

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) SUFFICIENCY PROGRESS UPDATE

To: Cambridgeshire Schools Forum

Date: 9th March 2018

From: Helen Phelan
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Purpose: To provide a progress update for this work, high level findings, timeline for completion of the work and next steps.

Recommendation: The Forum is asked to:

- a) note the progress of the SEND Sufficiency work to date;
- b) agree that the findings of the analysis and implications of these for future planning are brought to the next Schools Forum meeting.

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced major reforms to the way local authorities and their partners support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The Act, along with the comprehensive guidance in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0-25 years, outlines detailed requirements for the planning and delivery of services to this important group of children and young people. There is an explicit requirement for the local authority (LA), and health when possible, to work together when they commission services for children and young people. In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough this requirement is coordinated by the Joint Commissioning Unit (JCU) which has a sub group for SEND.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have commissioned a needs and sufficiency analysis of their SEND provision and projections in terms of assets and pupil numbers. This will allow local authorities to plan effectively for future needs and access capital grant funding specifically for SEND provision.

2.0 Progress to date

An independent organisation has been engaged to undertake the needs and sufficiency analytics and work with LA officers to plan for future needs, ensuring children who have special educational needs and disabilities are taught in the most appropriate setting to ensure they achieve the best outcomes.

To date they have reviewed the data that has been provided against that held by the Department for Education (DfE), undertaken a cleansing of the data to ensure that it is robust, and provided LA officers with draft reports. These draft reports are in 2-parts, pupil profiles and school profiles.

Pupil profiles:

This report looks at historic data, demographic growth and local planning applications to provide us with a forecast of future needs in terms of numbers of children and potential special needs.

School profiles:

This data maps detailed plans of the schools and benches the spaces against recognised standards considering the specific spatial needs of pupils attending the school. This provides us with an understanding of the school's current capacity.

Next Steps:

Mapping the current capacity against future needs will allow us to understand how we need to develop our existing provision over the coming years. The next steps are to meet with key stakeholders in February and March to review and challenge the data. We will then collectively agree key principles and scenario model future provision.

The principles and modelling will form the basis of the SEND commissioning strategy and planning with schools and families over the next 5-years. This work will also link with other key strategic areas of multiagency work, including Transforming Care for children and young people.

Key milestones:

February – check and challenge sessions

Scenario modelling

March 6th – joint review of findings

March 14th – deadline to publish high level capital plans and draw down 1st tranche of capital funding.