peers and adults; they can also struggle to engage with learning and to cope in mainstream education. Children with SEMH will often feel anxious, scared and misunderstood. Typical characteristics of children with SEMH can include:

- Disruptive, antisocial and uncooperative behaviour
- Frustration, anger and verbal and physical threats / aggression
- Withdrawn and depressed attitudes
- Anxiety and self-harm

This is why a pupil with these needs is often described as having 'Behaviour' needs.

Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)

Are for children and young people who require 6th day provision following a permanent exclusion for their school. The legal definition is: local authorities are responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for permanently excluded pupils and for other pupils who, because of illness or other reasons would not receive suitable education without such provision. This applies to all children of compulsory school age resident in the local authority area, whether or not they are on the roll of a school, and whatever type of school they attend. Full-time education for excluded pupils must begin no later than the sixth day of the exclusion.

Any school that is established and maintained by a local authority to enable it to discharge the above duty is known as a Pupil Referral Unit.

There is no requirement on local authorities to have or to establish a Pupil Referral Unit, and they may discharge their duties by other means. However, only a local authority can establish a Pupil Referral Unit; although they can only do so after exploring the possibility of opening an AP Academy. Others can establish AP Academies or AP Free Schools.

Alternative Provision

The definition of Alternative Provision is as follows: education arranged by local authorities for pupils who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, would not otherwise receive suitable education. Education arranged by schools for pupils on a fixed period exclusion; and pupils being directed by schools to off-site provision to improve their behaviour.

Appendix 1 provides a diagrammatical representation of Bradford's current SEND and PRU Provision

Those children and young people who have EHCPs and who are currently accessing a place in one of the PRUs will have their EHCPs reviewed, via an interim review or the annual review process. and will be moved into appropriate provision to meet their needs. This process will take place once the additional specialist places planned to be operational from September 2019 have been agreed via the necessary approval process.

Implications for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (if any)

The report sets out the implications for the DSG.

Recommendations

The Schools Forum is asked to consider and to note the information provided in this report.

List of Supporting Appendices / Papers (where applicable)

Appendix 1 - SEND Provision Map (to be added)

Contact Officer (name, telephone number and email address)

Marium Haque – Deputy Director Education & Learning
01274 439255
Marium.haque@bradford.gov.uk