

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	27 April 2022
Executive Member:	Councillor Leanne Feeley – Executive Member (Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage)
Reporting Officer:	Ali Stathers- Tracey - Director, Children's Services
Subject:	OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION TO ESTABLISH A TEN PLACE RESOURCE BASE AT CORRIE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL
Report Summary:	To inform Executive Cabinet of the outcome of a school organisation consultation to establish, with effect from 1 September 2022, a designated resource base at Corrie Primary and Nursery School to enable up to 10 pupils aged 5 – 11 with cognition and learning and/ or communication and interaction and / or social, emotional and mental health needs to be supported. The report outlines the consultation process, the responses received and makes a recommendation for the decision makers.
Recommendations:	The Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve the proposal to establish a designated resource base at Corrie Primary and Nursery School to enable up to 10 pupils aged 5 – 11 with cognition and learning and/ or communication and interaction and / or social, emotional and mental health needs without modification from 1 September 2022;
Corporate Plan:	The proposals contained within this report will support the delivery of the Community Strategy, through the delivery of sufficient and suitable places to meet anticipated demand in 2023/24
Policy Implications:	Not applicable
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	<p>The proposals within this report provide more cost effective model to support pupils in borough, the cost of the base is £141,800 which will be funded from the High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Without sufficient places in borough we would need to place pupils out of borough that provision is would cost on average between £370,000 and £490,000 dependant on the type of setting. The proposal avoids potential cost up to £348,000 on the High Needs DSG, which is expected to be £3.2m overspent by the end of this financial year.</p> <p>Also some pupils placed may be eligible for home to schools transport the cost would be on average £59.47 per day per child placed out of borough as opposed to £27.46 for a child place in borough. The additional costs would increase pressure on council general fund budgets as well of up to £4,500 per pupil per year.</p>
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	<p>When considering proposals of nature the Council is required to follow the Department of Education Statutory Guidance in relation to consulting on the proposal which falls within the definition of a prescribed alteration.</p> <p>The consultation should be for a period of 4 weeks, preferably in term time. As part of the consultation period was outside of term</p>

time the consultation period was extended as set out in the guidance.

The council now has a period of 2 months to make a decision in relation to this proposal otherwise the decision will fall to the Schools Adjudicator.

Members must carefully consider the outcomes from the consultation as set out in the main body of the report in order to ensure that they are making a robust and informed decision.

The costs are revenue as any capital costs have already been met.

Risk Management:

Failure to provide sufficient places for children with additional needs in the borough will result in additional costs for the Council through more expensive specialist placements and lead to children learning in inappropriate settings.

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Catherine Moseley, Head of Access Services



Telephone: 0161 342 3302



e-mail: catherine.moseley@tameside.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 School place planning is a statutory duty of the local authority. The Executive Cabinet receives an annual report on school place planning as part of the annual determination of admission arrangements report. The last report was received at the 26 January 2022 meeting of the Executive Cabinet.
- 1.2 The school place planning report outlined the need to develop additional specialist places to meet the needs of young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Executive Cabinet agreed to commence a consultation on a proposal to establish a ten place resource base at Corrie Primary and Nursery School for children with cognition and learning and/or communication and interaction and / or social, emotional and mental health needs.

2. THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SPECIALIST PROVISION

- 2.1 Tameside currently maintains 2140 Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The number of plans maintained has been rising steadily since 2017. The number of EHCPs in Tameside has more than doubled since 2017, when the Local Authority maintained 828 plans. Tameside is now more in line with our statistical neighbours, with EHCPs representing approximately 3.64% of the population.
- 2.2 The recent growth in EHCP's was appropriate and necessary. It has however, placed significant additional strain on specialist providers and resource bases across Tameside. The rapid rate of the growth in EHCPs in Tameside has been such that it was never going to be possible to plan and deliver provision sufficiency at the same rate. This has inevitably created pressure on placements for children with EHCPs, and particularly across the specialist sector, where all schools are currently oversubscribed. This is also true of our specialist resource bases. Work to establish additional SEND capacity is underway, but recently acquired data demonstrates the ongoing imperative to create additional SEND provision in Tameside, in order to appropriately accommodate our most vulnerable learners in line with future growth.
- 2.3 An over reliance on out of area provision, is undoubtedly a contributing to current budget pressure. It is therefore vital that we take a strategic approach to planning provision driven by need, and invest available capital funding towards the creation of more local places, where necessary and appropriate.
- 2.4 In response to the challenge this growth poses, and in order to ensure that we have appropriate quality provision for Tameside children and young people with SEND, a comprehensive SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2021-2031 is now being developed. This strategy builds on key pieces of work (such as the SEND Forward Plan 2019-22) undertaken over the past 3 years and is written with the benefit of newly acquired data. This has provided us with reliable SEND data, regarding population growth, trends and patterns for the next 10 years.
- 2.5 Between now and 2031, by far the fastest growing area of need will be across Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH), where we anticipate growth of 138.9% (additional actual growth of 611) across all age ranges. In mainstream settings, EHCP numbers in SEMH will grow by 130% (additional actual growth 250) across all age ranges. In mainstream, between years R-6 we anticipate growth of 45% (actual 45) and between year 7-14 we are expecting 220% growth (actual additional growth of 205). In specialist settings, numbers in SEMH will grow by 130% (additional actual growth 306) across all age ranges. In years R-6 we anticipate growth of 75% (actual 54) and between year 7-14 we are expecting 156% growth (actual additional growth of 252).
- 2.6 This next fastest growing area of need is communication interaction (CI) difficulties (comprised of both autism and speech, language and communication difficulties), where we anticipate growth of 70.7 % (additional actual growth of 359) across all age ranges. In mainstream

