

Commissioning Plan for Special Educational Needs Provision - Planning

London Borough of Bexley 2019 – 2022



Cleeve Meadow Special Needs Free School, to be delivered by April 2020

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Foreword

In line with other local authorities the demand for Special Educational Needs (SEN) places is increasing and shows no sign of easing off over the foreseeable future. Whilst previously The London Borough of Bexley has produced an Education Commissioning Plan which has contained an SEN section, we have now decided that there should be a separate SEN Specific Commissioning Plan. This Plan sets out how we will reach decisions on the number of specialist school places, we will need to provide over the next few years ensuring that we meet our statutory requirement that every Bexley resident where appropriate is educated in a Local Education Setting both now and in the future.

Our strategic plan and the shared vision we have with children, parents and other stakeholders is that Bexley children should be educated locally, wherever practical. This ambition is against a backdrop where local authorities across the country face increased financial demands and whilst this ambition to educate children locally helps reduce the rising costs both through transport and out of borough placements it is not singularly driven by economics but by an ambition that children should be educated in the communities they live.

Predicting the number of new places we will need is an on-going challenge as Bexley, along with many others boroughs, experiences a period of demographic change. I am proud that we have started to increase and improve our SEN offer to parents and an example of this is the new SEN Cleeve Meadow Free School which starts to take pupils from September 2019. When completed this modern, state of the art, co-located school will provide 120 secondary SEN school places. We have also recently been awarded a bid for a new SEN free School at Halt Robin Road which will take shape over the coming years. Bexley has worked hard in securing these bids and with restricted SEN funding I am proud that we have been awarded 2 within a short space of one another which demonstrates our commitment to providing SEN places.

Looking to the next two to three years, I believe the programme identified in this Plan provides a clear vision of what we can achieve based on the evidence available to us whilst also being realistic as SEN capital funding for school building continues to be limited and uncertain. We must continue to deliver good value for money via cost- effective procurement and construction options, including through innovative, good quality buildings and making use where we can of Bexley's collective school estate.

As always, as champions of children, we will continue to work with our wider school community to ensure that every child has a school place of which we can all be proud.

This plan has been developed in consultation with the Strategic Education Partnerships, Places and Planning Sub-Group



Councillor John Fuller
Cabinet Member for Education, April 2019

Section 1 SEN Executive Summary

As the local strategic commissioner of education, The London Borough of Bexley has the statutory duty responsibility to provide suitable SEN provision for as many pupils in the borough as possible minimising the amount of pupils having to travel out of borough for their specialist education.

We have a shared vision with children, parents and other stakeholders that Bexley children should be educated locally wherever practicable in order to keep children in the community. Following the SEND local area inspection in Oct 2016, the borough has implemented a phased, systematic approach through our SEND Strategy and improvement plan, Provision Review, Preparing for Adulthood Strategy and review of high needs funding.

Provision for children with SEND is currently organised within 6 special schools and 21 specialist provisions (12 secondary) within mainstream settings for children who are able to access the national curriculum. The 12 secondary provisions cover the following areas of primary need: autism (ASD), speech language and communication (SLCN), visual impairment (VI) and physical disability (PD) with two of the provisions being academically selective. This provides 86 commissioned places at 90% utilisation. There is a constant demand for places as 267 pupils are currently educated out of borough and our aim is to reduce this. Pressures for SEN provision have increased and there is a pressure for extra places to be provided by September 2019 but changes in diagnosis and the statutory framework add further layers of complexity. The last two years have seen an increase in need for SEN provision within the borough; we have received additional funding over the past two years, which has been allocated to various different projects throughout the borough. We have taken and are taking the required steps to provide sufficient SEN places in the borough.

