

Committee: **Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services**

Date: **28 November 2007**

Title: **Update on Review of Special Educational Needs Provision**

By: **Director of Children's Services**

Purpose of Report: **To inform the Committee of recent actions in relation to the review.**

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**Recommendation:**

**The Committee is asked to consider and comment on the actions relating to the recommendations of the Special Educational Needs Review**

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**1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 The actions described in this paper are mostly accommodated within existing resources. The County Council has agreed to fund an 'invest to save' bid to support the establishment of further after-school and holiday activities within the extended special school initiatives. The County Council has allocated £90,000 in 2007/08; £180,000 in 2008/09; £300,000 in 2009/10 and 2010/11 to the 'invest to save' bid.

**2. Supporting Information**

2.1 The consultation on the recommendations of the Project Board overseeing a review of provision for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) in East Sussex took place in the spring of 2005.

2.2 The review had two core objectives:

- (i) To promote greater inclusion in East Sussex schools (special and mainstream).
- (ii) To improve further the quality and range of provision available in East Sussex by using existing resources more effectively.

2.3 The SEN Review Project Board recommended that action should be taken in a number of areas but felt that the most immediate priority should be given to four key areas of activity:

- a. co-ordinate and publicise the significant number of initiatives and strategies for promoting good behaviour in schools, through the work of the Behaviour Board, with the aim of providing comprehensive advice on resources and support, including those present in specialist SEN provision, for promoting good behaviour;
- b. review the range and scope of East Sussex maintained specialist provision with the aim of increasing flexibility and reducing out of county placements, including options for the changed use of St Mary's Special School, Horam, and develop plans for multi-agency (including education, social care and health) co-ordinated services for children with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families;
- c. prepare for the pilot of the delegation of SEN funds to one or more local partnerships for children in 2006/07 and undertake a cost/benefit analysis;
- d. extend out of school activities in special schools.

**3. Progress on recommendations**

Behaviour

3.1 The review of the secondary behaviour support service has been completed. The Service is now managed within the Area Integrated Services as part of the integrated youth support teams. A new manager has been appointed.

3.2 A review of the Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) is now under way in light of the new requirements for the local authority to provide full time education to permanently excluded pupils from day 6, and the requirements to establish management committees for PRUs.

### Specialist provision and Autistic Spectrum Disorder

3.3 The seven learning difficulties special schools have been redesignated to make the range of needs for which they cater clearer for parents and professionals. (See Annex 1)

3.4 A review of the special facilities attached to mainstream secondary schools has been undertaken and proposals to ensure greater value for money have been developed. (See Annex 2)

3.5 A draft policy and strategy for ASD has been developed and these were brought to this Committee in September 2007.

3.6 The primary ASD Monitoring and Support Groups are operational and providing support to children, schools and families. A secondary group is under development.

3.7 Discussions are under way with Hastings College of Arts and Technology, which has been given ASD specialist provider status by the Learning and Skills Council, to plan post 16 provision for young people with high functioning autism.

### Mainstream school funding

3.8 Initial consultations have been held in relation to the methodology of delegating funds to mainstream schools to meet the needs of children with additional or special educational needs. Further discussions are planned with headteachers this month.

### Extended school activities

3.9 After school activities are operational at The South Downs School, Eastbourne, for children aged over 8. They will be extended to children under 8 from January 2008, now that OFSTED registration has been agreed for this age group.

3.10 Six of the learning difficulties special schools operated holiday activities for four weeks over the school summer holidays. The three behaviour difficulty schools also operated a range of activities over this period for their pupils.

3.11 The County Council has agreed an 'invest to save' bid for four years to support the extension of the extended special school project in order that all East Sussex special schools are able to operate after school and holiday activities at a market cost to parents.

## **4. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation**

4.1 The Committee is asked to consider and comment on the actions relating to the recommendations of the Special Educational Needs Review

**MATT DUNKLEY**

Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

Background documents: None

## **Review of special units and facilities attached to mainstream secondary schools**

A review of the mainstream special units and facilities in East Sussex has been undertaken to ensure that the provision is matching the presenting needs and to ensure that it is providing value for money.

The SEN Review identified the need for a network of seven funded specialist facilities attached to mainstream secondary schools for young people with high functioning ASD. It was envisaged that each facility would cater for young people from the Local Partnership for Children (LPC) area and two further adjoining LPCs. The facilities would be able to accept a small number of pupils on roll and would provide specialist outreach and advice to the other schools in the local area. Currently there are three schools which are catering for this group of young people: Filsham Valley, Peacehaven and Heathfield. A facility is also planned for Bexhill High School. There is a need for further facilities in the northern part of the county and the Eastbourne area.

