



16 October 2017

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING & SKILLS

NEW THREE-YEAR NATIONAL CAPITAL FUNDING PROGRAMME, 'SPECIAL PROVISION CAPITAL GRANT' - NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S ALLOCATION

Purpose of Report

1. The report updates the Committee on the allocation of the new 'Specialist Provision Capital Grant', being made available to local authorities by Central Government from April 2018 and arrangements for consultation with schools and partners.
2. The report seeks approval of the next steps and actions detailed within the report and approval of the consultation questions.

Information and Advice

3. Over the next five years it is projected that the number of children and young people requiring a special school placement is set to increase by at least 150. The number of pupils in Nottinghamshire special schools has increased by 15% to 986 in the last five years.
4. A key strategy for the Council will include a focus on how it will generate this additional capacity within the existing estate in the most efficient and pragmatic way possible. This will, in all likelihood, require a multi-site expansion proposal being presented to elected members for approval.
5. There is an immediate need to begin this programme. There are not enough special school places for Nottinghamshire children and young people; the impact of this is already being felt on revenue budgets as numbers being placed in expensive non-maintained and/or out of county provision is increasing, as is the number of children and young people placed at schools further away from their homes.
6. The £215 million Specialist Provision Capital Grant fund is to support local authorities to invest in provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and disabilities aged 0-25 years to improve the quality and range of provision available to the local authority. It is intended for the children and young people with education, health and care plans for whom Councils are responsible. Further information regarding the fund can be found in **Appendix 1**.

7. Nottinghamshire has been allocated £848,601 per year for three years, commencing in 2018.
8. In order for the grant to be released, the County Council must consult with parents and carers of children with SEN and disabilities and young people with SEN and disabilities. It must also work with education providers to agree how the capital can best be targeted.
9. It is proposed that the County Council consults on the following questions:
 - a) should this fund be used in the areas of highest strategic need within the County?
 - b) should this fund be used to finance capital programmes in independent non-maintained settings?
 - c) should this fund be used only to generate additional SEND capacity in existing Nottinghamshire schools?

Proposed Next Steps

10. The proposed next steps are as follows:

Agree an 8 week Consultation period

- consultation to begin at noon on Wednesday 18 October (ending at noon on 13 November 2017)
- communicate consultation (press release, online, social media)

Consult with Parents and Carers

- brief Parent Carer Forum (PCF) Chair and request agenda item
- attend PCF and gain feedback
- utilise consultation from most recent SEND review
- co-produce consultation strategy for children and young people

Consult with schools, further education colleges and other institutions which offer special educational provision

- brief Special School Head Teachers at Trust Board Meeting
- online/social media consultation
- brief Primary Head Teachers at Trust Board Meeting
- brief Governors at Trust Board Meeting
- provide consultation report for Schools Forum and gather feedback
- utilise consultation from most recent SEND review
- co-produce consultation strategy for children and young people

Consider how to invest revenue and capital funding strategically

- review consultation feedback to establish priorities for special school capital programme.
- brief Corporate Asset Management Group
- brief Elected Members

Collaborate with other local authorities

- establish meeting with Nottingham City, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire.

Agree Outcomes

- report back and make recommendations for Children and Young People's Committee approval
- Children and Young People's Committee to approve outcome

Share Outcomes

- publish outcome on the Local Offer website.
- provide report and information for wider circulation.

Other Options Considered

11. This is a national requirement in order to access the Specialist Provision Capital Grant and as such there are no other options to consider.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. In order to access the Nottinghamshire allocation of the Specialist Provision Capital Grant.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

14. By approving this report the Council will be able to complete all related tasks in order to access the Specialist Provision Capital Grant, which will lead to a total of £2.54 million to being released over a three year period, from April 2018.
15. No costs are anticipated with undertaking the consultation.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee:

- 1) approves the proposed next steps, as detailed in paragraph 10, in order to access the Nottinghamshire allocation of the Specialist Provision Capital Grant
- 2) approves the proposed consultation questions
- 3) requests that the outcomes of the consultation are presented to the Committee in January 2018 with a proposed recommendation/s for approval.

Marion Clay
Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Matt Rooney
Place Planning SEND Lead
T: 01159 932570
E: matt.Rooney@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (LM 21/09/17)

16. The Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report. If Committee resolves that any actions are required it must be satisfied that such actions are within the Committee's terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SAS 02/10/17)

17. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraphs 14 and 15 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1033