Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Special Provision Capital Fund Plan
2018 to 2021

DfE Special Provision Capital Fund

In 2017 the Department for Education announced the introduction of a new capital fund for all local authorities (LAs) to enhance facilities for children and young people (CYP) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Guidance was issued in August 2017 which explained that this funding could be used to improve the quality and range of specialist provision and although it is not ring fenced, in order to receive the funding LAs must publish a short plan on the Local Offer setting out how it will be spent.

The guidance recognised that effective engagement with parents/carers of CYP with SEND is crucial in designing and implementing this Capital Fund Plan. It is also recognised that resources need to be invested in a joined up way with existing resources and in the light of wider plans.

Our Strategic Approach

Our vision for CYP with SEND is that they achieve well in early years, at school and at college, and lead happy and fulfilled lives. We firmly believe that CYP, including those with the most complex needs, should have access to good local provision and every opportunity to achieve good outcomes, whether this be education, employment, independent living, participation in their community or being as healthy as possible. In 2018 we are jointly preparing our new SEND Strategy with parents/carers and partners based on this vision.

Current Specialist Provision

Kensington and Chelsea has 4 resource bases in mainstream schools for pupils with SEND. Ark Brunel has provision for pupils with speech, language and communication difficulties; Barlby Primary School, Kensington Aldridge Academy and Marlborough Primary School have provision for pupils with autism.

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<th>Resource base</th>
<th>Primary need</th>
<th>Age range</th>
<th>Places</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ark Brunel</td>
<td>SLCN</td>
<td>5 - 11</td>
<td>16</td>
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The aim is to open a special school for CYP with autism and/or severe learning difficulties and reduce the need for CYP to travel to schools out of the borough. The intention is for this school to provide 80 places for CYP aged 2 to 19 years. This will be funded by the Council and it is anticipated that it will open in 2020.

We have 28 pupils placed in independent and non-maintained schools out of the area. Our aim is to ensure that fewer CYP need to be educated out of the borough over the next 3 years.

**Consultation**

Since March 2017, when the capital grant was first outlined to the Tri-borough Headteachers’ Executive committee, a number of discussions have taken place, formally and informally, with a view to agreeing how to use the £166,667 pa available to RBKC.

More recently the well-respected family support charity, ‘Full of Life’, was asked to discuss with local parents to seek their views and it was raised at their Conference on 21st March 2017.

A key issues arising from the range of discussions which have taken place with schools and parents in the past year over their physical ability to support pupils with EHC Plans have been the need for:

1. clear and open dialogue between all those involved with the education and care of individual children which is complicated by the absence of appropriate space at schools for meetings, all available space being used either for class teaching or for interventions to support raising achievement, and/or additional space in schools to enable them to offer quiet/oasis time and greater capacity for break out classes/small groups;
2. the development of outside classrooms/covered areas;
3. sensory rooms to be available in more schools;
4. specialist changing facilities in more schools;
5. more specialist play equipment in school playgrounds.

**Conclusion**

Based on this consultation, it has been agreed that funding will be allocated to projects which work towards meeting the above needs. We will work with our local schools to agree which schools will be enhanced in which particular way. It is anticipated that the following schools will be enhanced during 2018/19:

- Avondale Park, Thomas Jones and Bevington Primary, St Francis of Assisi (subject to Diocesan approval).

As the updated SEND Strategy is currently being drafted, we have concluded that we should consult further in 2018 about the most appropriate use of the capital fund in subsequent years.