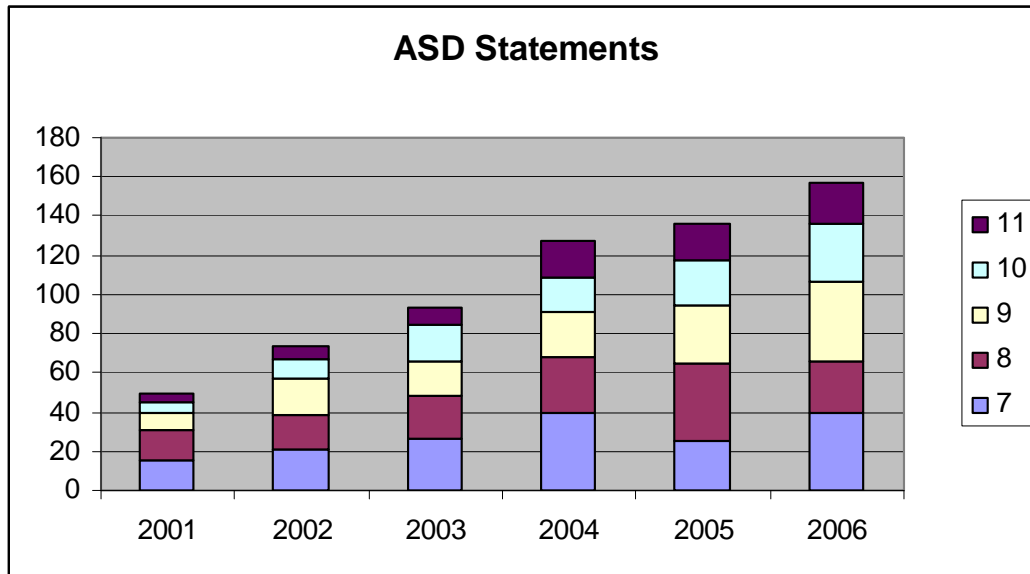
Following a wide-ranging consultation with the headteachers' Strategic Management Boards and, in particular, with the headteachers of the individual schools concerned, the departmental Senior Management Team has agreed for the following steps to be undertaken:

### **The way forward:**

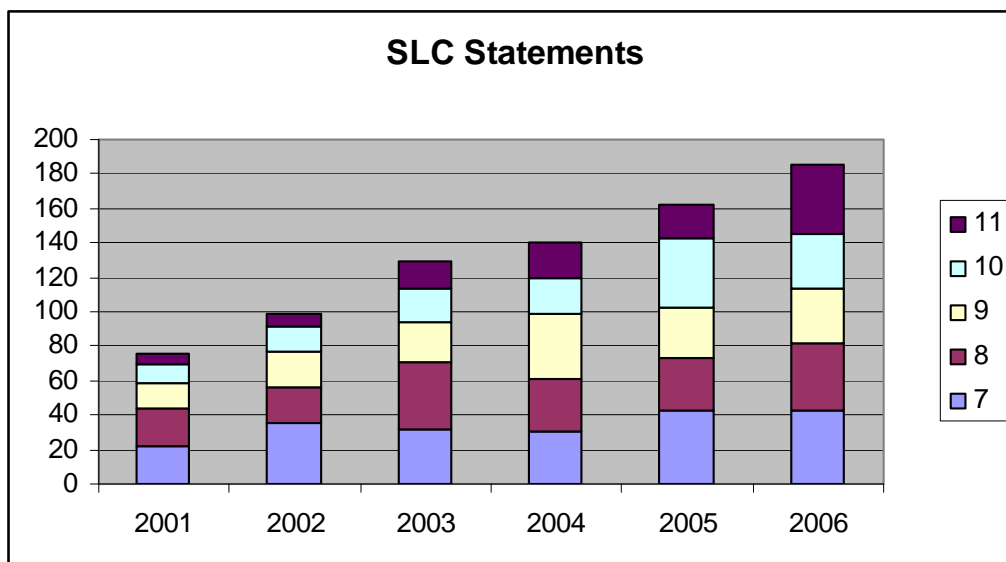
1. The Hailsham SpLD facility will cease to be funded from April 2008. This will not mean that the facility will be decommissioned in the initial period but, in order to ensure value for money, the funding will be amended to match the number of pupils on roll.
2. The Seaford Head SpLD facility will be funded at a reduced level until the current pupils have reached the end of Year 11 in July 2010. This will not mean that the facility will be decommissioned in the initial period but, in order to ensure value for money, the funding will be amended to match more closely the number of pupils on roll.
3. The Filsham Valley facility funding is under review in light of the changes to post-16 provision in the Hastings area and the lower demand for places for young people with physical and sensory difficulties. Discussions are being held with the headteacher and governors regarding the provision for young people with ASD.
4. There will be no change to the funding for the facilities at Bexhill High School and Peacehaven Community School.
5. Discussions will be held with headteachers in the northern and Eastbourne areas of the county with regard to the possibility of establishing facilities for young people with high functioning ASD.
6. Revised Service Level Agreements will be established between the local authority and each school with a resourced facility to include an outreach and advice function to other mainstream schools, as appropriate.

