

Report to:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Philip Thompson, Head of SEND and Early Years
Date of Meeting:	22 April 2021

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY LOCAL PROVISION

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To provide an update in relation to the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) theme of: 'To develop a continuance of local provision and services to meet the needs of children with SEND.'

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 For the Scrutiny Committee to have oversight of progress made in the area of SEND local provision in order to provide scrutiny, challenge and support.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To fulfil the Committee's scrutiny role in seeking assurance.
- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

- 4.1 There are no options to be considered at this time, this report is an update on progress so far.

5.0 Council priority:

- 5.1 The relevant Council priority is: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background information

6.1 Priority Two of the SEND Strategy - To develop a continuance of local provision and services to meet the needs of children with SEND.

- In November 2020 the Council received a national award for parental engagement in developing the local offer and provision.
- The consultation with Mainstream Schools to open SEN provision units in their schools went well and five successful applications were received:
- Marton has opened a provision for children with Autism and complex needs for 32 pupils with

Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans.

- Mereside will offer a respite provision for children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) for 12 pupils.
- Thames has opened a provision for children with SEMH for 12 pupils with EHC plans
- Boundary will open a provision for children with SEMH for 12 pupils with EHC plans in January 2022.
- Revoe has opened a provision for children with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and complex needs for 12 pupils with EHC plans.

There are currently no provisions at secondary level as yet but talks are ongoing with these headteachers.

The Lotus Free School for children aged 10-16 is now open and has 21 pupils across years six, seven and eight.

Department for Education approval is still awaited for the changes in status for the schools with the resource provisions, however all schools have agreed to open and continue whilst dfe approval is sought.

6.2 Post-16 Provision

The Council is working with Special School partners in consideration to extending the estate of the special schools to The Oracle building on St Anne's Road. This provision will create a post-16 centre of excellence for SEND, support the reduction of those Not In Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in Blackpool and support young people into college or work. Discussions are still ongoing around this provision and it is hoped that a further update can be provided soon.

6.3	Does the information submitted include any exempt information?	No
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7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1	None.
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8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1	The financial implication for the resource provisions have been agreed by the Schools Forum and will be funded through the High Needs Block.
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9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1	Children and Families Act 2014 compliance is covered by the SEN Strategy.
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10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1	There are no decisions to be taken with the report but the risk of the Council not meeting statutory requirements for children with SEND is significant and can impact the Council financially and impact its reputation.
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11.0 Equalities considerations:

- 11.1 Children and young people with disabilities have protected characteristics under the Equality Act. Implementing the SEND Strategy fulfils the Council's legal obligation to protect young people with disabilities receive an education.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

- 12.1 Sustainability is covered in the SEND strategy.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

- 13.1 Internal and external consultations have taken place on this priority of the SEND strategy.

14.0 Background papers:

- 14.1 None