

**Brent Council's Special Provision (SEND) Capital Fund Plan, 2018-2021.
Update May 31st 2019.**

The Special Provision Capital Fund, 2018 - 2021

Local authorities must ensure there are sufficient good school places for all pupils, including those with SEN and disabilities. Brent Council has previously published its plans as part of the Local Offer, but now publishes an updated annual plan (each May), which has been developed in consultation with schools and the Brent Parent Carer Forum, and Forum members.

The Government has committed £215 million of capital funding to help local authorities create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with SEN and disabilities, in consultation with parents and providers.

This funding can be invested in mainstream schools and academies, special units, special schools, early years' settings and further education colleges, or to make other provision for children and young people with special educational need and disability aged 0 to 25. The Brent Special Provision Capital Fund plan reflects Brent's intentions with regards to this income stream.

Funding Allocation

The original allocation for Brent was £1.7 million, spread over 3 years from 2018-2021 with instalments of £569,222 each year. The first instalment of £569,222 was received in May 2018. Since then, two additional allocations have been announced and Brent has now been allocated an additional £1.19 million making the total budget of £2.89 million. Brent Inclusion is therefore publishing an updated plan of proposals, which relate to additional SEND places within borough. The breakdown of the Special Provision Capital Fund allocations is below:

Local Authority name	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	LA's original allocation	£50m top-up announced May 2018	£100m top-up announced December 2018	New total allocation
Brent	£569,222	£569,222	£569,222	£1,707,666	£397,132	£794,263	£2,899,061

The Government requires local authorities to complete and publish a short plan that sets out how they intend to invest their allocation, which is visible to parents, carers and other local groups.

Brent's Strategic Plan

Brent's Children's Trust, in partnership with parents and carers, has developed a vision for children and young people with SEND. It is "to ensure that all children and their families have the fullest possible range of support and opportunities available to them in order to improve their life chances and realise their aspirations".

The Children's Trust is committed to developing inclusive communities which are welcoming to all, and ensuring that Brent's children and young people with SEND have access to high quality provision. As part of this approach Brent continues to increase places in specialist provision locally, in order to respond to growing need.

There is a rich range of high quality special provision in Brent through 3 specialist nurseries, 4 special schools and in Additionally Resourced Provisions/SEN Units based alongside mainstream primary and secondary schools. All are judged good or outstanding. However, analysis shows that there is a need to plan for more specialist places to meet the growing need. Currently, a number of children are placed in out of borough special schools, and the vision is for Brent's children to go to a good or outstanding school locally, - wherever possible.

Brent's strategy to develop provision locally therefore has 3 main strands:

- To expand special schools where possible to provide additional places in borough; for example, Woodfield School is expanding from September 2019 to take on a further 19 pupils in year 7;
- To develop special provision within mainstream schools/early years settings/PRUs and post 16 sites, both through developing the skills of staff and improving facilities, and through creating Additionally Resourced Provisions (ARPs) alongside mainstream schools/settings.
- To work in partnership with providers to establish additional provision where this fits with the identified needs in the borough.

In developing additional places for children and young people with EHCPs, Brent is engaging with parents and carers of children and young people with SEND to ensure that services meet their needs and achieve the best outcomes. Brent works in partnership with schools and other providers to develop special provision in the borough. This includes expansions of special schools, developing capacity in mainstream schools and provision delivered by free schools and other providers.

Progress so far:

The School Place Planning Strategy (2019-23) sets out the plans for Special School places in Brent. To address the challenges of developing specialist provision in the borough the following has been put in place to provide additional places in 2019:

1. Expand special schools

Expansions in special school places within Brent are now at maximum capacity. To meet increasing demand, within the last 5 years, expansions have taken place at The Village School (35 additional places); The Manor School (40 additional places); Woodfield School (24 additional places), and Phoenix Arch Primary Special (5 additional places). These expansions have catered for some of the SEND population increase to date. From September 2018 a new satellite provision of The Village opened at The Hope Centre, to provide 21 further places covering the Key Stage 1 age range. From September 2019, there will be 19 additional Year 7 places at Woodfield School, which is part of the Compass Learning Partnership.

