

Consultation on the strategic plan for SEND education provision 2018-2023

18th May to 28th June 2018

North Yorkshire County Council has a duty to keep its special education provision under review and ensure there is the right type of provision and enough places to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

We want all children and young people with SEND in North Yorkshire to;

- have the best educational opportunities so that they achieve the best outcomes;
- be able to attend a school or provision locally, where they can make friends and be part of their local community; and
- make progress with learning, have good social and emotional health and be prepared for a fulfilling adult life.

We know that there are more children and young people being identified as having special educational needs in North Yorkshire and we expect this increase to continue. We need to make sure that we have the right type of education provision in the right place to meet their needs. We know that a number of our children and young people have to go to school outside North Yorkshire, and we want to avoid this wherever possible.

We have a budget of £44.8 million, called the high needs budget, to spend on special education provision, but at the moment we are spending around £48.6 million. We need to deliver the best provision we can, with the funding we have.

We have developed a strategic plan for educating children with SEND which aims to create a better offer of provision for children and young people, improved communication, enable more local decision making, and reduce costly out of county placements.

We have worked with parents and carers, schools and other education providers, professionals and children and young people to develop this plan. It looks at how we will

provide SEND education across the whole county, and how we will implement this across five areas;

- Craven;
- Hambleton/Richmondshire;
- Harrogate/Knaresborough/Ripon;
- Scarborough/Whitby/Ryedale; and
- Selby.

We now want to ask your views on the strategic plan as part of a formal consultation before the plan is implemented.

This document briefly explains the proposals within the strategic plan that we are consulting on. The full strategic plan document is here www.northyorks.gov.uk/sendplan We recommend that you read the full document and ideally attend one of the information events (see here for details www.northyorks.gov.uk/sendplan) before responding to the survey and giving us your views.

We have explained who and how we are consulting, the timescale for the consultation and our equalities impact assessment, as well as how to complete the survey.

Who are we consulting?

We are asking the public for views on our proposals, specifically the following groups;

- parents, carers and young people;
- staff in early years settings, schools and further education settings (e.g. colleges), including governors;
- parent and carer groups, including North Yorkshire Parents and Carers Together;
- local authority staff; and
- health colleagues.

How are we consulting?

We are asking a number of questions, in a survey, about our proposals and for any other ideas and suggestions. The survey will be available online, via the council's website and via the Local Offer. Paper copies are available on request and an 'easy read' version is available on the website. We are also holding events for parents and carers around the county, during the day and evening, to talk about the strategic plan - these will take place in June 2018 on the 4th, 6th, 11th, 14th, 20th and 21st – full details are on the website. There will also be events for other groups which we will let them know about.

What is the timescale?

The consultation will be open for 6 weeks starting on 18th May 2018 until 28th June 2018. Once the consultation has closed, we will review all of the responses and prepare a report for councillors. They will consider the feedback on the proposed strategic plan and make a decision on 4th September 2018 about implementing the plan. If the strategic plan is

agreed by councillors it will then be published by 26th October 2018 and we will begin to implement the plan.

Information about our equalities impact assessment

We have carried out an equalities impact assessment (EIA) which can be found here www.northyorks.gov.uk/sendplan. We will update this following comments received during the consultation and councillors will consider it again before they make a decision on implementing the strategic plan. The EIA has identified that there will be an impact on young people with SEND and if changes are made to current SEND education services, we will offer support to families to adapt to those changes.

We anticipate that, if the plan is implemented, some of the proposals may bring positive impacts to young people and their families, particularly by enabling more young people with SEND to be educated in their own community and achieve better outcomes. We anticipate that with a local approach, more decisions can be taken locally, enabling faster decision making, earlier intervention and better outcomes for children.

We are proposing changes to the plan for SEND education provision because we need to provide our services based on the amount of money we get from central government each year. The proposed changes to how we use this money, the high needs budget, will ensure that funding is allocated and used effectively as possible and that support is delivered within the budget that is available.

