

Briefing Paper – September 2017

Special Provision Capital Fund

1.0 DfE Special Provision Capital Fund (SPCF) Overview

1.1 The Children and Families Act 2014 places important statutory responsibilities on local authorities for supporting children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities.

1.2 This is a vital role that local authorities retain in our increasingly school-led education system and one that requires long-term strategic planning, informed by detailed local knowledge enhanced through consultation with parents and carers, and good relationships with local schools. Local authorities must ensure there are sufficient good school places for all pupils, including those with SEN and disabilities.

1.3 Nationally the Government has committed £215 million of capital funding to help local authorities create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with SEN and disabilities, in consultation with parents and providers.

1.4 This capital is not ring-fenced and local authorities can use it as they see fit to improve special provision for children and young people with education, health and care (EHC) plans. It can be invested in mainstream schools and academies, special units, special schools and academies, early years settings, further education colleges or to make other provision for children and young people aged from 0 to 25.

2.0 SPCF Allocation to Nottinghamshire and Nearest Neighbours

LA	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	LA's total allocation
Nottinghamshire	£ 848,601	£ 848,601	£ 848,601	£ 2,545,802
Derbyshire	£ 427,606	£ 427,606	£ 427,606	£ 1,282,819
Staffordshire	£ 311,412	£ 311,412	£ 311,412	£ 934,237
Lancashire	£ 683,200	£ 683,200	£ 683,200	£ 2,049,599
Worcestershire	£ 361,888	£ 361,888	£ 361,888	£ 1,085,665
Cumbria	£ 166,667	£ 166,667	£ 166,667	£ 500,000

3.0 SPCF Spending Remit

3.1 The £215 million fund is to support local authorities to invest in provision for children and young people with SEN and disabilities aged 0-25 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 Nottinghamshire County Council is responsible. It is entirely legitimate for the local authority to spend some of the capital funding on provision that happens to lie outside the local authority's boundaries, if the local authority places children and young people there and believes that the capital investment will improve the quality and range of provision available.

3.2 Local authorities can invest their share of the SPCF in the creation of new (additional) places at good or outstanding provision, improving existing facilities or developing new facilities. This can be through:

- Expansion(s) to existing provision including at the same site or at a different site.
- Reconfiguring provision to make available the space for the additional places or facilities.
- Re-purposing areas so that they meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Other capital transactions that result in new (additional) places or facilities' improvements
- Investing in provision that is located in another local authority where this supports providing good outcomes for children in their area.

3.3 Local authorities should consider how to invest capital and revenue in a joined-up way to get the most out of each project. Local authorities may also combine their special provision allocation with other capital funding. Groups of local authorities may wish to pool capital resources to develop provision, which can support a wider area.

3.4 The funding is for a range of provision types (primary, secondary, college, special, special unit, PRU, AP academy and nursery/early years) where this benefits children and young people with education, health and care (EHC) plans between 0 and 25.

3.5 Funding is not intended for:

- Higher education including universities and other higher education provision
- Any provision for those aged 25 and over.
- Expanding provision specially to create additional places for pupils who do not have education, health and care plans. We recognise that facilities for pupils with EHC plans might bring a wider benefit and help other children.
- Reasonable adjustments that schools are required to fund as part of the accessibility requirements. This includes ramps or widening doorways.
- Revenue expenditure such as furniture (chairs, desks), teaching apparatus such as white boards, training or staff costs.
- Individual mobility equipment such as wheelchairs. However, local authorities can spend this funding on capital installations such as ceiling hoists for lifting non-ambulant children into a hydrotherapy pool.
- Maintenance work, which will be covered by Devolved Formula Capital funding.

4.0 Prior to Funding Release

4.1 We 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.

4.2 A DfE 'short plan template' must be completed, confirming that the requirement to consult with parents, carers and young people has been met, and including information about the other groups that they have consulted.

4.3 The plan must be published on the local offer page showing how we plan to invest the funding, before the deadline specified below.

4.4 Where we work collaboratively on projects, these must be listed on each plan with an explanation of which other local authorities they have collaborated with and how.

5.0 SPCF Timeline

By Wednesday 14 March 2018	The short plan must be published on the local offer page
Summer 2018	We will receive the first tranche of funding providing we have published the plan and consulted with parents, carers and young people
March 2019	We should update and republish our plan to show spending to date
Summer 2019	We will receive the second tranche of funding
March 2020	We should update and republish our plan again
Summer 2020	We will receive the third tranche of funding
March 2021	We should update and republish our plan a final time, to show how all the money was eventually spent

6.0 Next Steps

6.1 **Agree an 8 week Consultation period with SEND Board**

- 28 September 2017
- Comms Team to communicate consultation (press release etc)

6.1 **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 CYP

6.2 **Consult with schools, FE colleges and other institutions which offer special educational provision.**

- Brief Special School Head Teachers at Autumn Term Trust Board Meeting
- Online/social media consultation
- Brief Primary Head Teachers at Autumn Term Trust Board Meeting
- Brief Governors at Autumn Term Trust Board Meeting
- Provide consultation report for Schools Forum and gather feedback
- Utilise consultation from most recent SEND review
- Co-produce consultation strategy for CYP

6.3 **Consider how to invest revenue and capital funding strategically**

- Review consultation feedback to establish priorities for special school capital programme.
- Consult and Brief CAMG
- Consult Elected Members

6.4 **Collaborate with other local authorities**

- Establish Meeting with Nottingham City, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire.

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