

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Proposal to Consult on the Development of Additional Resourced Provision for Children and Young People with Autistic Spectrum Disorder
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	3 rd June 2013
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2676

Purpose of Report: To seek permission to consult on the development of additional Resourced Provision for Children and Young People with Autistic Spectrum Disorder in Primary and Secondary Phases.

Recommended Action: Approval to consult interested parties on the development of two new Resourced Provisions (one Primary and one Secondary).

Reason for decision to be taken: Numbers of Children and Young People (CYP) being diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) have increased annually since the two resources at Theale CE Primary and Theale Green were opened in September 2005. The numbers of more complex cases have also increased. The resources are now at capacity..

Other options considered: Option A: Maintain the current level of provision and place surplus pupils in external placements.
Option B: Increase the places at the current Resources.

Key background documentation: None

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Implications

Policy:	None: this proposal is in line with <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Strategy 2012-16• Children and Young People Priorities 2012-14• SEN Inclusion Policy• Accessibility Strategy
Financial:	<p>Additional Revenue costs: If the recommendation is to replicate the models currently found in the current Primary and Secondary Resources would cost:</p> <p>Primary: £247,821.13</p> <p>Secondary: £278,147.45</p> <p>Currently there are 20 pupils with ASD in out of area placements, of these the SEN Team consider that there are 11 whose needs could have been met if we had a Resource place available at the point each of the pupils were placed, the total annual cost of these 11 placements is £482,034. Further to this, in the last 2-3 years there have been 5 pupils placed in out of area placements for whom the SEN Panel would have suggested a placement in one of the WB ASD Resources if there had been a place available, the annual cost of these pupils' placements is £257,811. Although it may not be possible to bring the CYP in these placements back into the Local Authority, having additional capacity will enable longer term reductions in expenditure on non maintained or independent settings.</p> <p>There will be additional capital costs associated with this development, details and figures will be added when available.</p>
Personnel:	New staff will need to be recruited
Legal/Procurement:	Publication of statutory notices will be required.
Environmental:	None
Property:	New host schools will need to be identified and building work will be necessary.
Risk Management:	None
Equalities Impact Assessment:	None

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: Gordon Lundie – no comments received

Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman: Brian Bedwell – was supportive of the consultation taking place

Ward Members: None

Opposition Spokesperson: Alan Macro – no comments received

Local Stakeholders: None

Officers Consulted: Ian Pearson

Trade Union: Rosemary Culmer

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Report is to note only	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 The Local Authority maintains nine Resourced Units attached to mainstream schools for pupils with a range of types of Special Educational Need. There are Secondary Resourced Units for Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Hearing Impairment, Physical Difficulties and Specific Literacy Difficulties. There are Primary Resourced Units for Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Hearing Impairment, Physical Difficulties, Speech and Language Difficulties. The pupils in these Resources are on the roll of the Resource. In addition to these nine Resourced Units there are two Language and Literacy Centres where Primary pupils with literacy difficulties attend on a part time basis – one half day a week – from West Berkshire Primary schools. These pupils are not on roll at the Language and Literacy Centre, but are on the roll of the school they attend for the rest of the week.
- 1.2 The Secondary Resourced Provision for Hearing Impairment was reviewed in 2010 and two small Resources were closed (in Denefield and Park House) and one larger Resource was opened (in Kennet).
- 1.3 Of the two Resourced Units for pupils with ASD, one is a 12 place resource for secondary aged pupils at Theale Green Community School and the other a 10 place resource for primary aged pupils at Theale CE Primary School. These were opened in September 2005.
- 1.4 Numbers of pupils in the resources have increased over the time the provision has been available. Both resources are now at capacity.
- 1.5 The numbers of pupils diagnosed with ASD in the local authority has increased over time and the corresponding numbers of complex cases in mainstream schools have increased. This can be seen in the increase of referrals to the Specialist Inclusion Support Service (SISS) for pupils with ASD and additional learning difficulties, and also in the increased demand for the ASD Advisory Teachers' involvement in cases where mainstream schools have concerns about behaviour and academic progress associated with ASD.

Year	Number of pupils in mainstream schools in West Berkshire (pupils known to ASD Advisory Teachers)	Referrals/numbers on caseload for SISS for pupils with ASD and learning difficulties
September 2005	100	
September 2009	260	18
September 2011	350	20
January 2013	458	23

- 1.6 The number of pupils with ASD who are placed in out of area placements has remained fairly stable over time. However, it should be considered that some of the individual pupils placed in the past two to three years could have been placed in the

resources if there had been space, thus providing local provision and making a saving in the out of area budget.

Year	Number of pupils placed Out of County
September 2009	19
September 2011	22
January 2013	20

- 1.7 Within the last three years the SEN Team consider that 5 pupils could have been placed in one of the current Resources if there was capacity. This would equate to an annual saving of £257,811.
- 1.8 When pupils are placed in Local Authority provision the transition to mainstream colleges is more easily arranged and supported because the Resourced Provision is able to liaise with local colleges in the same manner as schools would for mainstream pupils. This would enable the pupils to benefit from a wide range of opportunities within the local colleges. In addition, the transition of young people
- 1.9 There are other potential future savings if an educational placement for a pupil has been within the Local Authority, as when young people transfer to adult services the expectations of families and young people could be more easily matched to Local Authority support and provision.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that a formal consultation be initiated on options for development of additional resourced provision for pupils with ASD in West Berkshire and that recommendations for developments are brought back for consideration in July/August 2013. The proposal will look at developments in the Primary Phase and Secondary Phase.

3. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

- 3.1 There is no decision to be made and therefore no Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 A consultation about the development of further ASD provision within West Berkshire is necessary because without further developments the pressure for more out of area placements will increase. This, in addition to an increase in referrals for SISS and for the ASD Advisory Teachers work with highly complex cases, will add more pressure to those services. Permission to consult is therefore sought. The consultation will include: Parents of CYP with ASD, CYP with ASD diagnosis, Education Services (including schools), Voluntary agencies involved in ASD, Health (including diagnosing clinicians), Social Care, neighbouring LAs, Other LA's Resourced Provision, NAS Free school - Reading, Prior's Court

Appendices

There are no Appendices to this report.