

ITEM 3

Dedicated Schools Grant – SEND update: Increasing provision and early intervention

Schools Forum

Recommendation

The Schools Forum is asked to: -

- 1) Note the contents of this report
- 2) Support the proposals in relation to the continuation and commitment to of CLSS and increasing provision within the borough

1. Introduction

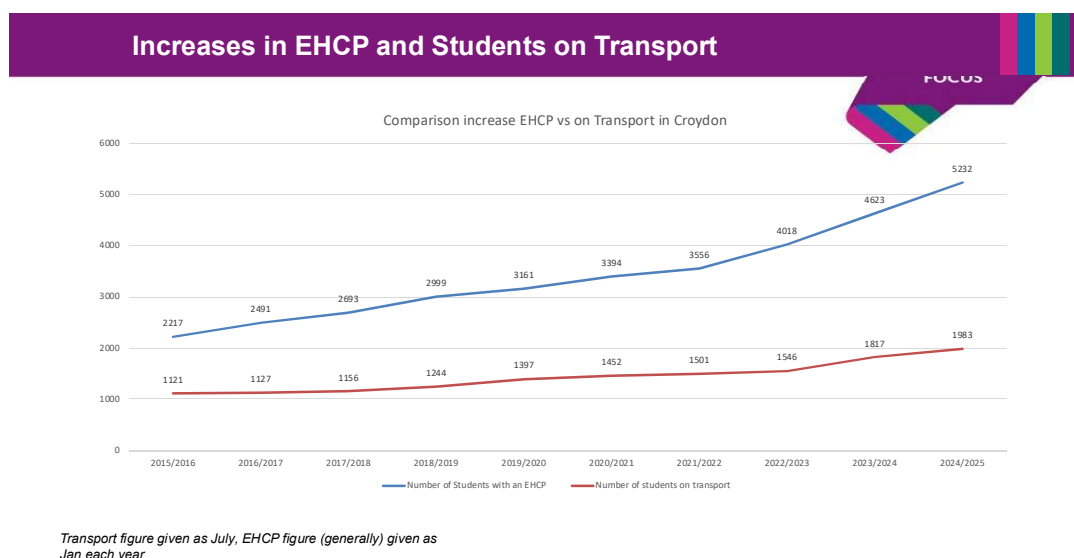
1.1 This report sets out an essential update in relation to the following:

- 1.1.1 Plans to and delivery of increased places within the borough for pupils with EHCPs,
- 1.1.2 Update on CLSS, Early Intervention Model
- 1.1.3 Update on the SEND restructure and increase in front line staff to support schools Directly.

1.2 Background

- 1.3 Since the changes in the 2014 Education Act, the number of children and young people with an EHCP has significantly grown, this trend is both local to Croydon and there has been a significant increase nationally. The number of CYP with a plan in Croydon has grown from 2217 in 2015/16 to 5232 in 2024/25 and the rate is not slowing down, as shown in graph 1 below.
- 1.4 The coproduction of the 0-25 AP /SEND strategy was one of the first areas of focus on our improvement journey, with five priority areas identified. All key stakeholders, including young people were part of the consultation and development of the agreed priorities. The strategy was approved by Cabinet and young people joined the meeting to share their views about the priority areas.
- 1.5 To ensure delivery of the strategy we tightened our Governance processes and oversight, of SEND establishing the SEND Delivery Groups, Forum and Board. All aspects of our Governance structure include local area representation and leadership oversight.
- 1.6 Our strategy has been very much focused on educating children and young people with SEND within the borough, ensuring that they have the best provision to meet their needs without the need for extensive travel and time away from their community. We have done this through an increase of PAN at our special schools, opening a new special school and developing Locality SEND support model for mainstream schools so that more children with SEND needs remain in mainstream where appropriate to support with meeting their needs

Graph 1



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2. Increasing provision

2.1 The percentage of pupils attending non- maintained independent special schools over the past few years has remained fairly static (8%) but the numbers have increased. The priority to deliver more specialist placements in the borough has been through two main foci: increasing the number of special school places and development of new enhanced learning provisions (ELPs)

2.2 Table 1 below illustrates the increasing number of within borough special school places

School	Increased places
St Nicholas	20
Addington Valley Academy	16
Red Gates	5

2.3 Enhanced Learning Provisions (ELPs): 17 ELPs are currently active across primary and secondary schools; 6 new ELPs opened in 2024/25; 7 new ELPs proposed for 2025/26.

