

Cabinet



Date of meeting:	09 September 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)
Author:	Amanda Paddison (Head of Access to Learning)
Contact Email:	Amanda.paddison@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	
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

- To agree the SEND Sufficiency Plan 2024-2030 which sets out the proposed options for expansion of special educational provision within Plymouth to meet increasing demand.

Reason:

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

- 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 educated 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

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: David Haley (Director of Children's Services)

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 02/07/2024

Cabinet Member approval: *Councillor Sally Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships) approved verbally*

Date approved: 08/07/2024