

Buckinghamshire County Council

**The Inclusion Hub**  
**Managing resources, meeting demand,**  
**putting children first.**  
**Schools Forum - June 2018**

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# Purpose of this presentation

- To update Schools Forum:
  - on the Inclusion Hub so that reassurance is given that activity is underway to address forecast pressures within the High Needs Block
  - on progress against the actions set out in the January 2018 report and the financial implications thereof.



## Buckinghamshire County Council

Proposed Action	Timescales
<p>Review all boarding places within county, with an options appraisal to reduce costs. This will link with a wider review of short breaks/ respite provision being led by the Commissioning Team in Buckinghamshire County Council</p>	<p>By July 2018</p>
<p>Undertake consultation with special schools and ARPs to thoroughly review existing designations to accurately reflect growing needs, particularly for ASD/SLCN and SEMH. As part of this consultation, we would be recommending the phasing out of the MLD designation.</p>	<p>By September 2018</p>
<p>Implement targets to reduce out of county placements - maximum of 12 young people each year. Meeting the young person's primary SEND need is paramount and all efforts will be made to only agree an out of county placement if the needs are too complex to be met locally. In such cases, joint funding will be agreed by a complex needs panel.</p>	<p>By July 2020</p>
<p>Review current out of county placements and target 3 young people to be brought back to Buckinghamshire schools/colleges. SEN officers will ensure that at each annual review, the option to offer a Bucks placement is discussed.</p>	<p>By September 2018</p>



# Objectives of The Inclusion Hub

The Inclusion Hub brings together Special Schools with representative mainstream schools, schools with additional resourced provision and Pupil Referral Units to:

1. Deliver the ambitions of the SEND Strategy by adopting a needs led approach to placing children with additional needs.
2. Ensure the default position is to place children in Buckinghamshire where appropriate.
3. Reconfigure current provision to ensure the places available reflect need, better meet demand and offer value for money.



# The Strands within the Inclusion Hub

- Work strand 1: Review the funding system for specialist provision
- Work strand 2: Development of the Penn Site
- Work strand 3: Review specialist provision to reconfigure the Bucks offer
- Work strand 4: Develop and launch a Buckinghamshire Inclusion Charter
- Work strand 5: Support schools with inclusion

