Special Schools Proposals - June 2019

In order to address the continuing problems and pressures in relation to SEND in the City, the Special School Head Teachers feel very strongly that establishing a more effective strategic interface between the LA and schools in relation to SEND provision is vital.

If this can be achieved we believe four key outcomes may result:

* A better and more effective service for children and families
* Financial savings
* Improved communication
* Better strategic planning to identify needs and establish provision in a timely manner

The Head Teachers have all agreed their willingness to explore the following proposals if the Local Authority is willing to consider them:

**1. Supporting transitions and placements**

* Schools manage straight-forward SEND Transitions
* Schools are engaged in the SEN placement process

**Potential benefits:**

* *Reduction of unnecessary bureaucracy and workload*
* *Faster and more efficient decision making*
* *Reduction of the costs generated by wrongly placed students*
* *Manage transitions more effectively for all parties*
* *Identification of shortages in provision needs in advance*
* *Enabling SENAR to focus on the more complex cases*
* *Reduction in costly tribunals*

**2.** **Supporting strategic planning and place development**

**Potential benefits:**

* *Accurately determining Birmingham’s provision needs well in advance*
* *Establishing a co-ordinated capital building programme*
* *Identifying staffing requirements and recruitment*
* *Reducing the costs generated by wrongly placed students*
* *Reducing independent and out-of-city costly placements*

**3.** **Developing Inclusion Partnership Projects**

* Establish partnerships of groups of Special Schools, Resource base and mainstream schools
* Develop support networks
* Investigate flexible placements
* Investigate flexible funding

**Potential benefits:**

* *Generate an increased SEN offer*
* *Generate an increased SEN capacity*
* *Generate increased inclusion in mainstream*
* *Reduce costly tribunals, independent and out out-of-city placements*

**4. Transport**

* Establish systems for more effective communication between Travel Assist and schools
* Develop local management, reduce school and Travel Assist workload
* Work in collaboration regarding service changes

**Potential benefits**

* *Provide a better and more cost-effective service.*
* *Reduce parental anxiety*

**5. Developing in-city SEN provision**

* Identify provision required
* LA and schools in partnership develop a capital programme strategically designed to deliver the required provision within the city.
* Support the submission of a high quality SEN Free School bid

**Potential benefits:**

* *Increase Birmingham LA SEND capacity*
* *Reduce high cost/low quality out-of-city or independent placements*
* *Reduce transport costs*
* *Reduce monitoring costs*
* *Provide cost effective and better quality provision for pupils in Birmingham*