

2.3 - Annual Report for High Needs

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1 Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Schools Forum on the delivery of SEND support in Milton Keynes and provide an understanding of current pressures and actions to address the pressures.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To **note** this report and makes any recommendations as appropriate.

3 Financial Impact

- 3.1 The High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) became ring fenced in April 2018. This combined with continued demand for provision in relation to SEND means that this remains a highly pressured and potentially volatile element of the DSG.
- 3.2 In order to ensure a sustainable position on the high needs block it is a priority to ensure that a contingency is maintained and that this is reflective of the volatility within the block.

4 Issues

4.1 SEND Strategy

The Additional Needs and Disability Strategy is being refreshed but with a fully reviewed strategy to be co-produced for April 2021, to reflect the changed context we are now operating in and to ensure greater integration between the priority areas and the performance indicators.

4.2 Increasing Demands

SEND Teams continue to see an increase in demand as the snapshot statistics overleaf highlight:

Key Area	2018/19	2019/20	% increase
Calls to Inclusion and Intervention Duty Line (schools and professionals) - Autumn Term	157	164	4
Calls to Inclusion and Intervention Duty Line (parents and carers) - Autumn Term	67	126	88
Requests for EHC Needs assessments	417	451	8
Number of App D's (Ed Psych assessments for EHC's needs assessment)	276	334	21
Number of Children and young people with EHC Plans	2,024	2,335	15
EHC and Outreach Team Caseload, including packages of provision, school support and coordination of external packages	66	120	82

4.3 Tribunals

There has also been an increase in number of parents making appeals through the SEND tribunal process, although we resolve the majority without hearing (only 4 have been to hearing in the past year), resolving the areas of dispute are time consuming and often complex.

As a system there is work needed to invest the work in resolving disputes prior to tribunals being lodged in order to use our efforts proactively and build more collaborative relationship with all involved.

Year	Number of Tribunals Lodged
2017/18	27
2018/19	30
2019/20	53

4.4 Impact of Covid

As with all education services, SEND teams have experienced increased pressure due to Covid, this has been through needing to support families differently and additional requirements from the DFE including reviewing delivery of all EHC plans and ensuring risk assessments were in place in collaboration with schools and families.

To address these challenges the SEND duty line has been extended to cover child's periods and promoted to parents and carers as an option for gaining additional support and advice.

4.5 Pressure on Places and Place Planning

Demand for special school places remains high and work on future demand and provision is being progressed through a project group. A paper has been drafted that triangulates a range of data sources in order to provide a comprehensive analysis and planning data.

Key findings to demonstrate the greatest rise in demand around ASD provision, but also a notable increase in SEMH provision required.

Work continued to be progressed through the special provision fund and September 2020 will see additional places developed at White Spire, Walnut's and Romans Field schools for September 2021.

Annex A – Place Numbers

Schedule of High Needs Places	Sep-20			Sep-21		
	Total Funded Places	Total NOR Oct Census *	Over/Under Place Number	Pre-16 Funded Places	Post 16 Funded Places	Total Funded Places
Special Schools						
The Redway	191	180	-11	175	16	191
Romans Field	58	54	-4	66	-	66
Slated Row	232	213	-19	180	52	232
The Walnuts	180	178	-2	166	24	190
White Spire	150	149	-1	133	32	165
Stephenson Academy	110	120	10	80	40	120
Total Special School Places	921	894	-27	800	164	964
Special Departments						
Caroline Haslett Primary	5	1	-4	5	-	5
New Bradwell	20	17	-3	24	-	24
Charles Warren Academy	6	8	2	6	-	6
Chestnuts Primary - Hearing Impaired	3	3	0	3	-	3
Orchard Academy	10	8	-2	10	-	10
Shepherdswell Academy	6	6	0	6	-	6
Radcliffe	15	12	-3	12	3	15
St Paul's Catholic School	28	23	-5	17	11	28
St Paul's Catholic School - Hearing Impaired	10	5	-5	7	3	10
St Paul's Catholic School - Visual Impaired	11	11	0	10	1	11
Stantonbury Campus	13	12	-1	10	3	13
Total Special Unit Places	127	106	-21	110	21	131
Post-16 SEN Places (non-special school)						
MK College	135	147	12	-	150	150
Total Post-16 SEN Places	135	147	12	-	150	150
Total Places Funded	1,183	1,147	-36	910	335	1,245
Alternative Provision	Sep-20	Sep-21				
MK Primary PRU	18	18				
The Bridge AP Academy	195	195				
Total Alternative Provision	213	213				
Phased Closure of Department						

* Includes other local authority funded places - Academies and department numbers taken from November Cash Advance Files