**Nottingham City Council SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2023 - 2028**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The Council as an education authority has a duty to promote high standards of education and fair access to education. It also has a general duty to secure sufficient schools in their area, and to consider the need to secure provision for children with Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND). These are referred to as the school place planning duties.

The Department for Education (DfE) has announced local authority capital funding to support the provision of new places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and those requiring alternative provision (AP). This is collectively referred to as high needs provision.

Nottingham City Council’s allocation of this funding for the financial years 2021-24 is just under £18m. Funding allocation beyond this date is unknown.

The capital funding is intended to create new places and improve existing provision for children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities or requiring alternative provision.

The SEND Capital Strategy aligns to the principles of the Nottingham City SEND Strategy. It will also be updated once the Government has published the outcomes of the green paper consultation on the future of the SEND and alternative provision system.

* 1. **Purpose of this document**
* To outline the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) context in Nottingham City, to provide a greater understanding of need;
* To set out the City’s existing SEND provision and capacity;
* To provide data and evidence to inform the strategy and support the Council’s decision making as it seeks to fulfil its sufficiency duty and deliver high quality inclusive provision;
* To develop a SEND Sufficiency Strategy to support the SEND Strategy and priorities, by increasing high quality inclusive provision, improving existing provision and supporting all schools and settings to be inclusive.
* To set out the guiding principles for implementing the SEND Sufficiency Strategy.

**2. Context**

2.1 In Nottingham, children with additional needs benefit from good and outstanding mainstream and special school provision. However, as is the case nationally, we are experiencing considerable growth in the numbers of young people identified as having special educational needs and/or disabilities and there is insufficient capacity to meet this growing need in primary and secondary settings in the coming years. At the current time, virtually all places in special schools and Specialist Resourced Provisions within mainstream school (SRPs) are currently full. We are committed to supporting our schools and settings within the city as we believe that local provision offers the best outcomes for our children and young people.

2.2 The growing SEND cohort also brings financial pressure to the Council’s revenue budget. However, with adequate long-term evidence-based planning, the Council can mitigate the impact on its revenue budget through invest to save capital investments that develop the SEND estate and create the capacity within our education system to continue to meet children and young people’s needs effectively and as locally as possible.

2.3 The LA is forward planning for the High Needs revenue implications associated with the HN capital plans outlined in this strategy.  This involves budgeting for the High Needs place and top-up funding associated with the creation of additional specialist high needs places.  Other than one Primary Specialist Resourced Provision already approved, it is anticipated that the very earliest any new provision could be agreed, built and ready to open is September 2024.  Places in the new provision would be phased in, taking in an extra year group cohort each academic year until full.  Over the last 5 years, High Needs revenue funding has been increased at unprecedented levels, but from 2024/25 onwards HN funding increases are expected to be much lower.  The LA is therefore earmarking £2.5m from the 2023/24 HN funding allocation for short-term purposes only, in order for this to be available to use to fund the additional high needs places as they come on stream.

2.4 The Sufficiency Strategy will build on the special school expansions and additional Specialist Resourced Provisions (SRPs) within mainstream school, which have already been delivered or are underway. Further increases in both special school provision and SRPs are required to meet growing demand, increase local provision and choice and to maintain the limited number of out-of-city placements commissioned.

2.5 It is important that there is a strategic approach to developing proposals to ensure there is appropriate provision across all age groups and needs. The aim is to ensure a continuum of good/outstanding provision for children and young people with SEND, that offers choice and progression and to reflect changing demand. The proposals in the capital plan will be reviewed further in the context of data and affordability.

2.6 This strategy is an evolving document and will be reviewed annually or sooner, dependant on the outcomes of the SEND green paper consultation, to ensure it reflects the changing context and demands. The Council will continue to work with schools, partners, families, children and young people and other stakeholders to deliver high quality inclusive provision, to ensure individual needs are being met and to ensure the best possible experience and outcomes for all children and young people.

