

Lambeth Council

Specialist Provision Capital Fund: Short Plan

Background

The Government has committed £215 million of capital funding to help Local Authorities create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with SEN and disabilities, in consultation with parents and providers.

For Lambeth, £1.2m of specialist provision capital funding has been allocated over a three year period between 2018-19 and 2020-21 as follows:

Lambeth - Specialist Provision Capital Funding

2018/19 Allocation £400,000

2019/20 Allocation £400,000

2020/21 Allocation £400,000

The capital funding can be used to improve special provision for children and young people with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. Local authorities may combine their special provision funding allocation with other capital funding.

The Government requires local authorities to complete and publish a short plan that sets out how they intend to invest their allocation, which is visible to parents, carers and other local groups. The plan for local authorities' SEND capital provision allocations should sit coherently with their wider plan.

Local authorities need to:

- Consult with parents and carers of children with SEN and disabilities and young people with SEN and disabilities.
- Work with education providers to agree how the capital can best be targeted.
- Publish a plan on their local offer page showing how they plan to invest their funding by March 14th 2018.

Consultation

We recently consulted parents, carers, children and young people in Lambeth on a proposal to provide capital investment in both the primary and secondary sectors in Lambeth to assist in the reduction of the number and cost of independent, non-maintained placements and reduce the number of out-of-borough placements for children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health SEMH needs. Out of 66 responses 60 agreed and strongly agreed with this proposal. One young person commented:

Social, Emotional and Mental health needs are high in pupils in primary schools (and others). With additional resources to support the teachers and parents this will benefit the schools who will know how to manage these pupils, will in turn help the pupils and should also help the families so that the approach is a holistic and inclusive one.

Plan for Specialist Provision Capital Funding

Whilst we need to be realistic in what this relatively small amount of capital funding will provide, given that the cost of a brand new special school, for example, would be well over £10 million, we believe that this money can help us invest in this area and to achieve priorities set out in our [Lambeth Local Area SEND Strategy](#)

We plan to create additional places at good or outstanding primary, secondary and Post 16 provision in Lambeth by improving facilities through:

- Expansion(s) to existing provision including at the same site or at a different site.
- Reconfiguring provision to make available the space for the additional places or facilities.
- Re-purposing areas so that they meet the needs of pupils with SEMH.

The Council's plan for spending the specialist provision capital funding, including how the funding will be specifically allocated, will be published on the Local Offer website in summer 2018.

Plans for development

- Findings from work so far show that several schools are interested in increasing or further developing their provision and several special schools have indicated a wish to be involved in the solution to the increased demand for SEMH need.
- Further discussions with all our schools will be carried out to determine which schools would be interested in having additional on-site provision to meet the needs of pupils with additional SEMH needs. Discussions with head teachers and governors will be needed before these proposals are finalised. This includes:
- Investigate the expansion potential of schools with existing resource bases. A feasibility study for each site will be required to consider any site constraints, buildings requirements and, where appropriate, the need to change designation e.g. from a cohort of need where there is less demand to SEMH.
- Extending or adapting provision at existing special schools, where this would increase the supply of places and/or enable greater flexibility to maintain local placements.

Potential Providers

Hillmead Primary SEMH Resource Base

Aurora House Resource Base

Elm Court Special School – which provides for pupils with learning difficulties and associated SEMH needs

Turney School Special School

The Michael Tippet School

Discussions with Parallel Learning Trust with regard to developing SEMH Resource bases for a potential 32 pupils in primary and secondary.

These areas of potential development will be further developed into fully costed proposals and will be presented to the SEND Strategy Programme Board for consideration and decision, in addition to the Council's usual capital processes.

Timeline

By Wednesday 14 March 2018

Local authorities must publish the short plan on their local offer page

Summer 2018

Local authorities that have published the plan and consulted with parents, carers and young people will receive the first tranche of funding

March 2019

Local authorities should update and republish their plan to show what they have spent on so far

Summer 2019

Local authorities will receive the second tranche of funding

March 2020

Local authorities should update and republish their plan again

Summer 2020

Local authorities will receive the third tranche of funding

March 2021

Local authorities should update and republish their plan a final time, to show how all money was eventually spent