

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

JUNE 2017

**REPORT OF SENIOR
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET REPORT

Children and Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Mrs McCoy

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) UPDATE FOR STOCKTON

1. Summary

In October 2016, a report was made to cabinet regarding a proposal to reshape services for children in Stockton with special educational needs.

This proposal involved rationalising the provision available in mainstream schools to allow earlier support and intervention for children when they first present with special needs. This was with the aim of reducing demand for specialist placements and addressing needs earlier. The provision commissioned from schools, presently in Additionally Resourced Provisions (ARPs), would be remodelled into hubs in localities which could provide cross phase provision for special needs across the Borough and allow more children to attend a school near to where they live. This would also reduce the need for transport across the Borough. No children already in placements would be moved as a result of the proposals.

A further report in January 2017 detailed the consultation outcomes from extensive engagement with parents and key stakeholders. The proposals were modified as a result, particularly around retaining some existing nursery provision, and approval was given to commence with the commissioning of the revised provision.

This report sets out for approval the results of the commissioning process and the new model of provision. An update on the unsuccessful application for a new Free School across the Tees Valley is also included.

2. Recommendations:

Members are requested to:

1. Note the outcomes of the commissioning process.
2. Approve the allocation of the enhanced schools as set out in paragraph 11 and note the capital implications associated with the development of nursery provision in paragraph 18.
3. Note the work around securing additional specialist provision.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

There is a need to improve outcomes for children with special needs across the Borough and respond to the need to provide more specialist support for children earlier. This fits with the council theme of providing earlier intervention to reduce demand for expensive

placements which are often out of Borough. There is also a need to reduce transport budgets.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- Affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- Relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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DETAIL

Background

1. The review of provision for children with special educational needs sought to establish provision in line with the areas of need as defined in the SEN code of practice - Communication and Interaction, Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH), Physical and Medical, Cognition and Learning, Visual and Hearing Impairment across all areas of Stockton. The new model also sought to stream-line provision so there are cross phase pathways so children do not need to make transitions after the end of every key stage and can progress to secondary provision within the same locality. The proposal creates a model

whereby needs can be met in each of the three areas of Stockton- central, south and north to reduce the need for children to travel across the Borough. The proposal also aimed to provide earlier support and intervention by specialist services; resources such as Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Educational Psychology advice, specialist teaching assistants.

2. The new model was given approval at the cabinet meeting in October 2016 and January 2017.
3. In the spring term 2017, schools were therefore asked to apply to become an enhanced school in the new model.
4. The process first required schools to submit an expression of interest, then a detailed delivery proposal for an enhanced school. These delivery proposals were assessed and enhanced school status awarded.
5. Proposals for provision for early years include retaining the Early Support Nursery in Thornaby, with adjustments made to take into account the new early years funding formula, and exploring additional nursery provision in the central and north Stockton areas.

Detail of commissioning enhanced schools key stage 1, 2, 3 and 4

6. With advice and guidance from procurement, primary and secondary schools and academies across Stockton were invited to express an interest in becoming an enhanced school for a particular area of need in a particular locality. A range of schools and academies responded positively which enabled a more formal stage of commissioning to be triggered.
7. This involved the completion of a delivery proposal. This was a comprehensive document which enabled schools and academies to describe the capacity they had, and that which they proposed to develop, which would enable them to meet the requirements of the specifications for an enhanced school. It offered a series of criteria against which the expression of interest would be formally assessed.
8. Delivery proposals needed to be completed for submission by 10th March, 2017. The delivery proposals were first screened by our procurement service and then passed to an external consultant to evaluate. It was agreed with schools that external scrutiny of their bids would enable an objective and thorough assessment. The external consultant chosen was Anne Hayward whose background is as a Head, Senior Local Authority SEN Inspector, and Deputy Director of Education. She currently works as an Ofsted Inspector for SEN and works with neighbouring authorities regarding SEN provision. Each delivery proposal questionnaire was evaluated against a common template and scores weighted as indicated in the table below:

