



Northumberland

County Council

CABINET

Date: 2 December 2019

The Development of Additionally Resourced Provision for Pupils with SEND in Northumberland.

Report of the Executive Director of Adult and Children's Services: Cath McEvoy-Carr
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services: Councillor Wayne Daley

Report Author: Sue Aviston, Head of School Organisation and Resources

Purpose of report.

This report sets out a proposal to develop Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) in mainstreams schools in order to offer an additional tier of provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the establishment of two Additionally Resourced Provisions at Seaton Sluice First School and Astley High School for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, with the expectation that pupil admissions will begin in the Spring Term 2020.
- 2) Note that officers will evaluate the pilot projects with the intention of carrying out further work with schools to determine the need for Additionally Resourced Provision across the whole county.
- 3) Note the decommissioning of existing ARP places within the Berwick Partnership.

- 4) Approve the capital investment of £253k to create eight places at Seaton Sluice First School and ten places at Astley High School. The projects will be funded from the balance of £648k Special Provision Capital grant funding received from central government to create additional capacity for pupils with SEND.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report entirely supports the Council's vision 'One Council that works for everyone' and the Council's values 'Residents first, excellence and quality, respect and keeping our communities safe and well.'

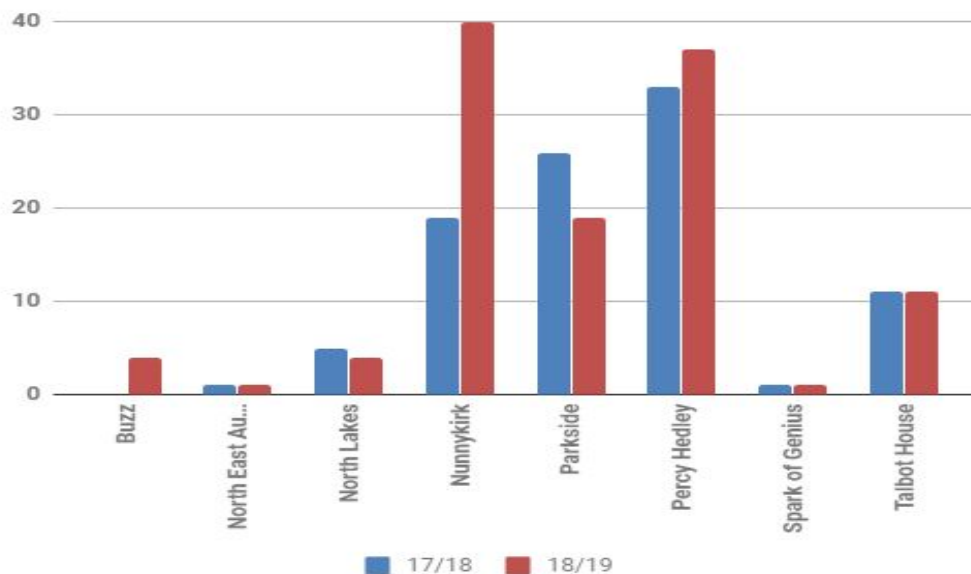
Key issues

1. There has been, and continues to be, an increasing demand from parents for their children to be educated within special school provision both in and out of the county. It is also acknowledged nationally that there are significant financial pressures on mainstream schools in supporting SEN provision, not least due to school budget pressures and the expectation upon schools to fund the first £6k of support for each SEND learner with an EHCP.
2. The table below highlights the increasing number of pupils with SEND that attend local authority special schools in Northumberland. In addition, the local authority has seen an increasing number of placements at independent and non-maintained special schools:

Special School	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Atkinson House	62	53	56	59	66	77
Barndale House	36	38	40	37	39	39
Cleaswell Hill	126	149	155	163	173	180
Castle School NCEA						91
Collingwood School	105	129	145	137	137	145
Cramlington Hillcrest	46	56	58	62	74	91
Hexham Priory	61	65	77	78	89	102
The Dales School	68	73	76	76	89	96
The Grove School	36	39	42	43	45	46
TOTAL	540	602	649	655	712	867

3. Within these numbers, there has been a significant increase in the number of children and young people who have been identified with a primary special need of autism and/or social emotional and mental health needs.
4. In addition to the number of pupils in maintained specialist provision, the number of pupils placed in independent and non-maintained special schools has also increased, as detailed below:

Day Placement - Pre 16 - Number of Placements



5. In order to begin to address the significantly growing demand, Northumberland has developed additional capacity (82 places in total) at Hexham Priory (32) and The Dales (50) Schools.
6. In addition, the local authority has also had a successful application to open an 80 place Key Stage 3/4 Free School for pupils with SEMH and ADS.
7. As part of the wider consultation on the SEND strategy in 2018, parents and carers gave clear feedback that they would like to see mainstream schools offer additional resourced provision in order that their children could be educated closer to home with the additional support they would require.
8. In response to this feedback, officers are now seeking approval to allocate capital resources to set up two pilot ARP schemes, with one at Seaton Sluice First School and one at Astley High School. It is proposed that the provisions are monitored over the current academic year in order to evaluate their impact and success, before expanding the approach across the county.
9. The funding for SEND comes from the High Needs Block and is not sufficient to meet the costs of current demand. The pressure on the High Needs Block has been further increased by the significant rise in permanent exclusions from mainstream schools. The additional revenue cost of running the provision for these pupils will be met from the High Needs Block.
10. The County Council, following consultation with Schools Forum, was given permission by the Secretary of State to transfer 1% of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in both 2018-19 and 2019-20. Alongside this, additional funding has been provided to all Local Authorities but this is still insufficient to meet the growing demand for additional places.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE PROVISION (ARP's)

