

City of Wolverhampton Council

SCHOOLS' FORUM

Date	3 December 2020
Report title	2021-2022 High Needs Place Commissioning
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Summary

This paper summarises the 2021-2022 High Needs Place Commissioning Process and outlines the number of high needs places commissioned at establishment level for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Decision

Members of the Schools Forum are asked to note:

1. The 2020 Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Sufficiency Analysis
2. The 2021-2022 High Needs Place Commissioning Process
3. The number of high needs places commissioned at each establishment for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Schedule of Background Papers

- Schools Forum High Needs Funding Sub-group (12 November 2020) 2021-2022 High Needs Place Commissioning
- ESFA (6 October 2020) Place Change Notification Process: Technical Note
- ESFA (October 2020) High Needs Funding: 2021 to 2022: Operational Guide
- Schools Forum High Needs Funding Sub-group (10 September 2020) 2020 SEND Sufficiency Analysis
- Cabinet (12 September 2018) The Vision for School Organisation 2018-2020: City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning
- Cabinet (24 February 2016) Joint Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0-25 years (DfE & DoH 2015)

financial ✓ **governance** ✓ **educational** ✓ **other directorates** ✓

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of Schools' Forum with an update regarding the commissioning of educational provision for students with high needs.
- 1.2 The paper highlights the 2020 SEND Sufficiency Analysis, outlines the adopted 2021-2022 High Needs Place Commissioning Process and details the number of high needs places commissioned at each establishment for the 2021-2022 academic year.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 As detailed in the High Needs Funding: 2021 to 2022: Operational Guide (Education and Skills Funding Agency 2020) "High needs funding is provided to local authorities through the high needs block of the dedicated schools grant (DSG). Local authorities must spend that funding in line with the associated conditions of grant, and School and Early Years Finance Regulations." (Education and Skills Funding Agency, 2020).
- 2.2 The high needs funding system supports provision for children and young people with SEND from their early years to age 25, enabling both local authorities and institutions to meet their statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014. The high needs funding block provides local authorities with resources for place funding and top-up funding for institutions, and funding for high needs services delivered directly by the authority or under a separate funding agreement with institutions (including funding devolved to institutions).
- 2.3 Local authorities determine how much to set aside in their high needs budget for place and top-up funding given to institutions and have flexibility to change funded place numbers.
- 2.4 "Place funding should broadly reflect both local authorities' recent commissioning activity and strategic planning to secure suitable SEND provision and AP, in line with their statutory responsibilities. In determining the number of funded places, local authorities should consider all high needs providers in their area and take account not only of their own commissioning decisions but also of the commissioning decisions of other local authorities. In the case of AP, local schools' commissioning activity and plans should also be considered" (Education and Skills Funding Agency, 2020).
- 2.5 "Dialogue between local authorities and institutions is important when preparing for the allocations of high needs place funding to institutions. Local authorities should consult with institutions in their area and discuss both current numbers of places being taken up, which will be included on the school census and ILR returns, and the number of places required in future" (Education and Skills Funding Agency, 2020).
- 2.6 The content of this paper is intrinsically linked to a number of ongoing workstreams including the Review of the Organisation of Special Schools (which will culminate in the publication of an annex to the Council's Vision for School Organisation 2018-2020 which will outline the Council's longer-term vision for the City's High Needs Estate and provide a framework to guide future changes), a recent series of sufficiency audits, and the expression of interest process regarding the establishment of new resource bases in the City.

3.0 2020 SEND Sufficiency Analysis

- 3.1 The 2020 SEND Sufficiency Analysis is published on the local offer website (<http://win.wolverhampton.gov.uk/kb5/wolverhampton/directory/advice.page?id=06WnRCxXzYk>).
- 3.2 This paper provides the City of Wolverhampton Council and our partners with a summary outlining current and anticipated future needs of children and young people with SEND in Wolverhampton.
- 3.3 The annual report complements the 'Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities' Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2019; together they provide a robust and timely summary of information regarding Wolverhampton's Children and Young People with SEND.
- 3.4 Key headlines:
- The number of pupils with SEND in the City has increased over the last four years (6,935 in January 2016 to 8,226 in January 2020).
 - 3.14% of students in Wolverhampton schools in January 2020 had an EHCP (increase from 2.96% in January 2019).
 - 14.28% of students in Wolverhampton schools in January 2020 were accessing SEN Support (increase from 14.05% in January 2019).
 - The identified prevalence of the primary needs of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Other, Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (SEMH), and Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) has increased in recent years.
 - The identified prevalence of the primary needs of Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD), Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD), Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) has decreased in recent years.
 - In April 2019, 15% of pupils with Wolverhampton EHCPs were placed in out of City or Independent provision.
 - The total number of pupils with SEND within Wolverhampton's schools are forecast to increase by 11.22% between 2018-2019 and 2026-2027.

4.0 2021-2022 High Needs Place Commissioning Process

- 4.1 The local 2021-2022 High Needs Place Commissioning Process is principally driven by the Education and Skills Funding Agency's (ESFA) place change notification process (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-needs-funding-arrangements-2021-to-2022/place-change-notification-process-technical-note>).
- 4.2 "The following institution types are funded from a local authority's dedicated schools grant, via ESFA, and are therefore within scope of the 2021 to 2022 place change notification process; mainstream primary and secondary academies with resource bases, mainstream free schools with resource bases, resourced provision or sixth forms, studio schools, university technical colleges, special academies, special free schools, alternative provision academies, further education institutions and independent learning providers" (ESFA, 2020).