Completing the survey

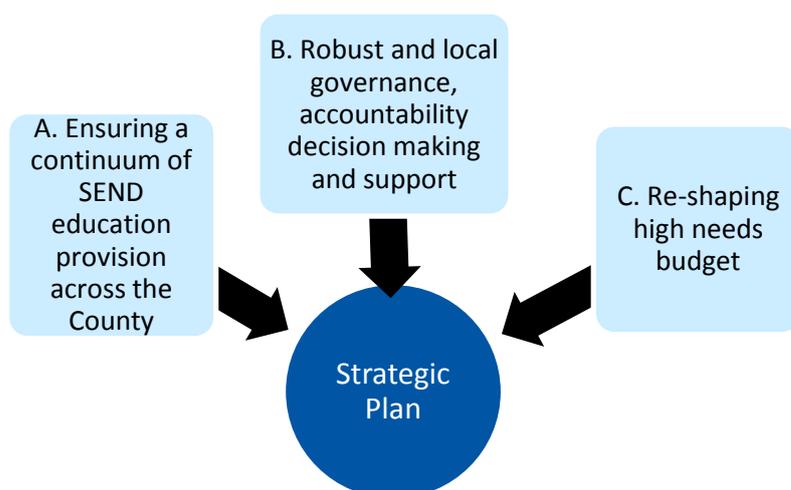
Please give your feedback on the proposals in our strategic plan by completing our online survey, at www.northyorks.gov.uk/sendplan

The full strategic plan is a very detailed document including countywide and local proposals. The following pages are a brief summary of what the survey asks you to comment on, but it is strongly recommended that you read the full strategic plan and attend an information event (details here www.northyorks.gov.uk) before responding to the survey.

If you would like a paper copy of the survey, please call our customer service centre on 01609 780 780.

Our proposals for SEND education provision

There are three core areas in the strategic plan:



There are two phases to the SEND strategic plan – this document covers proposals for phase 1. There will be a separate consultation for the proposals in phase 2.

We have provided a summary of the proposals in the strategic plan, which is a very detailed document including countywide and local proposals. We strongly recommended that you read the full strategic plan (www.northyorks.gov.uk/sendplan) and attend an information event (details here www.northyorks.gov.uk/sendplan) before responding to our survey.

Our proposals for phase 1

Proposal A

We will provide universal and targeted long term provision in mainstream schools, develop the services provided from pupil referral services and provide more places in special schools to enable children and young people with SEND to have the right education provision.

This is also described as ensuring a continuum of SEND education provision across the county.

Universal provision

Universal provision is education provision available to everyone. This is often called mainstream education and is provided in by early years providers, in schools and further education colleges.

As part of proposal A to provide universal provision for SEND pupils, we will;

- develop a skilled workforce and set up local teams made up of professionals with different skills;
- improve support for children and young people with SEND in mainstream schools providing better information and working with special educational needs co-ordinators, SENCOs
- improve information and communication for parents/carers; and
- improve support and information for those delivering post 16/19 education.

Targeted provision

Targeted provision is provision that is more specialist than that provided in mainstream schools. This provision gives a higher level of support for children and young people with SEND, but not a special school.

As part of proposal A, to provide targeted provision for SEND pupils, we will;

- develop a different model of targeted mainstream provision, in a number of schools to allow children and young people to receive more specialist support in small groups;
- provide flexible places in pupil referral services to provide support for pupils as well as places for permanently excluded pupils;
- strengthen the processes and support for schools commissioning their own alternative provision;
- provide new guidance for staff on decision making for pupils with medical needs; and
- establish a 'virtual school' for pupils with medical needs.

Specialist provision

Specialist provision is support which is specifically organised to meet the needs of pupils with SEND. Special schools are specialist provision.

As part of proposal A, to provide specialist provision for SEND pupils, we will;

- increase the number of day places in North Yorkshire special schools;
- commission places from the pupil referral services for pupils in Key Stage 4 who have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP), whose needs can best be met in that provision;
- strengthen processes and implement clear criteria for decision making about residential placements at North Yorkshire's residential special schools;
- submit an application for a new alternative provision/special free school in Selby;
- explore establishing additional local specialist provision in the Ripon area;
- develop the offer to families from special schools, and working with special schools to commission a therapeutic offer;
- strengthen processes for preparing for adulthood; and
- develop and improve the way we prepare children for adulthood, across sixth form special provision, the adult learning and skills service and supported internships.

Capital Plan

Capital funding is used for fixed assets such as buildings. Capital funding is not part of the High Needs Budget. The Council will receive some funding from the Special Provision Capital Fund from the Government over the next three years (www.northyorks.gov.uk/send-specialist-support-and-provision)

To support the proposal A, our capital plan focuses on;

- implementing the approved plan for year 1 of the Special Provision Capital Funding;

- consulting on the proposals for using years 2 and 3 of the Special Provision Capital Funding during phase 1;
- requesting Schools Condition Grant Capital funding for work to improve facilities and increase places by 25 at The Forest School; and
- exploring additional options for securing capital funding to support the delivery of the strategic plan, including through the School Condition Grant.