2. New special provision within mainstream schools/PRUs, and other settings

Fryent Primary School opened an ARP for children with ASD with capacity for 21 places. Alongside developing the facilities there has been specialist training for staff in the ARP and at the school. Sudbury primary school has opened an ARP for children with ASD (7 places) and has also opened a unit for children with SEMH at Key stage 1 (STEPS). Brent River College (Pupil Referral Unit) opened a class for 6 primary age children with SEMH, in September 2017.

During the academic year 2017/18, Brent Schools' Forum agreed to establish a new Inclusion Support Fund of £250,000. Mainstream schools were asked to submit applications to bid for funding which would support inclusive practice in their setting, eg staff training and associated resources. The fund has now closed. The High Needs panel oversaw the assessment of applications and over 20 schools were successful in their bids for funding to improve inclusive practice.

3. Working in partnership with providers to add special places within borough

The charity "Unlocking Potential" opened a new independent primary, the Corner School, for children with SEMH in September 2018. This opened with capacity of up to 15 school places, but will rise over time to 35 maximum places. Brent local authority can commission places at this provision (along with other local authorities), to reduce the number of primary aged children with an SEMH need being placed out of borough. Brent also commissions places within the primary PRU as above.

Plans for 2019 onwards:

Brent special school heads through the Brent Special School Academy Trust (BSSAT) have collectively sponsored a new Special Free School for 100 places for children aged 5 to 18, which will in part reduce the number of children in future being placed out-of-borough. The school is planned to open in September 2021 on The Avenue site in NW6. In the interim, the Manor school has opened a satellite provision at Queen's Park Community School for children with ASD/MLD/SLD which has admitted between 18 – 24 primary aged pupils each year, from September 2017.

Brent Council is developing proposals for secondary special places to meet increasing demand, with an initial focus on providing secondary places for children and young people with ASD/MLD/SLD. Currently only Woodfield admits pupils with these needs, transferring from special primary provisions (both in and out-of-borough). This need could be met via a new school, or via satellite provision run by an existing special school. In the interim, Woodfield School is expanding Year 7 places for September 2019. 19 additional places are being made available.

The council is continuing to work with primary and secondary schools to develop ARP provision to meet demand for a small number of SEMH/ASD places.

Brent is scoping options to provide additional provision for young people with ASD/SLD aged 16-25 to support their successful transition to adulthood. This will include developing vocational pathways for young people aged 19-25 with ASD/SLD/complex needs, so they can be supported locally to develop their independence and participation in community life. Working with local FE colleges, including the College of North West London, which have specific provision for young people with SEND, will continue to be a focus within SEND place planning at post 16. In addition, the council will further develop pathways of work experience placements, apprenticeships and more supported internships for young people aged 16-25, working with FE colleges, Brent special schools and in collaboration with local businesses.

There are increased numbers of EHCP pupils accessing special early years provision. Added to which, the challenge of the 30-hour offer is putting pressure on existing places. In 2018/19 7 parents/carers were claiming 30 hours provision at Willow and 4 at Curzon/Fawood. The council is monitoring the impact of the

30 hour offer, to ensure sufficient capacity, but it is possible that additional special nursery places may be required.

Consultation and Governance

The Inclusion Strategic Board, which has multi-agency representation from schools, the FE college, early years, health, and parents and carers, has oversight of this Special Provision Capital Fund plan. The Board reports to the Children's Trust. The plan underpins SEND sufficiency within the School Place Planning Strategy, within the CYP capital programme, and is approved by the Council's Cabinet. Brent Parent Carer Forum has been involved in shaping this plan. As new projects come on stream there is regular consultation.

HOW TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS:

Please send any comments you have on our proposals to bhavna.bilimoria@brent.gov.uk.

Consultation will be ongoing, during the 3-year period 2018 – 2021.