

Oldham Council

SEND Special Provision Fund

Capital Funding Consultation

Consultation Period:
Monday 27 November 2017 – Friday 12 January 2018

1. Introduction

In March 2017 the Department for Education (DfE) announced all LA's would receive a share of the special provision fund, to make capital investments in provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.

As per DfE Guidance consultation has to take place with parents and carers, schools and all other providers who offer special education provision to children and young people in Oldham.

This consultation documents sets out the background to the funding, how you can make your views and representations known and how schools and providers can make a request for a share of the special provision fund to create additional places or improve existing facilities.

2. Background

The DfE is providing £215 million of special provision funding for the financial years 2018-2020.

The formula for allocation has been based on projected population growth for children and young people aged 2-18 between the years 2018-19 and 2020-21. Location factors were also applied to take into account the varied costs of building in different regions. The lowest allocations have been topped up so that all local authorities will receive at least £500,000. This funding allocation is in addition to the basic need capital funding that Oldham LA have received to support the capital requirement for providing new pupil places.

The allocation will support Oldham LA to create new places or improve facilities at existing schools. The funding is intended to improve provision for children and young people with education, health and care (EHC) plans. The funding can be invested in mainstream schools and academies, special units, special schools and academies, early years settings, further education colleges or to make other provision for children and young people aged from 0-25.

The Children and Families Act 2014 requires local authorities to keep the provision for children and young people with SEN and disabilities under review (including its sufficiency), working with parents, young people, and providers. In this context Oldham LA will have to consider how best to use their capital allocation from the special provision fund to support them in their plans to meet local need.

Oldham LA allocation of SEND Capital Funding Allocation is £500 000. This will be paid over three years from April 2018 onwards - £166 667 per year.

3. Criteria and requirements

The funding allocation is intended for children and young people with an EHC plan for who the authority is responsible. Local authorities can invest their share of the Special Provision Capital Fund in;

- Creating new or additional places at good or outstanding provision
- Improving facilities or developing new facilities.

This can be through;

- Expansion to existing provision at the same site or a different site
- Reconfiguring provision to make available the space for the additional places or facilities
- Re-purposing areas so that they meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities
- Other capital transactions that result in new (additional) places or facilities' improvements
- Investing in provision that is located in another local authority where this supports providing good outcomes for children in their area

The funding can be allocated to the following types of provision;

- Mainstream schools and colleges
- Special units or resourced provision
- Special schools or academies
- Pupil Referral Unit
- Alternative Provision
- Nursery or early years providers
- Other provision (that is attended by a pupil age 0-25 with an EHC plan)

4. What happens next?

Local authorities are consulting with parents and carers, mainstream schools and colleges, resource provision, special schools and academies, pupil referral units and alternative providers, nursery and early years providers and any provision attended by pupils with EHC plans.

The LA will also distribute a template for prospective parties to complete should they wish to request a share of the special provision funding. This will need to demonstrate how the allocation will be invested to improve outcomes for children and young people and how those outcomes will be measured.

The LA will then complete and publish a short plan that sets out how they intend to invest their allocation. This will be made available on the LA Local Offer page of the website.

Below is the timeline of the consultation and decision stages;

	Date
Stage 1. Consultation document and template circulated to all relevant providers and parents and carers.	27.11.17 – 12.01.18
<i>Further consultation with stakeholders, investigation works, feasibility studies</i>	15.01.18 – 09.02.18
Stage 2. Decision on which projects receive the funding	w/c 26.02.18
Stage 3. Publish Short Plan on Local Offer Page	By 14.3.18
Stage 4. First Tranche of funding received.	Summer 2018
Stage 5. LA to publish revised plan	March 2019
Stage 6. Second tranche of funding received	Summer 2019
Stage 7. LA to publish revised plan	March 2020
Stage 8. Third tranche of funding received	Summer 2020
Stage 9. LA to publish final plan	March 2021

5. How to send your views, representations or make a request for special provision funding

- You can send your views in writing to: -
Education Provision Manager
Access Service
PO Box 40
Level 12, Civic Centre
Oldham, OL1 1XJ
- By e-mail to ecs.pupils@oldham.gov.uk
- All representations need to be sent by Friday 12 January 2018.
- Providers can complete the funding request form attached by Friday 12 January 2018.