Introduction

Staffordshire County Council is intending to access an allocation of Send Provision Capital Funding for pupils with EHC plans for the 2018-19 Academic Year.

The maximum allocation for Staffordshire is £311,000 for 2018-19

This briefing note takes note of the Dfe guidance (Special Provision Capital Guidance – August 2017)

The funding is intended to support Local authorities to create new school places and/or improve existing facilities for children and young people with SEND who have Education and Health Care Plans, in consultation with parents and providers.

Statement of Priorities for 2018-19

Staffordshire County Council is proposing to use this capital investment to support the following key priorities identified.

The Education Vulnerable Learner Services Business Plan sets out our vision for children and young people with SEND.

We are ambitious for all children and young people in Staffordshire, we want to give them the best start in life that we can and work to ensure that “no child is left behind” and that we narrow the gap when it comes to outcomes for children and young people with SEND needs when being compared with their mainstream peers.

To progress our ambitions the services, teams and personnel working within the Vulnerable Learner Services portfolio will work with local partners, stakeholders and providers to:

- have the highest expectations for children and young people with SEND, ensure that they are fully included in all educational settings and that their needs are met by high performing local schools.
- support and enable Staffordshire schools to be inclusive for children and young people with SEND.
- act as a champion of vulnerable children and young people in partnership with parents.
- maintain a commitment to Staffordshire’s education providers with strong leadership and inclusive practice for children and young people with SEND.

Vulnerable Learner Services - Our vision

- We believe that every Staffordshire child has the right to attend a good local school. Our default position is that all children should attend a mainstream school unless there is an overwhelming reason why this cannot happen.
- We believe that every Staffordshire child and young person has a right to have their health, social care and education needs met within their local community.
- We expect every early years setting, state-funded school, further educational college and training provider to make good provision (as defined by Ofsted) for children and young
people with SEND, to ensure that they make good progress in their education and development that they transition smoothly into the next stage of their education and that they are helped to secure independent living and opportunities for employment as far as possible.

- We will ensure that the views and wishes of children and young people with SEND and their parents are heard, and we will work with them to ensure that they have confidence in the ability of local providers to meet their children’s needs.

**SEND Transformation Programme**

The vision of the SEND Transformation programme is to ensure that all children and young people with SEN and Disabilities receive the right support at the right time and in the right way so that they are able to realise their aspirations and lead fulfilling lives in their local school, home and community wherever possible.

We want to improve the way children with lower level needs are supported to learn and achieve in their local schools and to have friends, live and grow in their home communities.

**Capital Investment Plans for 2018-19**

In order to support this vision and focus the available resources to support the development of good practice, the following priorities are proposed for this capital funding for 2018-19:

We want to invest this funding in improving facilities in the mainstream sector and ensure that mainstream settings have suitable environments to support a range of sensory needs and enable children and young people with SEND who have EHCPs with ASD to be able to be supported in their local mainstream schools.

Project Proposals are being developed with 1 mainstream school per district following a self-assessment against the Autism Education Trust ‘School Autism Standards.

**Outcomes to be achieved**

- Ensure that more children and young people with SEND with EHCPs are educated in their local communities and reduce the number travelling long journeys and reduce numbers in out of county independent provision.

- Reduce the number of children and young people with EHCPs being excluded from mainstream provision.

- Increase attainment and progress of SEND pupils with EHCPs.

Please contact Rebecca Knight – Lead/SEND Inclusion Monitoring Officer – rebeccaknight@staffordshire.gov.uk if you have any questions or would like further information.

Graham Pirt – Interim Education Lead for Vulnerable Learners 0-25