



## **Information and Feedback**

We would like to let you know about and get your feedback on our Sufficiency Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Kingston Upon Hull

You can give this feedback from:

**Tuesday 10 September until Friday 11 October 2019**

## **Why do we need a SEND Sufficiency Strategy?**

- Kingston upon Hull City Council has a legal duty to provide enough school places for all pupils who live in Hull, including those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) who need specialist provision;
- There are increasing numbers of children and young people with an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan in Hull. We need to make sure that we have the right type of education provision in the right place to meet their needs;
- The SEND Sufficiency Strategy aims to make sure that there are enough specialist school places available to those pupils who need them. It sets out the current issues and our vision for how these issues will be addressed.

## **What are the present SEND Sufficiency issues in Hull?**

- The overall number of school places needed in Hull has increased;
- The number of pupils with an EHC plan and who need a place in specialist provision, (a special school or specialist resource provision) has also increased;
- The growth in demand for specialist places is greater than the growth in demand for mainstream places;
- When compared to other areas, Hull has proportionately more pupils with an EHC plan in mainstream schools or alternative provision and fewer in resource bases and special schools;
- Hull's existing special schools for Severe Learning Difficulties and Autism Spectrum Disorder / Speech, Language and Communication Needs in particular have been expanded and adapted. They are now at capacity and cannot accommodate more pupils. This makes it harder for those pupils who need specialist provision to access it;
- Hull had a budget of £28.5m in 2018/19 (called the High Needs budget), to spend on special education provision. This was overspent by £800,000. We need to deliver the best provision we can, with the funding we have;
- Hull spends less on independent and out of county school places than other similar local authorities.

## **What do our key stakeholders tell us?**

- The Strategy has been developed in consultation with a number of key partners including Headteachers of special and mainstream schools and parents and young people with SEND;
- Parents say they value the current specialist provision;
- Schools and parents have raised concerns about the levels of need of some pupils with an EHC plan in mainstream schools, the lack of provision for more able ASD pupils and the capacity of the existing special schools;

- There has been positive support for developing more resource base provision and for the successful application, submitted in October 2018, for a new SLD free school.

## What do we want to achieve?

- We want all pupils with an EHC plan who require a school place to be able to access one as close as possible to their home;
- We want them to be able to access a curriculum which is appropriate for their learning needs, delivered and supported by specialist staff and that enables their transition at key stages of their education and into adulthood.

## How do we propose to achieve this?

The strategy sets out proposals to increase the number of specialist places as follows:

- **Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD):** Any new schools have to be sponsored Free Schools and this involves an application to the Department for Education. In October 2018 we successfully applied for a 125 place SLD free school. This will address the future need for SLD places and also manage the additional numbers placed at Ganton and Tweendykes Academies in recent years. We hope the new school will become operational in September 2021. Plans have progressed during 2018 and 2019 to address the demand in the shorter term by setting up a Tweendykes Academy satellite base and undertaking adaptations to the Ganton Academy buildings.
- **Autism and Speech, Language and Communication Needs (ASD/SLCN):** Northcott Special School is taking children with increasingly complex needs and changes have been made to accommodate this. A number of mainstream primary schools had previously expressed an interest in developing city-wide integrated resourced provision. Hull has a smaller percentage of pupils accessing places in mainstream resource provision than other Local Authorities. The initial plan to meet the increasing need for specialist provision for pupils with SLCN and /or ASD is to develop integrated resourced provision in both primary and secondary schools across the city. Bricknell Primary Academy and Spring Cottage Primary Academy have both now established a 10-place provision and Kelvin Hall Secondary Academy is developing a 10 to 15 place provision to open in September 2020 as part of a new-build project. It is planned to develop at least three more primary and one more secondary provisions.
- **Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH):** Bridgeview Primary SEMH Special Academy is co-located on the same site as the Whitehouse Primary Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) in the west of the city. Euler Free School, a new 5 to

11 Alternative Provision, is planned to open in the east of the city in 2020 or 2021. Further planning will take place with the provider and other stakeholders about how the increase in demand for primary SEMH special school places can be accommodated within this provision. Oakfield, the secondary SEMH School with residential provision attached, is predicted to reach capacity in the 2019/20 academic year. Numbers can be further increased at this site but other options to consider include a second secondary SEMH school in the west of the city, use of Alternative Provision and SEMH resource provision.

