
Executive Decision SEND Placement sufficiency: Children's Hospital School

Decision to be taken by: Assistant City Mayor
Education, Libraries and Community Centres

Decision to be taken on: 1 August 2023

Lead director: Tracie Rees

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
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- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the executive for consideration our response to managing placement sufficiency demands. Our refreshed SEND Pupil Place Planning model indicates that the demand for Special School places will exceed capacity over the next 10 years.

1.2 Similarly, to other specialist school settings, in the past 2 years, the Children's Hospital School (CHS) has seen a significant increase in demand for placements. (Appendix 1) Therefore, we would like to create additional capacity at this setting by commissioning 10 additional placements.

1.3 To accommodate the additional placements, we would like to relocate a council owned 2 classroom temporary modular building (TMB) to CHS. The TMB is currently located at Catherine Infant School.

2. Recommended actions/decision

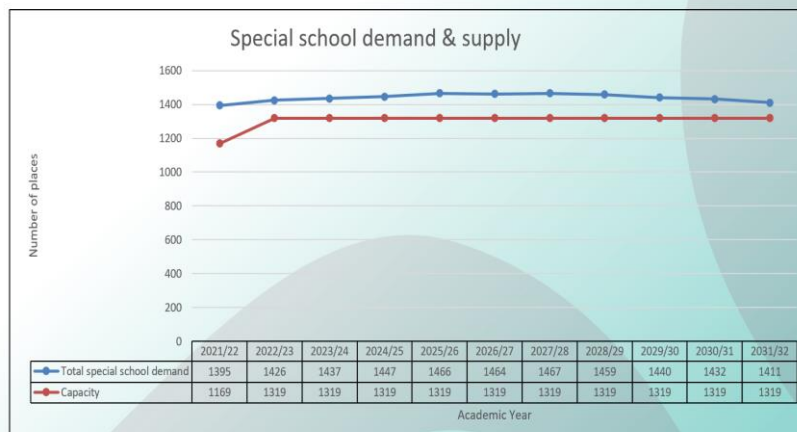
2.1 Agree that up to £314K be added to the capital programme to be funded from ring-fenced high needs capital grant to relocate and reinstate the TMB from Catherine Infant School to the CHS.

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

4.1 The refreshed SEND Pupil Place Planning model indicates that the demand for special school places will exceed capacity over the next 10 years.

Special school demand & capacity



- 4.2 The council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient educational placements for CYP with SEND. Therefore, in response to the refreshed SEND Pupil Place Planning model, the SEND Service need to ensure a strategy is in place to manage this demand.
- 4.3 Given the ongoing pressures on the high needs block of the DSG the LA needs to continue to keep the use of expensive independent placements as low as possible by expanding its own provision and reducing demand for placements.
- 4.4 The CHS supports Children and Young People (CYP) with medical and mental health needs. It provides support across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland. They, like other specialist settings, have seen an increase in request for placements, from both the pupils in the hospital and directly from schools.
- 4.5 Education and SEND Support Service have been working in conjunction with the CHS to ensure we meet our statutory duties towards CYP with medical needs. Additionally, to build capacity to support students with Mental Health needs in schools to reduce demand.
- 4.6 In 2022 the CHS opened its Magpie Centre to provide short-term part-time interventions for CYP struggling with their mental health. This is a traded service and has generated income which offsets the overall costs of the CHS. The uptake for this group has been good, schools have engaged well and the groups have been full. Demand for this is predicated to continue to grow.
- 4.7 Despite this additionality the CHS has seen increasing demand for the main Willow bank School, particularly in Year 10. We are proposing to meet this demand by commissioning 10 additional places in the CHS. This has been done temporarily from April to September 2023, we would like this to continue for next academic year and provide to some accommodation to facilitate this.
- 4.8 We are proposing to relocate a 2 classroom TMB to the CHS. The two new classrooms would be used for the following:
- To accommodate the extra Year 10 class as set out above
 - To provide space for an additional early intervention group

- Capacity to support the extra Year 11 numbers (2023-24) during exams as so many have access arrangements / need to sit exams in small rooms or individually
- Free up some smaller spaces for 1:1 interventions like art therapy that are offered when places are limited
- Allow further increase in pupil numbers if required next year

5. Detailed report

5.1 Leicester City Council (LCC) were informed in February 2021 that the Department for Education (DfE) had identified Catherine Street Infant School as a school to be replaced under the School Replacement Programme (SRP). The project is to be funded and managed by the DfE with Authority representation provided by Estates and Building Services (EBS).