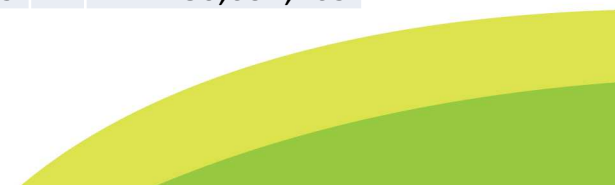


# Managing Resources

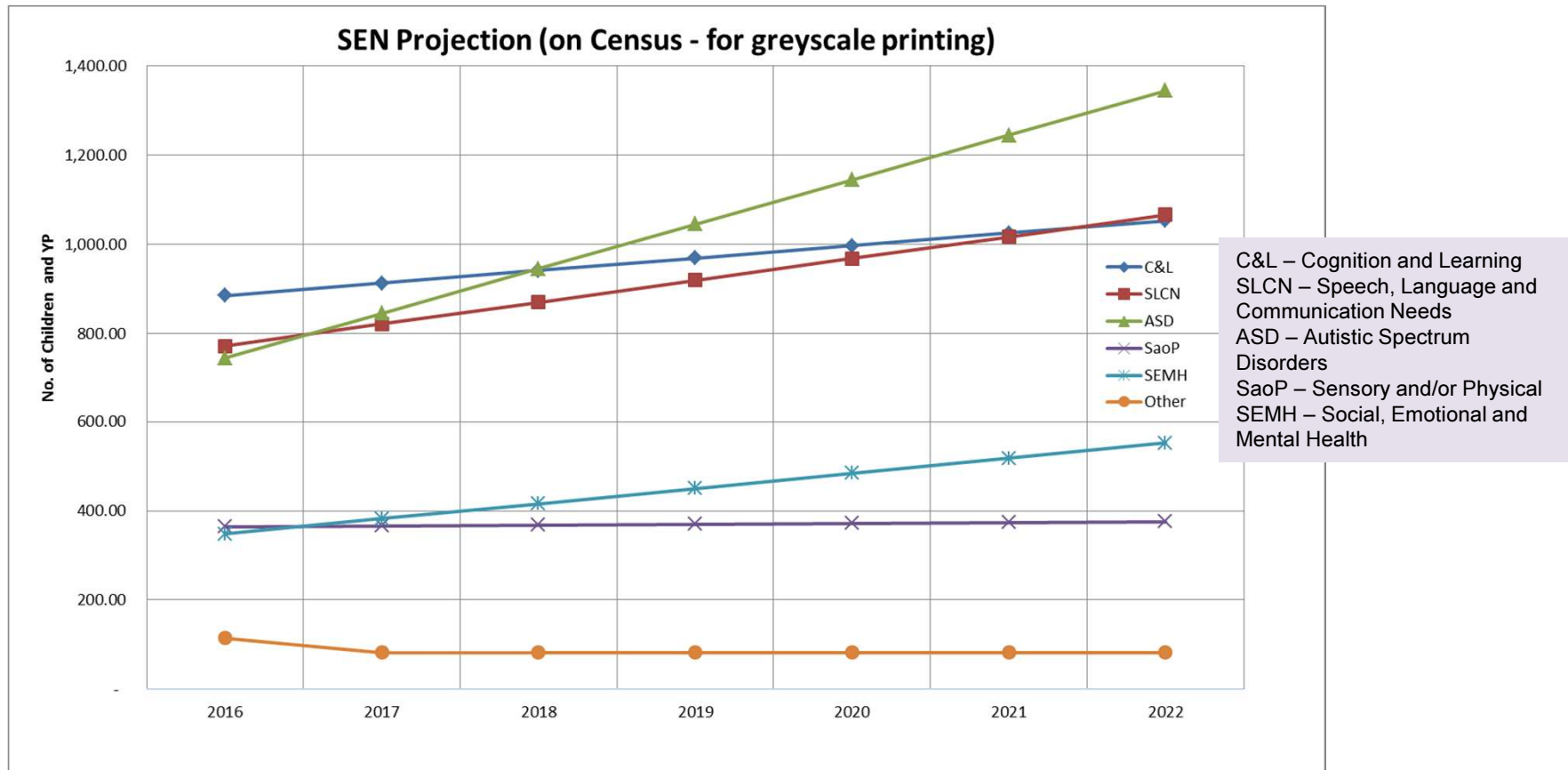
Why do we need to manage demand?

- Key spend within High Needs Block (£83.1m) funding:

Activity	Original Budget 2018/9 (agreed at schools forum Jan 2018)	Revised Budget 2018/19 (at June 2018)
	£	£
Special schools funding	30,500,000	32,500,975
Independent schools	13,442,090	14,348,964
Pupil Referral Unit funding	4,600,000	4,245,000
Other High Needs Block	32,718,000	32,036,157
<b>Total Budget Spend 2018/9</b>	<b>81,260,090</b>	<b>83,131,096</b>
DfE funding (final figure for relevant year shown)	-79,984,465	-79,984,465
Schools Forum Support	-650,000	-650,000
	<b>-80,634,465</b>	<b>-80,634,465</b>



# Meeting Increasing Demand



# Projected Costs to Meet Increasing Demand

- Demand is expected to increase on average by approx. 5%
- If this happens an additional £2.5m per annum will be required (assuming cross border placements with other authorities balance out i.e. the same number of children are placed in Bucks from other Local Authorities as we place outside of Bucks)
- Therefore the success of the Inclusion Hub is critical to managing costs.





# Progress to date

To reduce demand for EHCPs and independent provision, the following actions have been undertaken:

- Review of the panel making decisions for placements to support tighter 'gate keeping'
- Review of the top 26 most costly placements
- Introduction of the Complex Needs Panel
- Introduction and implementation of a tripartite funding agreement across Education, Health and Social Care.
- Weekly budget boards established to apply greater rigour to placements chaired by Section 151 Officer.
- Introduction of a more preventative approach through the SENDIAN pilot.
- Commitment to develop a Sufficiency Strategy by Sept 2018 to ensure a long term needs led approach, beginning with a workshop with key people in June. Short term initiatives to manage demand are being discussed with existing providers currently.



## So What?

- The ambition of The Inclusion Hub is large and is dependent on the full engagement of all schools to support an inclusive culture that reduces dependency on EHCPs.
- Although some activity is underway, owing to the complexity of historical financial arrangements, analysis of spend has been more complex than it should be.
- To facilitate this cultural shift, the Council needs to streamline processes so that the right support is offered to the right child at the right time.



## Next Steps

- The new leadership within the Council has enabled a more joined up approach across Education, Social Care and Early Help.
- Tighter scrutiny of financial management is in place with increased management oversight on the decision making processes for placements across the whole directorate.
- New processes have been adopted to increase the rigour for financial planning.
- To move things forward, there is a need for schools to collaborate with the new approach to adopt an inclusive culture.

