

Schools Forum Document QT Appendix 1
SEND Places Sufficiency Statement November 2023

Introduction

1. Bradford Metropolitan District Council (the 'Local Authority' or the '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 the Bradford District. 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 annual statement to the Schools Forum sets out the analysis and processes, which enable the Local Authority to plan and to ensure the sufficiency of specialist places over the next three years. This statement highlights the projected scale of growth in the number of specialist places required to meet the 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.
3. Further information can be found in the Strategic Plan 23 – Sufficiency of Specialist Places for Children and Young People of Bradford. This strategy is updated and published online, on an annual basis.

Background

4. The trajectory for the Bradford District remains unchanged with a continued increase in demand for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision. Furthermore, it is projected that demand will continue to grow across all sectors.
- The total number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for 0–25-year-olds across the Bradford District was recorded as 6259 in November 2023. This has increased from 5309 on 22nd September 2022, 4842 recorded in October 2021 and 3,673 recorded in January 2019.
 - The number of requests for Education, Health and Care Assessments was recorded at 1970 between 1st September 2022 and 1st September 2023. This is a significant increase of 49% from the 1322 requests for assessment received between September 2021 and September 2022.
 - Of the 6259 children and young people with an EHCP 4481 or 71.6% are of statutory school age. This is an increase on the 68.3% recorded in September 2022 and 68.5% recorded in October 2021.
 - The number of children and young people on SEND Support aged between 0 – 25 years has increased by 12% between August 2022 and November 2023. This marks a change in the trend with this cohort decreasing by 0.17% between October 2021 and September 2022 and by 6.14% between October 2020 and October 2021.

Of the 14,672 children and young people aged between 0 - 25 years recorded in November 2023 on SEND support, 13,288 (91%) are of statutory school age, this is a slight decrease on the 92% recorded last year.

National Statistics at January 2023 (taken from the DfE Statistical Release; the SEN2 return and Census Data) compared with the Bradford District

National:

- 4.3% of all pupils in schools were recorded as having an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), increased from 4.0% at January 2022, 3.7% at January 2021 and 3.3% recorded at January 2020.
- A further 13% of pupils were recorded as SEND support, increased from 12.6% at January 2022, 12.2% recorded at January 2021 and 12.1% recorded at January 2020.
- The most prevalent primary need recorded for pupils with an EHCP is for Communication and Interaction including Autistic Spectrum Disorders. For pupils with SEND support the most prevalent primary need recorded is for Speech, Language and Communication Needs. Both continue a trend since 2016.
- In England, SEND is more prevalent in boys than girls, with boys representing 72.4% of all pupils with an EHCP and 62.8% of pupils with SEND support.

Bradford:

- 3.9% of all pupils in schools were recorded as having an Education, Health and Care Plan, increased from 3.6% at January 2022, 3.4% recorded at January 2021 and 3.0% recorded at January 2020.
 - A further 13.5% of all pupils were recorded as SEND Support, representing a 0.5% increase from the 13.0% recorded at January 2021.
 - The most prevalent primary need for pupils in the Bradford District with an EHCP is for Communication and Interaction Needs including Autistic Spectrum Disorders, which reflects the same trend as the national picture. For pupils with SEND support, the most prevalent primary need recorded is for Speech, Language and Communication Needs. This is a slight change from last year when Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) was the most prevalent but was closely followed by Speech, Language and Communication Needs. This follows the national trend.
 - As with the national trend, SEND is more prevalent in boys than girls in the Bradford District, with boys representing 72% of all pupils with an EHCP and 66.5% of pupils with SEND support.
5. During the academic year 2022 to 2023, the Local Authority has created a further 100 specialist places across the District, meaning that in total since 2021 an additional 289 specialist places have been created. Please see Appendix 2 for full details of the additional places that have been created.

Current Position

6. The table below shows the current number of registered specialist places across the Bradford District and the type of provision in which they are delivered.

