

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Overview of Autism support in the city and proposals for future provision</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>12 November 2018</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Executive Director of Families, Children and Learning</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Georgina Clarke-Green</b>	<b>Tel: 01273 292257</b>
	<b>Email:</b>	<b>Georgina.ClarkeGreen@brighton-hove.gov.uk</b>	
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 To update the committee on the increase in children and young people with ASC identified as their primary and secondary need.
- 1.2 To inform the committee of the recent developments in city-wide partnership work on Autism support for children and young people and their families, particularly in response to the Autism Scrutiny in 2014.
- 1.3 This report also provides an overview of future planned work including looking ahead to a refreshed Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) strategy for the city.
- 1.4 To seek approval to progress considerations to create Cullum Centres in the city.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the support for Autism work underway in the city and provide a commitment to the future planned work. To note that Autism will have a high profile within the refreshed SEND Strategy in the next year.
- 2.2 That the Committee authorises officers to progress the partnership with the National Autistic Society and Cullum Family Trust to create Cullum Centres at Dorothy Stringer and Hove Park Schools, subject to necessary planning and regulatory consent (and in the case of Dorothy Stringer, the agreement of the PFI provider). Brighton and Hove parent groups, PaCC and mASCot will also be an integral part in the development of this specialist facility as will Amaze, a local charity that gives information, advice and support to families of children and young people with SEND.

**3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION - DATA**

- 3.1 A range of data is collected in the city for children and young people with SEND. The termly school census is undertaken with all maintained schools and academies and the January census collects the primary and secondary (where

applicable) SEN type. A summary of the most recent data relating to Autism is set out below.

The table below shows where schools have identified a primary need for both SEN support and then for those that have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

<b>Autistic Spectrum Condition Primary Need</b>	<b>Jan-15</b>	<b>Jan-16</b>	<b>Jan-17</b>	<b>Jan-18</b>
SEN Support	133	151	164	229
Statement/EHCP	156	157	169	188
<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>417</b>

SEN pupils with ASC noted as their Secondary Need

- Statement/EHCP – 97 pupils
- SEN Support - 35 pupils

It's also important to look at national comparators:

- At January 2018 proportion of EHCP pupils with ASC recorded as their primary need in Brighton & Hove, was significantly below National (18.6% Brighton & Hove, 28.2% National).
- The January 2018 proportion of SEN Support pupils with ASC recorded as their primary need in Brighton & Hove was in broadly in line with National (5.2% Brighton & Hove, 5.7% National).

3.2 It is also important to note that following the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission inspection into our SEND arrangements in 2016, the Local Authority has focussed its attention on developing more robust case recording and the identification of need, together with the CCG. This has meant that since 2016 we have seen a significant reduction in the number of children and young people being recorded as having 'no specialist assessment of type of need' and a greater number of children recorded as having Autism. This rise reflects the national trend.

#### **4. RESPONSE TO THE AUTISM SCRUTINY IN 2014**

4.1 In 2014 a Services for Children with Autism Scrutiny Panel was set up to examine services for children with autism in the city. The Panel's evidence showed that there were several areas where more needed to be done and it made a number of recommendations that referred to training, dissemination of information, governing bodies, home support and performance monitoring.

4.2 We are able to report that significant progress has been made against a number of these actions:

- Where appropriate, private educational psychologist reports are now accepted by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service as part of evidence of a diagnosis, which continues to be given by psychiatrists and paediatricians
- A well-attended autism awareness raising conference was organised with representation from multi-agency professionals including representatives

- from health, education, social care, universities, the voluntary and community sector and parents/carers
- A Brighton and Hove Autism Aware Award has been developed and 10 schools have achieved the award status: 2 secondary, 1 infant, 1 junior, and 6 primary schools
  - Training around autism has been offered as part of the training programme for governors and further support and training is planned.
  - The findings of the Scrutiny report were shared as part of direct communication in the governor's newsletter.
  - The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment was updated to include a section on autism.

