



Coventry City Council

# Schools Forum

## 13 March 2025

[coventry.gov.uk](http://coventry.gov.uk)



Coventry City Council

# Funding Update

[coventry.gov.uk](http://coventry.gov.uk)

# Since last meeting

- ESFA approval given for Coventry's funding formula
  - Budget shares issued to mainstream schools (28th Feb)
- Special School Top up rates circulated on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Early Years Rates circulated 27<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Council budget signed off – 25<sup>th</sup> Feb
  - Better settlement than anticipated so not all savings proposals were required but still a very challenging position
- January 2025 census – *provisional nos*
  - Updates 24/25 DSG (Early Years)
  - Updates 25/26 DSG (Early Years)

# Data Changes

- Under 2's and 2 YO's from working families are funded based on termly headcounts
- 2 YO's of families receiving additional support (FRAS) and eligible 3 & 4 YO's are funded based on January census
- *Provisional* Early Years Block 2 year olds – Jan-25 nos - decrease of 110 FTEs vs Jan-24
- *Provisional* Early Years Block 3 and 4 year olds – Jan-25 nos - decrease of 142 FTE vs Jan-24
- This means spend for these areas will be low. However, funding for the whole year will also be reduced.

# Employer NICs Update

- From April 2025 the government have announced that the Employer National Insurance Contribution rate is increasing & the eligibility threshold is reducing
- The government have announced that funding will be provided to cover the direct costs of these increases for publicly funded staff.
- It has been confirmed that this includes school staff (including maintained nursery schools) but excludes Childminders & PVI's
- No announcement has been made on what funding levels will be for schools. Announcement expected in March.
- No detail on whether increases for centrally employed teachers will be covered by this funding

# EY Capital & Wraparound Funding

- Coventry was allocated £530k of capital funding to enable providers to increase the amount of places provided to support the extended Early Years funded hours entitlement
  - Priority areas were identified by the LA and applications were encouraged from schools, PVI's and childminders
  - Applications closed in Summer 2024 and funds are currently being distributed
- Wraparound Programme Funding
  - Funding to help providers expand or start up Wraparound provision
  - Can be used to cover staffing costs, training, resources and contribute to running costs while demand builds
  - Schools can still apply for this funding by contacting their Early Years Advisor for Business, Sufficiency & Funding or email [EYProviderfunding@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:EYProviderfunding@coventry.gov.uk)



# Early Years Formula & Central Budgets (refer to report)



Coventry City Council

[coventry.gov.uk](http://coventry.gov.uk)

# Early Years Funding

- Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) requires LA's to pass on a minimum of 96% of DSG Early Years funding direct to providers.
- This 96% is used for:
  - Universal hourly base rates for all providers
  - Universal hourly deprivation rate for all providers
  - The SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF)
  - The quality supplement
- Remaining 4% can be centrally retained – used for:
  - Central staffing for Early Years & SEN Early Years
  - Work on sufficiency of quality places for all eligible children
  - Access to workforce development for the EY sector
  - Funding local criteria 2 year olds

# Early Years Extended Entitlement

- In 2025/26 extended working parent entitlements come into effect
- From September 2025 2-year-olds of working parents are entitled to 30 funded hours – currently 15
- From September 2025 9–23-month-old children of working parents are entitled to 30 funded hours – currently 15



# EY Budget Setting (background)

- Where entitlements are still extending, funding will be paid to the LA on the basis of termly headcounts.
- For pre-existing entitlements, funding will be paid to the LA based on the January 2025 census (5/12ths) and the January 2026 census (7/12ths)
- In 24/25, the LA increased funding rates to ensure that providers received as much as possible.
  - 3 & 4 YO Base rate = £4.93 and 3&4 YO deprivation rate = £1.48
  - 2 YO base rate = £7.44 and 2 YO deprivation rate = £2.23
  - Under 2's base rate = £10.19 and Under 2's deprivation rate = £3.05

# EY Budget Setting 2025/26

- The below table summarises the Early Years provider rates that have been set for 2025/26