Provision Type	Early Years	Primary	All Through	Secondary	Total
Special School & Special School Academies	0	521	114	896	1,531
Resourced Provisions School Led	0	182	0	165	347
Resourced Provisions Local Authority Led including ARCs	0	138	0	92	230
Early Years Enhanced Specialist Provision (headcount not FTE)	121	0	0	0	121
Total Registered Places	121	841	114	1,153	2,229

7. The table below shows the occupancy of these specialist places across the Bradford District in November 2023.

Provision Type	Number of Registered Places	Number of Occupied Places	Occupancy %
Special School & Special School Academies	1,531	1,439*	93%*
Resourced Provisions School Led	347	270*	78%*
Resourced Provisions Local Authority Led	230	198*	86%*
Early Years Enhanced Specialist Provision	121	105	87%
Total Occupancy	2,229	2,012	90%

**The occupancy data has been affected by the recent commissioning of 50 additional special school places, 36 secondary places in Resourced Provisions and 12 primary places in a Resourced Provision, which at the time of this data being collated had yet to be filled.*

The table below, extracted from the Sufficiency Statement presented to the Schools Forum this time last year, shows the occupancy of specialist places across the Bradford District in October 2022.

Provision Type	Number of Registered Places	Number of Occupied Places	Occupancy %
Special School & Special School Academies	1,481	1,462	99%
Resourced Provisions School Led	333	262	79%
Resourced Provisions Local Authority Led	194	176	91%
Early Years Enhanced Specialist Provision	121	105*	87%*
Total Occupancy	2,129	2,005	94%

8. The data clearly evidences that the number of children and young people with an EHCP in the Bradford District continues to rise.

- The number of children and young people with an EHCP aged between 0 to 25 years has increased by 17.9% between September 2022 and November 2023. A significant increase on last year's increase of 9% between October 2021 and September 2022.
- The number of children and young people with an EHCP aged between 5 to 15 years (statutory school age) has increased by 15.2% between September 2022 and November 2023. This is a notable increase on last year's increase of 9% between October 2021 and September 2022.
- The number of requests for Education, Health and Care Assessments was recorded at 1970 between 1st September 2022 and 1st September 2023. This is a significant increase of 49% from the 1322 requests for assessment received between September 2021 and September 2022.

- 7.8% of children and young people within the Bradford District with an EHCP are currently accessing 'out of authority' provision. In proportionate terms, this figure has remained relatively unchanged; being recorded at around 7% for the last three years. In order to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND residing within the Bradford District, it is sometimes necessary to place them in specialist provisions outside our Local Authority area, as well as in independent provisions. Whilst this is sometimes required, it is not our preferred option, as the impact on placing children and young people away from their local communities is immeasurable. Furthermore, securing specialist places outside of the Local Authority area leads to significant additional costs.

Forecast (and Methodology)

9. Our modelling clearly indicates that additional specialist places are required to be developed over the coming years in response to continued growth in the number of EHCPs and wider demographic changes in the school population. There are many variables that affect the current and future projections of the number of specialist places required in order to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND across the Bradford District, some of which are listed below:

- There are a significant number of children and young people across the Bradford District on SEND Support. The data shows that there has been a substantial increase of 12% in the number of children and young people between 0 – 25 over the last year, compared with the previous year's slight decrease. Projections show that a proportion of this cohort will transfer onto an EHCP in the future, therefore, this increase is significant when future planning as it will contribute to the overall EHCP cohort.
- Increase in the number of EHCPs.
- 49% increase in the number of EHCP assessments.
- High levels of occupancy in established specialist provisions.

10. We forecast that once a child or young person has moved into the EHCP cohort they will remain in that cohort. By analysing the flow of children and young people across each stream of SEND provision, we forecast that there will be an increase in the number of children and young people that will require access to a specialist place. Using a growth model for EHCPs, based on an average seen in the past three years' data, the Local Authority projects the following:

- The number of children and young people between 0 - 25 with an EHCP in Bradford will increase by at least 15.6%, or 976.
- Based on the average over the past three years, 69.5% of the above cohort will be of statutory school age. This would mean that by October 2024, this cohort would amount to 5028.

11. Our modelling clearly indicates that additional SEND specialist places are required to be developed, in response to the continued growth in the numbers of children and young people requiring EHCPs and access to a specialist placement, and also taking into account the current/projected high levels of occupancy of existing established provisions. Our forecast is regularly updated and tested against the latest available data including the tracking of the SEND cohort throughout all phases of education.

Summary & Conclusions

12. Our current projection remains unchanged on that previously presented, in that we forecast that we will require an additional 100 to 120 specialist places within the current 2023/24 academic year, with these places being delivered across both the special school sector and within resourced provisions.

13. Our projections further show, as we have previously presented, that we will need to increase specialist places again by 100 to 120 for the 2024/25 academic year. This is the minimum number of specialist places that we project will be required to be developed in order to meet demand and to control (not increase reliance) on more expensive 'out of authority' placements.

