

## SEND Places Sufficiency Statement November 2020

### Introduction

1. Bradford Metropolitan District Council (the Local Authority) has a statutory duty under The Education Act 1996 Section 14(1) to ensure a sufficient number of school places for all children and young people who are resident within Bradford. The Authority has specific duties to ensure that there is sufficient specialist provision available for children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), where their EHCPs determine that their needs should be met in specialist provision.
2. This statement sets out the analysis and processes, which will enable the Local Authority to plan and to ensure the sufficiency of specialist places over the next three years. The report highlights the projected scale of growth in the number specialist places required to meet projected increase in demand. It considers the number of places by type of provision that is projected to be required, if the current distribution of specialist places - between enhanced provisions (Resourced Provisions), local maintained special schools and special school academies, and mainstream maintained schools and academies - is projected into the future in line with the projected growth in demand for specialist places.

### Background

3. Bradford District has experienced a significant increase in demand for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision. It is projected that demand will continue to grow across all sectors.

The total number of EHCPs across the Bradford District is currently recorded as 4,619. This is increased from 3,673 recorded at January 2019 and 3,786 recorded this time last year.

#### **Nationally at January 2020 (taken from DfE Statistics releases)**

- 3.3% of all pupils in schools in England were recorded as having an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan - increased from 3.1% recorded at January 2019.
- A further 12.1% of all pupils were recorded at SEND support – increased from 11.9% at January 2019.
- The most common type of primary need recorded for pupils with an EHC plan is Autistic Spectrum Disorders and for pupils with SEND support is Speech, Communication and Language Needs.
- SEND is more prevalent in boys than girls, with boys representing 73.1% of all pupils with an EHC plan and 64.6% of pupils with SEND support.

#### **In Bradford at January 2020 (taken from DfE Statistics releases)**

- 3.0% of all pupils in schools in Bradford were recorded as having an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan – increased from 2.8% recorded at January 2019
  - A further 13.2% of all pupils were recorded at SEND Support - decreased slightly from 13.8 % at January 2019.
  - The most common type of primary need for pupils with an EHC plan is autistic spectrum disorders, which is the same as the national picture. However, the most common type of primary need for pupils with SEND Support is Mild Learning Difficulties, closely followed by Speech, Communication and Language Need.
  - As with national data, SEND is more prevalent in the Bradford District in boys than girls.
4. Over the last two years the Local Authority has created more than 700 additional specialist places across the District in response to the continued growth in the numbers of children and young people requiring specialist provision places.

## Current Position

5. Of the total number of children and young people with EHCPs currently recorded in Bradford (4,619):
- 1,867 (40%) are accessing specialist provisions within Bradford. Of this number, 31% are in special schools / special school academies and 9% are in resourced provisions.
  - 323 (7%) are accessing specialist provision 'out of authority'. Of this number 94 (2%) are accessing specialist provision in independent settings and in non-maintained special schools.
  - The balance of 2,429 (53%) are educated in other provisions, including (mostly) within non-specialist provisions in mainstream schools and academies.
6. The table below summarises the current distribution of Bradford's specialist places. The numbers are FTE.

| Provision type                            | Primary    | All Through | Secondary    | Total        |
|---|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Special School & Special School Academies | 524        | 114         | 860          | <b>1,498</b> |
| Resourced Provision School Led            | 176        | 0           | 167          | <b>343</b>   |
| Resourced Provision Local Authority Led   | 126        | 0           | 68           | <b>194</b>   |
| Early Years Enhanced Specialist Provision | 78         | 0           | 0            | <b>78</b>    |
| <b>Total Places</b>                       | <b>904</b> | <b>114</b>  | <b>1,095</b> | <b>2,113</b> |

At January 2020, 1.28% of Bradford's pupil population was recorded in special schools and special school academies. This compares with 1.19% at January 2019. The national average was 1.46% at January 2020 and 1.38% at January 2019. The Yorkshire & Humberside average was 1.25% at January 2020 and 1.17% at January 2019. If Bradford's special school population was at the national average of 1.46%, we would have recorded a further 180 pupils in special schools. However, if 1,498 pupils had been recorded in our special schools at January 2020 (100% of our now available places) our percentage would have been 1.48%. It is not possible to easily benchmark the proportion of population within resourced provisions.

7. The table below summarises the current occupancy of these 2,113 places (November 2020)

| Provision type                            | Number of available places | Number of occupied places | % of occupied Places |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Special School & Special School Academies | 1,498                      | 1,450                     | 97%                  |
| Resourced Provision School Led            | 343                        | 234                       | 68%                  |
| Resourced Provision Local Authority Led   | 194                        | 121                       | 62%                  |
| Early Years Enhanced Specialist Provision | 78                         | 62                        | 79%                  |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>2,113</b>               | <b>1,867</b>              | <b>88%</b>           |

- All but two of the District's eight special schools / special school academies are fully occupied. The remaining two are expected to be at full capacity by the end of the spring term 2021.
- Established (prior to recent capacity expansion) Resourced Provision places are currently between 75% and 100% occupied.
- Occupancy in some of the newly established Resourced Provisions is currently low. However, this reflects the gradual managed approach to growth that is taken over the initial opening period. Half of the new provisions only opened fully at September 2020. Some on-going building works have been delayed due to COVID-19. This has reduced the capacity that is current available in three of the resourced provisions.

