

Report to:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (School Improvement and Special Educational Needs)
Meeting:	24 June 2021

SEND PROVISION

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide an overview of SEND provision in Blackpool.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the information provided and identify any further scrutiny required.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 N/A

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? No

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 Using another Council building.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is

- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

6.0 Background information

6.1 In regards to the current SEND provision in Blackpool, Park school is at capacity, as is Woodlands School and Highfurlong School. Lotus school is expected to be at capacity in two

years.

6.2 In order to realign the SEND place planning and the strategic oversight of SEND, we need to find some temporary capacity. This is planned for The Oracle.

6.3 This will allow some Park students (6th form) to be located at The Oracle from September 2021, freeing up some classroom space at Park Community Academy. Additional building work at Highfurlong Special School will also add some additional capacity.

Work is also underway to facilitate the continued use of the building by community groups in the evenings and at weekends as far as is possible.

6.4 Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (School Improvement and Special Educational Needs) will provide a verbal update at the meeting with additional information pertaining to this item.

6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 N/A

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 Some SEND Capital funding has been assigned to this project to support small modifications to The Oracle building.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 Blackpool Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient Special School places.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 There is a risk that we will not be able to meet our statutory duty related to the provision of Special School places.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 SEND is a statutory responsibility and there is a significant impact upon individuals and families if we cannot provide sufficient SEND places.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 N/A

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 An extensive SEND consultation is currently ongoing.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 2020-30 Education strategy.
Inclusion strategy.
Literacy strategy.