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AGENDA ITEM

7

Increasing Capacity in Specialist Education, Update and New Developments

Falkirk Council

Title: Increasing Capacity in Specialist Education, Update and New Developments
Meeting: Education Executive
Date: 21 March 2017
Submitted By: Director of Children's Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose increase capacity from August 2017 for pupils with significant Additional Support Needs and to provide an update on the Report presented to the Education Executive on 29 March 2016, *Increasing the Capacity in Specialist Primary Education for Children with Severe and Complex Needs*.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Education Executive is asked to:-

- (1) agree the additional staffing required to meet the growth in ASN capacity as detailed in Section 4.2**
- (2) note how Children's Services propose to finance the growth in staffing as noted in Section 6.1**

3. Background

- 3.1 On 29/03/2016, the Education Executive agreed to expand provision in the specialist primary sector for children with Additional Support Needs arising from complex factors including significant health difficulties and Autism. The Education Executive further agreed to use existing space in Carrongrange School and to expand the Additional Support Needs base in Maddiston Primary School to meet the growing demand from children with severe and complex Additional Support Needs.
- 3.2 The Education Executive requested the Director of Children's Services to report on:
- options associated with meeting the long term needs of pupils with severe and complex ASN
 - options to address primary school capacity issues, and
 - options to address secondary school capacity issues."

- 3.3 The Education Executive on 11/11/2014 was informed of a vision to develop services in relation to Additional Support Needs and Inclusion within what was then Education Services. A Policy Development Panel on the Review of Inclusion and Additional Support Needs met on 24 November 2016 to further develop this work. The proposal to increase the capacity for the education of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders and complex Additional Support Needs is within the scope of this group. The Policy Development Panel will consider the projections on the future demands and resource deployment. The panel will develop the policy and longer term vision for Falkirk Council.
- 3.4 Reasons for the increasing demand for Additional Support Needs provision. The increase is a national and international phenomenon. For example the number of people in the population who have Autism has recently been estimated between 2.2% and 3%, when in 2009 it was 1%. This means that we can anticipate approximately 2.5% of Falkirk's school children, or 625 children, will be expected to meet the criteria for diagnosis. Approximately 40% of this group also have a significant learning difficulty.
- 3.5 Current Statistical Information
Currently 342 children are registered in Falkirk schools with Autistic Spectrum Disorder listed as their Additional Support Need (1.3%) and 489 are children with learning disability are listed as their Additional Support Need (1.9%). Most of these children have their Additional Support Needs met in their mainstream school with only a small number with a more significant or severe level of Additional Support Needs requiring specialist units or schools.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 As outlined in Sections 3.4 and 3.5 the Council will continue to face increasing demand for specialist placements across our primary and secondary resources. To address and meet this increased demand further capacity is required to be established within our current school estate to enable the needs of these young people to be met locally. This reduces the need to source independent special school or residential school placements, which particularly affects looked after and accommodated children.
- 4.2 The table below summarises the growth in capacity and staffing that is needed to meet the increase in this specialist demand.

School	Current Capacity	Roll	Proposed for 2017/18	Additional staff
Primary, social communication difficulties and Autism provision				
Ladeside Additional Support Facility	30	30	30	0
New Unit/Annex	0	0	18	3.2 teachers 3 SfLA
Sub-Total	30	30	48	6.2
Primary, significant and complex needs provision				

Kinnaird Thistle Wing and Annex	42	39	54	2.2 teachers 4 SfLA
Maddiston Timezone	30	29	30	-
Sub-Total	72	68	84	6.2
Secondary, social communication difficulties and Autism provision				
Grangemouth High School, Additional Support Centre	28	27	36	1.5 teachers 1.5 SfLA
Denny High School, Northfield Unit	32	32	40	1.5 teachers 1.5 SfLA
Sub-Total	60	59	76	6.0
Overall Service Total	162	157	208	18.4

4.3 Kinnaird Primary School, Thistle Wing Annex Update

The extra space created within Carrongrange School has been used to develop 3 additional classes catering for up to 18 children. The site has been successfully developed and the parents of children who attend the Thistle Wing Annex report very positively on the experience of their children. Children's Services also has committed to a service level agreement with NHS Forth Valley to provide a part time physiotherapist and a part time physiotherapy assistant in order to embed more fully in the children's education programme the needs arising from physical disabilities.

It is proposed to create a further 2 classrooms within the Thistle Wing Annex in the current Carrongrange School building which will provide additional capacity for 12 children.