Entitlement	LA funding rate	Base Rate	Deprivation Rate	Average Rate
3 & 4 Year Olds	5.93	5.21	1.56	5.55
2 YO Working Families	8.59	7.74	2.32	8.22
FRAS 2 YO's	8.59	7.74	2.32	8.32
Under 2 YO's	11.72	10.59	3.18	11.24

- When added to other eligible spend E.G. SENIF, quality supplement etc, all entitlements will be receiving at least 96% of the funding the LA receives
- The January 2025 census was low which has a detrimental impact on our allocation for 3 & 4 YO's and FRAS 2 YO's in 2024/25 & 2025/26.
  - This means that setting the rates at the above levels would result in a ca £200k overspend if take up mirrored 2024/25 levels – will be managed by DSG reserve

# SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

- Designed to ensure no child has their access to their free early year's entitlement restricted or denied because of SEN or disability.
  - Funded from the 96% of funding passed to providers
- Value of SENIF was £200k in 2019/20 and increased to £498k in 2024/25
- Demand has continued to increase for 3- & 4-year-olds and as such the budget needs to increase to £598k in 2025/26
  - Demand has not increased as significantly for 2 YO's or Under 2's

# Quality Supplement

- Since 2018/19 mainstream schools with a nursery class have received separate grant funding to help them meet certain costs:
  - Some national increases to Teachers Pay
  - Increase in employer contributions to the teachers' pension scheme
- From 2023/24 this was funded via a quality supplement which replaced the separate grants
  - Funding was paid for each teacher which met certain criteria
- Qualifying criteria:
  - School must be a mainstream school with a formal nursery class
  - School must employ a qualified teacher that teaches in a nursery class with 3 & 4 year olds
  - The teacher must be employed on teachers' Pay and Conditions per the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STRB)

# Quality Supplement (cont)

- In 2024/25 the quality supplement was extended to include
  - September 2023 pay award
  - 5% increase to employer contributions to the teachers pension scheme from April 2024
- This will again be extended in 2025/26 to include funding for the September 2024 teachers pay award
- The total amount allocated to Coventry that will be allocated is £481,286



# Early Years Expansion Grant

- £75m has been provided nationally to support the EY sector as it prepares to deliver the final phase of expansion of the working parent entitlement from September 2025
- Coventry's allocation is £416k
- Providers will be notified of their allocations by 10<sup>th</sup> April
- Payments will be made to providers by the end of August
- DfE will collect information on how much providers are receiving on average, how many providers are receiving funding and how providers are using the funding.

# Early Years Central Expenditure

<b>Centrally retained expenditure:</b>	<b>£000</b>
Staffing Costs (inc. Early Years & SEN Early Years)	1,724
EY Sector Training & Workforce Development	50
Maintained Nursery De-Delegation	28
Marketing	13
IT Systems	10
Sustainability	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,845</b>
<b>Other expenditure impacting on hourly rates:</b>	<b>£000</b>
Local Criteria 2 Year Olds	89
SEN Inclusion Fund	598
<b>Total</b>	<b>687</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,532</b>

# Decision – Early Years Central Expenditure

- The Schools Forum should approve the retention of 9 month – 4 year old funding for central costs at £1,934k (4% based on the budgeted level of funding) which is within the 4% limit set by the DfE.

**Voting: All**



# Decision – Paid Out Central Expenditure

- The Schools Forum should give a view on the continuation of an increased £598k SEN inclusion fund for 9 month - 4 year olds in 2025/26.
- The Schools Forum should give a view on continued funding of 'Local Criteria 2 Year Olds' at an estimated cost of £89k as part of Coventry's Early Years Strategy. (which is funded within the 4% 2YO central expenditure limit total)
- **Voting: All**

*NB: Technically these are LA decisions. We would however appreciate the steer and support of the Schools Forum*



