**Plan for the use of the Special Provision Capital Fund allocation in Knowsley 2018 -2021**

The Government has committed £215 million of capital funding to help local authorities create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with SEN and disabilities. This will provide additional resources to help us meet the needs of local children and young people.

The allocation for Knowsley from this grant is £848,837 over the next three years.

We must consult with parents and education providers in the development and implementation of this plan for how the grant will be utilized, and publish our plan on the Local Offer website.

**Options for use of the grant:**

This funding can be invested in mainstream schools and academies, special units, special schools, early years settings and further education colleges, or to make other provision for children and young people aged from 0 to 25.

It must be used to ensure that we have sufficient places for those with SEND. It can be used to create new places and/or improve the facilities in existing provision.

**Context:**

This plan for our SEND capital provision allocation sits within the context our SEND Strategy 2018 - 2021 that sets out priorities to secure improved outcomes for the full range of our population from SEN Support to those with Education, Health and Care Plans [EHCPs].

There are four special schools and two designated special provisions [DSPs] in mainstream primary schools. The DSPs and one special school [SLD/PMLD] are relatively new builds. The three remaining special schools have had minimal investment over a number of years and condition is a significant issue. The need for refurbishment and improved facilities in our existing building stock is therefore pressing; the amount of grant allocated to Knowsley is small and the combination of these factors necessitate that we focus capital work on existing specialist provision for school age children.

A review of sufficiency and facilities suitability within the sector was undertaken in 2017 and made initial recommendations to this effect. A need for further specialist review of building/site capacity and population data trends was identified in order to ensure that work would secure provision that will be sufficient and suitable for the next ten years.

This work was conducted in the first part of 2018 and proposals in our capital fund plan have been based on these pieces of work.

Special school headteachers have been consulted and involved in the identification of work needed and the plan reflects their input.

Following further consultation and analysis into provision and settings the initial plan in terms of use of allocated resource was changed. Consultation was conducted with parents and in collaboration with the Knowsley Parent Carer Voice at a wider parent workshop event and the following is an account of the proposals.

1. **Building refurbishment works to the Wellcroft Centre at the Altbridge School site.**

Develop the sufficiency of provision across the borough’s special school sector. Demand for special school provision in the borough has continued to rise year on year. This has resulted in insufficient placed being available locally leading to an increase in placements in the non-maintained and independent sectors. Whilst these types of placement have a negative impact on council finances, of more concern is the analysis that has shown this type of placement does not promote good outcomes and sending pupils out of borough can sever local links especially when preparing for adulthood and working towards paid employment.

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| **Funding Source** | **Amount (£m)** |
| School Condition Allocation | 0.348 |
| Basic Need Funding | 0.624 |
| SEND Provision Capital Funding | 0.368 |
| Total | 1.340 |

Capital will be used in an invest to save model and will enable the council to increase the number of planned placed at Altbridge School by 90 pupils, providing additional classrooms utilised for key stage three and four, also developing a state of the art vocational centre to strengthen the schools preparation for adulthood offer.

This proposal commits all of the resources from the Basic Need allocation and the majority of the SEND capital funding due to be received until the end of 2020/21. £0.146m of the remaining £0.219m balance of the SEND capital funding will be committed to a separate proposal relating to high needs post 19 provision in the borough.

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| 1. **Building remodelling works at the river alt resource centre, Huyton.**
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In line with the SEND strategy to further increase the boroughs provision for post 19 high needs learners a new provision has been set up at the River Alt Resources Centre- “Flourish”. The provision increases post 19 places by 12 learners over a graded three year period. The provision prevents the use of out of borough placements and adheres to the Codes focus on preparation for adulthood with learning and development in regards to life skills, employability and independence.

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| **Funding Source** | **Amount (£m)** |
| Cabinet Investment | 0.117 |
| SEND Provision Capital Funding | 0.146 |
| Total | 0.263 |

The proposal commits allowance from the SEND Provision Capital Funding and commits further investment to achieve total project cost. An underspend was achieved with the remaining balance being awarded as per 4 below.

1. **Early Years and KS1 Nurture Provision**

The Council has secured £360,000 early intervention funding for the provision of early years and key stage one Nurture base provision. Early Intervention funding has been identified by the council to create two nurture base provisions. One for Early Years and one for KS1. Following a bidding process Meadow Park PRU was successful to host the provision.

A specific nurture base has been developed at Meadow Park PRU. Two elements are now available, one is ACORNS- a referral base for KS1 pupils to access a bespoke turn around program based on Nurture principles. The second is an outreach behaviour specialist teacher who offer time limit intervention for early years observations, advice guidance and support.

1. **Knowsley Central and AltBridge**

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| **Funding Source** | **Amount (£m)** |
| School Funding | 0.392 |
| SEND Provision Capital Funding | 0.335 |
| Total | 0.727 |

In line with national increases, the demand for special school places in Knowsley continues to rise. A key priority for the Council is to provide good quality special sector education within the borough. The Council has undertaken a sufficiency study and a comprehensive evaluation of building conditions. Key improvements have been identified to enhance facilities for current students and increase the number of student places available within settings locally. The quality of education at Knowsley Central Primary and at Alt Bridge secondary school is outstanding. This remaining balance of the grant (£0.335m) is allocated to further develop existing settings within the borough; it is anticipated that the proposed building work will enable more Knowsley students to benefit from the high-quality provision. The extension of current settings will also support best value expenditure of the High-Level Needs Block; demonstrating prudent financial management.

The detailed plan is attached and reflects our proposals – this is a final plan as all elements of the grant have now been committed.

Views on this plan will be appreciated and should be sent to send@knowlsey.gov.uk