

Development of a Strategic Plan for SEND provision in North Yorkshire

1. Background

- 1.1** In 2016/2017 local authorities were awarded one off funding, by the Department for Education (DfE), to review their provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0-25 years, and to develop and publish strategic plans that set out how such provision should be made, using the high needs funding they expect to receive in the future, in a way that works for parents and young people.
- 1.2** The Government envisage three key outcomes emerging from the reviews including:
- More effective collaboration between local authorities to secure efficient delivery of:
 - SEN assessment and support services
 - specialist provision for more complex needs
 - more standardised approaches to high needs top-up funding that facilitate better cost control and reductions in bureaucracy.
 - A strategic plan for high needs provision that makes sure there is an attractive offer for parents and young people which will meet the needs of future cohorts at a cost that is sustainable.
 - Better value for money in special schools and other specialist institutions. For example:
 - where an institution is operating with empty places, the review may secure better value through a change to commissioning; or,
 - where a school is not as efficient as it could be, the review may support better procurement of utilities, benchmarking of costs and other measures that release more resources that can be focused on improving the quality of provision and outcomes.
- 1.3** The Government have also committed capital funding to help local authorities develop provision for children and young people with SEND. This can be used to improve special education provision for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). North Yorkshire County Council has been allocated £500 000 over three years from 2018 to 2021. The capital funding is to be used to create new (additional) places at good or outstanding provision and improving facilities or developing new facilities.
- 1.4** The local authority is required to consult with parents/carers of children with SEND and young people with SEND and to work with education providers to agree how the capital funding can best be targeted. The local authority also has to complete and publish a plan to show how they plan to use the capital funding in advance of it being given to the local authority. The plan has to be published on the Local Offer by 14th March 2018 and the first tranche of funding is expected in summer 2018.
- 1.5** The key priority for the LA is to reduce high cost out of county placements and to ensure that children and young people are educated in their nearest appropriate school. Therefore the priority for the LA when planning for use of the capital funding is to invest in sufficient specialist places in the county.

2. Approach and timescales

- 2.1** In North Yorkshire, a significant amount of engagement and analysis of provision has already been completed. In 2015/16 the local authority commissioned an organisation called ISOS to undertake a review of special education provision across the county. For the purpose of the ISOS reviews North Yorkshire was sub-divided into 5 locality areas which were used as geographical boundaries. These are Hambleton and Richmondshire; Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale; Craven; Selby; Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon.
- 2.2** The local authority will build on the findings and recommendations from the ISOS reviews by using the same locality areas, for consistency, and work with representatives across each individual locality to understand key priorities and delivery models for SEND provision in their area. A delivery model and plan for provision will be developed for each area to consider and sign up to.
- 2.3** The locality plans will feed into an overarching North Yorkshire Strategic Plan for SEND provision. The overarching strategic plan will cover the age range 0-25 and the continuum of provision for SEND. The capital plan required by the DfE will contribute to the overall strategy. The strategy will outline details as to how changes will be implemented through an implementation plan. The local authority will develop and consult on the overarching strategic plan and is aiming to publish it by 31st March 2018.
- 2.4** Developing the strategic plan is a very significant area of work which requires careful planning. Currently the approach being taken is to look at SEND provision in two stages as outlined below:

Stage	Type of Provision	Timescale
Stage 1	SEMH (Social Emotional and Mental Health) and Medical	May to September 2017
Stage 2a	Communication and Interaction	September to December 2017
Stage 2b	Cognition and Learning, Sensory and Physical	September to December 2017

- 2.5** Each stage will include locality workshops in relation to the specific type of provision required for each area, and how this can be delivered. Locality plans will then be developed and consulted on.

3. Engagement and Feedback

- 3.1** To ensure future provision can truly meet need across the county, and achieve the three outcomes expected by the DfE (outlined in paragraph 1.2), there needs to be significant input and feedback from as many colleagues and organisations as possible, as well as from parents/carers and young people.
- 3.2** Feedback and engagement will be required both during the development phase, and then through a consultation process to formally sign-off the capital plan and the overarching Strategic Plan for SEND provision.
- 3.3** Working groups and task and finish groups will facilitate engagement and feedback during the stages described in the table above. In addition a knowledge hub has been set up for each locality. For further information on this please see Appendix 1 to this document. The local authority will also circulate surveys for feedback on each type of provision so that thoughts and ideas from across the wide range of settings can inform final designs.

- 3.4** Initial work on the plan for the capital funding from the DfE has begun, with the local authority liaising with special schools in respect of possible capital developments, in particular those which will increase capacity of schools in areas where demand for SEND placements outstrips places.
- 3.5** To ensure there is robust governance around the development and future implementation of changes, the LA will also be establishing locally based SEND partnerships with clear terms of reference and a span of devolved responsibilities and accountability to the overall SEND Strategic Partnership.