# High Needs Budget Setting

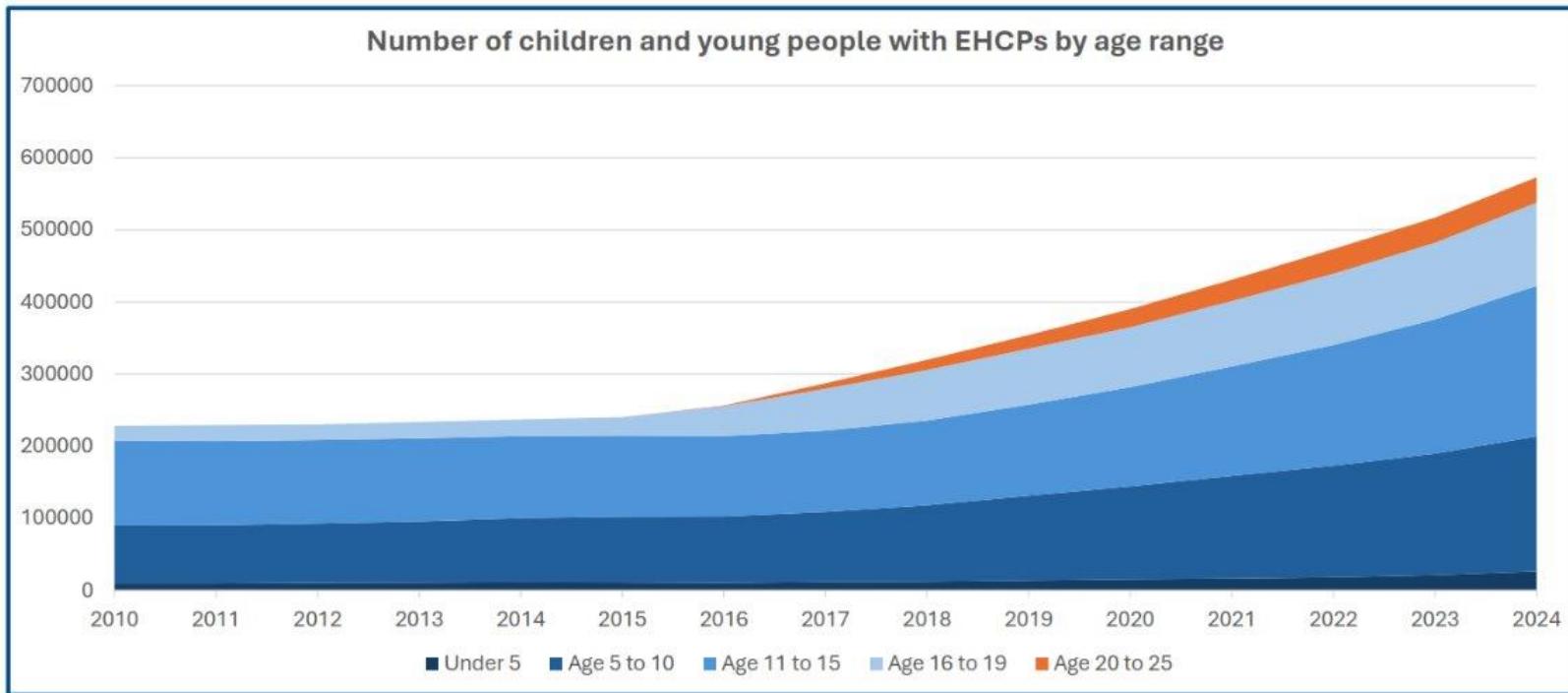


Coventry City Council

[coventry.gov.uk](http://coventry.gov.uk)

# High Needs Background

- Demand for SEND services has increased significantly following the passing of the Children and Families Act 2014.



