



HILLINGDON

LONDON

DATE: 14th March 2018

Special Provision Capital Funding Plan

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 The government has created a fund to develop provision for young persons and pupils with Education Health and Care Plans or statements of special educational need. The London Borough of Hillingdon's allocation is £2,915,000, available in three annual instalments from autumn 2018.

1.2 It is intended that the Capital Funding to be used:

- for creating new or additional places at existing provision already rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted (including expanding or redeveloping existing provision).
- for improving existing facilities or developing new facilities (including adding new provision to existing schools).

1.3 The funding must be used to provide for young persons and pupils who hold Education Health & Care Plans or statements of special educational need. However, alongside this, there is recognition that such provision, once made, may be of wider benefit to others, for example in the same class or school.

1.4 In accordance with the guidance provided, each local authority is required to decide how best to use its allocation, in response to local needs and produce and implement a plan in order to develop its provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

2. Our Local Plan

2.1 In Hillingdon we already have a strategy and plan in place to enable us to develop our provision for children and young people with SEND, our Additional Needs Strategy. The purpose of this Strategy is to set out the London Borough of Hillingdon's (LBH) priorities and proposals to develop local educational provision to meet predicted needs of children and young people (CYP) living in Hillingdon.

2.2 The Special Provision Capital Fund and associated guidance have been considered within the context of this strategy in general and the annual process of reviewing its implementation plan in particular. As a consequence the following activity had been progressed to refresh our Additional Needs Strategy and implementation plan informed by Special Provision Capital Fund guidance and requirements.

2.3 Our Additional Needs Strategy Group, comprising key stakeholders including representatives from a range of providers and our Parent Carer Forum, initiated an engagement exercise with Schools and colleges in Hillingdon in order to identify providers with the capacity and ambition to develop their provision, in addition to those already developing provision under the auspices of our Additional Needs Strategy, should capital resources be available to enable them to do so. Guidance on identified gaps in provision, extracted from Hillingdon's Additional Needs Strategy, was offered to help inform the process.

2.4 The following areas of need were highlighted as particularly significant in terms of the need for increased capacity.

Austistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

2.5 Review of the existitng data indicates that ASD remains the most prevalent area of need within Hillingdon. Since August 2016, there has been a 15.7% increase in the number of children and young people supported by an EHCP alongside a 16.1% increase in those with ASD as their primary area of need. This indicates a disproportionate growth in this area.

Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH)

2.6 Review of the existing data suggests that this remains a growing area of need. However it is possible that existing data may not be representative of the total number of children and young persons who experience SEMH difficulties, as many are recorded with a primary need of ASD. Specialist provision available to support this cohort within Hillingdon is 50% smaller at primary than it is at secondary.

2.7 Work is being progressed to evaluate the outcomes of the engagement exercise with a view to determining and progressing options for provision improvement and / or expansion in accordance with the requirements of the Special Provision Capital Fund guidance and as part of refreshing the annual Additional Needs Strategy Implementation Plan.

Obtaining the views of children, young people, parents and carers

2.8 In addition to the engagement work outlined above, a consultation exercise has also been conducted in order to obtain a parent / carer perspective on gaps in provision and how they might be best responded to.

2.9 When asked which area of SEND need should be prioritised for development, the majority of respondents (76%) identified Autism as a priority area of need. SEMH was ranked second (8%) in relation to respondent priorities alongside 'Moderate Learning Difficulties' (MLD) also 8%.

2.10 When asked what kind of provision should be developed the majority of respondents (45%) advised that they would like to see specialist resource provision in mainstream secondary schools developed. Development of specialist resource provision in mainstream primary schools was ranked second (33.3%) in terms of provision type to develop.

2.11 The findings from the consultation exercise suggest that the priority areas for development within our Additional Needs Strategy accord with the views and aspirations of children, young people and families.

3. Developing and implementing our plan: Next steps

3.1 Informed by the work summarised in this overview paper, our Additional Needs Strategy and annual Implementation Plan 2018 - 2019 will be developed as follows:

- The capital development component of the plan will be updated, informed by the outcomes of the provider engagement exercise and associated consultation, for implementation at the commencement of the financial year 2018 - 2019;
- Associated capital development plans will be updated as agreed and required and the Special Provision Plan Template populated following further detailed work with providers and shared as an appendix to the refreshed plan; and
- The refreshed Additional Needs Strategy and Implementation Plan will be overseen and driven by the Additional Needs Strategy Group and the capital development component updated as required as the programme develops.

3.2 For further information on our plan please contact: Tom Murphy, Assistant Director, Early Intervention, Prevention and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Services (Children and Young People's Services) at: tmurphy@hillingsdon.gov.uk