11. The County Council has, in the past, commissioned 12 places at Berwick Academy at a cost of £10k per place for an ARP provision known as the Eden Base. None of the commissioned places are currently being utilised at the ARP. Berwick Academy unilaterally made the decision to close this provision in the summer of 2018 and arrangements have been made for the funding to be returned to the County Council.
12. Berwick Middle School currently has an ARP provision known as The Bridges but no pupils with SEND are accessing this provision. The physical space is being used by the school to support small group interventions but it is not being used as an Additionally Resourced Provision for pupils with SEND. Meetings to discuss the future use of this space have been taking place and it is proposed that the Local Authority cease to fund these empty places. It is proposed to cease commissioning and funding both provisions, which will result in a £114,000 saving to the High Needs Block .
13. Following a consultation with schools regarding hosting an ARP, the Council received 21 expressions of interests from schools across the county who were considering developing an ARP on their site.
14. Due to the high level of interest from schools, the approach has been to concentrate on a small number of schools in order to test the educational and financial viability of ARPs, as well as to learn lessons from the pilot schemes, before entering into a wider programme of development across the county.
15. It has been long recognised that some schools in the Seaton Valley have a higher number of students with SEND on roll, due in part to attracting pupils from neighbouring schools. The Seaton Valley Federation (Astley High School, Whytrig Middle School and Seaton Sluice Middle School) and Seaton Sluice First School have a good record of meeting the additional needs of pupils with SEND, but with additional out-of-area pupils accessing their SEN provision, there is pressure on places. It is clear, however, that parents of children with SEND have confidence in the two settings that the proposed ARPs are to be based in.
16. At Astley High School, it is expected that, initially, the Local Authority will commission ten places across KS3 and KS4 for pupils with ASD and the ARP. As well as additional classroom space, Astley High has requested that the Local Authority allocate time from an Autism Liaison Teacher from the SEND Support Service to assist the school in establishing the provision. The current proposal for the Seaton Valley Partnership is that the additional accommodation provided on the Astley High School site will meet the needs of pupils with ASD and those pupils requiring an enhanced provision for emotional vulnerability needs.

17. The proposal for Seaton Sluice First School is to formally establish an ARP to meet the needs of pupils aged 4-9 years with a broad range of needs including ASD, Communication and Interaction and Moderate Learning Difficulties. It is expected that initially eight places will be commissioned.
18. In order to support the establishment of the new ARPs, both schools will require capital investment. It is envisaged the Seaton Sluice First School will be able to accommodate the new facilities required within the existing buildings. Astley High School will require additional accommodation, which will be provided in the form of a modular solution. As the local authority is currently developing plans to build two new schools for the Seaton Valley Federation, then if the ARP is successful, a purpose built facility will be provided as part of the new build schools. The table below sets out the capital implications of these proposals.

School	Cost
Astley High School	£185k
Seaton Sluice First School	£68k

19. A placement at an ARP is funded on the basis of a minimum of £10k per place. This is made up of the Aged Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) of approx £4k and a further £6k funded from the High Needs Block for the agreed commissioned places. Where a place is not occupied on the school census date, it is expected that the Local Authority will fund £10k instead of the £6k. The costs of the additional 18 places at the new ARPs will be off-set in the High Needs Block through the closure of the ARPs in Berwick.
20. In addition to these costs, the local authority may provide 'top ups' where a pupil has an enhanced level of need. These costs can be partially offset against the costs that would have been provided for these pupils in their home mainstream provision or if they had required a special school placement. In addition, there will be additional transport costs for some pupils, but had the pupil required a special school place then it is likely that transport costs would have been incurred regardless..

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy:	The consultation would be consistent with the Council's duty to provide sufficient and suitable places for all children in Northumberland.
Finance and value for money	There will be costs associated with providing an additional temporary classroom for the ARP at Astley High School. There will also be additional costs at Seaton Sluice First School associated with internal remodelling. The capital implications are set out in para 18, with the full costs of the developments being fully funded by the special provision capital grant. There will be a need for the Local Authority to fund commissioned places and potential top ups. In addition there will be transport costs incurred where the Local Authority name specialist provision for pupils. There will be potential savings, as some of the pupils accessing these provisions would require a placement at a Special School at an additional cost if the ARPs are not in place. Savings will also be realised to offset these costs with the closure of the two ARPs in Berwick.
Human Resources:	Schools establishing Additionally Resourced Provision will need to employ additional staff should Cabinet approve proposals. With regard to closing the Berwick ARPS, no staff are currently employed specifically for these provisions.
Property	Refer to 'Finance and value for money' above.
Equalities	An Equalities Impact Assessment would be carried out concurrently with the consultation process, should it be approved.
Risk Assessment	A full risk assessment would be carried out on the project should consultation be approved.
Carbon Reduction	It is not envisaged that this proposal would have a significant positive or negative impact on carbon reduction.
Crime & Disorder	This report has considered Section 17 (CDA) and the duty it imposes and there are no implications arising from it.
Customer Considerations:	The proposals set out in this report are based upon the outcomes of the consultation on the Special Educational Needs & Disability Strategy and Capacity
Consultation	Consultation was undertaken across the County in 2018 with regard to increasing capacity for pupils with special educational needs.
Wards	Hartley, Holywell, Seghill with Seaton Delaval, South Blyth, Cramlington East.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report sign off

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Liam Henry
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	Alison Elsdon
Relevant Executive Director	Cath McEvoy-Carr
Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder(s)	Wayne Daley

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