



Purpose: For Decision

Cabinet report

Date	15 JULY 2021
Title	PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS AND EXPANSION OF SPECIALIST PROVISIONS
Report of	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SKILLS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report refers to the statutory duty of the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) to provide specialist educational places for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and seeks approval for the establishment of two Resource Provisions. One at the primary phase (Brading Church of England (CE) Primary School) and one at the secondary (Medina College) phase of education.
2. The proposed additional SEND provision outlined within this report is part of a planned expansion of provision to meet local need.
3. A recent strategic review of specialist places for children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) showed that further specialist provision for SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health), ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder), SLCN (Speech, Language and Communication Needs) and Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) was needed both at primary and secondary education.
4. The proposal following consultation is to agree the additional two resource provisions, the secondary one for pupils with Social and Emotional Mental Health /Autistic Spectrum Difficulties (SEMH/ASD-15 places from September 2022). The primary one for pupils with complex learning difficulties with or without additional Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN-eight places from September 2021).

CONFIDENTIAL / EXEMPT ITEMS

5. There are no confidential aspects contained within this paper. The public has been consulted on the proposed increase in specialist provision.
6. There are no protective markings needed for this paper.

BACKGROUND

7. Isle of Wight Council has a statutory duty to provide school places for all children and young people including those who have special educational needs and/or a disability.
8. Since 2015-16 the number of pupils on the Isle of Wight with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) has increased from 670 to 1,216 in June 2021. An EHCP is a statutory document which sets out the education, healthcare and social care needs of a child or young person for whom extra support is needed in school, beyond that which the school can provide. It was formerly known as a 'statement of special educational needs'. The growth in EHCPs reflects national trends and has resulted in the need for additional places to be developed in both special schools and resourced provision.
9. Currently the Island has four specialist provisions that provide support to pupils with additional needs. Two of these provisions cater for our primary sector and are based at Greenmount Primary School (ASD/six places) and Hunnyhill Primary School (SEMH/eight places). For pupils in our secondary sector, the Island currently has two provisions with up to twelve full-time equivalent places in each. One based at Carisbrooke College, and one at The Bay CE School (secondary site) both supporting pupils with ASD. The numbers of pupils placed at these provisions can vary because of the particular needs of some children/young people.
10. In addition to providing pupils with specialist support, these specialist provisions provide opportunities for integration so that pupils and students can also experience a mainstream setting alongside their peer group, when appropriate and where this is in the best interests of the pupil.
11. The proposed additional SEND provision will meet the need generated by an increase in the number of education health and care plans (EHCP's) maintained by the local authority. This increase reflects a national trend.
12. The proposal is to increase the number of resource provisions by two – one at primary and one at secondary:
 - Brading CE (Controlled) Primary, eight places for pupils with complex learning difficulties with or without SLCN.
 - Medina College, 15 places for pupils with SEMH with or without an additional ASD
13. These proposals aim to build on good quality Isle of Wight school provision, meet the needs of pupils with SEN, and keep pupils as close to their own homes and community as much as is possible.
14. The proposal for provision at Brading School builds upon a pilot scheme whereby children with EHCP's for complex learning difficulties have been placed at the school. The school has successfully been able to meet these children's needs.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

15. This proposal supports outcomes in the “Our Island | Our Vision Corporate Plan 2019 to 2022”. In particular, the proposal contributes to the development of a well-educated and skilled community and helps to ensure all young people have the best start in life.
16. Requirements for local authorities to put in place an accessibility strategy are specified in schedule 10 of the Equality Act: Accessibility for disabled pupils. This schedule provides for accessibility arrangements for pupils in schools as set out in section 88.

An accessibility strategy is a strategy for:

- increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the schools’ curriculum.
- improving the physical environment of the schools for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the schools.
- improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled.

The strategy can be viewed online by clicking [here](#) (PDF, 372.27 KB, 20 pages).

17. A recent strategic review of specialist places for children and young people with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) showed that further specialist provision for SEMH (social, emotion and mental health), ASD (autism spectrum disorder), SLCN (speech, language and communication needs) and MLD (moderate learning difficulties) was needed both at primary and secondary education.
18. In June 2020 the outcomes of this review were completed and can be viewed [here](#) (PDF, 1.89 MB, 34 pages).