	National EHCPs	Coventry EHCPs
2015	240,183	1,432
2024	575,963	3,062
% Increase	140%	114%

# High Needs Budgetary Position

- The local expectation was that the number of new plans being issued would begin to stabilise in 2024.
- However, growth continued in 2024

Calendar Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
No. of New EHCP's Issued	272	382	354	367	546	591
No. of Initial Requests for EHCP	439	480	532	699	924	1,185

- NB – the 2024 numbers are provisional pending completion of the Jan 2025 SEN2 survey
- National allocations rose to £10.1bn for 2023/24 which is an increase of over 50% compared to 2019/20
  - Increased to £10.4bn in 2024/25
  - Increasing to ca. £11.2bn in 2025/26
  - In 2018/19 CCC allocation was £37.4m. In 2025/26 this is £76.8m

# High Needs Budgetary Position

- In addition to DSG funded SEN services, the following SEN services must be funded by Core budget (I.E. not DSG)
  - Home to School Transport (£950k added in 2025/26 budget)
  - SEND Statutory Assessment (£500k added for additional capacity in 2025/26 budget)
  - Educational Psychology
- These areas are also seeing significant increases in cost
  - In 2021/22 the net SEND Home to School Transport budget was £4.6m. In 2025/26 this has increased to £7.7m
  - In 2025/26 the net budget will be £2.6m for SEND Statutory Assessment and £0.9m for Educational Psychology.
- Although a financial pressure, it is good news that SEND Statutory Assessment will have additional capacity from 2025/26 onwards

# High Needs Budgetary Position

- Despite funding increases there is a significant proportion of LAs with accumulated DSG deficits
  - Estimated to reach £4.6bn nationally by March 2026
- DSG statutory override now in place until March 2026
  - Awaiting a government decision on whether this will be extended
  - If this ceases, this could lead to Section 114 notices for some LA's
    - Between 60-70 at risk of bankruptcy from next March according to Guardian article published 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025
- Coventry has a surplus of £14.2m in its DSG reserve
  - Forecast to be £14.6m by March 2025

# High Needs Budgetary Position

- CCC has a surplus DSG reserve, however, not immune from cost & demand increases
- In recent years CCC has gained from the National Funding Formula by being viewed as historically under funded
  - Therefore seen significant increases to NFF allocation which have so far kept pace with rising costs

	High Needs Block Allocation	High Needs Outturn	High Needs Variance
	£M	£M	£M
2024/25	70.3	70.1	-0.2
2023/24	67.1	63.8	-3.3
2022/23	60.0	56.0	-4.0
2021/22	53.0	51.3	-1.7

*NB – the 2024/25 High Needs Outturn position is as at Q3 budgetary control and as such is not final*

# Schools Forum responsibilities and way forward

- Schools Forum should be consulted annually on
  - arrangements for pupils with SEN (commissioned places)
  - Arrangements for use of PRUs and AP including commissioning and funding arrangements
- Schools Forum have no specific approval or consultative role in relation to High Needs expenditure, but it is good practice to share



# Funding Overview

- 2025/26 High Needs Block increased by £6.5m (9.2%) compared to 2024/25.
- In 2024/25 this increase was £3.3m (4.9%).
- The funding increase is better than initially expected, however, continued significant increases in demand and unit cost have resulted in a significantly more challenging budget setting process in 2025/26 than previously.

# Budget Setting Proposals

	2024/25 High Needs Budget	2024/25 Forecast Variance	2025/26 High Needs Budget	Increase / (decrease) from 2024/25 budget
	£M	£M	£M	£M
Coventry Special & Alternative Provision Schools	34.2	-0.2	35.3	1.1
Top Up - Mainstream Schools	8.5	1.2	14.0	5.5
Post 16 - Colleges, Adult Education, Independent Sector	6.4	0.2	7.7	1.3
Independent Specialist / Mainstream Providers (ISP / IMP)	7.9	-0.5	7.5	-0.4
Specialist Support Services E.G. SEN Early Years, Sensory Support, KEYS) & Central Costs	6.7	-0.4	7.1	0.4
Top Up - Other Local Authority Schools	1.9	-0.1	1.9	0.0
Personal Budgets / Alternative Provision / Tuition	0.8	0.8	1.7	0.9
Enhanced Resource Provisions	1.1	-0.1	1.4	0.3
Hospital Education & Outreach Service	1.2	0.0	1.2	0.0
Disproportionate SEN	0.5	0.0	0.9	0.4
Top Up - Early Years	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
<b>Sub - Total</b>	<b>69.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>9.5</b>
Holding Pot	1.0	-1.1	0.0	-1.0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>70.3</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>8.5</b>

