

Special Provision – SEND Capital Fund Action Plan

North East Lincolnshire Local Authority will receive in total a £500k allocation over three financial years from 2018/19 for the purpose of provision for children and young people with SEN and disabilities aged 0-25 to improve the quality and range of provision available to the local authority.

North East Lincolnshire would like to target specific sites within phase 1 of this funding implementation to improve the offer for children and young people with a view to:

- Investing in early assessment for those pupils displaying social emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs in the reception stage of primary education.
- Support primary schools/academies to manage pupils with SEMH needs in the reception stage and enhance opportunities for pupils with an education, health and care plan (EHP) to remain in mainstream settings.
- Reduce the number of pupils who currently have to access out of area specialist provision for SEMH needs in the primary stage who may have benefitted from an earlier assessment of need which will have enhanced benefits in supporting pupils to remain in mainstream settings.
- Creating 4 to 6 new dedicated SEND assessment places for North East Lincolnshire pupils of reception age within a wing of an existing specialist provision at one of the local authority's mainstream primary providers.

The first phase of this proposal aims to increase provision within a mainstream primary school and this will help increase the level of sufficiency of provision in this area of SEND need. This links directly to North East Lincolnshire Council's 0-19+ Programme and its focus on Early Intervention. This also aims to align closely with supporting students with SEND needs to remain within NEL educational provisions. This will support both primary and secondary colleagues in making sure pupils/students with additional SEMH needs are appropriately identified and assessed at the earliest possible opportunity in the primary phase.

Across Phase 2 of the implementation of this funding North East Lincolnshire would like to examine the feasibility across partners and stakeholders in developing the provision within the range of special schools in the area and support a wider basis of enhancement of the North East Lincolnshire's SEND offer through increased sufficiency of places in these provisions.

Consultation process undertaken

- Discussion was held at the local authority's SEN Manager's group in May 2017 to garner a wider view on areas of development across the local SEND

educational offer. A number of options were discussed with a focus of aligning to earlier intervention and linking into the views of academies/schools across the local authority. A recommendation was made to consult with the local authority's Strategic Pupil Place Planning Group (SPPPG) to develop a wider view in how this funding can be appropriately utilised.

- The SPPPG (made up of primary, secondary and college head teacher/principal representatives and local authority officers) was consulted on the proposed SEND capital grant allocation in June 2017 with a number of areas of development highlighted and local authority officers were tasked with looking at the feasibility of these recommendations.
- A follow up meeting took place between SEN Managers and the local authority's Assets Team to look at feasibility of the SPPPG's recommendations.
- Further discussions around a tighter focus on the intended project outcomes were put forward when SPPPG met again in November 2017. With the phase 1 proposal linked to early intervention agenda being discussed.
- The SEN Executive Board was also consulted on 07th February 2018 with regard to the SEND capital grant allocation and its intended use. This board is made up of local authority officers and senior leaders, health and social care representatives, North East Lincolnshire Parent Participation Forum (NELPPF) and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS).
- The initial SEND capital fund action plan was published on the local authority's website on the 14th March 2018.
- An agenda item was arranged for the SPPPG to facilitate discussion and an update on the initial planning and seek further consultation around implementation of the funding. This consultation will include schools/academies and parents/carers.
- An agenda item was arranged for the SEND Executive Board on 22nd March 2018 to plan for the consultation with parents/carers around the next stage of plan and implementation of the funding, with specific focus on phase 2 of the funding.
- Agreed plan for further consultation with parents/carers to be facilitated as an action from the SEND Executive Board.
- A consultation focus group was held with parents/carers focus group on the 04th May 2018 facilitated by SENDIASS and attended by a range of parents/carers including representatives of NELPPF.
- The recommendations from the parental focus group were shared with the SEN Executive Board on the 21st May 2018.
- The smaller allocation of funding recently aligned to this funding stream will be utilised to enhance the scope of the proposals put forward and will support increased sufficiency in the provisions identified.

- The finalised proposals shared with North East Lincolnshire's SEND Capital Fund to be presented to the SEND Executive Board in July 2018 and consultation across phase1/2 now closed.

Next steps

- The recommendations from the parental consultation are to be discussed at the SPPPG in July 2018.
- Prior to the implementation of the work related to the SEND Capital funding, site visits for the parental focus group are to be arranged for the beginning of the 2018-2019 spring term.
- Capital works to be undertaken during the 2018-2019 summer school holidays although funding release may move forward planned building works.
- Any additional residuals monies that may remain as underspend in the project will be appropriately aligned to areas of SEND need across North East Lincolnshire and will be subject to further consultation if applicable.