

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	18 July 2024
Title of Report:	Plymouth City Council Special Educational needs and Disabilities Sufficiency Plan 2024-2030
Lead Member:	Councillor Sally Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships)
Lead Strategic Director:	David Haley (Director for Childrens Services)
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Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	Yes
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This plan will address the current status of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision within the City and the challenges that the City faces with increasing demand for specialist provision. It sets out options for the future of SEND provision within Plymouth.

Recommendations and Reasons

I. Your Recommendation

To endorse the proposed options for expansion of special educational provision within Plymouth to meet increasing demand.

Reason: Reason for your recommendation

Plymouth currently has insufficient SEND capacity within the city. Children are being placed in independent special school provision outside of the city to meet their needs due to capacity pressures. This does not fit with our ambition as a city to educate children close to their homes in high quality educational provision and is putting additional financial pressures on the designated schools grant.

Alternative options considered and rejected

- I. We could do nothing and keep our provision as it is. We do have a statutory duty to provide school places for children. By not expanding we would see an increase in the number of children placed in costly independent special school placements which would place additional pressure on our designated schools grant budget and could damage the reputation of the local authority if we are unable to provide special educational provision to the children who need it.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This plan links to the delivery of Plymouth's SEND Strategy vision to ensure that there is sufficient provision to enable children to be education within Plymouth and within their local community. It links to A Bright Future and the council's purpose of ensuring children and young people are healthy and happy, safe, aspire and achieve. It also supports the Plymouth Plan to deliver the best outcomes for children, young people and their families by ensuring that there are sufficient high quality schools and Theme 1 of the plan and Plymouth's ambition to become a welcoming city where children have access to an environment that provides outstanding early learning opportunities.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The options outlined in the plan are funded via the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation Grant and will support reducing the pressures on the designated schools grant.

Financial Risks

The designated schools grant is already under pressure, if we do not expand our current special school provision this pressure will increase as more children will be placed in expensive independent out of city special school placements.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

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Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Plymouth City Council Special Educational Needs and Disability Sufficiency Plan – Financial Information – which is commercially sensitive							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)							
C	Climate Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)
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	If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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<p>Originating Senior Leadership Team member: The plan has already been to CMT who are in support of the proposal.</p>											
<p>Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes</p> <p>Date agreed: 02/07/2024</p>											
<p>Cabinet Member approval: <i>[electronic signature (or typed name and statement of 'approved by email/verbally')]</i>Sally Cresswell – verbally approved.</p> <p>Date approved: 08/07/2024</p>											