

Report to: **Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability**
Date: **22 January 2018**
By: **Director of Children's Services**
Title of report: **Education Commissioning Plan 2017-2021**
Purpose of report: **To consider the contents of the Education Commissioning Plan 2017-2021 and to approve its publication**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) Consider the contents of the Education Commissioning Plan 2017-2021 and to approve its publication, and**
 - 2) Delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to amend the plan prior to its publication if required.**
-

1. Background

1.1 East Sussex County Council, as the local authority, has a statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet present and future demand for early years, primary, secondary and special school places.

1.2 The Council is responsible for promoting a good supply of strong settings and schools through planning, organising and commissioning places in a way that raises attainment, increases diversity, encourages collaboration and promotes community cohesion. The Council seeks to achieve this in partnership with key stakeholders including early year's settings, schools and academies, parents and carers, the dioceses, borough and district councils, the Department for Education (DfE), the Regional Schools Commissioner and local communities.

1.3 In support of our statutory obligation, the Council publishes an Education Commissioning Plan (ECP). The purpose of the plan is to understand the projected demand for places in the future, to set out where we think we will need to commission additional places or reorganise existing provision and to present our strategy to achieve this.

1.4 The current ECP covering the period 2015-2019 was approved for publication by the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness on 21 December 2015 and published in January 2016. The plan can be viewed by following the link under 'background documents' below.

1.5 A new ECP for the period 2017-2021 has been produced using the most recent set of forecasts which take account of the latest information on births, GP registrations, parental preferences, housing developments and migration patterns. The updated draft plan can be viewed in **Appendix 1**.

2. Summary of mainstream school pressures

2.1 The countywide birth rate has fallen from 5,500 in 2010/11 to around 5,200 in 2015/16. The fall in countywide births is reflected in a fall in primary Year Reception (Year R) intake numbers. In 2015/16 there were 5,623 Year R children in East Sussex. By 2019/20 intake numbers are predicted to fall below 5,400. Based on the Council's demographic projections, longer term Year R numbers are forecast to remain around 5,400 – with a continued downward trend in births in some parts of the county being offset by the stimulus to births from high levels of new housing in other areas.

2.2 The rise in births between 2001/02 and 2010/11 is starting to impact on secondary school numbers. Year 7 intake numbers have generally been rising since 2013/14. In 2016/17 the countywide Year 7 total was 4,814. It is predicted to continue to rise until it reaches a peak of around 5,700 in 2023/24.

2.3 Countywide, the forecasts for primary and secondary school numbers in 2017 are significantly down on the 2016 forecasts. Mainly as a result of the significantly reduced new housing figures in the latest revision to Wealden District Council's Local Plan, there are now 5,000 fewer new homes planned for East Sussex in the period to 2027/28. Despite this, there remain certain parts of the county (e.g. Hailsham, Uckfield, Bexhill, Polegate/ Willingdon and Newhaven/Peacehaven) where significant volumes of new housing have been built/are planned and additional school places are likely to be required to meet the demand arising from the new housing.

2.4 A total of 5,870 new primary and secondary places have been created in East Sussex since 2010/11, funded either through the Council's capital programme or centrally as part of the government's free schools, studio schools and UTC programmes. In the period to 2022/23 it is likely that an extra 1,580 primary and secondary places will be required in the following locations.

Planning area	Phase	Places required
Newhaven	Primary	30
Peacehaven	Primary	60
Hailsham	Primary	420
Polegate/Willingdon	Primary	210
Eastbourne	Secondary	60
Newhaven/Peacehaven	Secondary	450
Hailsham	Secondary	150
Willingdon	Secondary	200
Total		1,580

3. Summary of special school pressures

3.1 The Council's recently developed SEND forecasting model is predicting that overall numbers of children with SEND could rise to over 8,500 by 2020/21 and to 9,800 by 2030/31. The numbers with Education Health Care Plan (EHCPs) could rise to over 3,200 by 2020/21 and to over 3,800 by 2030/31.

3.2 The main pressure on places is predicted to be for children with Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH), Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD). The Council has worked closely with our current special schools and potential new providers to develop a strategy for the provision of additional special school places to meet the predicted demand and to reduce the high revenue costs to the Council of placing pupils in independent schools. This strategy includes the development of new schools, including through successful free school applications, and a review of specialist facilities as detailed below.

- **The Flagship School** (wave 12 free school): 9-16 years, with 56 places with High Functioning Autism and pupils with social, behavioural and communication difficulties. Provider – Flagship School Ltd. Preferred site in Hastings. The ESFA will fund the capital works centrally. Indicative opening date: September 2020.
- **The Summerdown School** (wave 12 free school): 5-16 years, with places for 84 pupils with autism and speech language and communication needs. Provider – Southfield Academy Trust. Preferred site in Eastbourne (Council owned land). The ESFA will fund the capital works centrally. Indicative opening date: September 2020.
- **The Workplace** (wave 12 free school): 11-16 years, co-educational, alternative provision school offering provision for 94 pupils with behavioural issues and excluded children. Provider – SABDEN Academy Trust. Preferred site in Bexhill (Council owned land). The ESFA will fund the capital works centrally. Indicative opening date: September 2019.
- **New PMLD provision:** subject to approval by the Regional Schools Commissioner it is intended that the new Summerdown School above extends its offer to include 51 PMLD places. The Council would fund the PMLD element of the new provision from its capital programme. Indicative opening date: September 2020.
- **New SEMH provision:** the Council is currently investigating options for delivering 80 SEMH places in Hailsham on land that is subject of an option agreement with a housing developer. The Council would fund the new provision from its capital programme. Indicative opening date: September 2020.

- **New specialist facilities:** as part of its High Needs Review the Council is also considering a strategy to develop more specialist facilities at mainstream schools which would cater for a broad range of lower level SEND needs where pupil's requirements could be met in a specialist facility that includes appropriate access to mainstream provision. The agreed strategy would be subject of an invest-to-save business case to the Capital Strategic Asset Board for funding in the capital programme

4. Presentation of the ECP

4.1 This year we are presenting the plan in a different format. We have made a number of significant changes to the layout of the document, particularly to the charts and tables, which we believe makes the plan much easier to read and understand. We welcome the Lead Member's view on the layout and formatting of the new document before approval is given to publish the plan.

4.2 It is intended to publish the final version of the plan on the Council's website at the end of January / beginning of February once approved.

5. Conclusions and reasons for recommendation

5.1 In conclusion, the Council has a statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet present and future demand for early years, primary, secondary and special school places. The Education Commissioning Plan 2017-2021 clearly sets out where we think we will need to commission additional places or reorganise existing provision and presents our strategy to achieve this.

5.2 Accordingly, the Lead Member is recommended to:

a) Consider the contents of the Education Commissioning Plan 2017-2021 and to approve its publication, and

b) Delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to amend the plan prior to its publication if required.

STUART GALLIMORE

Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Gary Langford, Place Planning Manager

Tel. No. 01273 481758

Email: gary.langford@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Education Commissioning Plan 2017-2021