settings, EHCP numbers in CI will grow by 87.8% (additional actual growth 203) across all age ranges. In mainstream, between years R-6 we anticipate growth of 64.5% (actual 92) and between year 7-14 we are expecting 125% growth (actual additional growth of 111). In specialist settings, numbers in CI will grow by 54.6% (additional actual growth 146) across all age ranges. In years R-6 we anticipate growth of 37% (actual 44) and between years 7-14 we are expecting 68.9% growth (actual additional growth of 101).

- 2.7 The SEND Forward Plan identifies the need to develop additional resourced provision across the borough to meet the needs of pupils identified as requiring enhanced provision but not a special school place.
- 2.8 Targeted provision is provision that is more specialist than mainstream schools, providing a higher level of support for children and young people with SEND, but not a special school. This may be shorter term provision to support a child into the most appropriate provision, or a longer term placement attached to a mainstream school. Tameside resource bases do not all provide a longer term option for placement, which means that children and young people may move straight from mainstream to special school when their needs could be met in a longer term targeted mainstream placement. This is a gap in the borough's provision.
- 2.9 The Forward Plan identifies that the Council will begin to commission new targeted mainstream provision model with a greater emphasis on highly supported resource based provision for a small number of children. This will:
- Be related to the level and type of need in different neighbourhoods across the Borough.
 - Be small group focused provision, for both boys and girls, attached to mainstream schools.
 - Be provided for primary and secondary pupils.
 - Include a higher level of specialist staffing to meet need, linked with social care and health provision where appropriate.
 - Prioritise the two greatest areas of need: Communication and Interaction (including autism) and SEMH, (however, consideration needs to be given to lower levels of need that are currently in Special Schools in order to free up places.).
- 2.10 A number of schools came forward to be part of this exciting new provision and host resource bases and Corrie Primary and Nursery School was one of those schools. Corrie has dedicated space for the resource base and over the summer of 2021, internal and external works were carried out to make the space fit for purpose.

3 THE PROPOSAL

- 3.1 As outlined above, there is an urgent need to develop additional specialist places in the borough for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan. The resource base at Corrie Primary and Nursery School opened on a pilot basis in September 2021 and had some capital investment to support the opening.
- 3.2 This proposal is that, with effect from 1 September 2022, the resource base provision at Corrie Primary and Nursery School is formalised with a designated resource base to enable up to 10 pupils aged 5 – 11 with cognition and learning and/ or communication and interaction and / or social, emotional and mental health needs to be supported.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Statutory guidance has been published by the Department for Education with regard to School organisation regulations (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-organisation-maintained-schools>). Local authorities must have regard to the guidance when making a significant change to a school, known as a prescribed alteration.
- 4.2 The guidance states that prescribed alterations to schools must be the subject of a consultation

with the publication of statutory proposals. The consultation document is attached at Appendix 1.