**3. Guiding Principles**

To realise the vision, the implementation of the SEND Sufficiency Strategy will be guided by the following principles:

* Aim to enable children and young people to access high quality education in their local area, close to their home and community, whilst providing best value for any investment.
* Work in partnership and consult with education providers in the development of the Capital Plan.
* Ensure that the voices of parents/carers and young people’s voice are central to the SEND provision proposals.
* Use all available data effectively to identify the need to inform the Sufficiency Strategy.
* Target increased provision in key areas where pressures exist.
* Work closely with providers to ensure that the significant majority of children and young people can have their needs met in their local inclusive mainstream school. For children with the most complex needs the LA aims to develop a range of specialist resourced provisions in mainstream schools and additional special school capacity within its local area.
* Ensure that the findings of the SEND Local Area Inspection and the recommendations from the Government’s SEND Review Green Paper consultation, are an integral element of the SEND Sufficiency Strategy and that progress towards implementation is monitored over time.
* Alongside the Sufficiency Strategy, develop a “local inclusion plan”, clearly communicating to providers and parents/carers about the provision that is available in the local area, including units within mainstream, specialist and AP.

**4. NOTTINGHAM CITY HIGH NEEDS COHORT**

**4.1** **SEND Support and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)**

The Sufficiency Strategy aims to meet the needs of young people both at SEND Support and with an Education, Health and Care plan, but the cohort data is set out separately below.

**4.2 Current SEND EHCP Cohort**

As at January 2022, there were 1311 children and young people for whom Nottingham City maintains an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The graph shows the age breakdown of the EHCP cohort:

The chart below shows a breakdown of the type of establishment named on the current EHC Plans as at January 2022:

Where the Council is unable to meet needs within state school provision, children and young people may be placed in Independent Specialist Placements (ISPs) and Independent or Non-Maintained Special Schools (INMSS). These are typically highly expensive placements. As at January 2022, there were only 37 children placed in INMSS and 18 young people in Specialist Post-16 institutions. Benchmarking data for 2019/20 shows that Nottingham City spent £13 per head of 2-18 population on top-up funding for INMSS compared to a national average of £91.

**4.3 High Needs pupils without EHCP**

In Nottingham City, pupils do not require an EHC plan in order to receive high needs top-up funding. The high needs pupil cohort in Nottingham City is therefore wider than just the EHCP cohort. As at January 2022, there were 709 pupils at SEN support flagged on the school census as receiving high needs top-up funding.

**4.4 School census high needs top-up pupils**

It is useful to review the trends of high needs top-up pupils from school census data. This captures those high needs pupils attending mainstream and special schools and academies in the City.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TABLE 1: High Needs Top-Up Pupils by Primary Need over Time** | | | | | | | | |
| **Primary Need** | **Year** | | | | | | **5 Yr Inc/(Dec)** | |
| **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** |
| ASD | 317 | 336 | 412 | 492 | 570 | 642 | 325 | 103% |
| HI | 27 | 25 | 39 | 41 | 32 | 37 | 10 | 37% |
| MLD | 65 | 80 | 70 | 78 | 88 | 142 | 77 | 118% |
| MSI | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | -2 | -67% |
| NSA |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 |  |
| OTH | 38 | 19 | 21 | 22 | 21 | 33 | -5 | -13% |
| PD | 50 | 45 | 55 | 66 | 62 | 73 | 23 | 46% |
| PMLD | 51 | 55 | 61 | 70 | 68 | 72 | 21 | 41% |
| SEMH | 262 | 219 | 224 | 226 | 255 | 247 | -15 | -6% |
| SLCN | 70 | 68 | 105 | 123 | 139 | 172 | 102 | 146% |
| SLD | 158 | 158 | 126 | 116 | 114 | 134 | -24 | -15% |
| SPLD | 18 | 21 | 48 | 50 | 57 | 51 | 33 | 183% |
| VI | 15 | 10 | 12 | 18 | 16 | 15 | 0 | 0% |
| Grand Total | 1074 | 1038 | 1179 | 1305 | 1427 | 1623 | 549 |  |

As can be seen in **Table 1**, the most prevalent primary need is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Numbers of Autism top-up pupils have doubled since 2017, and this increase accounts for nearly 60% of the overall growth in top-up pupils over the 5-year period. The second highest increase, accounting for a further 19% of the growth, relates to pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).