14. The Local Authority’s data continues to evidence that a number of key pressure points exist across the District. In order to address these pressure points, we have identified that the following additional provision is required:

- Additional resourced provision places for secondary aged children and young people with a primary need of Communication and Interaction including Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH).
- Additional special school places for primary and secondary aged children and young people with a primary need of Communication and Interaction including Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and secondary aged children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH).

15. The Local Authority’s immediate actions for the next two academic years, in response to these projections and the identified key pressure points are:

- The Local Authority is currently undertaking numerous schemes of work to provide in excess of 100 additional specialist places, for both primary and secondary aged children and young people within special schools and resourced provisions, with the most prevalent primary needs as detailed above.
- In order to address some of the above key pressure points, the Local Authority is already seeking or has approval to undertake the following schemes of work to provide the below additional specialist places:

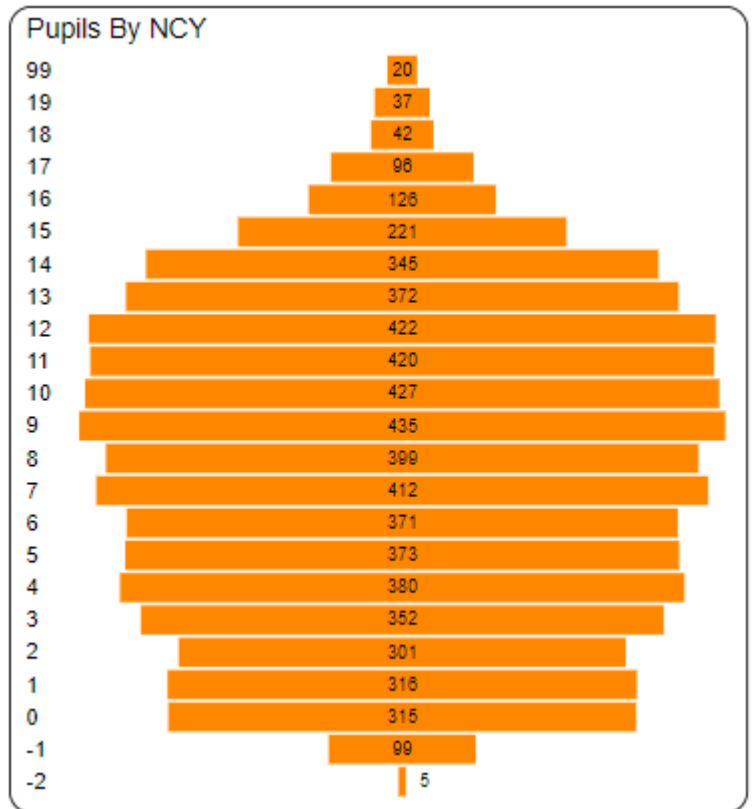
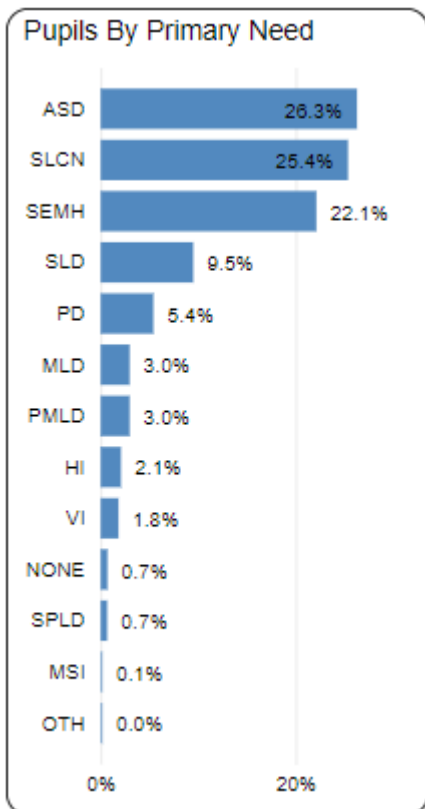
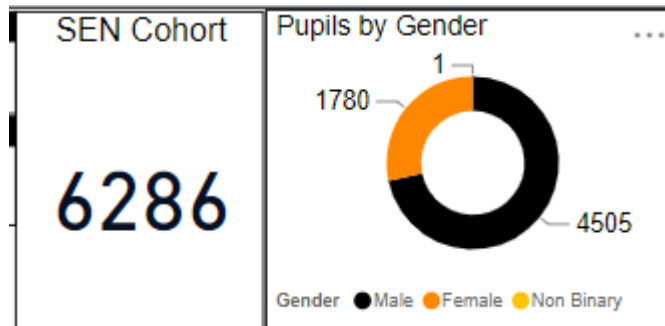
Phase of Education	Number of Additional Specialist Places	Primary Need
Primary - RP	24	Communication and Interaction including Autistic Spectrum Disorders
Secondary - RP	24	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Secondary – Special School	50	ASD, SLD and PMLD
Primary – Special School	50	ASD, SLD and PMLD