Tables 2 and 3 below highlights the new enhanced learning provisions and the capacity they have.

Table 2: Secondary Provision

Secondary Provision

Name of ELP	Planning Area	Main need	Agreed Places 2025-26 Academic Year
Meridian High	South	ASD/SEMH/SLCN/	35
Oasis Academy – Coulsdon	South	ASD	30
Orchard Park	North	DLD	25
Woodcote High	South	Physical/complex needs	9
Oasis Arena	North	Autistic Spectrum	15
Total			114

Table 3: Primary Provision

Line no.	Planning Area (A)	School (B)	Recently opened (C)	Primary Need (D)	Agreed Places 2025-26 (E)
Line 1	East	Broadmead		ASD	20
Line 2	Southeast	The Encompass – Fairchildes	Sept '24	ASD	15
Line 3	East	Monks Orchard ELP	Sept '24	ASD	25
Line 4	Southeast	Tudor Academy	April '25	ASD	14
Line 5	North West	Winterbourne Nursery & Infant	Sept '24 (did have a nursery ELP originally)	ASD	8
Line 6	Southeast	Rowdown	Sept '24	ASD	20
Line 7	Central	Aerodrome		DLD	20
Line 8	Southeast	360 Fairchildes		MLD	18
Line 9	East	The Crescent	Sept '24	SLCN	20
Line 10	Southeast	Applegarth		DLD	19
Line 11	Southeast	Castle Hill		ASD	50
Line 12	Southwest	Chipstead Valley		medical and physical	7
Line 13	South	Courtwood		ASD	16
Line 14	North West	Kensington		ASD	34
Line 15	East	Oasis Shirley Park		ASD	14
Line 16	South	Quest Primary		MLD/ASD	16
Line 17	North West	Norbury Manor Primary		HI	10
Line 18	East	South Norwood Primary		ASD	20
	Total				346

- 2.5 The majority of reception aged children requiring a specialist placement, this academic year, have been placed within the borough, supported by the creation of 137 new special school placements. The process for placements was started much earlier, previously we placed 70 children starting in reception in provision outside of the borough. We are also in discussion about the development of new ELPs and Special School Satellite provision.

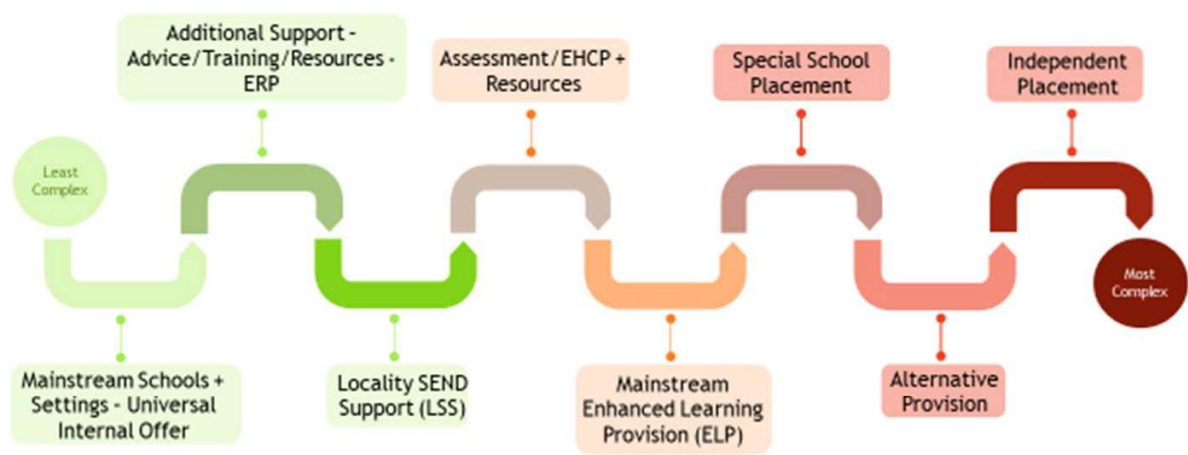
Table 4: Potential New ELP's and Satellite provision

