

# High Needs Provision Capital Allocation Funding 2021 - 22

## Consultation

### 1. Introduction

The government has committed £280 million High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA) funding in 2021-22 to support local authorities. The aim of the funding is to deliver new places and improve existing provision in education settings for children and young people with SEND, particularly those with more complex needs, and with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP), although the funding can also be used to support SEND pupils without an EHCP and pupils that require Alternative Provision (including children in Alternative Provision settings without an EHCP).

The funding is intended for school aged children and young people, although it can also be used for children and young people aged 0-25 in education settings.

The aim of the funding is to meet local needs by:

- Creating new (additional) places for academic year 2022/23 at good or outstanding provision for children and young people with high needs
- Improving existing provision/adapting facilities for children and young people with high needs

### 2. Strategic Approach

Staffordshire County Council is proposing to use this capital investment to support the Vision and Priorities outlined in the [Staffordshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) Strategy 2021-2026](#)

The SEND Strategy Vision is:

*“All children and young people with SEND are given the opportunity to achieve everything that they can. They engage with the right support at the right time from their parents/carers, the community and the professionals that work with them to make this happen.”*

Key areas of focus within the strategy are:

- children and young people are given the opportunity to be educated in their local mainstream education setting whenever it can meet their needs
- wherever possible children will access education placements that are close to home to help develop friendships in their local community and promote independent travel.

Staffordshire County Council is therefore proposing to use the HNPCA funding and remaining Special Provision Capital Funding to support the achievement of the above by focusing on projects which will increase:

- access to mainstream placements for children and young people with high needs (who might otherwise require more specialist provision)
- the local availability of high needs places to help reduce the requirement for out of area placements/placements at independent special schools.

### **3. The Staffordshire Picture**

Staffordshire currently has over 6200 children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans. Staffordshire has a higher than average proportion of children and young people with an EHCP attending its maintained schools (3.7% of all pupils compared to 3.3% nationally). However, lower than average levels of children and young people with SEN Support (10.3% compared to 12.1% nationally).

51% of children and young people with an EHCP who are in an education placement attend specialist provision compared to 39% nationally. 7.1 % of children and young people with an EHCP who are in an education placement attend an independent or non-maintained special school compared to 5.2% nationally.

There are a higher proportion of children and young people with an EHCP at secondary phase, whereas for SEN Support a higher proportion can be seen in primary.

The main SEN primary needs for children and young people with EHCP's and SEN Support are Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC), Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH). The main SEN primary need for children and young people attending Staffordshire Pupil Referral Units (PRU) is SEMH. The main primary needs for children and young people with a EHCP maintained by Staffordshire attending Independent or Independent Special Schools are SEMH and ASC.

Districts with the highest proportion of children and young people with SEND are Cannock Chase and Tamworth.

## 4. Proposal

The Council has therefore identified the need to develop support for school age children and young people with SEND, either an EHCP or SEN Support, with SEMH and/or ASC.

Staffordshire County Council are consulting on proposals to use the HNPCA and remaining Special Provision Capital funding to:

- Develop Resource Bases at Mainstream Schools for children with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCP) or SEN Support with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs and/or Autistic Spectrum Condition
- Partnership working and co-location of specialist provision on mainstream sites
- Increase capacity in specialist provision to reduce the need to access placements at Independent schools/out of county provision.

## 5. Consultation

We are keen to gain views on the above proposal.

Please complete the consultation form with your views and return to [send.tippingst@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:send.tippingst@staffordshire.gov.uk) by **25 June 2021**

We will consider the feedback received to the consultation. This will inform the final decision on the focus of the funding. Once the criteria for the funding has been finalised Expressions of Interest we be invited from interested parties, to be received by **8 October 2021**.