- 4.3 Although local authorities do not need to return place numbers for maintained mainstream schools, maintained special schools and maintained PRUs to the ESFA within this return, it is essential that local authorities consider the entirety of the high needs provision available across both mainstream and specialist institutions, how that provision is currently meeting the needs of children and young people, and what changes are necessary to meet their needs in future.
- 4.4 The locally employed 2021-2022 High Needs Place Commissioning Process is outlined in Appendix 1.
- 4.5 The Council submitted the 2021-2022 place change notification to the ESFA by the deadline of 13 November 2020.
- 4.6 The 2021-2022 High Needs Place Commissioning Process is concerned with planned place numbers. The high needs funding guidance allows for the funding of places in addition to planned numbers where the need has been identified and pupils placed in accordance with their Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

5.0 2021-2022 High Needs Place Commissioning Principles

- 5.1 To ensure the efficient and fair employment of limited resources, commissioning decisions have been principally driven by historic numbers on roll within each setting.

Exceptions to this rule include:

- Providers undertaking a reorganisation of SEND provision in partnership with the local authority to meet local needs.
- Providers for whom the local authority recognises that the minimum viability place threshold has not been reached.
- Provision experiencing a significant change in local circumstances.

6.0 2021-2022 High Needs Places

- 6.1 A summary of the number of high needs places commissioned at each establishment for the 2021-2022 academic year can be found at Appendix 2.

2021-2022 High Needs Place Commissioning Process

Date	Activity
07.09.20	Request information from other LAs re. 2020 commissioning requirements
10.09.20	SEND Sufficiency Analysis to Schools Forum High Needs Funding Sub Group
16.09.20	SEND Sufficiency Analysis to SEND and Commissioning Partnership Board
21.09.20	Publication of SEND Sufficiency Analysis on Local Offer
28.09.20	Aldersley High HN Place Commissioning Meeting
28.09.20	Tettenhall Wood School HN Place Commissioning Meeting
29.09.20	Penn Fields School HN Place Commissioning Meeting
30.09.20	Penn Hall School HN Place Commissioning Meeting
30.09.20	Low Hill Nursery HN Place Commissioning Meeting
30.09.20	Bushbury Nursery HN Place Commissioning Meeting
01.10.20	Windsor Nursery HN Place Commissioning Meeting
02.10.20	Deadline for feedback from other LAs re. 2020 commissioning requirements
02.10.20	Warstones Primary HN Place Commissioning Meeting
05.10.20	Broadmeadow Special HN Place Commissioning Meeting
05.10.20	Castlecroft Primary HN Place Commissioning Meeting
06.10.20	Westcroft School HN Place Commissioning Meeting
06.10.20	Springdale Primary HN Place Commissioning Meeting
07.10.20	Bilston Nursery HN Place Commissioning Meeting
08.10.20	WVTC HN Place Commissioning Meeting
08.10.20	Green Park School HN Place Commissioning Meeting
08.10.20	Palmers Cross Primary HN Place Commissioning Meeting
08.10.20	Smestow School HN Place Commissioning Meeting
09.10.20	St Matthias School HN Place Commissioning Meeting
09.10.20	Lawnswood Campus HN Place Commissioning Meeting
06.11.20	Pine Green and Evergreen HN Place Commissioning Meeting
22.10.20	City of Wolverhampton College HN Place Commissioning Meeting
22.10.20	Nova Training HN Place Commissioning Meeting
22.10.20	2020-2021 High Needs Place Commissioning Report to Joint Children and Education Leadership Team
04.11.20	Verbal Notification of 2020-2021 High Needs Place Commissioning Thresholds to settings
12.11.20	2020-2021 High Needs Place Commissioning Report to Schools Forum High Needs Funding Sub Group
13.11.20	Deadline for Submission of 2020 to 2021 place change notification return to ESFA
16.11.20	Written confirmation of 2020-2021 High Needs Place Commissioning thresholds to settings
02.12.20	Outcomes of the 2020-2021 High Needs Place Commissioning Process Report to SEND and Commissioning Partnership Board
03.12.20	Outcomes of the 2020-2021 High Needs Place Commissioning Process Report to Schools Forum
04.12.20	Publication of 2020-2021 High Needs place commissioning thresholds on local offer
January 2021	ESFA Enquiry Window Opens
February 2021	ESFA Enquiry Window Closes

2021-2022 Commissioned High Needs Places

Provider	Provider Type	2020-2021 HN Places	2021-2022 HN Places	Variance from 2020 - 2021
Aldersley High School	Resource Base	8	20	+12
Bilston Nursery	Resource Base	10 (PT)	11	+1
Braybrook Centre	Pupil Referral Unit	42	42	0
Broadmeadow Special	Special School	54	75	+21
Bushbury Nursery	Resource Base	6 (PT)	10	+4
Castlecroft Primary	Resource Base	8	8	0
City of Wolverhampton College	FE College	177	184	+7
Green Park School	Special School	144	145	+1
Low Hill Nursery	Resource Base	10 (PT)	12	+2
Midpoint Centre	Pupil Referral Unit	68	68	0
Evergreen Academy	Pupil Referral Unit	32	32	0
Pine Green Academy	Special School	120	120	0
Orchard Centre	Pupil Referral Unit	75	85	+10
Palmers Cross Primary	Resource Base	15	16	+1
Penn Fields School	Special School	190	193	+3
Penn Hall School	Special School	103	106	+3
Smestow School	Resource Base	6	6	0
Springdale Primary	Resource Base	28	28	0
St Matthias School	Resource Base	12	12	0
Tettenhall Wood School	Special School	143	142	-1
Warstones Primary	Resource Base	14	14	0
Westcroft School	Special School	188	188	0
Windsor Nursery	Resource Base	10 (PT)	10	0
Wolverhampton Vocational Training Centre	Special School	29	45	+16
Nova Training	FE College/Training	28	35	+7