

Monday 18 February – Sunday 31 March 2019

**Developing and growing  
provision for children &  
young people in Sheffield  
with a special educational  
need and / or disability  
(SEND)**

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Consultation Document

## **1. Introduction**

We want Sheffield to be an inclusive city where all children and young people (CYP) with additional needs get the education, health and care support they are entitled to and need.

To achieve this, we need to ensure that all children who would benefit receive education and support in a local mainstream school, while taking into account the increasing need for specialist education provision, both locally and nationally.

We are looking at ways of growing and developing one specific part of our specialist provision in mainstream schools. We have some ideas about what we want to develop and what the outcomes should be.

This fits into a bigger picture of development, with partners in the school sector, health and elsewhere, towards a genuine continuum of provision from universal services up to the most complex.

Creating that continuum of provision starts with work to ensure our mainstream schools have a positive, consistent, and high quality offer for pupils with SEND as part of a universal offer. Moving up a level, there is then a growing offer of support to schools and families focussed on identifying and assessing additional needs at the earliest stage. This support includes a broadening range of external outreach offers from specialists across health and education. The next level of the continuum is where specialist education provision is available to support children and young people with the most complex needs.

The consultation proposed here is where that specialist provision is provided within a mainstream setting and also links to the support offer into mainstream schools. We are also in development of a new special school, due to open in 2020/21 that is designed to cater for some of our most complex children and young people.

There are two key messages we want to set out within the consultation:

1. Our aim is to invest in, grow and develop provision for children & young people with SEND. We are not looking to reduce integrated resource provision.
2. The details laid out in the consultation document are not firm proposals. They are our ideas. We would like you to look at, discuss, and give your perspective on our ideas to help us formulate a set of proposals to take to cabinet. Full proposals are our next step, not our first step.

This document outlines our plans and how, through an open consultation process, you can help to shape them and secure the best model of provision possible for our children and young people with additional needs.<sup>1</sup>

## **2. How children and young people with SEND are currently supported**

1. The majority of children and young people are supported in their local mainstream school.
2. Currently, a number of children attend a school with an **Integrated Resource (IR)**. They have the support of specialist staff and space but also spend some of their time within the mainstream classroom. ***\*It is this 'middle tier' of provision that we are looking to improve and expand as part of this consultation***
3. A more specialist setting and curriculum is provided for some children in one of Sheffield's special schools.

## **3. Current IR provision**

There are currently 12 Integrated Resources<sup>2</sup> (8 primary, 4 secondary; see map at Appendix 1) in Sheffield that take CYP with needs ranging from communication and interaction through to cognition and learning.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note: when we use the word 'proposals' in this document, we mean just that – something we are *proposing*. **No decisions have been taken yet.**

<sup>2</sup> This proposal excludes the 7 IR's that focus on hearing or visual impairments. These are delivered by the Council in host schools and are outside the scope of this document.

This provision is of good quality, however, it is not evenly distributed across Sheffield, which means that many children may have to travel across the city to attend an IR or move to a special school at the point of transition to secondary school.

In addition, we know that demand for specialist provision is high and growing and we expect this to continue into the future (see Appendix 2). What we want to create is a model which allows flexibility and enables those CYP who would benefit from a mainstream setting (with appropriate support) to have better access. Also, we want to create an infrastructure across each locality which links provision to better utilise the diversity of expertise and support that could be available.

#### **4. Future IR provision**

We are consulting on how to develop a model that will lead to:

- An overall increase in the number of IR places
- Places closer to home / local provision (i.e. on a geographical basis)
- Clear pathways covering the entire primary age-range, into secondary and beyond
- A channel for expertise and support services to children and schools in a particular area
- Clear and formal links to special schools
- Greater consistency across the city

#### **5. Our starting point**

We have a starting suggestion, to be shaped through this consultation, to meet our goals.

This is to have:

- A **primary** Integrated Resource in each of the 7 localities (these localities are shown on the map at Appendix 1). Each IR would cater for a range of needs including

cognition & learning and communication & interaction (including autism). Each would have a clear and established link to a primary special school.

- Secondary hubs: Two special-led hubs per area (the 3 areas are shown on the map at Appendix 1). These would be split so that each area is served by...
  - A hub focussing on **cognition & learning** needs
  - A hub focussing on **communication & interaction** needs

The hubs would operate largely in the same way as IR's. The main distinction is that the children would be on the roll of a Sheffield special school that would run and operate the hub in the host mainstream school.

Through this consultation, we hope to identify how this part of the system can fit with our vision for growing a middle tier of provision across our estate of IR's. We are setting out a programme of investment in new and expanded schools which we believe will achieve the best for children.