4.4 Maddiston Primary School, Timezone Update

A modular classroom has been successfully installed in Maddiston Primary School which has allowed capacity to be increased to 30. The modular unit will continue to be used until 2020 by the Timezone to meet demand.

4.5 Ladeside Additional Support Facility

This facility is currently operating at full capacity. It is therefore proposed to create an additional 3 classrooms which will increase capacity by 18 places. The service plans to re-configure provision within this sector across more than one base from 2018/19, subject to full public consultation.

4.6 Secondary Sector Provision

Current provision at Grangemouth High School (Additional Support Centre) and Denny High School (Northfield Unit) provides capacity for 60 young people. To meet growing demand within the secondary sector it is proposed to increase capacity by 16 in total (8 places at each site). The service plans to re-configure provision within this sector across more than 2 bases from 2018/19, subject to consultation.

4.7 Management Capacity

To meet the increase in capacity there is a requirement to provide an increase in management capacity. The proposals therefore include provision to appoint 2 Principal Teachers in each of the primary facilities where expansion is required. Both posts provide a 0.2 FTE management capacity with the remaining 0.8 FTE as teaching.

4.8 Future Strategic Plans

The proposed increase in capacity will meet demand in the secondary sector for 1 year and in the primary sector for 2 years. This will allow the Service time to consider how best to adopt a Strategic position that will address the expected growth within this very challenging sector of educational provision and additional needs support in future years.

Current national statistical data suggest the following growth by 2021:

- Primary significant and complex needs sector: 50% (circa 100 children)
- Primary social communication difficulties and Autism : 110% (circa 63 pupils)
- Secondary social communication difficulties and Autism: 70% (circa 99 children)

These future plans will be considered within the scope of the Policy Development Panel on Inclusion and Additional Support Needs and reported to the Education Executive.

5. **Consultation**

5.1 We have consulted with the Parent Councils of the four affected schools. The Ladeside Primary School Parent council requested an extension to consult the wider parent body. The outcome of this will be submitted on the day.

5.2 Full details of the consultation responses are collated in the Appendix.

5.3 Key points are:

- parents praised the provision in their child's school and were supportive of the children having their Additional Support Needs met;
- Many parents welcomed the expansion in general terms and recognised the need for it, some were in favour of the proposal as it stands;
- One parent council was explicitly not in support of the expansion in that school;
- Some parents had concerns:
 - This expansion creating too large a group for the host school
 - That there was a need for better inclusion in other schools
 - There was insufficient resources, staff, and management to cope with expansion
 - The timescales affecting parents and school was unsuitable
 - New classrooms and facilities needed to be fit for purpose

Parents offered suggestions for the development of provision in the future

- more or all secondary schools offer the provision available in Grangemouth ASC and Denny Northfield;
- there is more opportunity for inclusion in the local mainstream primary schools for children with significant Additional Support Needs;
- the creation of a special school at primary age (in current Carrongrange building);
- A new unit offering the provision available at Ladeside is created;
- A parents forum to discuss and consider Additional Support Needs .

- 5.4 Children's Services proposes to address the concerns raised through the consultation process, if the proposal is agreed, through:
- Facilities, accommodation and staffing are reviewed with each school
 - To offer a wide ranging consultation and debate for parents, children and other stakeholders to engage in, regarding the future direction of Inclusion and Additional Support Needs in education
 - To ensure proposals for meeting needs in the future are presented to the Education Executive
- 5.5 The decision-making process for individual children, Pupil Support Resource Group, has been modified to ensure more timely availability of decisions in future years.
- 5.6 Parents of those children potentially granted these additional places have been contacted as part of the placement discussions.
- 5.7 A full public consultation process would be required for the creation of new units or schools.

6. Implications

Financial (Revenue)

- 6.1. To provide the increase in ASN capacity as detailed in section 4 the following additional resources are required:

Staff	FTE	Cost 17/18	Cost 18/19	Total
Teachers	6.4	£160k	£96k	£256k
SfLAs	10	£156k	£94k	£250k
Management costs	2	£71k	£43k	£114k
	18.4	£387k	£233k	£620k
Supplies and Services	-	£18k	£12k	£30k

Total Cost	-	£405k	£245k	£650k
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To fund the £405k required in 2017/18, the Service plan to:

- Use of additional budget for ASN provision 17/18 £250k
- Realign existing staff budgets £105k
- Use of DSM reserves £ 50k
- £405k**

In addition the Service will liaise with Finance to ensure that the 2018/19 base budgets are sufficient to meet the full year costs.