4.3 The consultation ran for a total of five weeks (four school weeks due to February half term) from 27 January 2022 until 3 March 2022. The consultation was available on the Council's website and through the Corrie Primary School. A public notice was published in the Tameside Reporter newspaper on 27 January 2022. An online feedback form (Appendix 2) was available for responses to be submitted as well as through email or by completing a paper copy of the response form. Meetings were offered to any individual wanting further information. A letter giving information on the consultation was sent to:

- Elected members in all Denton wards
- The MP for Denton and Reddish
- All primary schools in Denton
- All Special Educational Needs Schools in Tameside
- Head and Chair of Governors at Corrie Primary School
- The parent forum – Our Kids Eyes

5 CONSULTATION RESPONSES

5.1 A total of six responses were received to the consultation.

5.2 Of the six responses received, four were in favour of the proposal and two were against as set out below:

	Respondent type	Are you in favour of the proposal?	Comments received
1	Governor	Yes	Tameside should provide excellent education provision to meet the needs of all children. Local provision is essential to meet local need. Corrie Primary school provides a safe learning environment where children can flourish. Our team at Corrie can support the family and ensure needs are met. Our very recent Ofsted report demonstrates the we meet the needs of children including their emotional health and well-being. The school is led by an excellent Senior Management team, they are reflective practitioners who will actively support this initiative.
2	Member of staff	Yes	So local children with additional needs can attend a local school and build support within their own community
3	Parent	No	No comments provided
4	Parent	Yes	My son has been placed on the Sen register by Corrie primary school and they have done an amazing job with meeting his needs. I think any child placed in the department would greatly benefit
5	Not specified	Yes	My granddaughter started attending the base, the last week of the winter term, after a disastrous couple of weeks in a local reception class. The improvement in her has been amazing and a credit to the staff in the base, using the correct support for her needs. It needs to continue for the sake of the growing group of young children who need the extra structured support now.
6	Not specified	No	My granddaughter started attending the base, the last week of the winter term, after a disastrous couple of weeks in a local reception class. The improvement in her has been

	Respondent type	Are you in favour of the proposal?	Comments received
			amazing and a credit to the staff in the base, using the correct support for her needs. It needs to continue for the sake of the growing group of young children who need the extra structured support now.

5.3 As can be seen, response number 5 is exactly the same as response number 6 apart from the response to the question are you in favour of the proposal where response 6 replies 'no'. However, the narrative does not support the 'no' response.

5.4 All the narrative responses are in favour of the proposal including the parent and grandparent of children who has been involved in the pilot project.

6 REVENUE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The financial implications for a resource £10,000 per place for the number of places that have been commissioned in that academic year. On top of that for each place funded there is a general top up rate of £4,180 per place agreed and commissioned. The total yearly cost of a place is £14,180.

6.2 As outlined in the report if the pupil is placed outside of the borough due to insufficiency in places locally, the average cost of a place Non Maintained Special School place is £37,000 or in an Independent Special school or setting is £49,000. The proposal is not only in line with the SEND Forward Plan but provides better value for money. The 10 place unit avoids potential additional costs of up to £348,200 to the DSG High Needs budget, which is expected to be £3.2m in deficit by the end this financial year.

6.3 Also some pupils placed may be eligible for home to schools transport the cost would be on average £59.47 per day per child placed out of borough as opposed to £27.46 for a child place in borough. The additional costs would increase pressure on council general fund budgets as well of up to £4,500 per pupil per year.

7 DECISION MAKING

7.1 Tameside Council is the decision-maker in all cases except where a proposal is 'related' to another proposal that must be decided by the Schools Adjudicator. That does not apply in this case.

7.2 Executive Cabinet as decision-makers will need to be satisfied that the appropriate fair and open local consultation and/or representation period has been carried out and full consideration has been given to all the responses received.

7.3 The DfE guidance states that decision-makers should not simply take account of the numbers of people expressing a particular view. Instead, they should give the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school(s).

7.4 Decisions must be made within a period of two months of the end of the representation period or they must be referred to the Schools Adjudicator. The two month period expires on 3 My 2022.

7.5 When issuing a decision, Executive Cabinet can:

- reject the proposal;
- approve the proposal without modification;
- approve the proposal with modifications, having consulted the Governing Body; or
- approve the proposal, with or without modification – subject to certain conditions (such as the granting of planning permission) being met.

- 7.6 Within one week of making a decision the Local Authority must publish their decision and the reasons for it, on the website where the original proposal was published and send copies to:
- the Schools Adjudicator (where the Council is the decision-maker);
 - the Governing Body;
 - the trustees of the school (if any);
 - the local Church of England diocese;
 - the local Roman Catholic diocese; and
 - any other body that they think is appropriate (e.g. other relevant diocese or diocesan board, faith organisation and any affected educational institutions in the area).

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 There is a clear need to develop additional resourced provision in the borough. The pilot project has been successfully received by governors and staff at Corrie Primary and Nursery School and parents as can be seen by the responses to the consultation.
- 8.2 The proposal is in line with the SEND Forward Plan and provides better value for money. The 10 place unit avoids potential additional costs of up to £348,200 to the DSG High Needs budget, which is expected to be £3.2m in deficit by the end this financial year.

9 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 As set out at the front of the report