4. Current position and next steps

- 4.1** A meeting has been held with each locality to share ISOS review findings and recommendations.
- 4.2** During the summer term work has progressed on Stage 1 of the approach, focusing on the area of social, emotional and mental health (SEMH). Workshops and task and finish groups have taken place in each locality and a proposed model for SEMH provision has been developed. These models reflect the views of each local area on the provision required. Consultation with localities will take place on these initial models during July 2017. There will be further work to refine and cost the models over the summer, and a further consultation on the refined models will take place early in the autumn term 2017. The consultation will cover schools, parents/carers and children and young people.
- 4.3** During the autumn term Stages 2a and 2b of the approach will be implemented, focusing on Communication and Interaction (2a) and Cognition and Learning and Sensory and Physical needs (2b).
- 4.4** Further work will take place on consideration of capital developments, including consultation with education providers, parents/carers and young people. This will inform the DfE capital plan.
- 4.5** The ongoing work described in this briefing will feed into the development of the overarching strategy for SEND provision in North Yorkshire.

5. Key dates and contacts

- 5.1** To summarise, key dates in respect of the SEND Strategy are:

- Stage 1 SEMH – May to September 2017
- Stage 2a – Communication and Interaction (C&I) – September to December 2017
- Stage 2b – Cognition and Learning/Sensory and Physical – September 2017
- Publishing capital plan as required by DfE – 14th March 2018
- Publishing North Yorkshire SEND Strategy – 31st March 2018

- 5.2** Key contacts for the development of the SEND Strategy are as follows:

Overarching strategy and capital plan

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Appendix 1 The Knowledge Hub

JOIN OUR KNOWLEDGE HUB

We will be using the LGA's Knowledge Hub pages to keep you informed of progress, how to engage, and to store documentation and outputs from sessions, throughout this review.

What is the Knowledge Hub?

The Knowledge Hub is an online web site (provided by the Local Government Association) and is a tool to enable professionals to connect, share good practice and ask queries to enable joint learning.

We have created a Knowledge Hub 'Group' for each locality, to keep all updates and documentation for in one place. They are called:

- North Yorkshire SEND Strategic Plan - Craven Locality
- North Yorkshire SEND Strategic Plan – Hambleton and Richmondshire Locality
- North Yorkshire SEND Strategic Plan – Harrogate and Knaresborough Locality
- North Yorkshire SEND Strategic Plan – Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale Locality
- North Yorkshire SEND Strategic Plan - Selby Locality

How do I join the Knowledge Hub?

You can access the Knowledge Hub from the following link: www.khub.net . Just click '**Register Free Today**' on the home page.

The Knowledge Hub is free to join and registration takes just a few minutes. If you have any problems registering please contact support@khub.net

How do I access my locality's 'Group'?

Once registered, you will be taken to your home area where you can request to join your group in a few simple steps:

1. Click on the 'Groups' tab (at the top left of the page);
2. Select 'A-Z Listing' then type in 'North Yorkshire SEND' into the search box to the right;
3. The above list of locality groups will appear;
4. Click on your locality group, click on 'Apply to join';

The functions of Knowledge Hub

A Knowledge Hub group includes a range of functions and tools that you can use to interact.

- Discussion forum – ask questions, have conversations, discuss solutions to problems.
- Library – upload, share and comment on documents and other files.

- Events – promote forthcoming events.
- Surveys - we will be adding links to surveys to enable engagement and feedback throughout the development of the Strategic Plan.

Please note that until each locality has signed off their part of the Strategic Plan, all work in progress will be considered as 'draft'. Therefore, we can only provide you with access to your relevant locality group at this stage.

Publishing Content

The Knowledge Hub Platform offers various forums and ways for you to post your observations and comments on designated topics. It also allows users to share information by allowing them to post updates, including links to news articles and other content to other parts of the site. Please do remember that anything that you post on to this group, will be seen by other members. Therefore, please do not share or post any information that is confidential or cannot be used by others, or that is subject to third party rights that may be infringed by you sharing it. Data Protection does still apply.

Although you register to use the Knowledge Hub Platform as an individual you are participating in your work capacity. Therefore, please make sure that you are aware of, and comply with, your employer's policies regarding participating in collaboration platforms with access to social media tools.

For more information on Terms and Conditions of using the Knowledge Hub, see below:
<https://www.khub.net/web/guest/terms>

Knowledge Hub Content

You can now find the following information on your Knowledge Hub Locality Group:

- A detailed report completed by ISOS in 2016 specifically in relation to provision in your locality;
- A detailed report completed by ISOS in 2016 in relation to provision across the whole of North Yorkshire;
- Background information into the work to develop a Strategic Plan for North Yorkshire, and the national context;
- A summary of timescales and key milestones for development of the Strategic Plan;
- The opportunity to provide feedback into the review and development of the Strategic Plan

We will also be adding content on a regular basis – which will include:

- Outputs from workshops and task and finish groups for your locality for each stage of development;
- A link to surveys to feedback around specific areas of provision, best practice or areas for improvement;
- Draft plans, as they are developed with each locality.