# Mainstream Top Up (£14m in 2025/26)

- Mainstream Top Ups – budget uplift of £5.5m (in addition to £1.6m in 2024/25)
- Mainstream school M5 top up band inflated to reflect actual costs
- Other mainstream top up bands inflated by 0.5%
  - Historically mainstream bands have not been inflated
- Seeing significant growth in this area from an activity and unit cost perspective.

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
2022/23	845	879	958
2023/24	989	1,069	1,199
2024/25	1,409	1,452	

	£M
2022/23	4.7
2023/24	7.0
2024/25	9.6
2025/26	14.0

- SEND Transformation programme will need to consider this area moving forwards

# Post 16 (£7.7m in 2025/26)

- Post 16 – Budget uplift of £1.3m
- Commissioned 5 additional places at Coventry College, 32 additional places at Hereward College & 8 additional places at Adult Education from August 2025
- Also budgeted for growth in Out of City Colleges
- Budgeted for a number of places in alternative provision and tutoring packages – existing cost that has seen an increase in demand in 2024/25.

# Special Schools (£35.3m in 2025/26)

- Special Schools and Coventry AP Academy – Budget uplift of £1.1m
- Budgeted for an additional 32 commissioned places in September 2025
  - Discussions ongoing on the final details of these places
  - This is in addition to 45 extra places in September 2024
- Special School Top up (excluding exceptional bands) are inflated by 0.5%
  - Comparable to the increases in mainstream NFF factors
- Special school exceptional bands inflated to reflect known actual costs
- High Needs Additional Grant was mainstreamed and included in top up rates in 2024/25
  - DfE guidance has stated this should be paid separately to top up rates in 2025/26

## Personal Budgets, AP & Tuition (£1.7m in 25/26)

- A £0.9m budgetary increase in personal budgets, AP and Tuition budgets
- Significant demand increase for specialist education settings caused by national growth in demand has resulted in more difficulty in procuring suitable placements for children & young people with EHCPs

# ERPs (£1.4m in 2025/26)

- Enhanced Resource Provisions – Budget uplift of £0.3m
- Budgeted that four new 10/12 place units will open across Primary & Secondary in 2025/26
  - In addition to one new 10 place unit in September 2024
- Top up inflation of 0.5% to mirror special school inflation



# ISPs/IMPs (£7.5m in 2025/26)

- Independent Specialist Providers – budget reduction of £0.4m (compared to a £1.1m increase in 2024/25)
- Places being sought due to lack of capacity in city as well as specialist need.
  - However, these places are now very difficult to find due to national demand
  - These will include joint funded places with social care & health
- 104 pupils currently in these provision types.
  - 22 indicative July leavers gives a September starting position of 82.
- September 2025
  - Forecasting these places to be re-filled and growth of a further 4 places
- No further growth forecast in the Spring term due to scarcity of places

# Budget Setting Other

- **InspirED Pathways** (£1.2m in 2025/26) – minimal overall change to 2024/25
  - Review underway to analyse demand and how this can be met moving forwards.
  - Also Section 19 impact
- **Central Costs** (£7.1m in 2025/26)
  - Budget uplift of £0.4m compared to 2024/25
  - SALT Provision budgeted to increase by £0.3m due to increased demand
- **Other Local Authority Schools** (£1.9m in 2025/26) – budget remains at 2024/25 level
  - Minimal change to 2024/25 as view is capacity is limited

# Other Provision Inflation

- There is no banded framework for some types of provision (e.g. Post-16, externally commissioned hospital education) meaning negotiations are at an individual child level or we are quoted a set rate
- This means that previous annual increases have tended to be higher than the increase applied across our banded framework which has balanced inflationary increase with funding levels
- Moving forwards CCC intends that increases for existing pupils will be consistent across providers. Therefore we will be proposing a 0.5% increase for 2025/26
- This will need to be closely monitored to ensure any impact on sufficiency is mitigated
- Does the Schools Forum have any comments on this proposed approach?