5.2 It was identified in the early stages of the project that two classrooms formed by two Temporary Modular Buildings (TMBs) and installed by LCC would need to be removed from site at LCC's expense. This needs to occur prior to the start on site date, currently down for July 2023. LCC own the TMBs and the company that supplied them, BritCab, is no longer trading therefore a sell back is not an option.

5.3 As there is a shortfall of provision at Willowbank, the Children's Hospital School have requested two TMB classrooms be installed within their playground. Given the requirement to remove the TMBs to avoid incurring costs to LCC from a delay to the DfE programme, for which LCC is contractually liable, it is recommended that the TMBs are re-located to Willowbank over the summer break.

5.4 A quote has been received and an estimated project budget is below.

Element	Cost
Quote for relocation and reinstatement	£240,000
Planning, surveys, enabling works	£25,000
Contingency	£25,000
Fees	£24,000
Total	£314,000

6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

6.1 Financial implications

6.11 Childrens Hospital school is block funded from the high needs block of the DSG. The additional 10 places require additional annual revenue funding of £62k.

6.12 The capital cost of £314k for relocating the mobile will come from High Needs Capital Grant

Martin Judson, Head of Finance

6.2 Legal implications

This report is a request to relocate two temporary buildings to allow extra provision at the hospital school. It is noted that a quote has been received but any procurement to relocate the temporary buildings must be compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (**PCR**) and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (**CPR**). Engagement with Procurement and Legal will be required who will provide advice for the best procurement process to ensure compliance with the PCRs and CPRs.

Ongoing legal assistance should be sought as and when required.

Alex Powers, Solicitor (Commercial) 37 2489

6.3 Equalities implications

Under the Equality Act 2010 (including the local authority and schools), have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Schools are covered under Part 6 of the Equality Act 2010. Schools must not discriminate against a child by not offering a place or by only offering a place under specific terms and conditions. They must ensure that the child has full access to education, facilities and services. They must not subject 'the pupil to any (other) detriment' which means they must not subject the child to any form of disadvantage. Schools and education authorities have a duty to provide reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils. Equality covers all aspects of school life enjoyed by children – teaching and learning, special educational needs and disabilities can affect a child or young person's ability to learn.

The report proposes the relocation of a council owned 2 classroom temporary modular building to accommodate the additional placements in an effort to managing placement sufficiency demands in the city. If agreed, this would increase the number of school placements currently being offered and help to meet future predicted demand, the protected characteristic of disability is highly relevant. All children and young people deserve a high-quality education, with the educational support that they need to flourish. Commitment to supporting children and young people with SEND which is focused on mutual collaboration, child-centred planning, should lead to positive impacts for people from across all protected characteristics and in particular the characteristic of disability.

Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

6.4 Climate Emergency implications

The addition of accommodation to CHS will, unavoidably, add to the carbon footprint of the school through the addition of extra space requiring heating and power. The carbon footprint of the schools estate is monitored and reported separately to the council's operational estate, so the extra emissions will affect the schools estate figures but not the council's operational estate carbon footprint.

Temporary modular buildings can vary in terms of their energy efficiency. As these ones are owned by the council, we could consider whether there are any cost effective energy saving and carbon reduction measures that could feasibly be carried out to them to minimise the additional energy bills for the school, along with the carbon emissions.

In terms of 'embodied' carbon emissions caused by the manufacture and transport of new construction materials, the reuse of the TMBs from within Leicester, instead of constructing new accommodation will avoid causing any significant new embodied emissions.

Duncan Bell, Change Manager (Climate Emergency), Sustainability Team. Ext. 37 2249

6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

7. Background information and other papers:

8. Summary of appendices:

Appendix 1: CHS numbers 2015-23

9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

10. Is this a "key decision"? If so, why?

No