## Background Information

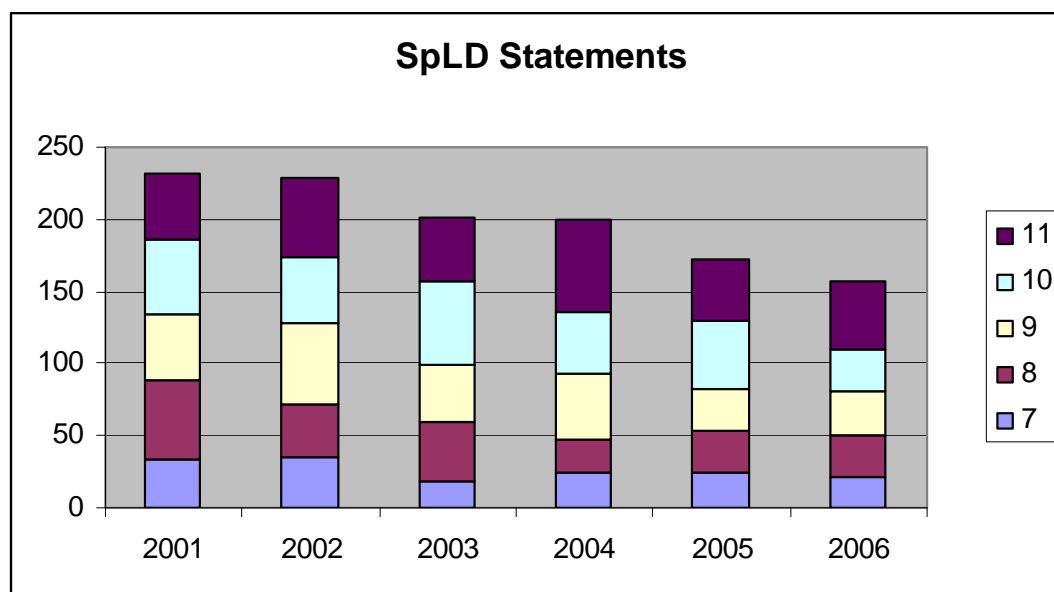
The SEN Review identified that there is a large increase in the number of young people with autism (ASD) and that the increase has been most dramatic in the secondary age range. There are now more than three times as many secondary statements for ASD than there were in 2001. The ASD Strategy includes planning for the development of 6-7 secondary special facilities for autism across the county.



There has also been a significant increase in secondary aged young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLC). There are now nearly two and a half times as many secondary aged young people with statements for SLC than there were in 2001.



There are now only two-thirds of the number of statements for Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD), including dyslexia, than there were in 2001.