CONSULTATION

19. On the 14 December 2020 the director for Children’s Services approved the commencement of a four-week consultation period for the development of the two resourced provisions.
20. During the consultation period published notices were advertised in two local publications, displayed at the school sites and can also be found online [here](#). Due to covid restrictions public meetings have not been held.
21. Both Medina College and Brading CE Primary School informed parents/carers of the consultation period and invited comments on the proposals.
22. For Brading CE Primary School, the Portsmouth Diocese has been consulted and has raised no objections to the proposal.

23. A total of two response were received for the Brading CE Primary School proposal. The key conclusions can be drawn from them;
- A letter of support from a parent of a child currently accessing the provision noting that school has supported their child well, and the pilot should be made permanent as they feel this forms an important part of the Island's SEND offer.
 - An objection to the proposal on the grounds that the school had been subject to recent adverse decision which they consider means they cannot deliver the resource proposal.
24. While the objection raised regarding Brading Primary School is noted, this was the result of a very specific set of circumstances and it is considered that the school, for the reasons highlighted in this report, are able to deliver the proposal in this setting.
25. Brading School has a track record of improving outcomes for children with SEN. The work of the school in supporting children with SEN has been noted by Ofsted in their recent inspection of the school in 2020 where the school was found to be good.
26. Ofsted said:" - 'Disadvantaged pupils and those pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive high-quality support. Highly structured and individual programmes are in place to help these pupils know and remember more. ...Parents appreciate this support, one describing it as 'going above and beyond.'"
27. The schools have already been meeting the needs for this cohort of children under a pilot scheme and so the local authority therefore remains confident that the school is able to support children with complex needs.
28. No responses were received to the Medina College consultation.

FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

29. Once fully operational from September 2022/23 the proposed costs for the financial year inclusive of SEN place funding and top up funding will be:
- Brading CE Primary £97,468 per year
 - Medina College £190,364
30. The additional funding will come from the High Needs Block via the Dedicated School Grant (DSG). The cost of the resource units has been budgeted from 2021/22 financial year.
31. Brading CE Primary School's resourced provision will not require any capital funding.
32. Medina College require adaptations to the existing building to create a suitable environment for the pupils. It is estimated that £0.1million will be required to

complete the works and will be funded from the 2020/21 high needs capital allocation.

CARBON EMISSIONS

33. It is anticipated that by increasing provision across the Island keep pupils as close to their own homes and community as much as is possible, negating the need for longer journeys. There are no further impacts on carbon emissions.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

34. This proposal enables the local authority to meet its statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 to meet the identified special educational needs of children and young adults within the local authority's area.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

35. This proposal aims to improve provision for children with SEN. An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared and can be viewed on request.

PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

36. The strategic development department have formed part of the evaluation process and have therefore been consulted though out. The property implications are minimal and will not have an impact on the sufficiency of the currently capacity of the school.
37. Any planned works will be undertaken by property services and all necessary permissions will be sought.

OPTIONS

Option A - No additional resource provisions agreed

Option B - One resource provision agreed.

Option C - To increase the number of resource provisions by two with one at Brading CE (Controlled) Primary and the second at Medina College asoutlined in this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT

38. Three options have been identified, option A, option B, option C.
39. Option A: If the resource provisions are not agreed the council will not be able to meet its statutory duty locally. This risk to not meeting need will be managed through off island placement. This will lead to additional costs per pupil (the average mainland placement is £80,000 per annum). The carbon emissions per pupil will also be higher due to additional travel to and from the mainland.

40. Option B: If only one resource provision is agreed the council will only be able to meet part of its statutory duty at either primary or secondary level. Risks would be managed as in Option A with the same implications for additional costs and carbon emissions.
41. Option C: If both resource provisions are agreed the council will be able to meet its statutory duty, reducing the burden on the public purse, lower carbon emissions and keep children and young people closer to home and educated within their community. This is a low/no risk option.

EVALUATION

42. This report considers three options. Option A and B will mean that we are unable to meet statutory need locally and will incur additional cost as highlighted in the additional risk section.
43. It is recommended that Option C is adopted.

RECOMMENDATION

Option C. To increase the number of resource provisions by two with one at Brading CE (Controlled) Primary and the second at Medina College as outlined in this report Both resource provisions agreed.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Isle of Wight Council CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY 2014 – 2024
[Isle of Wight Council \(iow.gov.uk\)](http://iow.gov.uk)

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Place Strategy 2019-2023 for children and young people aged 0-16 years old, with education, health and care plans, on the Isle of Wight
[2908-SEND-Place-Strategy-Sufficiency-Review-2019-Final.pdf \(iow.gov.uk\)](http://iow.gov.uk)

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