Previous works that have been completed to meet the need include a former primary school has been refurbished and extended to become a state of the art facility for children on the autistic spectrum from Key Stage two up to and including 6th form. A new MLD Unit for 40 pupils has been built on the Parkway Primary school site. Additionally, 362 new and re-provided SEN places across the borough from Reception right through to 6th form have been created since 2013 with a further 191 places planned to be provided by 2020/21. The places already provided include converting unused areas and extending existing SEN units at 8 of our schools, most recently completed in September 2018 and our planned places include a planned extension at Woodside Colyers and a new SEN free school. Bexley has successfully relocated the Woodside Halt Robin Road school pupils as the site was deemed unsuitable for their needs; they are currently at Colyers School which is undergoing an expansion to provide an additional 61 places. The new Cleeve Meadow Free School is to be built on the Cleeve Park Academy site which will be delivered by early 2020, which will eventually provide 120 specialist places and contribute to accommodating the demand for SEN places. We have also submitted an Expression of Interest to the Department of Education (DfE) for funding to build a second SEN free school for pupils aged between 11-19 who have a profile of Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) and ASD with the aim of meeting their educational needs in Bexley.

Special Educational Needs

Support for children and young adults with special and complex educational needs remains a key and urgent priority. The pressure on places within our special schools and provisions mirrors that of the wider school population. Our plans are predicated on the clear aim that children should be educated in Bexley

whenever possible and to prevent children having to travel out of borough. We have reviewed, and continue to review, the current provisions within our schools in the light of emerging data on future need and are making changes to reflect this.

We have provided an additional 40 primary places at Parkway primary School for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties. In order to address an increase in demand for pupil places for children with severe and profound learning difficulties Shenstone Early Years in Sidcup has provided 40 places from September 2017 and in September 2018 a double modular was delivered providing the school with an extra 20 places. This provision is accommodated on the Royal Park site. Also an ASD provision for 8 - 12 children has been opened at Royal Park Primary School and some of our other schools in the borough.

Two new classrooms were provided at Marlborough school in September 2017 to provide an additional 16 places with a feasibility study which is planned to be undertaken in 2019/20 to determine how the capacity of the school can be increased to provide more SEN places over the coming years to meet demand with the possibility of an additional temporary satellite site to meet this initial demand. Support within the borough for young adults up to 25 with complex educational needs is a further priority. We are developing solutions with a range of partners including Bexley College and the Learning Centre and this includes a new build bespoke block in Brampton Road that opened in 2015.

A new SEN Free School named Cleeve Meadow Free School is planned for pupils with moderate learning difficulties on the Cleeve Park Academy site. It is planned to deliver the Free School for 120 pupils ready for September 2020; these pupils will be from Colyers and Marlborough and contribute to the main aim of keeping our children in borough by providing them with a school place.

The three main aims for Bexley's 3 year SEN Place Planning Commissioning Plan are: -

1. Ensuring existing resources are fit for purpose
2. Ensuring current and future specialist schools meet our needs and demands
3. Reduce the amount spent on sending our children to out of borough schools by ensuring sufficient provision is available in the borough where appropriate.

In order to meet these aims we will:

1. Undertake an audit of each of our specialist schools which will look at its admissions criteria, current capacity, future demand and recommendations to address any items identified as part of the audit
2. Identify future funding opportunities to bring back and prevent pupils from being educated outside of the Borough.
3. Ensuring that we continue to improve our current specialist provision.