Financial (Capital)

To carry out the property infrastructure changes an estimated £50k of capital funding is required. This will come from the Service's agreed capital programme funding for "schools capacity increase".

Resources

- 6.2 None.

Legal

- 6.3 Children's Services are required to meet the Additional Support Needs of children under the Additional Support for Learning, Scotland, Act (2004 and 2009). We have duties within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act, 2014 and the Children (Scotland) Act, 1995.

Risk

- 6.4 The Council faces budgetary risk due to increasing spend demand in this area. The Council faces reputational risk. If this increased capacity is not created then we may face cases where parents take the council to the Tribunal. Losing these cases has a significant financial and reputational risk. The council faces a major risk that children and young people who have assessed Additional Support Needs will not have these met which engenders legal risks for the council in not meeting its statutory duties.

Equalities

- 6.5 An initial equality and poverty impact assessment was undertaken. Its main finding is that it increases support to children with disabilities and living in poverty in a positive way.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.6 Nil.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The report summarises the projections for increasing numbers of children with significant Additional Support Needs arising from Autism and highlights the successful development of additional capacity in Maddiston Primary School and Kinnauld Primary School/Carrongrange in the Timezone and Thistle Wing Annex respectively.
- 7.2 The increasing demand is predicted to continue for at least the next 5 years. The immediate increase is required now and will meet demand for 1 year in the secondary sector and for two years in the primary sector.
- 7.3 In order to meet this increased demand the report proposes to increase capacity in each of:
- Ladeside Primary School Additional Support Facility,
 - Kinnauld Primary School Thistle Wing Annex,
 - Denny High School Northfield Unit
 - Grangemouth High School Additional Support Centre
- 7.4 The strategic vision for the next 5 years within which these proposed increases are developed will be submitted to the Education Executive in a further report as guided by the Policy Development Panel on Inclusion and Additional Support Needs.

Director of Children's Services

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Date: 1st March 2017

Appendices

Response to Consultation

List of Background Papers:

- none

Response to Consultation

The submissions have been received from Denny High School Parent Council, Grangemouth School Parent Council, Kinnauld Primary School Parent Council, Ladeside Primary School Parent Council and individual responses from parents from these schools.

The responses from the parent councils reflected a diversity of views.

The consultation asked for contributions on the following:

To provide views on the future direction of the Council

- The parent councils and individual respondents were very keen to be involved in developing the longer term vision of the council.
- They appreciated the provision available in their children's schools

Parent councils proposed ideas which included:

- All secondary schools or more secondary schools offer additional specialist provision similar to that available in Denny and Grangemouth High Schools
- The new Carrongrange High School is configured to accommodate the increasing demand for specialist education placements for secondary age children,
- The current Carrongrange school building is reconfigured to accommodate children from across the Thistle Wing and Annex for specialist primary education in a special school.
- A linked idea to the above idea is that the accommodation in Kinnauld Primary School is re-purposed to offer a unit for children with needs similar to those in Ladeside Additional Support Facility.
- For parental involvement in the development of the services further information on the benefits of inclusive education versus specialist education
- More resources should be available to offer inclusive education experiences in the local mainstream school, children with severe and complex needs or arising from social and communication difficulties.
- All children should be treated with dignity and respect.

To provide comments on the proposal to increase the number of spaces available in the Additional Support Facility in your school?

These are summarised as:

- Support for the existing provision in their schools and all of them recognising the quality experience offered to the children attending these facilities.
- Recognising the need for additional provision and broadly supportive of the need for more capacity.
- Some parents were explicitly supportive of the proposal to increase capacity as defined in the paper

- Concern from some parents of the rising numbers affecting their child's particular school and the experience of children in the mainstream.
- Concern regarding the timescales for implementation and the future demands, and how this affects current and future school pupils, i.e. that it was a short term fix
- In the high schools, concern was expressed over the physical capacity of the schools, the staffing resource and the management support available as described in the proposal.
- Concerns regarding the current Carrongrange and Thistle Wing Annex building, being surrounded by an expanding Larbert High School.
- One secondary parent council did not support the proposed expansion in that school and the other secondary parent council expressed a clear desire that the longer term plan be articulated. These were both reflective of a concern for the facilities being overcapacity in relation to their children's school.

Nick Balchin, Acting Service Manager Individual and Additional Support