## **5. ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**

5.1 During this time there have been other related changes and developments including:

- The Transforming Care programme focussing on children and young people as well as adults. The aim of the programme is to ensure that individuals have the care and support they need to enable them to live fulfilling and safe lives in their communities within the least restrictive environment.
- The national focus on children's mental health, including neuro-developmental issues, with the publication of Future in Mind and the development of a Children's Mental Health Local Transformation Plan. Recognising and addressing the needs of children with neuro-developmental issues, including autism, has been a key aim of the plan with a commitment to invest more in this important diagnostic and support pathway.

5.2 A city-wide autism working group for children and young people with ASC was established following the scrutiny report with membership from parents/carers, the Local Authority and Health. The multi-agency group meets termly to further develop and monitor progress on an ASC work plan.

5.3 Other actions that have taken place in recent years include:

- Links explored with higher education establishments to influence delivery of SEN specific training on teacher training modules. Brighton and Hove Inclusion Support Service representatives are active members of the citywide SEN inclusion steering committee led and hosted by the Brighton University Education Department.
- Sussex University were a key contributor to the schools conference and support World Autism Awareness Week.
- Autism specific PSHE resources have been developed focussing on sex, education and healthy relationships.
- SEND guide for professionals has been produced and launched in May 2018, including guidance on identifying and supporting CYP with communication and interaction difficulties including Autism.
- Training on the 'Just Right' programme delivered to schools and partners to support managing the needs of children with Autism in schools, alongside training on a range of autism related subjects including links with mental health

5.4 A wide range of support has also been developed within the local authority and our partners. The following services and support are now available for children and young people with autism and their families:

- BHISS autism and language support team
- The integrated Seaside View post diagnostic support
- Strong community and parent led support via local groups such as Amaze, PaCC and mASCot
- Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service diagnostic and assessment support
- Time Out providing post diagnosis parenting support
- Specialist TripleP parenting support

If children meet the criteria for other aspects of our local offer they are also able to gain access to the relevant support (eg social work, family support, English as an additional language) they will receive this support in addition to the specialist services specified above.

## **6. PLANNED FUTURE WORK**

### Strategic planning

- 6.1 A refreshed SEND Strategy will be co-produced with all stakeholders across 2019. This will include representation from Amaze, the local parent/carer group PaCC and our partners in education, health and care. The strategy will be system wide and address how we are going to further improve and develop services for children, young people and adults with SEN and Disabilities within Brighton and Hove. Services, support and provision for children and young people with Autism will be a priority within the new strategy.
- 6.2 The content of the draft Children's and Adults Autism strategy has recently been reviewed and as a result of this an action plan has been developed to highlight key actions to take forward and develop further. This plan will also include the actions already identified through CYP Autism working group and the previous scrutiny committee. Officers will continue to work collaboratively with key stakeholders including Clinical Commissioning Group colleagues in the development and delivery of the strategy and the intention is to report this back to Health & Wellbeing Board in the first half of 2019.

### Support

- 6.3 Brighton and Hove Inclusion Support Service (BHISS) has established its Autism core offer for September 2018. This has been done in consultation with service users and with schools. The plans for the partial trading of BHISS are in development for September 2019.

