

## 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 an update report on SEND and SEHM provision, which includes response to the information requested at the last meeting, as recorded in the minutes.

**Date (s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum**

Updates on development of SEND and AP provision are considered at each Schools Forum meeting.

**Background / Context**

The minutes of the meeting 11 March 2020 record, on the SEND places creation analysis,

“The Forum requested, for the next meeting, that the creation of places summary is re-presented, including information on the number of places that are occupied as well as the number of consultations that have taken place for each new provision.”

The minutes of the meeting 11 March 2020 record, on Alternative Provision,

“The Strategic Manager, Admissions and Exclusions presented feedback from the working group, which met on 9 February and which is scheduled to meet again on 17 March. It was reported that the working group has formed some initial resolutions and has identified points for investigation that require more discussion before being considered by the Schools Forum. One of these is that the Schools Forum should be asked to vote for funding from the Schools Block to be identified in order to provide non-statutory behaviour support.

The group’s discussions focus on the respective roles of schools (from their delegated budgets), the Authority, and the DSG in the financing and management of non-statutory AP, and on how and whether the DSG and the Authority can facilitate non-statutory AP. The position of the primary behaviour centres, and the implications for the cessation of the DSG’s funding of these (already agreed for September 2020) is contained within these discussions. How non-statutory AP support continues to develop in the secondary phase is also an important part of these discussions. It is expected that a further update from the working group will be presented to the Forum at the next meeting.

Regarding District PRU, the Deputy Director, Education and Learning, reported that there hasn’t been significant uptake of places from schools. This is an important consideration as the DSG’s funding of this PRU is to cease at September, when the PRU’s offer will be fully traded. An academies member asked whether District PRU will be available from September. The Deputy Director responded that a decision on District PRU is needed. In response to a question on when a decision will be taken and can be reported, the Deputy Director stated that this should be available for the next Forum meeting.

Members engaged in discussion about the development of the District’s AP strategy and provision. Members expressed concern about the current oversubscription of PRU provision and whether we are developing sufficient capacity. The Deputy Director responded that work is current on the development of the AP strategy and further capacity for p-x provision. She reminded Members of her previous message, that we are in a period of transition and that this transition will feel ‘uncomfortable’ as we are going through it. The Authority expects to review the number of PRU places that we are commissioning and for this to come into High Needs Block discussions going forward. Acknowledging this, Members suggested that what is missing in respective of the development of AP provision, compared with SEND provision, is a written strategic plan. Members requested that such a plan be available for consideration at the next Forum meeting.”

**Details of the Item for Consideration**

An update on AP provision will be provided verbally to the meeting.

An updated analysis of SEND places creation is presented at Appendix 1. Points to note, when reviewing Appendix 1 in relation to SEND places creation:

- Appendix 1 illustrates the number of additional places that have been created and the further places that are planned to be delivered.
- The occupancy rates are taken from children on roll at 30/06/2020. This document does not include the admissions planned for September.

**Details of the Item for Consideration**

- The consultation numbers are up to and including 26/06/2020.
- There are a number of provisions that are anticipated to be full by the end of September, due to on-going consultations that are in the process of being agreed.
- The SEND Assessment Team have a plan in place to fill the places within the next term, with on-going consultations.
- Interim provisions have been adopted in some schools due to construction delays as a result of Covid-19.
- The statutory consultation process needed for establishing new provision or expanding existing provision was due to commence 23/03/2020. Due to the lockdown and schools closing, this has been unable to take place. We anticipate starting the consultation process in September 2020.
- 2 new provisions are due to come on line in September, one LA led and one School Led provision – leading to a further 28 additional places.
- Further schemes are planned and awaiting agreement following the statutory consultation process.

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

These matters have implications for the Schools Block and for the High Needs Block.

**Recommendations**

**The Schools Forum is asked to consider and to note the information provided.**

**List of Supporting Appendices / Papers (where applicable)**

Appendix 1 – SEND Places Creation Analysis

**Contact Officer (name, telephone number and email address)**

Marium Haque, Deputy Director Education & Learning  
01274 431078  
[marium.haque@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:marium.haque@bradford.gov.uk)