# High Needs Budget Setting

- The above assumptions and proposals mean budgeted spend is increasing by £9.5m.
- The High Needs block of the National Funding Formula has increased by £6.5m
- No ‘holding pot’ which has been budgeted for in recent years to fund future developments e.g. additional places at special schools
  - These places would now need to be funded via reductions in other areas e.g. out of city placements
  - This closes the funding gap by £1m
- This has resulted in an in-year deficit budget of £2m for 2025/26

# High Needs Budget Setting

- At the end of 2023/24 the unallocated DSG reserve was £14.2m
  - At Q3 of 2024/25 the forecast DSG underspend was £0.4m meaning the year end reserve position could potentially be a surplus of £14.6m
- Concern about 2026/27 position
  - Lack of clear policy direction from government
  - Risk that High Needs NFF increase will be smaller than 2025/26
  - Likelihood that demand will continue to increase – rate?
- We now have a forecast in place re future demand which we are in the process of turning into a financial forecast

# DSG Deficit Management Plan

- Conditions of grant requires any LA with an overall deficit or whose DSG surplus has substantially reduced during the year to co-operate with the DfE meaning the LA must:
  - Provide information about its plans for managing the DSG account in subsequent years
  - Provide information about pressures and potential savings on its high needs budget
  - Meet with DfE officials when required to discuss the LA's plans and financial situation
  - Keep Schools Forum regularly updated about the authority's DSG account & plans for handling it, including high needs pressures & potential savings

# Disproportionate SEN

- To support those schools with significant levels of SEN within their school population in comparison with notional funding
- Allocations are determined in advance of the beginning of the financial year and will be calculated on formulaic basis



# How does SEN Funding Work?

- Element 1 – this is the basic entitlement funding that schools receive in their budget shares for all pupils.
- Element 2 – this is the amount of funding (up to £6k) that a school must contribute towards the additional needs of each high needs pupil on the school role.
  - This funding comes from within the school's budget; it is not separately identified within the budget share but from proportions of other pupil-led factors – it is termed 'notional SEN'.
- Element 3 – this is the amount of funding above element 2 that the Local Authority contributes to the costs of high needs pupils – this is the top-up funding.
- *NB elements 1 and 2 equate to the £10K place funding in special*

# How does the fund work?

- Funding allocated where the expected level of 'element 2' funding is not matched by the level of non-basic entitlement notional SEN (the level of funding allocated would be the difference between these two figures)
- Funding is allocated where the overall level of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) as a proportion of the school's total pupil population is in excess of 3.5% (the level of funding allocated would be equal to £6k per EHCP pupil above the 3.5% threshold)
  - This is allocated even where the schools expected level of element 2 funding is already matched by notional SEN

# How does the fund work?

- If a school is eligible for funding under both of the above mechanisms, the level of funding allocated will be the higher of the two amounts, not the sum of both amounts.
- The fund is only available for mainstream schools, as special school are funded under different arrangements
- If the fund operated in 25/26 as it had in 24/25 - fund size increases by £517k
  - This presents an affordability issue on the fund

# Disproportionate SEN

- Due to the high needs budget setting challenges discussed the LA has had to determine how to best prioritise resources
- Conclusion is that the 2<sup>nd</sup> funding methodology (funding for schools with more than 3.5% of pupils with an EHCP) should be removed from 2025/26
- Ensures the 1<sup>st</sup> funding methodology can remain unchanged & ensures this fund continues to ensure schools receive enough funding to contribute £6k to every pupil with an EHCP
- Even with this decision, funding distributed by disproportionate SEN is still £366k higher than in 2024/25
- This decision will impact 10 schools and reduces costs by £151k
  - Eligibility for this fund tends to fluctuate so schools tend not to get allocations every year