### **Forecast**

8. Our modelling clearly indicates that additional SEND specialist places are required to be developed over the next three years in response to continued growth in the numbers of EHCPs and to wider demographic increase in the school population.

Based on the Authority's most recent cohort tracking work, which uses the January 2019 Census and 2019 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), we forecast that between 2% to 3% of the SEND Support cohort in national curriculum years 1 to 6 will receive an EHCP each year, with approximately an additional 32 primary-aged children requiring a place in a specialist provision.

Similar cohort tracking, looking at the national curriculum year 7 cohort moving through to year 11, indicates that the conversion rate of students in the SEND Support cohort to EHCPs is lower, at between 1% to 2% per year, but with approximately an additional 20 secondary aged students requiring a place in a specialist provision.

We forecast that once a pupil has moved into the EHCP cohort they will remain in that cohort unless they move out of the District. By analysing the flow of children and young people into each stream of SEND provision in this way, we forecast that an additional 52 children and young people per year will need access to specialist provision. This is before we apply school population growth.

Finally, applying average rates of overall forecasted changes in the pupil population, our current projections indicate that we will require an additional 120 specialist places in the 2021/22 academic year, with a particular pressure on places for SEMH provision, across both primary and secondary phases, and for ASD for the secondary phase. The draft October 2020 Census numbers indicate that the total pupil population is continuing to reduce in the primary phase (-562; -1.0% of total primary population vs. October 2019) and is continuing to increase in the secondary phase (+768; +2.3% of total secondary population vs. October 2019). This indicates that specialist places creation – to meet the difference between 120 and 52 places – should focus on the secondary phase; that in the region of 90 of the 120 places should be developed in the secondary phase.

Our forecast is regularly updated and tested against latest available data. Once the October 2020 Census data has been validated and released, we will update these SEND places projections. The updated projections, alongside those for early years and childcare places and mainstream school sufficiency, will be available in the public domain in the new year.

### **Summary & Conclusions**

9. Using a growth model for EHCPs, based on JSNA, Census and other intelligence data, the Authority projects that the numbers of EHCPs in Bradford will continue to increase. By calculating the number of children with an EHCP currently taking up a specialist place, by type of provision, we can project the number of additional places required in the medium term. Taking an average over the next three years, we forecast that EHCP cohorts will increase, as follows:

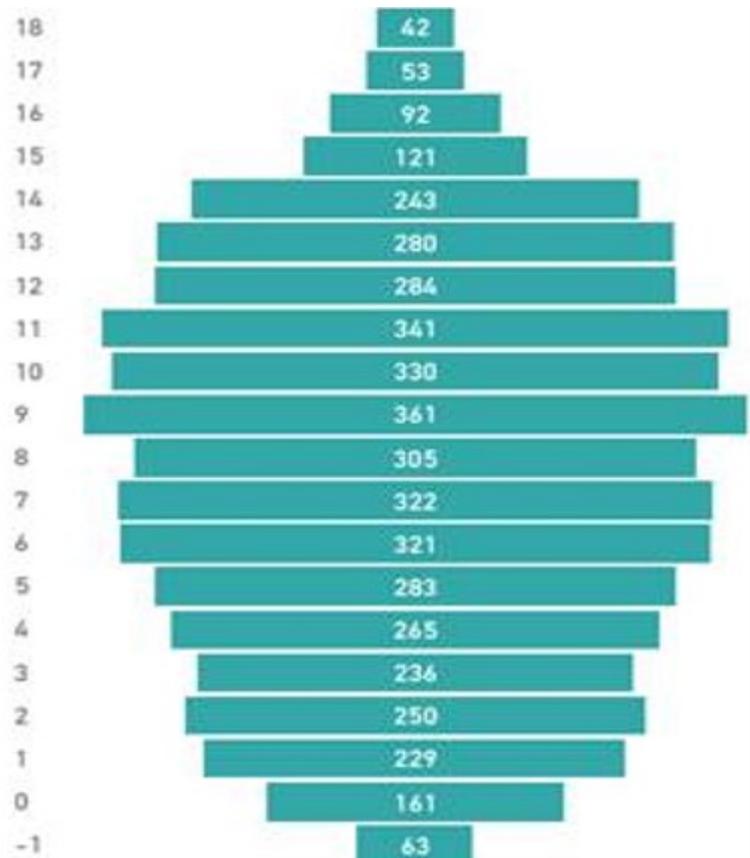
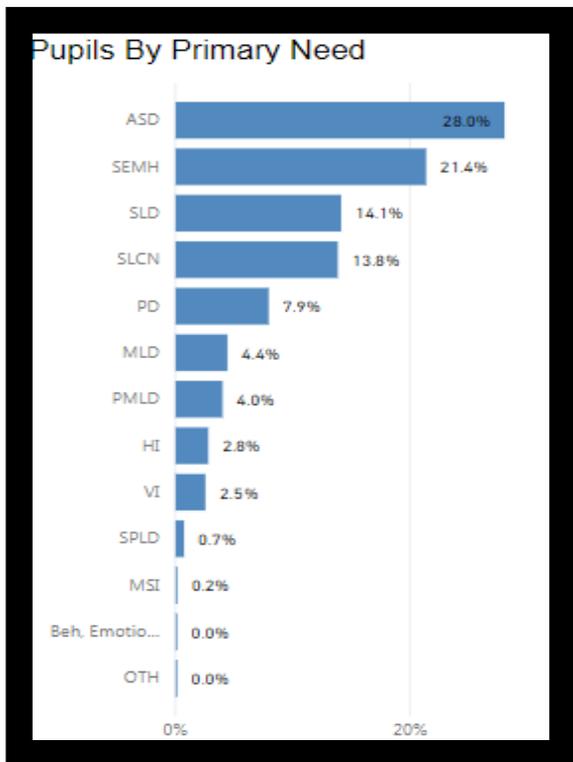
- The number of primary aged children with an EHCPs will rise by 5.47% each year
- The number of secondary aged children with and EHCP will rise by 10.49% each year

