

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD

28 March 2022

Minute Extract

54/21 SEND funding Capital Consultation Update

The Board considered a presentation from the Director of Learning, Inclusion and Skills on SEND funding Capital Consultation Update.

It was reported that the Council were consulting on £8.82 million for specialist provision and that this was a capital grant and was not revenue. It was noted that the consultation had closed in February 2022 and that a report on the consultation summary had now been finalised. It was reported that new and additional suggestions had been brought into the consultation.

It was noted that there had been 221 responses. It was reported that 43% were parents, 3% young people, 36% professionals, 11% school or provider and 6% other.

It was noted that in relation to the improvement and expansion of places at St. Clare's school, 73% of respondents agreed that this work needed to be done. It was noted that a feasibility assessment had provided a figure of 11m as the cost of rebuilding the school. It was noted that the council were looking at an expansion and refurbishment option which would cost £4-5m.

It was reported that on the Cotton's Farm hub, 67% of responses were positive with 23% neither agreeing nor disagreeing. It was noted that the responses for having enhanced resource units at the following schools were:

- Murray Park 73% positive 15% neither
- Landau Forte 71% positive 16% neither
- CODA 72% positive 16% neither
- Chellaston 73% positive 15% neither

The Board noted that additional responses to the consultation included:

- Expansion of Ivy House
- Review SEMH/PRU and specialist provision
- Expansion of St Andrew's
- Expansion of St Martin's
- Additional primary inclusion hub

A councillor asked what the primary need of young people and children seeking out of area placements was. It was noted that autism was the

highest-level need and that all of the enhanced resource units were for autism. A councillor commended that they felt that there was a need for a specialist school in Derby for children with autism. It was noted that the Council were working with local schools to ensure that they were inclusive. It was also noted that the Council were working with specialist schools to redefine their needs. It was reported that funding was not available for an additional school. A councillor asked whether the Council expected to see a reduction in the number of out of area placements. It was noted that the Council were working to prevent further out of area placements and to convince parents that Derby could provide the right education for SEND children.

It was reported that the consultation received 221 respondents and that the Council had worked with the Parent Carer Forum on the consultation. It was noted that the Council had also liaised with special school headteachers. A councillor commented that many parents of SEND children did not have time to complete consultations and that it was important for the Council to keep communicating with parent groups.

A councillor asked whether dyslexia was being screened for in schools in Derby. It was noted that the Council were actively promoting the training of staff for dyslexia screening.

The Board resolved:

- 1. to note the report and presentation.**
- 2. to recommend to Cabinet that they extend the consultation period for a further six weeks.**

MINUTES END