# Decision - Disproportionate SEN Fund

- The Schools Forum should give a view on the intended changes to the operation of the disproportionate SEN Fund

**Voting:** All

*NB Technically as this is high needs provision the Local Authority can decide. We would however appreciate the steer and support of the Schools Forum*



# SEND Transformation

- Coventry's SEND Transformation Programme is underway and will focus on the following areas:



The banner consists of five square images arranged horizontally, each with a corresponding text label below it. The images are: 1. Two adults in an office setting, one using a laptop. 2. Three young children sitting at a table, looking at a tablet. 3. A person working on the engine of a car. 4. A child in a wheelchair being pushed by another child. 5. The exterior of a modern, wooden special school building.

Mainstream Workforce Development	Adaptive Provision	Alternative Provision	Enhanced Resource Provision	Special School Provision
----------------------------------	--------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------

# SEND

## Workforce Development Strategy

### Spring 2025: Nicky Aston



# SEND Workforce Development Strategy:

## Background



- DfE vision that more children with additional needs should attend mainstream schools.
- Rapidly increasing number of children with additional needs (and more complex and challenging needs) in mainstream schools in Coventry, reflecting the national picture.

### Aims of the strategy:

- provide the workforce with access to coordinated and planned training and development, supporting the induction of new staff
- equip professionals at all levels with a deeper understanding of SEND and
- increase the skills and confidence needed to support children with additional needs effectively, ensuring our schools deliver excellent SEND teaching and a high standard of curriculum for all pupils.

# So far...

## **SEND Core Training package**

4 powerpoints and a recorded session for school SENDCos to deliver with all staff

**LA SEND website extended-**  
Useful SEND training, information and resources

## **SEND Training Overview-**

Outline of the complete offer from all SEND services- central and bespoke training

## **DaRTS-**

Working alongside Education Team on Adaptive Provision Project accessed by 30 Primary Schools

## **Schools Minimum Offer**

Range of funded CPD available to all schools- well attended and positive feedback

## **Online Booking portal-**

Easy booking- all training in one place for all LA SEND services- schools aware and using effectively

## **Annual Training calendar-**

Sets out schedule of training for 2024-25 for School

## **Coventry Belonging Strategy-**

Collaborating with Alternative Provision to create a city-wide, consistent relational approach used by all schools

## **CPD links with other partners-**

Greater involvement with Health, external agencies, national organisations and other professionals...

## **Widening SEND Training offer-**

Governing Bodies, HAF teams, SEND Transport: Drivers and Escorts, Coventry Music...

## **Funding of the equivalent of 1 Specialist SEND Teacher-**

Network of training leads established and costs covered for core CPD offer

## **Y6/7 Transition Toolkit-**

Developed alongside SENDcos to aid successful transition for children with SEND

# What next?

**2025-26 Calendar-**  
Development of Training and support offer, communicated in early Autumn Term

**Specialist Teacher post-**  
Ensure best use of time, funding and equity between SEND services

**Special School Expertise-**  
Explore opportunities for more formal Special School support for mainstream schools

## **Core Training Offer-**

Development of September training materials and core, funded training offer

## **Evaluate and Adapt-**

Using feedback and intelligence from Heads, SENDcos, School Staff and SEND Teams to review achievements and shape future planning

**DaRTs/ Adaptive Provision-** Continue to develop support for school workforce in development of Adaptive provisions

## **Wider links-**

continue to create further opportunities for working with Health colleagues and wider SEND community e.g EHE

## **Belonging Strategy-**

Develop training pathway to embed relational practice in every Secondary School and Primary School and create city Belonging Strategy in partnership with all stakeholders

## **Recruitment and Retention of High Quality Teaching Assistants-**

Working with local providers to create effective routeway into role of TA- high quality training, robust induction and ongoing support