- Discussions are also ongoing with numerous schools and academies in the relevant areas regarding the development of further specialist places in the District.
- The Local Authority will include within the High Needs Block planned budget for the 2024/25 financial year, funding to meet the revenue cost of additional places.

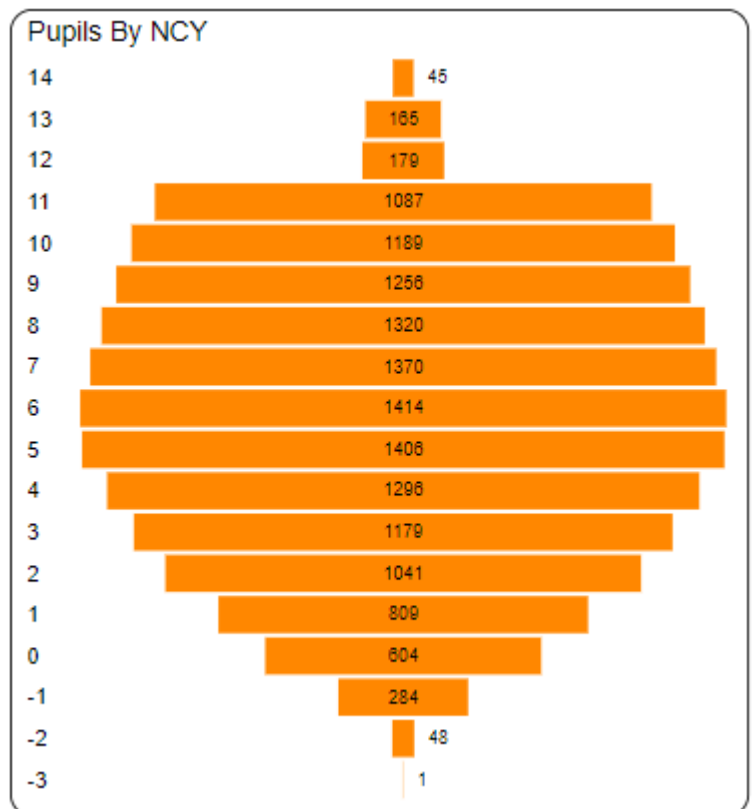
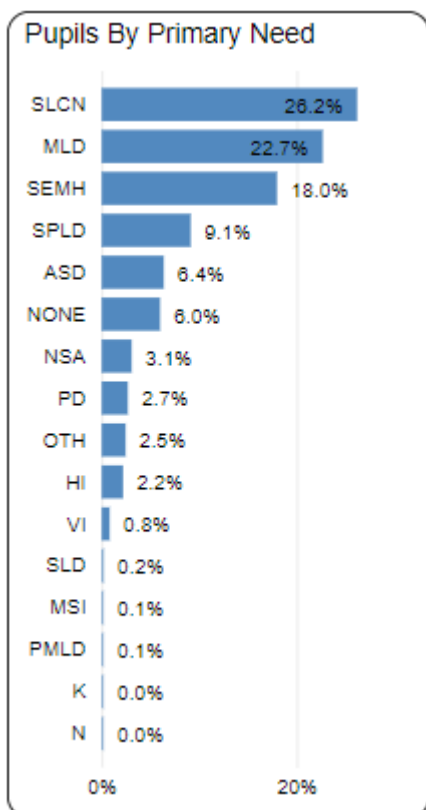
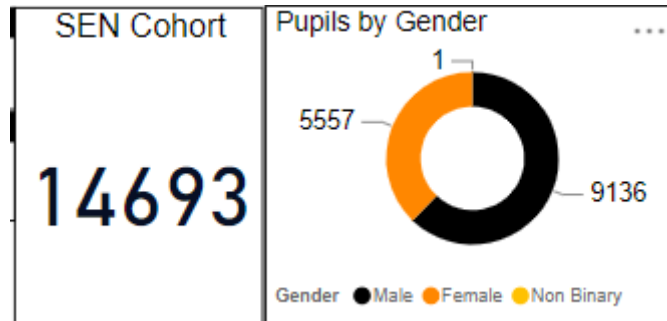
Appendix 1

