Special Provision Capital Fund Plan

1. Context for the Plan

Local authorities must ensure there are sufficient good school places for all pupils, including those with SEN and disabilities. 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. This capital is not ring-fenced and local authorities can use it as they see fit to improve special provision for children and young people with education, health and care plans. This funding can be invested in mainstream schools and academies, special units, special schools, early years settings and further education colleges, or to make other provision for children and young people aged from 0 to 25.

Local authorities can invest their share of the special provision capital fund in:

- Creating new (additional) places at good or outstanding provision

- Improving facilities or developing new facilities

  This can be 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 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 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. The allocation for Leicester City is £524,723 for each of the years 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21, a total of £1,574,169.

2. The Leicester City Strategy

The Leicester City Children’s Trust SEND Strategy sets out its corporate priorities and includes a commitment to give children the best start in life. The Strategy aims to ensure that children and young people are given every opportunity to achieve their potential.

The SEND Strategic Partnership Board commits to preparing children and young people with SEND to grow into adults who are:

- Healthy, enjoying good physical and mental health
- Employed, in education or training
- Involved in decisions that affect them
- Living as independently as possible, freeing them to make the choices they wish for an independent adult life in the community
- Connected with their communities and playing a full part in them
- Pursuing their goals through improved life chances
To achieve these outcomes the following aims have been set, which guide our action planning and performance management and monitoring of the effectiveness of SEND support work in Leicester.

Through improving the support provided to children and young people to help them to pursue their goals we aim to:

**Aim 1** – Ensure the best health outcomes for children, young people and adults with SEND

**Aim 2** – Improve educational outcomes and numbers of children and young people who enter employment, training or continuing education at 18 or are involved in meaningful activities

**Aim 3** – Ensure the participation of children, young people and their families in all decisions that affect them

**Aim 4** – Improve the number of young adults who live independent lives

**Aim 5** – Develop young peoples’ connection with their communities

3. Plans for development

There are two phases to the intended developments within Leicester City:

Stage 1 - responding to the immediate need for places for September 2018, with a short-fall of approximately 50 places identified, due to increases in the city population, and also due to an increase in requests for statutory assessment and specialist places.

Stage 2 - developing the longer-term places required in the city. Projections are based upon predicted population growth across the 5-16 age group (53,000 currently, to 64,000 by 2025), the city council predicts a need for a further 230 specialist places by 2025.

Findings from work-streams which have included mainstream and special providers, so far show that many schools are interested in increasing or further developing their provision and all special schools have indicated a determination to be involved in the solution to this increased demand for Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

The Parent and Carer Forum (PCF) is a key source of consultation and advice for decisions regarding developing provision, through the inclusion of parents and
carers within work-streams, and within the SEND Strategic Board. The views of all parents and carers of children and young people with SEND, are being sought through a survey (see below). Young people are engaged through the Big Mouth forum, though further, wider consultation of children and young people is required for our longer-term plans. Children and young people also share their views within their EHC Plan (where they are able to do so) to indicate their views about intended outcomes and provision.

4. Consultation on the Leicester City Special Provision Capital Plan

This is the first stage of our plan- we are currently continuing to consult for the final decisions within the longer-term strategy, as we have an open consultation for parents and carers which can be found at: https://families.leicester.gov.uk/send-local-offer/send-provision-places-survey/

We are working with schools and architects to ensure that we can offer places in both special schools and mainstream schools, some of the latter also have enhanced resource bases, known as DSPs- Designated Special Provisions, within them. More details regarding all schools can be found on the Local Offer site.

This plan will be revised in line with DfE requirements, in March 2019.

Stage 1 Proposals:

To develop more places to meet areas of need for pupils for September 2018, we intend to:

Netherhall School – Establish up to 5 additional places for pupils with severe cognition and learning needs.

Millgate and Keyham Lodge Schools – Establish up to 20 additional places for pupils with SEMH and communication and interaction needs.

Ellesmere College- Establish up to 15 additional places for pupils with cognition and learning and communication and interaction needs.

West Gate School- Establish up to 10 additional places for pupils with severe cognition and learning, and communication and interaction needs. [This sits outside of the potential funding from DfE, but is noted within this plan].

Stage 2
Develop provision more widely across mainstream and special providers, including all specialist providers, and across schools, which have expressed an interest in developing enhanced resources or DSPs.

This is based upon a projected increase in pupil population numbers:

The City Council is mindful of several factors:

- Three specialist provisions are currently judged by OfSTED to offer an outstanding education to pupils within their schools. A further four offer a good standard of education, according to OfSTED. One school is currently in RI but optimistic of a good outcome at a forthcoming inspection. These are high quality provisions for young people experiencing SEND.
- The demand for specialist places and EHC Plans has increased across England since the introduction of the Children and Families Act, 2014, and the related statutory guidance, the SEND Code of Practice 2015. Leicester is part of a national trend.
- Thought needs to be given to the expansion of provision across both mainstream and specialist providers, for the following reasons:
  - OfSTED 2010 report ‘A Statement is not Enough’ suggested that the best outcomes for pupils with a Statement of SEN (now an EHC Plan) were secured through enhanced resourced provision attached to mainstream schools;
  - The UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons warned in February 2017 that the English education system was increasingly concerning with regard to:

“ The persistence of a dual education system that segregates children with disabilities to special schools, including based on parental choice;
· The number of children with disabilities in segregated education environments is increasing because the education system is not geared to respond to the requirements for high-quality inclusive education, in particular the information about occurrences of school authorities turning down enrolment of student with disability who is deemed ‘as disruptive to other classmates’.
· Additionally, the education and training of teachers in inclusion competences is not reflecting the requirements of inclusive education.”

- Parental preference and the SEND Upper Tier Tribunal- parents can accept or reject a named school within an EHC Plan, and have the right to appeal to the SEND Tribunal, which can place a pupil at a school for a range of reasons.

In making decisions regarding both the short term and longer term need for specialist places, LCC will be making decisions which support the best educational and wider outcomes for children and young people with SEND, which will prepare them for adulthood and employment, engagement and inclusion within the local city community.

At stage 2, an options appraisal to create potentially up to 230 new places across both mainstream and special provisions, will need to be consulted upon- having listened to where need is, the city intends to come back to stakeholders with proposals which set out options to create the educational provision which the City sees as most effective for our children and young people.

Projected timescales:

Stage 1  Place gaps identified at March 2018; places adapted to meet 50 additional places for September 2018

Stage 2  Wider consultation held within summer term 2018; agreement and decisions made by Cabinet and Mayor by autumn 2018. New plans published in March 2019 to update Local Offer SEND capital plan.