- 6.4 We know that transitions (e.g. starting school, moving to secondary and looking at post 16 options) can be very challenging for pupils with autism so we are looking across the phases to see what can be done to enhance this support. The local authority provides an early years' service that helps autistic children move into school. We continue our autism specialist support into secondary schools and are considering how we might enhance that offer. Transition training is offered as part of the general BHISS offer. Discussions continue with our local higher education partners as detailed below.
- 6.5 £90,000 of additional funding was awarded at Budget Council and is being used to fund additional case officer capacity in the Supported Employment Team. They will work closely with individuals and employers to place young people in the most appropriate settings and jobs and will continue to support them in work. This will also provide capacity for the Supported Employment Team's role as a SEND employment champion with the aim to: further develop the offer of employability across the city; raise awareness with employers; support more employers to consider employing individuals with SEND; expand types of roles and job sectors available. This will include further working with young people with autism.
- 6.6 Brighton and Hove CCG is leading on a proposed development of a new neurodevelopmental pathway across the age phases for the city, which will include autism identification, diagnosis and family support. There is a need for this work because the current local provision for neurodevelopmental services is complex and fragmented, involving multiple partners in health, social care and education. The key features of the new proposed model are:
- A single Entry Point with combined expertise across child development and mental health in one place, creating a hub;
  - Earlier interventions with increased capacity for assessments and post diagnostic support.
  - Consistent and enhanced packages of family support and interventions that are no longer linked to age, condition or entry point.
  - Targeted early and intensive support for complex cases and challenging behaviours.
  - Navigation support for families to provide clarity and coordination, especially the pathways into adulthood.
- 6.7 It has been agreed that a parent/carer guide to Autism in Brighton and Hove will be co-produced with our local parent/carer representative groups and will be developed as part of our Local Offer. An essential part of this will be hearing from children, young people and families on what they would find most useful in this guide. This will complement the planned FAQ development for the local offer that the CCG is leading on.
- 6.8 The home support offer for families with autism is constantly being reviewed and ways of enhancing this are being explored and implemented. This support includes the proposed parent/carer guide referred to above, the improved Local Offer, the enhanced neurodevelopment pathway and the BHISS Support for Home (family practitioners) offer.

- 6.9 Work continues with the local universities on how they both best support autistic students and how they target their promotion about Higher Education opportunities in local schools and colleges to autistic young people in the city. One example is at the University of Sussex which runs an annual Autism Spectrum Summer School which offers a valuable insight into university life. The optional residential aspect of the programme gives students a taste of independent life, enabling them to feel comfortable in a university setting away from home before the term starts.
- 6.10 The Autism Aware Award has been further developed as a tiered approach and schools are currently being recruited to this programme.

### Information

- 6.11 Our SEND 'Local Offer' brings together in one website the full range of information about the support that is available for children and young people with SEND up to the age of 25. The Local Offer was developed involving children and young people with SEND and their families alongside other organisations such as Amaze and PaCC. A member of the Amaze team works one day per week with an LA officer to further shape and update the information held on the Local Offer. A new version of the Local Offer is under development and has been significantly shaped by the views of parents and carers and young people.
- 6.12 Further work is also planned with the city's school governors to develop the SEN training available, including for autism.
- 6.13 The local authority alongside our colleagues from the CCG and local parent/carer groups are in discussion with an independent provider who is proposing an alternative approach to aspects of local authority officer training.
- 6.14 The SEND guide to professionals plus the executive summary have been shared with schools and partners across the city. A school self-evaluation audit tool has been shared with all schools to be explored and discussed further at a Head teacher and SENCO event planned for January 2019.
- 6.15 Further work is needed to consolidate data recording and reporting with reference to autism in the city. Discussions are already underway with the performance team within Families, Children and Learning about what data and analysis could be available on a regular basis. This will be included in the refresh of the city's SEND Strategy work.

## **7. CREATING NEW MAINSTREAM SPECIAL FACILITY PROVISION**

### **Background**

- 7.1 At the Children, Young People and Skills Committee on 18 September 2017, final decisions were taken regarding the re-organisation proposals which included a commitment to open a new Special Facility for children with autism in a secondary school in the city.
- 7.2 Secondary schools had been asked to express an interest in hosting a new Special Facility. Originally three schools expressed an interest but for different

reasons, two schools did not wish to proceed. The third school, Dorothy Stringer, has continued to explore with us the potential of developing the provision on their site.

