

Investing in New SEND Provision

Consultation Summary

20th November 2017 – 19th January 2018

Investing in new SEND provision: Consultation Summary

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 SEND.

The funding is intended for children and young people who have an education, health and care plan (EHCP) for whom the local authority is responsible.

Hackney's allocation from this fund is £662,722 each year for 2018-19 to 2020-21, a total of £1,988,167. Depending on the outcome of the consultation process and proposals, funds will be allocated later in 2018.

What can the grant fund?

The Government has a clear criteria where this funding can be invested. This includes the following:

- Expansion(s) to existing provision i.e. a school including at the same site or at a different site; and
- Reconfiguring provision to make space for the additional places or facilities for those with an EHCP.

This funding is **not** intended for:

- Creating additional places for pupils who do not have an education, health and care plan (EHCPs); or
- Reasonable adjustments that schools are required to fund as part of accessibility requirements, routine repairs, maintenance expenses and other revenue expenditure such as furniture, teaching apparatus/equipment.

The funding is not intended for one specific school although it could be allocated to one if that yields the best outcome, and can be allocated to several across the borough depending on feedback and need.

Hackney Council intends to prioritise the funding to creating additional places in order to ensure more children and young people with an EHC Plan are able to have their needs met within the borough.

Why are we consulting?

To help Hackney Council decide where to invest this funding and deliver more spaces for pupils with EHC Plans, we want input and feedback from residents and educational professionals. This consultation is your opportunity to help us decide where to allocate this. With this in mind, the Learning Trust has developed options for investment based on two identified needs groups:

1. Children and young people with **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**
2. Children and young people with **Social, Emotional or Mental Health (SEMH)** needs, specifically those who demonstrate risky and challenging behaviour

These two groups along with the options have been identified by:

- Evidence and information collated in the *SEND Provision in Hackney Survey Findings Report 2017*; and
- Hackney Council's own evidence and data.

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In order to receive this funding, Government has asked Local Authorities to publish a plan based on the outcome of this consultation on the Local Offer website by March 2018 for consideration by the Department of Education.

Why focus on ASD and SEMH?

As the Hackney population continues to grow, our schools' population and subsequently the number of students or young people with EHC Plans increases. Since the introduction of the SEND reforms in 2014, Hackney has seen an average year on year increase of 7.1% of students with EHC Plans compared to the London average of 5.6%. Based on these projections, Hackney Council anticipates there could be around 2,335 EHC Plans by January 2021, an increase of 560 since January 2017.

At the beginning of this year there were 490 EHC Plans for autism spectrum disorders (ASD), nearly a third of all Hackney's EHC Plans, and 285 EHC Plans for students with Social, Emotional or Mental Health (SEMH) needs i.e. those with severe difficulties in managing their emotions and behaviour. With both groups, around half of the students with plans are at primary level, with around 30% at secondary level and between 12%-16% at post 16.

Evidence indicates the number of children and young people with an EHC Plan with ASD is steadily rising. Schools Census data collated by the Department for Education shows an upward trend for ASD in Hackney maintained schools over recent years. If this proportion remains the same, Hackney Council estimates that by 2021 there could be 654 students with EHC Plans for ASD, an increase of 164 students. Similarly, if the proportion of those with SEMH remains at current levels (16%), the Council estimates there could be 374 children and young people with EHC Plans for SEMH by 2021, an increase of 89 students.

With the growing numbers of the children and young people with EHC Plans for ASD and SEMH, allocating this funding to these two groups will support Hackney to create new places and improve facilities at existing schools to meet current and future needs while providing the best outcomes for our students.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Feedback received from parents and professionals, through the SEND Provision Survey conducted earlier this year, strongly indicated a need for additional provision in Hackney to cater for children and young people with ASD. The feedback indicated a need for more provision and places for children and young people with ASD, with specific mention of Post 16 and further education. Both parents and schools have expressed interest in more Additional Resource Provision settings to help schools in meeting the needs of children and young people with ASD.

ASD is currently the most prevalent need of Hackney children and young people with EHC Plans, accounting for 28% (490) of all Hackney EHC Plans. The majority of children and young people with EHC Plans for ASD attend schools in Hackney (86%, 422) with 62% (304) in a Local Authority maintained setting, and only 14% (68) attend a setting outside of Hackney. Hackney's and the Department for Education Schools Census data indicates that this number has been steadily rising in recent years and is expected to continue. This consistent increase means Hackney requires more places for children and young people with ASD in order to best meet their needs and keep them in local settings as demands on local settings increase.

Social, Emotional or Mental Health needs (SEMH)

SEMH is currently the third most prevalent need of Hackney children and young people with EHC Plans, accounting for 16% (285) of all Hackney EHC Plans.

Feedback received from professionals in Hackney, through the SEND Provision Survey conducted earlier this year, indicated a need for more SEMH specialist provision in Hackney to cater for children and young people with SEMH. Of the professionals who responded to the survey, 56% (29) disagreed that there is currently sufficient provision for children and young people with SEMH in Hackney.

As a relatively high portion of children and young people with SEMH, especially those demonstrating challenging and risky behaviours, are attending a setting outside of Hackney (36%, 103), a benefit of developing more local provision is to improve the connection children and young people have with their local community networks. 29% (84) children and young people with SEMH needs attend independent schools, and 20% (57) outside of Hackney. These account for 55% of the total spend on SEMH EHCP placements. These placements cost the Local Authority significantly more than placements in other setting types. Making more provision available in Hackney, could help to redistribute the placement funding to fund more placements and still deliver quality provision that meets the needs of children and young people.

The Proposals

We have compiled proposals for two primary needs groups. The proposals contain a number of options.

Needs group 1: Additional provision for children and young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Hackney Council is proposing that the funding be used to develop more provision for children and young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to provide additional capacity and places.

The following options are to be considered:

- A:** Develop another Additional Resourced Provision in a mainstream primary school.
- B:** Develop another Additional Resourced Provision in a mainstream secondary school.
- C:** Develop more special school places, including Post 16.

Needs group 2: Additional provision for children and young people with Social, Emotional or Mental Health (SEMH) needs, specifically those who demonstrate risky and challenging behaviour

Hackney Council is proposing that the funding could be used to develop more provision for children and young people with Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) to provide additional capacity and places.

The following options are to be considered:

- A:** Develop an Additional Resourced Provision in a mainstream primary school.
- B:** Develop an Additional Resourced Provision in a mainstream secondary school.
- C:** Develop a school setting to deliver specialist provision.

Taking Part in the Consultation

The consultation will run from **20th November 2017** until **19th January 2018**.

The easiest way to let us know your views is by completing the online survey at:
www.hackneylocaloffer.co.uk/sendconsultations or www.consultation.hackney.gov.uk and search for *Investing in new SEND provision*.

Further information or to request a paper copy of the questionnaire, please contact consultation@hackney.gov.uk or call 020 8356 1739