Criteria	Sub-criteria	Possible Score
Logistics	Expertise and Staffing, current and projected	15%
	Buildings, current and projected	10%
	Leadership capacity, current and projected	15%
Outcomes	Performance of all pupils	15%
	Performance of SEN pupils	15%
Experience	Case study – detailing the journey of a child with that identified need through your school	30%
Total		100%

9. 24 delivery proposals were received for enhanced schools. The delivery proposals evidenced an enormous commitment to improving outcomes for children with special needs and a wealth of experience and expertise. The depth of detail in the documents demonstrated enormous hard work and extremely thoughtful, comprehensive proposals.
10. The consultant followed up her assessment of the delivery proposals with further questions and clarifications to schools. This involved telephone conversations, email exchanges and included visits to five schools to gain assurance of the plans.
11. The table below details the delivery proposals awarded:

Description of Need	Location of provision	Level of provision	No. of places	Enhanced school awarded
Communication and Interaction	North	KS1 & KS2	10 + 5	Pentland
		KS3 & KS4	10	
	Central	KS1 & KS2	10 + 5	Rosebrook
		KS3 & KS4	10	OLSB
	South	KS1 & KS2	10 + 5	Junction Farm Yarm Primary
		KS3 & KS4	10	Egglescliffe Secondary Thornaby Academy
SEMH	North	KS1 & KS2	6	St Paul's
		KS3 & KS4	6	
	Central	KS1 & KS2	6	St Marks
		KS3 & KS4	6	
	South	KS1 & KS2	6	To be covered within enhanced schools Junction Farm Yarm Primary
		KS3 & KS4	6	To be covered within enhanced schools Egglescliffe Secondary Thornaby Academy
Physical and Medical	Central (Whitehouse)	KS1 & KS2	30	Whitehouse
	Central (Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth)	KS3 & KS4	30	Outwood
Cognition and Learning	North	KS1 & KS2	10	Billingham South
		KS3 & KS4	10	
	Central	KS1 & KS2	10	St John the Baptist
		KS3 & KS4	10	
	South	KS1 & KS2	10	Myton Park
KS3 & KS4		10	Conyers	
Visual and Hearing Impairment	North (Northfield)	KS3 & KS4	20	Northfield
	Primary	KS1 & KS2	20	Preston

12. 17 of the 22 enhanced schools have been able to be awarded. Of these;
- 12 schools previously hosted Additionally Resourced Provisions.
 - 5 schools are therefore new to providing additional provision for children with special needs:
 1. Egglescliffe Secondary Academy,
 2. Northfield Secondary School,
 3. Conyers Secondary School,

4. Myton Park Primary School,
5. Preston Primary School.

- 6 schools who hosted Additional Resourced Provisions, no longer host any additional provision in the future model (there will be transitional arrangements in place for the children already placed):
 1. Harewood Primary School,
 2. Mandale Mill Primary School,
 3. The Oak Tree Primary Academy,
 4. Tilery Primary School,
 5. Mill Lane Primary School,
 6. Bishopton Pupil Referral Unit.
- The gaps in provision across the model will be addressed through further commissioning later. It is hoped the success of the new enhanced schools, which will emerge, will encourage proposals from schools to fill the gaps. If there are children requiring support in the meantime, additional places and support can be purchased from the exiting provision.

13. Enhanced schools will provide support to schools within their locality with outreach, training and guidance. They will still accommodate some places for pupils if required. The total number of places for primary children funded in the new model drops from 207 to 147. Secondary places move from 4 Additionally Resourced Provisions across the Borough to 7. This is reflected in 73 places previously funded to 86 places.
14. As the new model of provision comes on stream, we will ensure that that no pupil needs to be moved, that there are ample transitional arrangements in place, that staffing adjustments can be made and that any physical alterations to premises can be considered. Any capital implications will be included in a further report to cabinet.

Detail of provision for early years pupils.

