

West Berkshire Schools' Forum

Title of Report:	ASD Resourced Provision Development
Date of Meeting:	14th July 2014
Contact Officer(s)	Jane Seymour / Rhian Ireland

For Decision

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 and Speech and Language Difficulties.
- 1.2 Of the two resourced units for pupils with ASD, one is a 15 place resource for secondary aged pupils at Theale Green School and the other a 10 place resource for primary aged pupils at Theale CE Primary School. These were opened in September 2005.
- 1.3 The incidence of ASD in West Berkshire is rising. This is in line with the national picture.

Year	Number of pupils in mainstream schools in West Berkshire (pupils known to ASD Advisory Teachers)
September 2005	100
September 2009	260
September 2011	350
January 2013	458
June 2014	530

- 1.4 The majority of children with ASD can have their needs met in their local mainstream school. However, a small but significant group have such significant difficulties that they require the intensive support which is provided in a specialist ASD Resource. The Theale Primary and Theale Green ASD resources are now at capacity so places only become available when a child leaves the school at Year 6 or Year 11 / Year 13. This does not provide enough capacity for children needing places in a specialist ASD Resource and we are now having to place children in independent / non maintained special schools. This can cost in excess of £60,000 per place per annum.
- 1.5 An additional 10 place primary ASD Resource and an additional 15 place secondary ASD Resource are therefore needed. A report has been taken to West Berkshire Elected Members who have agreed in principle that this additional provision is needed. Consultation has taken place with schools, parents and relevant voluntary groups and there is general support for the proposal to create these facilities.
- 1.6 Discussions about this proposed development are at an early stage with a secondary school and it is expected that discussions with a primary school will take place later in the Summer Term or early Autumn Term.
- 1.7 The earliest the new ASD Resources could open would be September 2015, subject to schools being identified and accommodation being ready in time (although this could be temporary accommodation in the short term).

2. Cost of proposed developments

- 2.1 Capital has been identified in the capital programme to provide the necessary accommodation for the resources. For the Primary resource, £341,624 has been identified and for the Secondary resource, £482,500.
- 2.2 Revenue costs would need to be met from the High Needs Block in 2015-16 and on an ongoing basis. Assuming the units are full and the top up costs average out at ASD level 2, the annual revenue cost is estimated to be £264k for the primary resource and £359k for the secondary resource in 2015/16, reducing to £164k and £209k respectively in 2016/17 (assuming the system of the DfE funding actual places retrospectively is in place).
- 2.3 This provision will reduce pressure on the High Needs Block in the longer term as the unit cost of a place in an ASD Resource is significantly lower than the cost of a placement in a specialist independent or non maintained ASD school.

3. Recommendations

3.1 The Schools Forum is asked to agree the allocation of funds from the High Needs Block in respect of these developments.