Line no.	Planning Area (A)	Type (B)	Places (C)
Line 1	South East	ELP	20
Line 2	North West	ELP	20
Line 3	North West	Satellite	TBD
Line 4	East	Satellite	TBD
Line 5	East	Satellite	TBD

3. Early Intervention model

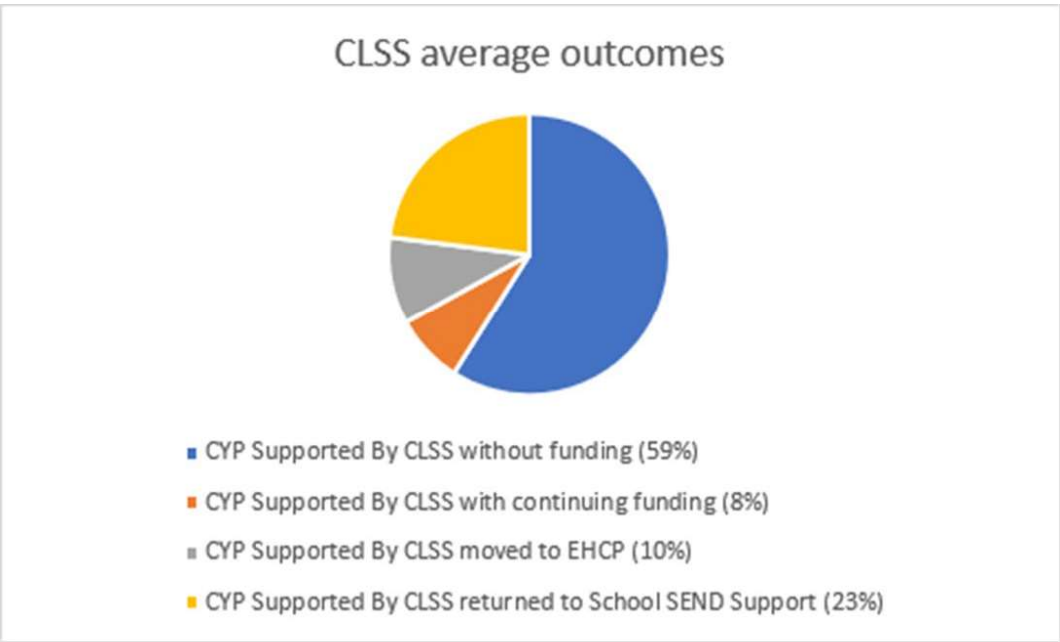
- 3.1
- The Council remains committed to delivering an early intervention model as part of our graduated response. We are bringing additional capacity into the team to support schools directly alongside leading the CLSS locality meetings. There is a new team within the SEND service 'Early Intervention and Improvement' which demonstrates our commitment in this area and a focus on making the statutory and non-statutory pathways seamless and joined up.
- 3.2
- Since the development of CLSS, we have worked with 114 schools. This collaborative approach has supported 5316 CYP up to the end of 2024, 2949 CYP supported with advice support, signposting and peer-to-peer collaboration and 2367 CYP supported with resources and funding. We are currently updating the figures for current year.
- 3.3
- The average support per student / pupil is £2,296

Chart 1. Local Offer Pathway: Graduated response



- 3.4
- The impact of the focus on early intervention is positive and can be seen below in table 5, while the rate of increase has been impacted in a positive way we are still seeing increases in the numbers of EHCPs.

Graph 2



4. Conclusion and recommendations

- 4.1 Schools' Forum members to note the contents of the report and support the continued development of bringing additional capacity into the borough and continued commitment to early intervention.

Recommendation

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- 2) Support the proposals in relation to the continuation and commitment to of CLSS and increasing provision within the borough