**Table 2** above shows the age profile of high needs children:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TABLE 2: High Needs Top-up Pupils by Year Group** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Primary Need** | **Year Group** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Total |
| N1 | N2 | R | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| ASD |  | 20 | 47 | 60 | 70 | 63 | 50 | 49 | 42 | 42 | 48 | 42 | 49 | 31 | 16 | 8 | 5 | 642 |
| HI |  |  | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 3 |  | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 37 |
| MLD |  | 3 | 8 | 15 | 13 | 10 | 12 | 15 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 5 | 10 | 11 |  |  | 1 | 142 |
| MSI |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |
| NSA |  | 1 |  | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4 |
| OTH |  | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 4 |  | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 |  | 1 |  |  | 33 |
| PD | 1 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 7 |  |  |  | 73 |
| PMLD |  | 1 | 10 | 4 | 12 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 72 |
| SEMH |  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 18 | 17 | 19 | 27 | 33 | 22 | 35 | 21 | 27 | 18 |  | 1 |  | 247 |
| SLCN |  | 13 | 23 | 22 | 26 | 15 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 4 |  | 4 | 1 | 172 |
| SLD |  |  | 4 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 4 | 18 | 11 | 9 | 6 | 11 | 14 | 14 | 11 | 7 | 134 |
| SPLD |  |  |  | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 9 |  | 4 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 2 |  | 51 |
| VI |  |  |  | 2 | 2 | 1 |  | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  |  | 2 | 1 | 15 |
| Total | 1 | 47 | 109 | 126 | 164 | 140 | 123 | 130 | 136 | 116 | 125 | 98 | 123 | 98 | 38 | 32 | 17 | 1623 |

Children with high needs are being identified earlier and in greater numbers. As can be seen in **Table 2**, most cohorts in the primary phase are currently exceeding the cohort average of 125 demonstrating that overall numbers will continue to rise and additional secondary high needs places will be required as these children move through their education. Having sufficient local places for the growing number of high needs pupils with autism is a key strategic priority for the high needs capital strategy. **Table 2** suggests that based on the differential between the current primary and secondary cohort sizes that an extra 20+ high needs places per year group for young people with autism will be required in the secondary phase over the coming years.

**Table 3** shows the breakdown of ASD pupils by type of provision and phase in 2022 in comparison to 2017.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TABLE 3: Comparison of ASD Top Up Pupils by Phase and Setting Type over Time** | | | | | | | |
| **Setting Type** | **Phase** | **2017** | **% of total** | **2022** | **% of total** | **Change** | **% Change** |
| Mainstream | Primary | 122 | 38% | 310 | 48% | 188 | 154% |
| Secondary | 32 | 10% | 83 | 13% | 51 | 159% |
| Total | 154 | 49% | 393 | 61% | 239 | 155% |
| Special | Primary | 77 | 24% | 91 | 14% | 14 | 18% |
| Secondary | 78 | 25% | 156 | 24% | 78 | 100% |
| Total | 155 | 49% | 247 | 38% | 92 | 59% |
| Pupil Referral Unit | Primary | 2 | 1% | 0 | 0% | -2 | -100% |
| Secondary | 6 | 2% | 2 | 0% | -4 | -67% |
| Total | 8 | 3% | 2 | 0% | -6 | -75% |
|  | TOTAL | 317 | 100% | 642 | 100% | 325 | 103% |
| Mainstream as % of total numbers in phase | Primary | 61% |  | 77% |  | | |
| Secondary | 28% | 34% |
| Total | 49% | 61% |

**Table 3** demonstrates that in the primary phase, the majority of high needs pupils with autism are accessing mainstream provision, whilst in the secondary phase the majority attend Special Schools. An extra 92 Special School places have been allocated to pupils with autism as their primary need over the 5 year comparison period, which were mostly (78) taken by secondary aged pupils.

**Table 4** below shows the current profile of pupils on roll at City Special Schools.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TABLE 4: Special School Pupils on Roll by Primary Need (Jan 22)** | | | | | | | |
| **Primary Need** | **Special School** | | | | | |  |
| Nethergate | Woodlands | Rosehill | Westbury | Oak Field | Grand Total | % of places |
| ASD | 92 | 37 | 113 | 3 | 2 | 247 | 40% |
| HI | 3 |  |  |  |  | 3 | 0% |
| MLD | 3 | 15 |  | 1 |  | 19 | 3% |
| OTH | 1 | 2 |  | 1 |  | 4 | 1% |
| PD | 5 | 1 |  | 1 |  | 7 | 1% |
| PMLD | 2 | 3 |  |  | 53 | 58 | 9% |
| SEMH | 7 | 14 |  | 83 |  | 104 | 17% |
| SLCN | 15 | 5 |  | 3 |  | 23 | 4% |
| SLD | 5 | 4 |  |  | 110 | 119 | 19% |
| SPLD | 23 | 3 |  | 2 |  | 28 | 5% |
| VI | 2 |  |  |  |  | 2 | 0% |
| Grand Total | 158 | 84 | 113 | 94 | 165 | 614 | 100% |