- 7.3 Dorothy Stringer School has a strong reputation for SEND support and is committed to the project. However the school is part of the council's grouped schools PFI contract and this presents a challenge as any development will need to be agreed with the PFI provider.
- 7.4 Additionally, discussions have also been taking place with Hove Park School to rebuild and extend their existing over-subscribed Phoenix Centre, which caters for children with autism. The Phoenix Centre operates from somewhat inadequate premises on both school sites, which has limited its overall intake to 13 pupils only.
- 7.5 At the end of 2017, the DfE invited the LA to bid for a capital sum to develop SEN provision totalling nearly £500K over 3 years. Our proposal to use this sum to develop our new Special Facility has been accepted by the DfE. We receive the first instalment of £167k this year. In 2018/19 the DfE also announced an additional national grant for special provision for SEND of £50m. The Brighton & Hove City Council share of this equates to £0.116m.

#### **Partnership with the National Autistic Society and Cullum Family Trust**

- 7.6 In a parallel development, through our links with the National Autistic Society (NAS), the society offered to explore with us whether they might support the development of the new Special Facility with a potential donation in the region of up to £2 million for capital costs. The donation would be from the Cullum Family Trust. The Trust works with the National Autistic Society to create new Special Facilities in mainstream schools, which are then called 'Cullum Centres'.
- 7.7 The Cullum Family Trust was founded by Peter Cullum CBE and is run by him and his family. Peter Cullum is a businessman and philanthropist. His interest in establishing centres within mainstream schools for children with autism arises from a family connection with the condition. The family trust also has a longstanding connection to Sussex, and manages some of its philanthropic giving via the Sussex Community Foundation.
- 7.8 We have explored this offer with the NAS over the past several months, including visiting two of the three existing Cullum Centres in Surrey.
- 7.9 In addition to the £500K capital fund from DfE that the LA has allocated to this project, the NAS would require a revenue commitment from the authority. This would be a one-off project initiation fee (£50K per build but with room for negotiation possible if both projects go forward) and then an annual commitment in the region of £7-14K for training of staff and continued accreditation of the Facilities.
- 7.10 Revenue costs would need to be recouped from savings made in other areas. Place costs in our Special Facilities are in the region of £17K per annum whereas the average cost of an independent 'agency' placement is £36K per annum and in the area of autism, often considerably higher than the average,

so there is a potential significant saving in the High Needs Block.

- 7.11 The intention has been for the new Special Facility to take 20 children with autism in total admitting 4 children per annum into Year 7 over five years. These children would be admitted over and above the existing PAN for the school and would therefore not affect established admission numbers.
- 7.12 Our agreed view with Dorothy Stringer is that if we were able to proceed with the project there, space restrictions would necessitate a new build on the site for the Special Facility, with the capital expense rising as a consequence. Although a sum of £7.5M has been set aside for the capital requirements of the wider re-organisation of special provision, this is already committed to special school development and further funding is therefore required for this project.
- 7.13 The need for Secretary of State consent for any resultant building applies to both the Dorothy Stringer and Hove Park School sites. The need for planning consent is also likely to present a challenge.

## 8. Current Proposal

- 8.1 In June 2018, a committee report on the proposed partnership with the NAS and Cullum Family Trust to build Cullum Centres was presented to the Policy, Resources and Growth Committee which approved the direction of travel and further exploration subject to on-going approvals from the Children, Young People and Skills Committee.

- 8.2 The current proposal is to move forward on the project in two stages:

**First stage:** to create two new build Cullum Centres on the Hove Park site as part of the wider plans to upgrade and refurbish the school sites this year. This would enable a larger Special Facility in much improved premises with a larger capacity at Hove Park School. The Cullum Centres there will build on previous expertise at the existing Phoenix Centre but will benefit additionally from training for all school staff and accreditation of the Centre from the National Autistic Society. Although there will still need to be the usual planning consents and approvals, Hove Park is not a PFI site and the process should be simpler and more streamlined with a strong possibility of at least one of the Centres being open from September 2019. The LA will commit the £500K it has earmarked for the project and the remaining funding will come from the Cullum Family Trust.