## **6. Other benefits of this model**

Each setting could also be developed to give a short-term placement offer to children from schools within their area, alongside outreach support. This could enable a more targeted approach for those children who do not need a formal, permanent specialist place and who may not have an Education, Health & Care Plan, but who could benefit from input either individually or to their school. This could develop towards providing a route for wider services, from special school expertise and outreach to family support or therapeutic services from health partners.

## **7. The consultation process – and how you can take part; 18 February – 31 March**

We are proposing a period of consultation for a period of six weeks between Monday 18 February and Sunday 31 March, to discuss the above proposals.

Your views are crucial, so please take time to be part of this consultation. You can tell us what you think by doing one of the following:

- Completing our online survey via the Council's Consultation Hub at <https://sheffield.citizenspace.com/>.
- Filling in a paper copy, available on request by calling 0114 2053902

We are also holding three workshops that parents are invited to attend. These will provide an opportunity to look at, and consider the implications of, the proposals in more detail. The workshops will be held...

- 12 March, 6 - 8pm; King Egbert Academy, Totley Brook Road, S17 3QU
- 14 March, 10am - 12pm; Talbot Specialist School, Lees Hall Road, S8 9JP
- 18 March, 10am – 12pm; Sheffield Town Hall, Pinstone Street, S1 2HH

Please note: places at the workshops are available on a first come, first served basis. If you would like to attend, please contact Charlotte Crookes ([Charlotte.Crookes@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:Charlotte.Crookes@sheffield.gov.uk); 0114 250 6783), stating which workshop you would like to attend.

## **8. What happens next?**

This consultation is your opportunity to shape the proposals at a formative stage. It is the first step in a longer process and each proposal has its own timeline and legal decision-making process.

We will report the outcomes of the consultation and what our next steps should be to Cabinet after Easter 2019. We will take your views into account before making a decision on which proposals will be agreed.

## 9. Contact us

We have tried to keep this document as brief as possible, however, we understand that you may want more background information before you put forward your views. Further information about the proposals, a set of FAQs and more detail on the consultation process itself is all available on Sheffield City Council's online Consultation Hub:

<https://sheffield.citizenspace.com/>.

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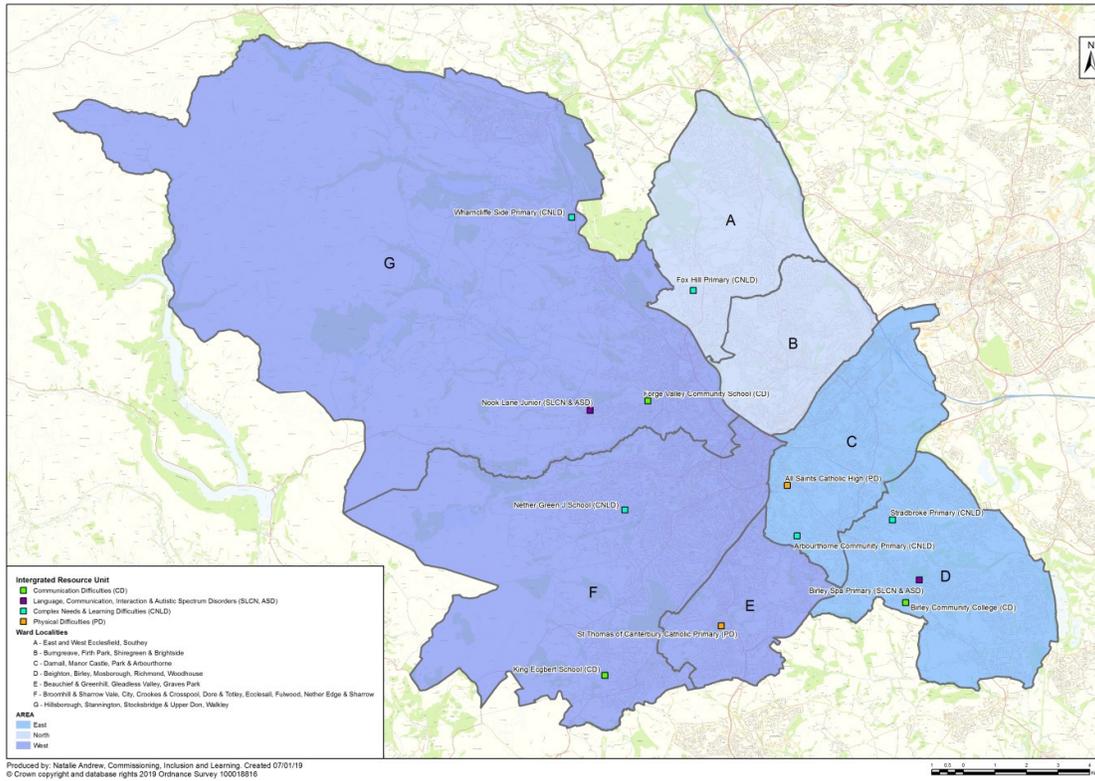
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## Appendix 1



## Appendix 2