Table 1 – Below is a table of the total Commissioned Places currently in Bexley

School	Needs	Commissioned Places (2018/19)
Barrington Primary School	MED, MLD, SLCN	10
Belmont Primary School	MED, MLD, PD, SLCN, VI	18
Crook Log Primary School	ASD	6
HACA-South (Crayford)	ASD, SEMH	8
Hillsgrove Primary School	ASD, GLD	11
Hook Lane School	ASD	14
Mayplace Primary School	ASD, SLCN	12
Old Bexley CE Primary School	ASD, SLCN	12
Parkway Primary School	ASD, GLD, MED, MLD, SLCN, SLD	40
Pelham Primary School	HI	20
Royal Park Primary School	ASD, HI, PD, SLCN	16
Sherwood Park Primary School	ASD	9
St Paul's (Slade Green) Primary School	MLD, PD, SEMH, SLCN	10
Upton Primary School	ASD, SLCN	20
Primary Sub-Total		206
School	Needs	Commissioned Places (2018/19)
Beths Grammar School	ASD	4
Bexley Grammar School	SLCN	4
Blackfen School for Girls	ASD, GLD, MLD, SLCN, VI	12
Cleeve Park Academy School	PD, VI	8
HACA-South (Crayford)	ASD	0
St Columba's Catholic Boys' School	ASD, GLD, MED, MLD, SEMH, SLCN, SLD, VI	30
Trinity School	ASD	10

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Welling School	ASD, SLD	8
SECONDARY SUB-TOTAL		76
Beths Grammar School	ASD	1
Bexley Grammar School	ASD	1
Cleeve Park Academy School	ASD, PD	4
Trinity School	ASD, BESD	4
POST-16 SUB-TOTAL		10
GRAND TOTAL		292

School	Need	Places
Malborough Pre-16 & Post-16	SLD, MLD, PD, ASD	95
Shenstone	ASD, SLD, PMLD, GLD, SLCN	140
Endeavour	SEMH, BESD, ASD	64
Woodside Pre-16 & Post-16	SLNC, MLD, ASD, PD	208
Aspire	SEMH, BESD, ASD, SLCN	48
TOTAL SPECIAL SCHOOL		555

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Hook Lane School	ASD	14
Mayplace Primary School	ASD, SLCN	12
Old Bexley CE Primary School	ASD, SLCN	12
Parkway Primary School	ASD, GLD, MED, MLD, SLCN, SLD	40
Pelham Primary School	HI	20

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At a glance



Pupils are now being identified as requiring an Educational Health Care Plan having risen 29% since 2010. This is in line with the National picture.



Previous funding has been scarce, but we have been fortunate to have received over £3m in external funding to improve and create SEN Places.



Works are currently underway for a brand new 120 place Free School based at Cleeve Park, with another free school in the pipeline...



Bexley has a statutory requirement to educate where possible as many pupils in the borough where appropriate. Upcoming projects will contribute to meeting this demand.



We have provided many various construction projects to meet demand, with the funding from the DfE we have many more in the pipeline.



At Bexley we aim to abide by our Corporate Plan, in particular to focus on the 'Growth that benefits all' EHC Plans are increasing daily and we need to ensure we plan, prepare and meet this growth to a high-quality standard

Summary for Head Teachers

This Commissioning Plan has been developed in consultation with the Strategic Education Partnerships, Places and Planning Sub-Group. This group will monitor the delivery of the plan.

Purpose of the SEN Commissioning Plan

- With more and more children presenting with a high level of SEN requiring the provision of an EHC Plan to have their needs met, we need to start planning a strategic approach in how we are going to provide as many SEN places to our residents as possible and where achievable, bring back students who have to currently travel out of borough.
- This Strategic document demonstrates the existing pressures and expected pressures Bexley will experience with regards to SEN pupils in education and how we can ensure we keep up our statutory duty of ensuring all of our children receive a good SEN education.

Demand for SEN Places

- The demand for SEN places has increased significantly in recent years with no signs of slowing down. Pupils are now being identified as requiring an Educational Health Care Plan having risen 29% since 2010. This is in line with the National picture.
- We currently have 5 Special schools available in Bexley with some being oversubscribed. As well as this we have multiple alternative provisions for pupils who cannot learn within mainstream education.

Funding

- Local Authorities do not receive sufficient SEN funding from the Government to provide every child with a SEN place within Bexley. However, more and more funding is becoming available which is allocated to improve and create pupil places in Bexley.