**Second Stage:** Due to various complexities around the Dorothy Stringer site, gaining specific consents and approvals will take longer. In addition, Dorothy Stringer has taken an extra class in this academic year due to weight of pupils at secondary transfer and is likely to take further extra pupils over the next couple of years onto quite a cramped site. In this context it has been agreed that development of a Special Facility here will probably not be possible until after 2021 at the earliest. While there remains a commitment to develop a Facility at this site, there will inevitably be a significant delay. However if we proceed with Stage 1, the commitment to increase capacity made as part of the re-organisation proposals can still be honoured.



## **9. ANALYSIS AND CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

Due to the profile of the scrutiny report plus the ongoing dialogue with key stakeholders we feel the details set out above and the development of further provision are the right things to have focussed on with key actions being completed. This is an ongoing process so can be amended as needs change.

## **10. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT and CONSULTATION**

Through mASCot, Amaze and PaCC we hear feedback from many families in the city about our Local Offer. As well as the community engagement that Amaze do, MASCot does a regular parent/carer survey, the results of which help inform the city provision in terms of Autism support. The themes picked up by these groups working directly with our service users as well as feedback we collect directly help inform service improvement priorities. We have a mature well established relationship with partners in the city and we are committed to a co-production approach across all levels.

## **11. CONCLUSION**

- 11.1 We ask the committee to approve the recommendations and acknowledge the range of support available in the city and our commitment to make further improvements.

## **12. FINANCIAL and OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

### Financial Implications:

- 12.1 The autism strategy will be delivered within the financial resources identified from a variety of sources. These include capital funding, resource from the council's general fund budget and funding allocated through the dedicated schools grant.
- 12.2 With regard to the proposed partnership with the National Autistic Society and associated Cullum Trust, the financial implications being considered include:
- Whether the build costs for the two Cullum Centres will be within the total capital budget identified (this is estimated at £2m from the Cullum Trust and £0.5m already secured from the SEND capital grant).
  - A further capital grant was announced by DfE in summer 2018, the Brighton and Hove share being £0.116m which could also be utilised to fund some of the capital costs.
  - Whether it is permissible to use the SEND capital grant to fund the one-off project initiation fees (£0.050m per centre) which the Cullum Trust require as a LA contribution
  - The annual costs for training and accreditation would be funded from the high needs block of the dedicated schools grant
  - The implications of Dorothy Stringer being a PFI school
  - The ongoing funding of 'additional' places – there would be new specialist provision within the city and revenue funding (place plus top-up) would need to be identified to resource these places. This could be through places released from our maintained special schools or perhaps a reallocation of places from other Special Facilities. Alternatively if more specialist provision is available in the city it might enable us to reduce

agency placements (average cost of an Agency Placement is £36k). The initial impact would be quite low but as the units incrementally build up the costs will increase.

The HNB is under pressure and overspent by £0.291m in 2017/18 and is projected to overspend again in 2018/19.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Steve Williams*

*Date: 02/10/2018*

Legal Implications:

- 12.3 The Children and Families Act 2014 places duties on Local Authorities towards children with special educational needs, including autism spectrum conditions, in terms of assessing need, making suitable provision and signposting to other organisations. The LA must ensure that these education and training functions are exercised with a view to promoting high standards.
- 12.4 The creation of Special Facilities in the city for children with autism will assist the LA in fulfilling these duties. Legal advice will be provided in relation to specific issues which may arise as the project progresses

*Lawyer Consulted:*

*Serena Kynaston*

*Date: 05/10/2018*

Equalities Implications:

The summary of provision and planned activity in this report demonstrates the breadth of support to autistic children, young people and their families in Brighton and Hove-

Sustainability Implications:

- 12.5 In the city it is imperative that we continue to introduce more sustainable options around supporting families in the city, especially in the context of increasing demand and reducing resources. The planned activities set out in the report support this, including the planned parent/carer guide, the proposed new neurodevelopmental pathway and the refreshed SEND strategy. This will all add to increasing the knowledge and awareness of the impact of autism on children, young people and their families and provide best use of resource within the current context.

Any Other Significant Implications:

N/A

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

1. None

**Documents in Members' Rooms:** None

**Background Documents:** None