10. From this, our current projection is that we will require 120 additional specialist places for the 2021/22 academic year, with these places being delivered across both the special school sector and in resourced provisions. Our projection then shows that we will need to increase specialist places again for both the 2022/23 and the 2023/24 academic years by 100-120 places each year. This is a minimum number of places that should be developed in order to meet demand but also to control (not increase reliance) on more expensive out of authority, non-maintained special school and independent placements.
11. The Authority's intelligence data and JSNA continues to evidence that provision for SEMH across both primary and secondary, and ASD in the secondary sector, are key pressure points.
12. The Authority's immediate actions for the 2021/22 academic year in response to these projections are to:
  - Develop a number of SEMH and ASD resourced provisions in secondary sector. Discussions are already taking place with a number of maintained schools and academies within the Keighley / Shipley and South areas of the District with the aim of establishing new Local Authority-Led Resourced Provisions.
  - Develop further special school places for ASD and SEMH across the District.
  - Work with the Specialist Teaching Support Service in relation to meeting the needs of children and young people that require SEND Support.
  - Establish the High Needs Block planned budget on the basis of funding an additional 100 place a year over the next three years.

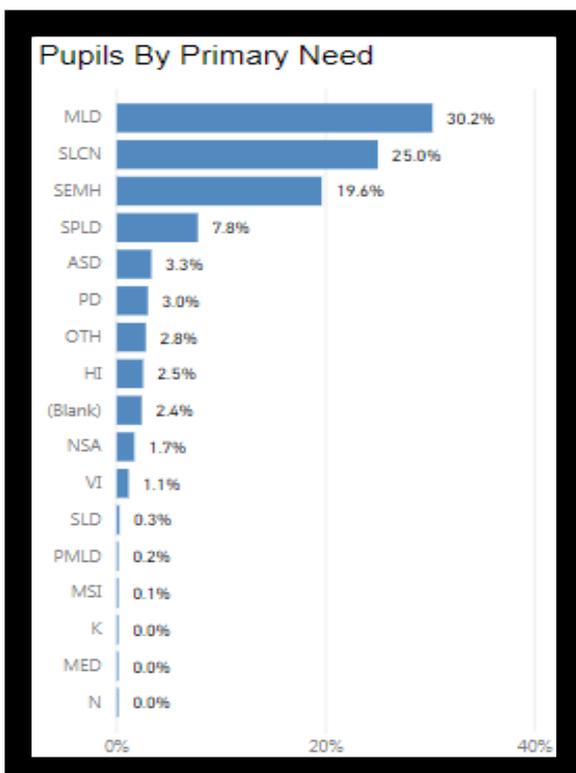
## Appendix

The table below shows a breakdown of the EHCP cohort by primary need. There are currently 4,619 \* children with an EHCP. The highest primary need across all age ranges is ASD at 28% of all EHCPs.

**Pupils by National Curriculum Year:**



There are currently 14,014 \* children identified as needing SEND Support.



**The highest identified needs for SEND Support are:**

- Mild Learning Difficulty
- Speech, Language and Communication Needs
- Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs

\*Data taken from SEND Dashboard 26/11/20