15. The original proposals for enhanced schools proposed the creation of more nursery places (20 were in the model consulted upon as opposed to the previous 14 places.) The 14 places are presently offered as 28 part time places of 12 ½ hours. Eligible parents are entitled to 15 hours of provision and this will rise to an entitlement of 30 hours. There is a need, therefore, to expand the availability of early year's nursery places to meet this entitlement.
16. In relation to early year's nursery provision, it is proposed to explore the options for specialist early years nursery provision to provide places for 30 hour childcare for working parents. This could be offered from the Early Support Nursery, and allow families to access longer, more flexible care.
17. The early years funding formula, introduced from April 2017 is a common funding for all nursery age pupils regardless of their setting - in a school, early years setting, childminder or private nursery. It is proposed to restructure the staffing at the Early Support Nursery to enable it to respond to these funding changes and still provide quality provision. It is also proposed to supplement the funding to the nursery in order to provide additional capacity to enable outreach support and assessment to settings across Stockton so that more children can benefit from the expertise of the Early Support Nursery.
18. One local special school has come forward in the consultation with an offer to open a nursery facility at their school. Many children progress from the Early Support Nursery to this special school so this would reduce transitions for children and ensure appropriate pathways for children requiring specialist support. This would also create provision in the

North Stockton area which was an aspiration of the proposal. An understanding is being sought of the logistics of providing school nursery places at the local special school. This will involve capital investment and the details will be reported back in a later report for cabinet approval.

19. Daisy Chain, a local charitable specialist provider for children with autism, has also expressed interest in developing nursery provision.

New special school provision

20. There is also a need for more places at special schools within the area as presently, many children are being sent out of the Borough to access specialist, independent placements which are very costly. The possibility of a new school was being explored and a bid was submitted to the government for a new Free School. The bid was in collaboration with colleagues from across the Tees Valley authorities. The cohort identified was that of SEMH and ASD (higher functioning) group of pupils who exhibit challenging behaviours but can access national curriculum and achieve national standards. This group of pupils are often diagnosed too late and therefore require extensive support and intervention throughout their school career. In Stockton, these children's needs cannot be met in our present special schools and often attend expensive, out of Borough, independent placements.
21. The bid was submitted in Autumn 2016 and in April 2017, we received the news that it had not been successful.
22. 20 out of 60 bids were successful and we were informed in feedback that our bid came very close. It was praised for its vision and collaborative nature. It had perceived weaknesses in that the hub and spoke model proposed might not be attractive to potential multi-academy trust sponsors. A single site, with outreach, would be a simpler model and the feedback suggested that a more detailed business plan would make it more attractive for an academy to take it on. A bid can be resubmitted in the next round, although the timings for another round are not yet released. Additional capacity of special school places are also presently being explored through expanding local provision.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

23. The review will reallocate provision across the Borough so provision is accessible to all families locally. Proposals will also be subject to an SEN Improvement test via the Department for Education.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

24. The new model for the provision of services for children with special educational needs will lead to potential savings against current levels of ARP expenditure of £540,000 by 2019/20, potentially rising to £800,000 by 2022/23. These savings will allow High Needs DSG funds to be reallocated to earlier intervention and support.

Transition to the new model of provision will incur some transitional costs as children migrate from schools who will no longer host additional provision. For 2017/18 these transitional costs will be covered within current DSG High Needs allocations as will the remaining balance of £50,000 in 2018/19.

Outside of DSG funding the review will make substantial savings in home to school transport costs.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

25. The Children and Families Act 2014 is the legal basis for the changes to the SEN system which places legal duties on the Local Authority and partner agencies (across education, health and social care) in respect of children and young people with SEND and their families.

RISK ASSESSMENT

26. There is risk to the local area from the following if reforms are not implemented:
- All agencies not meeting statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014.
 - Lack of progress in joint commissioning for children and young people with SEND.
 - Lack of understanding of the effectiveness of the local area and of evidence of self-evaluation.
 - Lack of coherent planning for SEND

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

27. The SEND local area inspection links to the following council plan themes:
- Children and Young People
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Adults
 -

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

28. The needs of looked after Children with SEN are a priority to the review and the service going forward.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

29. The Children and Families Act requires consultation and engagement with parents/carers.

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Education related:

Yes.

Background Papers:

No.

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

All.

Property:

None.