Proposal B

We will set up local groups who will be responsible for local approaches and decision making around SEND. We will create teams of professionals in each area. This will mean that decisions can be made in the local area more quickly and with the right people involved.

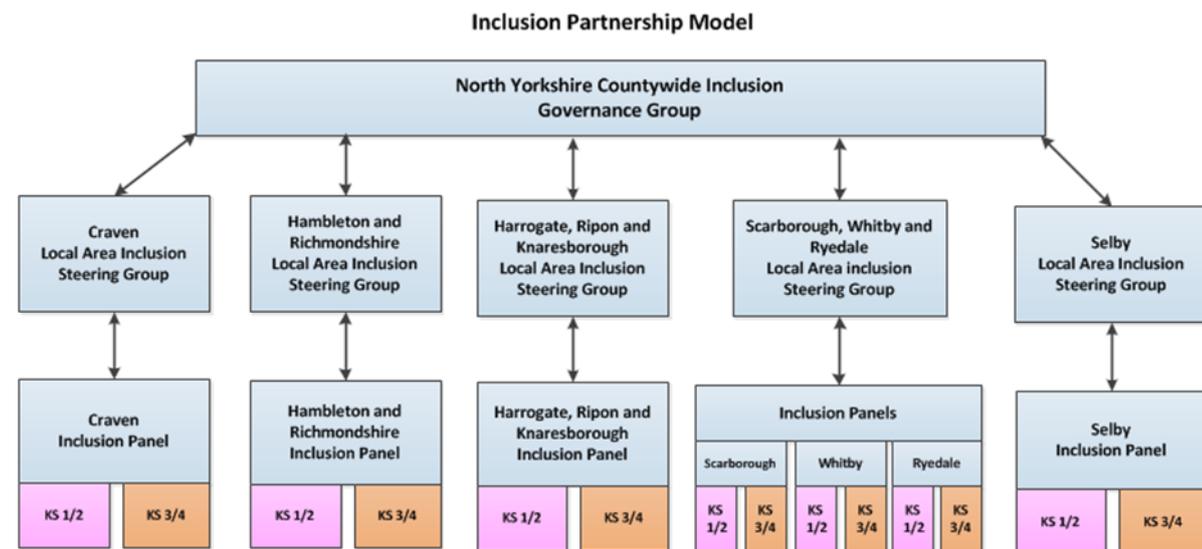
The North Yorkshire inclusion partnership

As part of proposal B, to enable decisions to be made by local groups, we will set up the North Yorkshire inclusion partnership. This will provide a local governance structure with;

- a countywide inclusion governance group which oversees local area groups;
- local area inclusion steering groups; and
- local area inclusion panels.

Details of who will be in each of these groups can be found in the strategic plan document here www.northyorks.gov.uk/sendplan

The diagram below shows how we plan to organise the local groups:



Support in local areas

As part of proposal B the local teams of professionals will have a range of functions which will include;

- providing a minimum free core offer of support;
- offering outreach to settings and schools in response to referrals;
- delivering early intervention advice and support;
- organising and coordinating the local SENCO networks;
- offering group sessions and training for children and young people and parents/carers;
- providing a targeted rapid response based on clear agreed criteria; and
- providing a therapy offer.

Proposal C

We will re-think how we spend the money we get from central government (the high needs budget) to achieve proposals A and B.

The high needs budget

North Yorkshire County Council has a high needs budget of £44.8 million and currently expects to spend £48.6 million on special educational needs (an overspend of £4 million) in 2018/19.

As part of proposal C, we will;

- reshape the high needs funding model to support the proposed continuation of needs (proposal A), and the inclusion partnership approach with locality teams (proposal C); and
- create opportunities for local decision making on identified high needs funding through the local area inclusion steering groups.

Our proposals for phase 2

The strategic plan gives an overview of broad proposals for phase 2. Phase 2 will cover proposals where additional capital or other funding is required or where further work needs to be completed before more detailed consultation takes place.

Please see the full strategic plan for more information, www.northyorks.gov.uk/sendplan

Our proposals in phases 1 and 2 will result in planned provision in each locality which is based on forecasting and information and which also has taken into account feedback during engagement. This will result in variations in provision between different areas. The detail for each local area can be found on pages 34-38 of the full plan.

In addition to asking for feedback on the proposals A to C in phase 1, we are also asking for any further comments and suggestions about the strategic plan to help shape the final version.