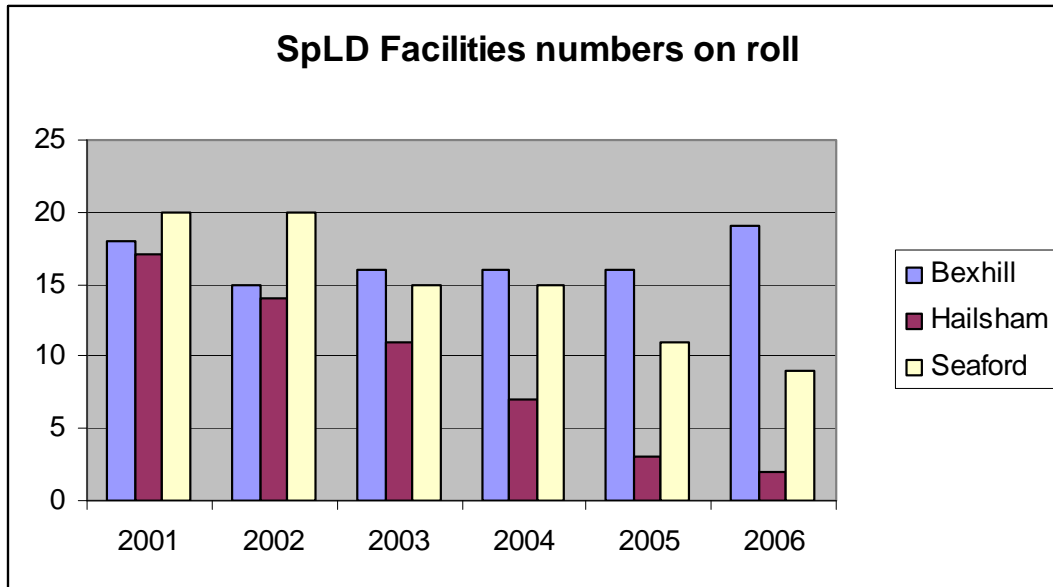
### SpLD Facilities

East Sussex maintains three special facilities attached to mainstream secondary schools for SpLD (Bexhill High School, Seaford Head Community College and Hailsham Community College), one for speech, language and communication difficulties (Peacehaven Community Secondary School) and one for physical and sensory needs (Filsham Valley School). Both the Peacehaven and Filsham Valley facilities cater for a number of young people with ASD.

There has been a decrease in demand for placements at the SpLD facilities which has resulted in a large number of unfilled but funded places. Many of the young people attending the SpLD facilities live within the catchment area of the school and would normally have attended these schools.

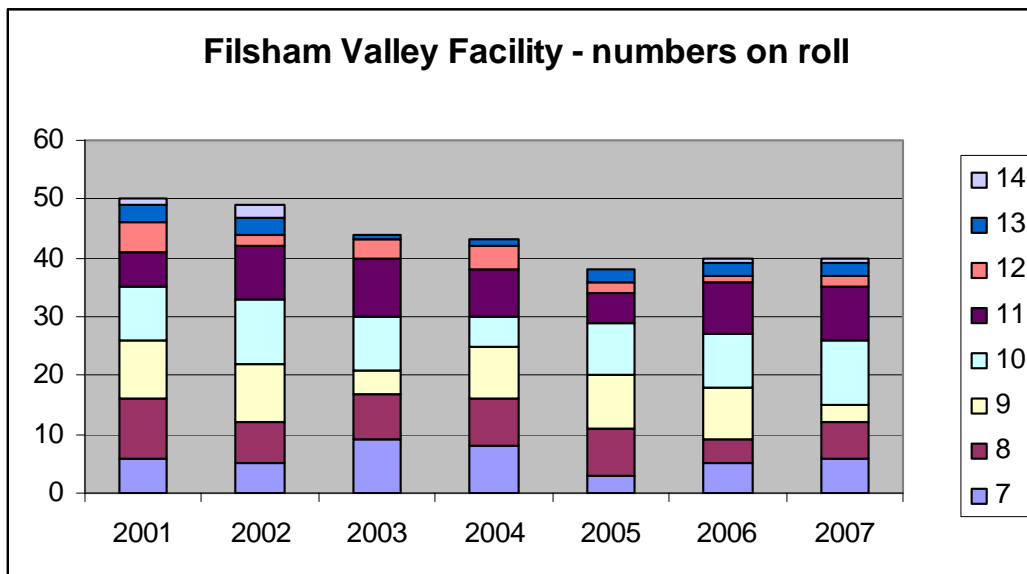
The facilities have traditionally been funded for 22 places and expected to admit up to 20 pupils, but in April 2003 Hailsham's funding was reduced to 11 places.

Whilst the numbers on roll at the Bexhill High Special Facility have remained at or close the expected number, the numbers on roll at the other two SpLD facilities have been well below expectations for some years.



### Filsham Valley Facility

This facility caters for young people with physical or sensory needs or who have ASD. Originally funded for 60 places, it has been funded for 45 places since September 2004. As Filsham Valley is an 11-18 school, it has traditionally had a small number of young people over the age of 16. This will change in 2008/09 when the school becomes 11-16. There are currently 32 pupils on the roll of the facility.

