

INCLUSION SERVICE SPECIAL SCHOOL PROVISION FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE WITH COMPLEX NEEDS



Birmingham City Council is committed to promoting the achievement and wellbeing of all children and young people in the city, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. We want all our children and young people to have the same opportunities and services as everybody else. In the local offer it sets out that the majority of school age learners can and should be educated with others their age in their local community school which is properly equipped and fit for purpose. It reflects the need to develop and reconfigure the Authority's support and provision to ensure that:

- the overwhelming majority of school age learners can and should be educated with others of their own age in their local community school, which is properly equipped and fit for purpose.
- as wide a range of special provision as feasible should be made within mainstream provision and as early as possible.
- the first point of specialist provision would ideally be in a pupil's local mainstream school. There will be, however, occasions where the specialised provision required to meet certain types of needs will be in locality based provision within the local authority's designated special school.

REVIEWING SPECIALIST SCHOOL PROVISION

Reviewing our existing specialist support and provision is essential for ensuring that it is 'fit for purpose' and linked to the Council's aspirations. The Local Authority is committed to maximising the use of resources at appropriate levels (enhanced school provision (CRISP), special school provision as well as resource bases based in locality of schools). We want to ensure the appropriate range of specialist services are in place with built in flexibility to meet the changing needs of the school population and that for most children and young people they will be able to access their provision within their local community.

What we will do:

- review and develop the Authority's existing range of special schools and resource bases in primary and secondary mainstream schools, to ensure that they remain 'fit for purpose'.
- where appropriate realign specialist resources around localities of schools.
- review children and young people accessing independent provision and where possible provide specialist support so they are able to access their education within their local community.
- review commissioning arrangements for specialist placements to ensure they are in line with national practice.
- audit services and provision for 'emerging incidences of' need, in particular mental health issues.
- provide special school capacity to help mainstream schools in providing for children and young people with learning difficulties.
- work towards closer alignment between special schools, resource base and local teams across mainstream schools.

What the benefits will be:

- high achievement among pupils who have special educational needs and disabilities.
- fewer pupils in independent provision – greater inclusion in the local community
- better use of resources (including lower home to school transport costs).
- increased confidence in mainstream schools.

SCHEDULE FOR REVIEWS

September - November 2019 individual and joint reviews scheduled with Special Schools and Resource Base Provision

November - February 2019/2020 Individual reviews of all independent providers