

Proposed High Needs Place Changes 2023/24 Academic Year

11 October 2022

Objective

To share with Schools Forum draft proposals for planned high needs places for the 2023/24 academic year

Linked to:

- Requirement for the LA to consult with Schools Forum over arrangements for high needs pupils
- Requirement for the LA to submit place change notifications relating to academies/FE colleges to the ESFA in **November**

Approach

1. Identify where a place number change may be required taking into account;
 - Current numbers
 - Known leavers July 2023
 - Anticipated/average new admissions
 - Limits to physical capacity
2. Agree proposed changes with institutions involved.

Current Published High Needs Places

Institution	Published Places AY22-23
Westbury Special Academy	104
Woodlands Special Academy	89
Nethergate Special Academy	159
Rosehill Special School	120
Oak Field Special School	166
Bluecoat Primary Academy	5
Bluecoat Aspley	16
Bulwell Academy	6
NUSA	12
Mellers Primary	13
Fernwood Primary	2
Denewood Academy	42
Unity Academy	110
Nottingham College	140



Potential HN place changes for Sept 2023

- +10 at Nethergate incorporating final class of 8 in the new ASD unit, and 2 extra post-16 places
- Potential post-16 place increase at Nottingham College based on recent high needs learner numbers. Anticipating could be c.20+ extra places. Need to incorporate projected demand from other LAs.
- No other changes currently anticipated.

Financial Implications

- 10 extra places at Nethergate will cost c.£0.182m for a full year, £0.108m in FY23-24 with 7/12 impact
- **£0.208m** additional budget requirement for special schools for FY 2023/24 arising from place number changes (AY2022/23 and AY2023/24) prior to any funding increase
- Funding increase for 2023/24 will be subject to the outcome of our Special School funding review, which is in progress and conducted on a 4-yearly cycle
- Place cost element of 20 places at Nottingham College would be £0.120m in a full year, £0.080m in FY23-24 with 8/12 impact
- **£0.120m** additional budget requirement for FE recoupment for 2023/24 arising from place number changes over last 2 academic years

Longer term plans

- High Needs Provision capital allocation for 2021/22 of **£2.550m**
- Further HN capital allocations announced in March 2022; £7.3m for 2022/23 and £8.1m for 2023/24
- SEND capital strategy in the pipeline. Will require consultation and approval at the Capital Programme Board
- 50% increase in high needs top-up pupils over the last 5 years
- Nearly 60% of the increase is in pupils with a primary need of ASD, and 18.5% with Speech, Language, Communication Needs
- Data analysis highlights the need to develop options to use capital funding to create a significant number of additional high needs ASD/MLD places at secondary, in the areas of the City with highest prevalence of needs
- Also to build on opportunities for small units for SEN pupils attached to primary schools