

SEND SPECIAL PROVISION CAPITAL FUND UPDATE MAY 2019



Plymouth City Council was required to develop a strategic plan for the provision of sufficient good school places for all pupils including those with special education needs and disabilities (SEND). We have completed a comprehensive review of SEND provision within the city and the outcomes of this continue to shape our provision for the future to ensure that we have sufficient capacity to meet growing demand.

The strategic plan was developed in collaboration with parents, young people and providers to ensure that it was transparent and accountable to its stakeholders. The plan factored in the offer from non-maintained and independent special schools, neighbouring authorities and clinical commissioning groups. We continue to work in collaboration with families to ensure that provision within the city continues to meet the needs of the children and young people.

There is a capital element to the plan which focuses on the need to provide adequate funding for new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with SEND. An element of the capital funding has been made available by government as a grant and this document will update on this grant funding and its requirements and describes the scope, provides background information and a timeframe for which it will be completed in order to draw down the capital grant.

Local authorities are required to complete and publish a template on their SEND Local Offer pages which sets out how they intend to invest their grant allocation and how it sits coherently within their wider strategic plan. This template has been updated and is now available.

Local Authorities are able to invest the funding as they see fit to help children and young people with education, health and care plans to get a high-quality education as long as the following requirements are met:-

- 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.
- Fill in the short plan template, confirming that the requirement to consult with parents, carers and young people has been met, and including information about the other groups that they have consulted.
- Publish a plan on their local offer page showing how they plan to invest their funding.

Capital Grant

The original total amount of grant funding available is detailed below and will be made available to Plymouth over a period of three years.

Tranche 1	£254,567	Summer 2018
Tranche 2	£254,567	Summer 2019
Tranche 3	£254,567	Summer 2020
Total original grant		£763,700

Additional amounts of grant funding have been announced Nationally and Plymouth has benefited from these.

May 2018	£177,605
December 2018	£355,209
Total current grant allocation	£1,296,513

In the time since the grant amount was announced by the Government, consultation with a number of groups has taken place and continues to take place to determine the best use of the grant over the three year period.

The key areas for the grant to make a significant improvement to the education of children and young people with an education, health and care plan have been identified and are outlined below.

Any works undertaken requires the approval of the City Council Investment Board prior to commencement.

1. Special School Review

The special school review carried out by an independent consultant working closely with Heads of the special schools had identified a number of significant capital requirements that cannot be met by this grant funding. The overall strategic plan takes into account these requirements and a capital bid will be submitted in the usual way for capital funding to carry out the requirements and we continue to review and implement these requirements.

2. Support Centres

In recent years there have been significant changes to the level of need for the children accessing a support centre and the landscape of education has changed with the introduction of Academies. It has therefore been decided that a full review of the provision of Support Centres needs to be undertaken to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of and provide positive outcomes for the children.

The SEND support service teams have been working with the support centre schools and academies to ensure that we have sufficient capacity in the future. This work continues during the next academic year and there are some areas of minor capital works that will require funding which is likely to come from this grant.

3. Post 16

We continue to work with post 16 providers, young people and families to ensure that our post 16 offer meets the needs of the young people in the city. We are working with a range of providers to develop the options available to young people, to equip them with the skills and qualifications that they need for adulthood. This work is continuing during the next academic year and there are some areas of minor capital works that will require funding which is likely to come from this grant.

4. Feasibility Studies

The capital plans detailed below includes the funding of feasibility studies that may be carried out to determine the following which will be included in the overall strategic plan.

a. Post 16 SEMH/MLD provision - on a separate site from the Special Schools to provide additional Post 16 places for learners with complex behavioral needs.

b. Post 16 Complex Health provision - on a separate site from the special schools to provide additional Post 16 places for learners with complex health needs.

c. Mill Ford Special School – a full feasibility study will provide detailed planning of the capital investment required by this school. Currently thought to be approximately £8 million.

4. Downham House Lower Level – a feasibility study will consider the potential for the use of the site to deliver an education for those anxious learners unable to access a mainstream school due to their levels of anxiety.

5. SEN Capital Funding - This is a project to create Accessibility Funding to be made available on a bid basis for mainstream schools (not special schools), private/voluntary and early years providers for covering facilities over and above reasonable adjustments that are identified necessary for the inclusion of specific children’s special needs. A clear bidding criteria and process will be introduced in September 2019. This will include the requirement for a clear evidence base of need for additionality in the schools’ Access Plan, or similar, to secure a successful bid. 15-20 successful bids are anticipated by 2021.

3 YEAR OUTLINE PLAN

	Proposals	
Phase 1 Summer 2018	<p>Eggbuckland Community College – install “soundfields” into the remaining classrooms of the college</p> <p>Eggbuckland Vale Primary School – install “soundfields” into the classrooms</p> <p>Feasibility Work – to determine level of funding requirements for Support Centres, Special Schools and Post 16 provision</p>	£113,500
Phase 2 Summer 2019	<p>Capital Projects for ASC Support Centres – From the feasibility study carry out minor capital projects to improve the resources available for support centre pupils.</p> <p>Downham House – redesign of education space at Downham House to meet the needs of anxious learners from mainstream schools and academies</p> <p>Post 16 SEMH provision – following the feasibility study work will be carried out to establish a Post 16 provision for students with SEMH. This is likely to be an existing property that will require refurbishment</p> <p>Post 16 Complex needs provision following the feasibility study work will be carried out to establish a</p>	£595,634

	Post 16 provision for students with complex needs/SLD. SEN Capital Fund – to promote inclusion within mainstream settings of children with SEN	
Phase 3 Summer 2020	SEN Capital Fund – to promote inclusion within mainstream settings of children with SEN Special School Capital Projects- Contribute remaining grant funds to the capital projects identified and agreed with the special schools following the review	£587,379
Total grant		£1,296,513

Timeline

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 and spend to date.

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 final spend and how all money funding was eventually spent