## **Community Partners-**

Supporting work of community providers within Coventry to deepen understanding of and improve inclusive provision for children with SEND e.g. Sports centres/ Places of interest/ Community groups



# Section 19 of the Education Act 1996: Supporting Children Who are Unable to Attend their Education Setting



Coventry City Council

[coventry.gov.uk](http://coventry.gov.uk)

# Section 19 of the Education Act

- Places a duty on the Council to make arrangements for the provision of suitable education at school or otherwise than at school for those children of compulsory school age who by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise may not for any period receive a suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them.
- The Council has had arrangements in place for complying with the duty, but they are not currently included in an approved policy.

# Section 19 Policy

- A policy has been written which will:
- Provide clarity regarding roles and responsibilities of schools, the Council and other agencies (including financial).
- Ensure that all Children and Young People (CYP) have access to a suitable, full-time education which meets their individual needs to enable them to thrive and fulfil their ambitions and aspirations
- Ensure, when a child of compulsory school age is unable to access their educational setting due to illness, exclusion or otherwise, the Council complies with its duty under section 19 of the Education Act 1996 to ensure suitable provision for them.

# Section 19 – Financial Implications

- Extract from guidance:
- Alternative provision for children with medical needs is funded from local authorities' high needs budgets.
- However, where a child remains on the roll of their home school but requires a period of time in alternative provision due to their health needs, the local authority and home school **may wish to consider** the transfer of a portion of the school's funding associated with that child to the alternative provision. This would ensure that the funding follows the child.
- This arrangement would cease when the child is reintegrated back to their home school or are no longer on the roll of the home school.

# Section 19 – Financial Implications

- In our policy the Council has stated that where a child remains on roll but requires a period of time in alternative provision due to their health needs, the local authority **will seek to recover** from the home school a proportionate amount of the school's funding associated with that child to support with funding the provision.
- The Council would like Schools Forum to endorse this principle, particularly in the context of the challenging High Needs budget position



# Section 19 – Financial Implications

- Where a pupil leaves the roll of their home school due to permanent exclusion, or they leave the roll of a mainstream school for reasons other than a permanent exclusion resulting in them receiving education funded by the local authority, a mandatory funding adjustment is made. Details of these adjustments are set out in the ‘Redetermination of budgets’ section within the Schools Operational Guide.
- Further work will be carried out to review funding arrangements across all elements of alternative provision to ensure alignment.



# Children's Services Resources and Efficiency Peer review Feedback

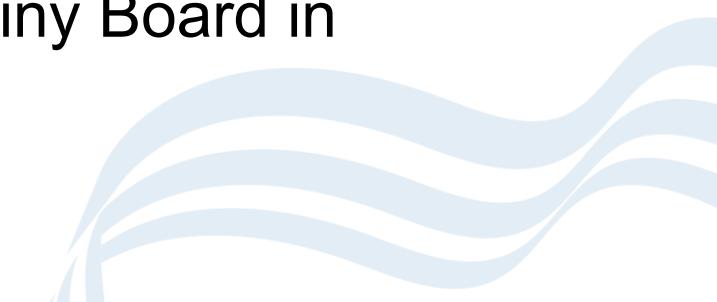


Coventry City Council

[coventry.gov.uk](http://coventry.gov.uk)

# Children's Services Resources & Efficiency Peer Challenge

- Held on 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024
- An experienced peer team were invited by the Council to identify efficiencies and potential opportunities to control / reduce costs
- Peer team provided a report in December highlighting positive feedback and areas for development
- Report taken to Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board in February



# Children's Services Resources & Efficiency Peer Challenge

- The team identified six high level key recommendations:
  - Support a strengthened culture between children's and corporate services
  - Consider an organisational review of children's and education services to ensure a joined-up approach and identification of financial efficiencies
  - Have a member endorsed transformation plan approved annually at the time of MTFS approval
  - Decision making on unplanned entrants to care should be made at Strategic Lead level
  - Consider opportunities to improve budget oversight
  - Consider social work practice opportunities