

## **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY FINAL REPORT**

### **Purpose of Report**

1. To inform the Schools Forum of the findings and recommendations of the Review of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).
2. To brief Schools Forum on recent Expressions of Interest submitted to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) in respect of potential new special schools.

### **SEND Review**

Local authorities are required by law to review elements of their Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) arrangements every three years.

The review commenced on 2 October 2015 and concluded on 10 October 2016. Its work was led by a multi-agency Board, chaired by Councillor John Peck, and three additional working groups were established to support the SEND Review Board.

The review has gathered evidence from a broad range of stakeholders across a variety of disciplines. It has also engaged with over 100 parents/carers and children and young people.

The review has explored the need, role and function of specialist places of education for children and young people with SEND presently and into the future. It has also considered the processes surrounding the assessment, commissioning and monitoring of specialist places of education and the SEND support services provided to mainstream schools and academies.

The findings and recommendations from the review are contained within the final report of the SEND Review Board, attached as **Appendix 1**.

A finding of the SEND Review was that there is little to no capacity in existing special schools and recommendations were made to increase that capacity. It is recommended that the Council would identify funding streams to increase capacity and would proactively seek new special school provision.

## **New Special Schools**

The Director of Children's Services (DSC) received a letter from the RSC dated 24 October 2016 regarding a process for Expressions Of Interest (EOI) in to the creation of new special schools under the free schools programme. The council had to declare initial interest in the programme by the end of October and submit any final EOIs before midday on 11 November 2016.

Matt Rooney, SEND Place Planning Lead, developed the EOIs on behalf of the DCS. He liaised with the SEND Parent/Carer Forum, Elected Members and others, including the Chair of Schools Forum.

The Chair of the forum, felt that whilst the EOIs and the Council's rationale and principles around applying were sound, he would like Schools Forum as a whole to have the opportunity to be briefed and discuss the potential developments, in the broader context of the SEND Review.

Given the timescales the Chair of Schools Forum agreed to the following points being recorded in the Council's EOI on the proviso that an agenda item was included at the next Schools Forum meeting:

- Schools Forum is committed to ensuring schools are able to meet needs of all pupils
- There are two special school Head Teachers on schools forum
- Special school pressure to be included as an agenda item on 6/12/16

The Council has submitted two Expressions of Interest to the RSC for the creation of 2 new Special Schools through the Free Schools Programme. The two geographical areas identified through the SEND review were Bestwood Village/ Eastwood/ Hucknall and Bilsthorpe/ Edwinstowe/ Ollerton/ Rainworth.

A copy of the EOI form is attached as **Appendix 2**.

## **Recommendation**

That the Schools Forum:

- note the contents of the report

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