- **Early Years:** In response to the increased levels of need in Private Voluntary and Independent (PVI) settings, it is proposed that an enhanced setting is established in each of the three main localities of Hull - east, north and west.
- **Post-16:** It is anticipated that the three SLD schools, in partnership with local colleges and other providers, will each develop a creative post-16 offer. In addition, we will consider how the needs of the 'vulnerable but more able' group of young 16+ people can be better met. This will include partnerships with local further education providers and work to promote the employment of young people with SEND especially via a wider range of supported internships and other employer-based schemes.

## **How and when will we implement the Strategy?**

- We plan to use the capital funding available to the Local Authority to create additional specialist places and expand existing provision where appropriate;
- We have already started to increase the number of places available for children and young people with SEND because pupils needed the specialist provision as soon as possible;
- The actions already taken have been subject to targeted consultation and engagement prior to approval and implementation. We also needed to take up the opportunity to apply to the DFE for a free SLD special school by the deadline date of October 2018.

## **What if the predictions in the strategy turn out to be wrong?**

- We have based our projections on data collated by both the Council and the School Census, which is a Department for Education survey completed by schools;
- We will review our projections data regularly to enable us to identify any potential issues early and put appropriate plans in place.

## **Why can't we build another special school in Hull?**

- Since 2012, the Local Authority has not been able to establish any new maintained schools. All new schools have to open as Free Schools or Academies;
- In 2018 the DfE launched a process for Local Authorities who had sufficient demand to apply for a new SEND free school in their area. Hull submitted an application as part of this process, which was approved;
- Each Local Authority could only apply for one SEND free school as part of this process. We do yet not know if there will be another chance to apply for a second new free school in the future.

## **What about pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)?**

- Hull has a lower proportion of pupils with MLD as their primary need compared with the national average;
- No dedicated specialist provision is proposed for children with this primary need alone at this time. Hull's mainstream schools have a great deal of experience and success in meeting the needs of pupils with MLD.

## **What is resourced provision?**

- Resourced provisions (or 'resource bases') are a form of specialist provision that offer an alternative to special schools;
- They operate within a mainstream school, having the advantages for children being integrated into a mainstream school when possible whilst continuing to receive the specialist teaching they require;
- Unlike in many other authorities, there is not a wide range of specialist provision in mainstream schools in Hull. Our strategy is to create resource bases throughout the city, on the sites of mainstream provision. Initially these additional places will be for children with ASD/ SLCN needs.

## **Will my child have to move school?**

- No children or young people will be required to move school as result of the implementation of the strategy;
- Parents and young people with an EHC plan can request a place at one of the new or extended provisions, usually via the review process, and this request will be considered.

## How can I get more information?

- A copy of the draft SEND Sufficiency Strategy, Action Plan and feedback form is available at [www.hullcc.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.hullcc.gov.uk/consultations)
- You can attend one of the Information sessions below. There is no need for you to book a place at these meeting, please just turn up.

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 24 September	1.30pm to 3pm	Ganton Special School, 294 Anlaby Park Rd S, Hull HU4 7JB
Wednesday 25 September	6pm to 7.30 pm	Tweendykes Special School, Midmere Centre, Midmere Learning Village, Leads Rd, Hull HU7 4PW
Friday 27 September	10am to 11.30 am	Frederick Holmes special School, Inglemire Ln, Hull HU6 8JJ

## How can I feedback to the Council?

- Online at [www.hullcc.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.hullcc.gov.uk/consultations)
- You can complete the feedback form at one of the Information sessions;
- Parents and carers of a child with an EHC plan can complete the feedback form that has been sent to them and return in the freepost envelope;
- You can request a paper copy of the feedback form and a freepost envelope from [richard.skog@hullcc.gov.uk](mailto:richard.skog@hullcc.gov.uk). Tel 01482 616375.

## What happens next?

- Please fill in the feedback form by Friday 11 October;
- Once we have received the feedback, we will review all of the responses, summarise and publish these along with the final version of the SEND Sufficiency Strategy.