The data below has been taken from the SEND Dashboard. This is a live database used by Children Services. The data is constantly updated to reflect the changing situations of the children and young people within the Bradford District. The data below was extracted on 16 November 2023.

The below illustrations show the total number of children and young people with an EHCP across the Bradford District. The total number is then further divided into male/female, primary need and the National Curriculum year group.



The below illustrations show the total number of children and young people on SEND support across the Bradford District. The total number is then further divided into male/female, primary need and the National Curriculum year group.



Appendix 2

List of new provisions/expansions opened between 2020 – 2021 and 2021 – 2022 and 2022 - 2023

Bradford East Constituency

Name	Primary Need	Provision	Primary/ Secondary/ All Through	No. of Additional Places	Ward	Year Places Created
Holybrook Primary School	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	RP-SL New Provision	Primary	16	Eccleshill	2020 - 2021
Fagley Primary School	Communication and Interaction Inc. Autistic Spectrum Disorder	RP-LA New Provision	Primary	12	Eccleshill	2020 - 2021
Beechcliffe Thackley	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	Special School	Secondary	24	Idle and Thackley	2021 - 2022
Bradford Academy	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	RP-LA New Provision	Secondary	24	Bowling and Barkerend	2022 - 2023

Bradford South Constituency

Name	Primary Need	Provision	Primary/ Secondary/ All Through	No. of additional Places	Ward	Year Places Created
Co-op Academy Southfield Phase 1	ASD, SLD and PMLD Expansion of provision	Special School	Secondary	45	Great Horton	2020 - 2021

Co-op Academy Southfield	ASD, SLD and PMLD Expansion of provision	Special School	Secondary	40	Great Horton	2022 - 2023
Co-op Academy Grange	Communication and Interaction Inc. Autistic Spectrum Disorder	RP-SL Expansion	Secondary	12	Great Horton	2022 - 2023
Appleton Academy	Communication and Interaction Inc. Autistic Spectrum Disorder	RP-LA New Provision	Primary	12	Wyke	2022 - 2023

Bradford West Constituency

Name	Primary Need	Provision	Primary/ Secondary/ All Through	No. of additional Places	Ward	Year Places Created
Thornton Primary	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	RP-LA New Provision	Primary	12	Thornton and Allerton	2020 - 2021
Oasis Academy Lister Park	Speech Language and Communication Needs	RP-SL Expansion	Secondary	6	Manningham	2021 - 2022

Shipley Constituency

Name	Primary Need	Provision	Primary/ Secondary/ All Through	No. of additional Places	Ward	Year Places Created
Hirst Wood Nursery School	Generic 0-5 years	EYESP New Provision	Nursery	10	Shipley	2021 - 2022

Cottingley Primary School	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	RP-SL Expansion	Primary	4	Bingley Rural	2021 - 2022
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Keighley Constituency

Name	Primary Need	Provision	Primary/ Secondary/ All Through	No. of Additional Places	Ward	Year Places Created
Long Lee Primary School	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	RP-SL Expansion	Primary	6	Keighley East	2020 - 2021
Parkwood Primary School	Communication and Interaction Inc. Autistic Spectrum Disorder	RP-SL New Provision	Primary	12	Keighley East	2020 - 2021
The Holy Family Catholic School	Communication and Interaction Inc. Autistic Spectrum Disorder	RP-SL Expansion	Secondary	4	Keighley Central	2020 - 2021
Worth Valley Primary School	Communication and Interaction Inc. Autistic Spectrum Disorder	RP-SL New Provision	Primary	8	Keighley West	2020 - 2021
Oastlers	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	Special School New Split Site	Secondary	30	Keighley West	2020 - 2021
Oastlers	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	Special School	Secondary	10	Keighley West & Bowling & Barkerend	2022 - 2023

The total number of additional specialist places created across the Bradford District between 2022 and 2023 was 100 with 189 additional specialist places previously created between 2020 and 2022.