

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL PROVISION CAPITAL FUND PLAN

CONTEXT FOR THE PLAN

Local Authorities (LAs) must ensure there are sufficient school places for all pupils, including those with SEN and disabilities (SEND). The Government has committed £215 million of capital funding for the financial years 2018-19 to 2020-21 to help LAs create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with SEND, in consultation with parents and providers.

This capital is not ring-fenced and LAs can use it as they see fit to improve special educational provision for children and young people with education, health and care plans (EHCP). This funding can be invested in mainstream schools and academies, resourced provision, special schools, early years' settings and further education colleges or to make other provision for children and young people aged from 0 to 25.

LAs can invest their share of the special educational provision capital fund in:

- creating new (additional) places at good or outstanding provision;
- improving facilities or developing new facilities.

This can be through:

- expansion(s) to existing provision including at the same site or at a different site;
- reconfiguring provision to make available the space for the additional places or facilities;
- re-purposing areas so that they meet the needs of pupils with SEND;
- other capital transactions that result in new (additional) places or facilities' improvements;

- investing in provision that is located in another LA where this supports providing good outcomes for children in their area.

The Government requires LAs to complete and publish a short plan that sets out how they intend to invest their allocation, which is visible to parents, carers and other local groups. The plan for LAs' SEND capital provision allocations should sit coherently with their wider plan.

LAs need to:

- consult with parents and carers of children with SEND and young people with SEND;
- work with education providers to agree how the capital can best be targeted;
- publish a plan on their Local Offer page showing how they plan to invest their funding.

The allocation for Bury is £194,899 for each of the years 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21, a total of £584,697.

SEND Review

Bury Council commissioned a review of SEND during 2017. This review involved a wide range of stakeholders, and resulted in extensive engagement on all aspects of services and provision in support of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and disabilities.

The review process looked at current arrangements and provision; ambitions for the future; and the actions necessary to move from the current to a future model.

Our vision

Out of this review came a shared vision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families:

- *give the **best** start for children in their early years*
- *do the **best** that we can to support our young people*
- *ensure that children and young people make the **best** possible progress in the early years, at school and in college*
- *make the **best** arrangements by talking to young people and families about their needs*
- *enable young people to have a **happy, healthy and fulfilling life**.*

Our vision reflects our commitment to working with families to ensure the inclusive education of all children and young people with SEND.

The review identified a number of priorities, each of which is being taken forward through the local SEND Partnership Board.

These priorities include:

The development of a graduated model of provision, from mainstream settings through to specialist provision to enable the majority of needs to be met with mainstream settings where appropriate, with alternative provision and resourced provision being developed as necessary, but accompanied by the ongoing development of specialist provision within borough, where this will enable a greater number of children and young people to access local provision, thereby reducing reliance on Independent Non Maintained Special Schools (INMSS) outside the borough.

Key strands of activity in support of this priority include an exercise to determine ongoing sufficiency of specialist provision, a focus on those children and young people that have been placed, or may need to be placed in INMSS, and, through Primary and Secondary Inclusion Partnerships, the development of models of alternative provision or resourced provision to meet needs at a more localised level.

Priorities for the use of the SEN Capital Fund are:

In year one, funding will be used to support development of specialist provision within the boroughs in order to create additional capacity, enabling increasing pupil demand pressures to be met without the LA needing to resort to placing CYP in INMSS.

In year two/three it is proposed to work with the Primary and Secondary Inclusion Partnerships to implement proposals in support of local alternative provision and/or resourced provision.

