**DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION**

**SPECIAL PROVISION CAPITAL FUND**

**Plan updated in October 2019**

**1 BACKGROUND**

In August 2017, the Department for Education announced funding for local authorities to help create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This funding is not ring fenced but allocation decisions need to be consulted upon. This funding can be invested in mainstream schools and academies, special units, special schools and academies, early years settings, further education colleges or to make other provision for children and young people aged from 0 to 25.

Tameside Council has been allocated a total of £1,075,921 for the period 2018 - 2021

**2 CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS**

The funding allocation is intended for children and young people with an EHC plan for who the authority is responsible. Local authorities can invest their share of the Special Provision Capital Fund in;

* Creating new or additional places at good or outstanding provision
* Improving facilities or developing new facilities.
* This can be through;
* Expansion to existing provision at the same site or 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 special educational needs and disabilities
* Other capital transactions that result in new (additional) places or facilities’ improvements
* Investing in provision that is located in another local authority where this supports providing good outcomes for children in their area
* The funding can be allocated to the following types of provision;
* Mainstream schools and colleges
* Special units or resourced provision
* Special schools or academies
* Pupil Referral Unit
* Alternative Provision
* Nursery or early years providers
* Other provision (that is attended by a pupil age 0-25 with an EHC plan)

**3 FORWARD PLAN FOR SEND PROVISION 2019 -2024**

The SEND Forward plan sets out what Tameside will do to develop and improve education provision for children and young people with SEND in Tameside. The plan focuses specifically on educational provision for children and young people with SEND, but in order to meet needs effectively, a number of services including health and social care services must work together. The plan contains 38 recommendations across a continuum of integrated universal, targeted and specialist provision across the Borough for children and young people aged 0-25, designed to ensure that as an authority, we continue our work towards removing the barriers that get in the way of children who have SEN and/or disabilities being fully included in all areas of school life.

The Forward Plan takes account of the following trends in SEND in Tameside:

As of January 2019 14.2% of the school aged population in Tameside was identified as having a special educational need and/or disability. (approximately 5,200 children and young people).

The figure is likely to rise to between 6,500 and 7,500 in the future.

12.1% of our school population is at SEN support, equating to approximately 4,400 pupils. (this number is likely to rise, predominantly in secondary schools).

The number of children and young people with EHCPs in the Borough is rising. There were 1342 in Feb 2019. It is very difficult to predict the future number of EHCPs that may be issued, and various calculations rage between an in year growth of anywhere between 338 and 622. Although there is a wide spread in predictions, none is sustainable and over the next year this would equate to an overspend on the high needs block budget of between £4.57m and £5.2m.

If things stay the same we expect to need around 120 extra special school places by 2024, with over 200 places in mainstream and independent schools.

The report makes a number of recommendations and aims to deliver support for children and young people with SEND across the continuum of universal, targeted and specialist provision.

38 recommendations have been identified in this plan; 13 across Universal Provision, 15 across Targeted Provision and 10 across Specialist Provision.

**4 CONSULTATION**

In developing the new Forward Plan for SEND Provision 2019 -2024, extensive consultation was undertaken with parents, carers and young people. Face to face meetings were held supported by the Parent Carer Forum as well as online surveys and email. This identified some clear themes including developing local provision; ensuring mainstream schools are equipped to meet needs; preparation for adulthood and meeting changing needs. Feedback has informed the development of a number recommendations including developing post 16 provision and additional resourced provision in mainstream schools.

The SEND Forward Plan was shared in summer term with key stakeholders including, Health commissioners, Tameside’s Parent Carer Forum, Special school Head teachers, Mainstream school Head teachers and SENCOs.

Agreement has been reached to progress the recommendations in the plan including developing post 16 provision for young people with complex needs and creating provision in mainstream schools.

**5 IMMEDIATE CAPITAL PRIORITIES FOR 2019 – 2021**

Create Post 16 provision in Cromwell and Samuel Laycock Schools for students with more complex needs.

Create 12 resource centres (3 per neighbourhood) of approximately 8-10 places, with a focus on the main areas of need SEMH, ASC AND MLD. Consider capital investment to create provision within the neighbourhoods.

Create satellite provision for Communication and Interaction in each of the neighbourhoods, with pupils on roll at Hawthorns and Samuel Laycock Schools.

**6 CAPITAL SPEND 2018**

Due to the population increase in the borough over recent years and in line with mainstream schools, the two primary special schools in the borough Hawthorns Special School and Oakdale have seen an increase in their pupil numbers. The Council increased accommodation at Oakdale Special School by creating two additional classrooms and plans were agreed to increase the accommodation at Hawthorn Special School also by two classrooms. The Council’s allocation for 2018 was used against this project.