In the light of the increased numbers of pupils with autism requiring Special School places as identified in **Table 3**, 40% of all Special School places are now taken by pupils with this primary need. A new 40 place autism unit has been built at Nethergate Special Academy. As at January 2022, 5 of the 6 new 8-place classes had been phased in. Oak Field and Woodlands Special Schools have also both opened new autism classes and additional places have been commissioned at Rosehill School.

**Table 5** shows the current age profile of pupils in Nottingham City special schools:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TABLE 5: Special School Pupils on Roll by Year Group (Jan 22)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Special School** | **Year Group** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **R** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **Total** |
| Nethergate | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 13 | 12 | 24 | 13 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 6 | 13 | 7 | 158 |
| Woodlands |  |  | 3 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 16 | 18 | 8 | 8 | 17 |  |  |  | 84 |
| Rosehill |  | 2 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 15 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 113 |
| Westbury |  |  |  |  | 3 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 20 | 18 | 19 | 14 |  |  |  | 94 |
| Oak Field | 8 | 5 | 12 | 9 | 12 | 7 | 20 | 11 | 12 | 8 | 8 | 14 | 17 | 14 | 8 | 165 |
| Grand Total | 9 | 9 | 22 | 27 | 33 | 40 | 51 | 71 | 78 | 58 | 62 | 72 | 34 | 31 | 17 | 614 |
| **NOR by Key Stage** | **EY** | **KS1** | | **KS2** | | | | **KS3** | | | **KS4** | | **Post-16** | | | **Total** |
| 9 | 31 | | 151 | | | | 207 | | | 134 | | 82 | | | 614 |
| **NOR by Phase** | **Primary** | | | | | | | **Secondary** | | | | | **Post-16** | | | **Total** |
| 191 | | | | | | | 341 | | | | | 82 | | | 614 |
| 31% | | | | | | | 56% | | | | | 13% | | | 100% |

As can be seen in **Table 5**, a large majority of special school pupils are secondary aged/post-16 and there has been an increasing shift towards secondary aged pupils.

Given the increase in numbers of young people with autism, development of an additional autism provision is a high priority within the capital strategy.

In addition to this, there will be a significant number of young people with autism whose needs can be met in mainstream schools with the appropriate support and training and an appropriate physical environment. The development of Special Resourced Provisions catering for 8 places per year group could help support the increasing numbers of Autism, SLCN and MLD pupils, providing local enhanced mainstream provision in the pupils’ own communities.

In order to identify which areas of the City will have greatest demand for such places, numbers of pupils in the primary phase currently attending mainstream schools receiving high level needs (HLN) top-up funding in the range of B1-C1 for primary needs of autism/SLCN or MLD have been analysed. Pupil numbers are shown by year group and primary planning area in **Table 6** below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TABLE 6**: **HLN Pupils B1-C1 (ASD/SLCN/MLD)**  **by Primary Planning Area**  (B1 – C1 allocations are high level funding allocations reflecting the complexity of young people’s SEND) | | | | | | | | | |
| Primary Planning Area | Year Group | | | | | | | | |
| N2 | R | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | Total |
| Bestwood / Top Valley | 8 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 33 |
| Bilborough / Broxtowe | 6 | 10 | 15 | 22 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 76 |
| Bulwell | 6 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 41 |
| Clifton | 3 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 36 |
| County | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 |  |  |  | 8 |
| Forest Fields | 11 | 12 | 14 | 12 | 3 | 1 |  | 3 | 56 |
| Lenton | 1 | 2 | 3 |  | 1 | 2 | 1 |  | 10 |
| Meadows | 2 | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |  |  | 4 |
| Sneinton | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 23 |
| St Anns | 6 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 37 |
| Wollaton | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 |  | 1 |  | 11 |
| Total | 52 | 61 | 62 | 66 | 40 | 19 | 12 | 23 | 335 |

The above shows that the priority areas of the City for Specialist Resourced Provisions should be:

1. Bilborough/Broxtowe
2. Forest Fields
3. Bulwell
4. St Anns

**‘Specialist Resourced Provisions’ (SRP) within mainstream schools**

In Nottingham City, we have invested in a number of SRPs within mainstream schools, enabling a greater proportion of children and young people with complex needs to access their community schools.