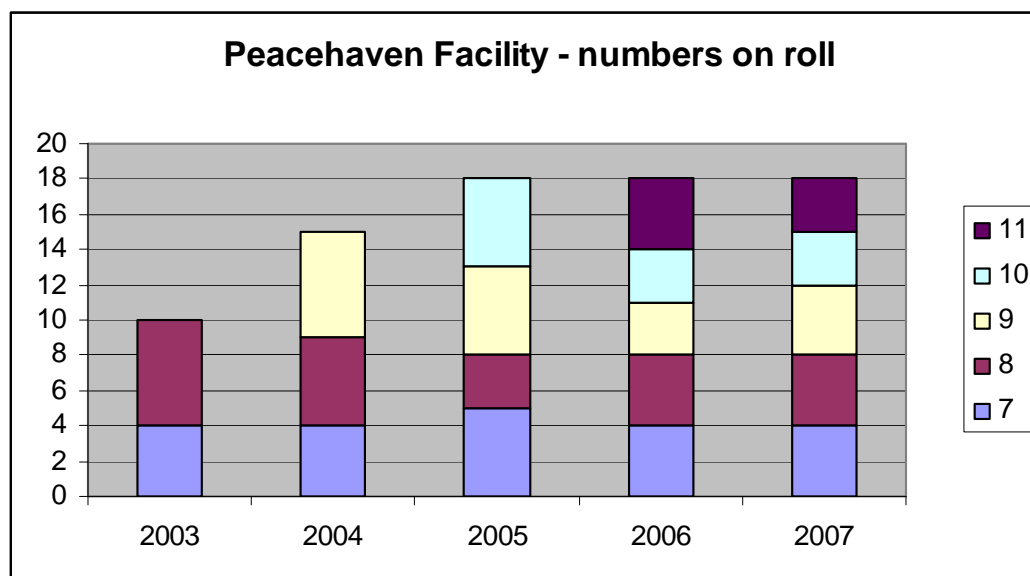


Year Group	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
Jan-01	6	10	10	9	6	5	3	1	50
Jan-02	5	7	10	11	9	2	3	2	49
Jan-03	9	8	4	9	10	3	1	0	44
Jan-04	8	8	9	5	8	4	1	0	43
Jan-05	3	8	9	9	5	2	2	0	38
Jan-06	5	4	9	9	9	1	2	1	40
Jan-07	6	6	3	11	9	2	2	1	40

**Table of numbers on roll at Filsham Valley Facility**

### **Peacehaven Facility**

The facility was established when the new school opened and the facility gradually grew as the school admitted more years groups. It is now operational over the full five year groups and is funded for 25 places. The facility caters for young people with SLC needs and some have ASD.



### **Heathfield Community College**

Heathfield has established a pioneering facility for young people with high functioning ASD who need specialist provision. It is planned for statutory notices to be issued for the new facility when the accommodation becomes available in 2008 through the current building programme.

### **Bexhill High School**

Bexhill is the first school in East Sussex to be part of the Building Schools for the Future programme. The initial plans include facilities for young people with high functioning ASD to operate alongside the facility for SpLD. The new school will become operational in 2010.



## **Hearing Impairment Facilities**

There are three secondary special facilities for young people with hearing impairments attached to Willingdon Community Secondary School, Claverham Community College and Priory School. These are managed by the Service for Children with Sensory Needs and are not part of this review.

### Special School Redesignations

The changes to the description of each school changed with effect from September 2007 as follows:

<b>School</b>	<b>Current description</b>	<b>Proposed description</b>
Glyne Gap School Bexhill	SLD/MLD Severe learning difficulties (SLD) Profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD)	CLD/ASD Complex learning difficulties (CLD), including autistic spectrum disorder (ASD)
Grove Park School Crowborough	SLD/PMLD Severe learning difficulties Profound and multiple learning difficulties	CLD/ASD Complex learning difficulties, including ASD
Hazel Court School Eastbourne	SLD/PMLD Severe learning difficulties Profound and multiple learning difficulties	CLD/ASD Complex learning difficulties, including ASD
Saxon Mount School St Leonards	MLD Moderate learning difficulties (MLD)	ACLD Autism, communication and associated learning difficulties
The Lindfield School Eastbourne	MLD Moderate learning difficulties	ACLD Autism, communication and associated learning difficulties
The South Downs Community Special School Eastbourne	MLD/SLD/PMLD Moderate learning difficulties Severe learning difficulties Profound and multiple learning difficulties	ACLD/CLD Autism, communication and associated learning difficulties and complex learning difficulties
Torfield School Hastings	MLD Moderate learning difficulties	ACLD Autism, communication and associated learning difficulties