

## Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission

### Briefing Note

<b>Report From:</b>	Nina Dohel, Director of Education	<b>For:</b>	Chair, Councillor Peter Babudu
<b>Subject:</b>	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)	<b>Date:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> September 2021

### **SEND Scrutiny report Sept 2021**

- The SEND Code of Practice provides statutory guidance on duties, policies and procedures relating to Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations and applies to England. It relates to children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabled children and young people. A 'young person' in this context is a person over compulsory school age and under 25.
- There are two overarching categories of children that come under the SEN heading. Those children receiving support for their special educational need (SEND support) and the other are those in receipt of an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- Pupil progress and outcomes for children with SEND are good (both at SEND support and with EHCPs).
- We currently have over eight thousand children and young people identified as having a special need and approximately two and half thousand children and young people with an EHCP. On average we see a 10% increase in this cohort each year. We are expecting the children with EHCP will continue to grow and forecast that to be 150 children per year.
- Funding for SEND provision is made through council core funds and the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- Increasing complexity of pupil needs and a rising number of assessments and plans is placing pressure on mainstream schools to admit/retain and make provision. This is particularly true with pupils with Autism (ASD).
- This has also led to greater demand for out of borough specialist provision which also requires the added arrangement and cost of transport.
- The LA SEND Capital Strategy details the use of the DfE SEND Capital Grant to help expand provision and this has recently been updated.
- Our strategy and approach to meeting the needs of our SEN population is to support children remain in mainstream settings in Southwark as far as possible and build programmes of professional development and research to further develop inclusive practice in mainstream settings. We will continue to increase provision in areas of increased demand supported by the SEND capital grant.

- The LA has rebuilt expanded primary provision for pupils with Specific Learning Difficulty (SLD) and pupils with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) on a new site in the centre of the borough. Plans are in place for an expanded school for primary age children with significant social/emotional/mental health (SEMH) need to be opened in September 2022. The LA has collaborated with the Spa Education Trust to open a new all age ASD free school (120 pupils).
- Meeting the needs of children and young people dyslexia is being led by one of our primary schools who provide assessment, advice, support and training more widely and efficiently across the borough.
- Post 16 - This area has seen the biggest increase in volume of young people with plans. There has been a 40% increase since the Children and Families Act. Young people want to keep their plans not just post 16 but post 19 and want to remain in education as long as is possible. Supported internships are becoming more common but these often follow extended Higher Education provision as the young person is not ready for an internship at 19 in many cases.
- Our young people tend to move to college or remain in special school until age 18/19 years. Very few are then ready to move into the employment schemes as they currently exist at that age. Supported internships are popular and we use a number of providers. The LA has invested with an independent trust in the development of Park College (a post 19 provision for young people with ASD to get them into work) and has partnered with providers such as Care Trade and BOSCO. Our local economy team also has a specialist route into employment for young people with special needs
- The LA is in the process of appointing an employment lead to rationalise our supported internship schemes and to develop supported internships in the Council. This will augment the Council internship scheme and will be in partnership with Southwark College.
- Work is underway to develop pathways for our learners into adulthood taking account of their level of need and aspirations.