The table below shows the current numbers of high needs places in SRPs attached to mainstream schools:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Specialist Resourced Units** | **High Needs Places AY22-23** | | | | |
| Pre-16 | Post-16 | School | LA commissioned | Total |
| Bluecoat Primary Academy - Autism | 5 |  |  | 5 | 5 |
| Bluecoat Aspley Academy - Autism | 6 | 10 |  | 16 | 16 |
| The Bulwell Academy - Autism | 6 |  |  | 6 | 6 |
| Mellers Primary School - Deaf | 13 |  |  | 13 | 13 |
| Nottingham University Samworth Academy - Deaf | 12 |  |  | 12 | 12 |
| Fernwood Primary – Autism/learning | 2 |  | 8 | 2 | 10 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Key strategic SEND capital priorities**

To increase capacity we have outlined out strategic priorities to meet the increasing need for places:

**Priority 1**

Creating additional specialist capacity in the mainstream primary phase, to meet the needs of primary aged pupils withAutism and moderate learning difficulties in Key Stages 1 and 2.

**Priority 2**

Creating additional specialist capacity in the mainstream secondary phase, to meet the needs of secondary aged pupils withAutism and moderate learning difficulties in Key Stages 3 and 4.

**Priority 3**

Creating additional special school capacity to meet the needs of pupils with complex needs, primarily Autism Spectrum Disorder.

1. **SEND capital proposed schemes for consultation (attached document)**
   1. In line with these priorities and requirements evidenced by the data, we have identified a number of possible schemes for how we may invest the funding, which will create a combination of additional special school provision and Specialist Resourced Units within mainstream schools. Where specific settings and sites are not yet determined, proposals may invite expressions of interest from Nottingham City schools.
   2. It is proposed that a full commissioning review of alternative provision is undertaken to inform sufficiency requirements for young people excluded from school or who require additional and different support from that available in mainstream school. This strategy will be updated to reflect any prospective schemes that are identified through the commissioning review.
   3. Individual project costs will vary depending on size, site and complexity of provision. The possible schemes identified as broad proposals include indicative high level area and cost estimations based on recent schemes only. Options appraisal and feasibility investigations will need to be completed, to establish the viability of any projects and to ensure the most appropriate and cost-effective solutions to providing local education for children. We will also engage in consultation and discussion with a range of local stakeholders to ensure they are involved in shaping proposals.
   4. We are now inviting feedback on these broad proposals and are particularly interested in feedback from parents, carers and young people as well as schools and settings. You can ask any questions and share your views to help shape proposals. Ways you can do this are included below. After the period of consultation we will publish all the feedback and a plan showing how we intend to invest our allocated funding.
2. **Capital investment** 
   1. LAs are expected to make use of the High Needs capital investment to improve the suitability and sufficiency of high needs provision in their areas over the next three years. In Nottingham City we aim to enable all children and young people to access high quality education in their local area, close to their home and community, whilst providing best value for any investment.
   2. In addition to our High Needs capital allocation, we will take a strategic approach to allocating funding and maximising best value for any investment. This will incorporate the use of S106 funding linked to housing developments where it can be aligned to specific proposals. Disability Access Grant from 2023/24 may also be invested to support proposals.
   3. No final decisions have yet been made regarding funding for 2024-25, although it is expected that there will be a continued approach of a mix of LA capital allocations, targeted capital support and free school delivery. It is currently unknown as to whether there will be any additional capital funding allocations to support the AP system and the aims of the SEND Green Paper to make AP an integral part of local SEND system and deliver an improved service focused on early intervention.
   4. Funding beyond 2025 is contingent on the outcomes of future Spending Reviews and additional capital funding beyond this period cannot be guaranteed; it is therefore critical that prudent decisions are taken now to ensure the sustainability of the system for the longer term.

**Have your say….**

Consultation on the proposed Sufficiency Strategy and priorities will commence at the end of January 2023.