Proposed & Current Projects

Project	Progress	Academy Trust (if appropriate)
Cleeve Meadow Free School	Works begun in January 2019 with the aim to deliver early 2020 but accommodating pupils from September 2019.	TKAT
Woodside Colyers	Extending existing school to create additional classrooms	
Endeavour Feasibility	Feasibility undertaken for the possible implementation of a double modular to create additional places.	New Horizons Fed
Halt Robin Road Potential Free School	EOI has been submitted for a potential SEN site for pupils with SEMH and ASD. Should the bid be successful, the exercise to identify	

the management team for the potential new school will be determined via an open competition monitored by the Strategic Education Partnership, Places and Planning Sub-Group

Aspire	Feasibility to determine options to potentially increase the site and improve the current use of space.	New Horizons Fed
Marlborough School	Options to increase the permanent capacity of Marlborough School.	

Section 2 The Bexley Context

Bexley is situated in the South East of London and covers an area of 23 square miles (6,400 hectares). Bexley borders the Thames to the north, the boroughs of Royal Greenwich to the west and Bromley to the south and the County of Kent to the east. The borough has one Strategic Town Centre Bexleyheath, and has four major district centres – Crayford, Erith, Sidcup and Welling.

Our Council's Corporate Plan –2017-2025 sets out five main priorities: -

1. Growth that benefits all
2. Clean and green local places
3. Strong and resilient communities and families
4. Living Well
5. Innovation and self sufficiency

Providing good school places is a key performance indicator under the Growth that benefits all priority. The provision of high quality additional school places will support the development of a successful local economy and enhance Bexley as a place to live and work as well as keeping up with estimations that Bexley can deliver 31,500 new homes and 17,500 net new jobs across the borough by 2050 and the impact on school places this will bring.

Just under 44,000 pupils are educated in Bexley schools including nursery classes and special School census schools. There are 533 private and voluntary early years' providers and accredited child-minders and 84 primary, secondary and special schools and pupil referral units.

There are 5 primary and secondary special schools providing for children with a range of special educational needs. A 40 place MLD Unit on the Parkway Primary school site was provided in September 2017 14 primary schools (2 with 2 provisions) and 7 secondary schools (2 with 2 provisions) the provisions are for children with special educational needs. There is a primary and secondary pupil referral unit, also comprising secondary alternative provision and the medical needs service. There are also planned upcoming projects to create additional SEN places over the next two years funded by the Special Capital Funding received by MP Edward Timpson which is detailed further in this report.

Section 3 Demand for Places

The role of the Local Authority;

Our statutory duty includes that children and young people assessed and, as necessary, issued with Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans have appropriate provision. This may extend up to the age of 25.

Special schools and specialist provision

The demand for special school places and specialist provision has risen alongside the demand for mainstream places. In the 2017-2019 Commissioning plan our data indicated an increase in need from September 2018 which we have met but the need is increasing and more SEN places will need to be created over 2019-2022.

New provision since 2012

In the last four years Bexley has either spent or plan to spend £25m on multiple projects which have both improved our SEN offer and created additional specialist school places. Completed projects include:

- 150 ASD places for Woodside School at Colyers including a new 6th form. Work currently underway to provide additional places here for September 2019
- 32 new places at Shenstone at Royal Park early years provision, this number increased to 40 in September 2016. As well as a new modular building providing 20 additional places in September 2018.
- 64 new places through two expansions of Marlborough School on the main site and the creation of the new sixth form building at Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar school
- 80 additional places at a number of new provisions including Pathways, Upton and Belmont schools
- A new 40 place MLD unit for primary age pupils on the site of Parkway Primary School
- A new 8-12 place provision for pupils with ASD at one of our secondary schools
- Expansion of existing SEN resource at St Columba's

Current projects in progress

Subject to the necessary statutory approvals it is anticipated that the following SEN projects will be delivered during 2019-2022:

- Providing a free school for secondary aged pupils with Learning Difficulties and associated complex needs on the Cleeve Park secondary school site which will be ready for early 2020 with pupils being accommodated by September 2019.
- Additional places to be provided at Colyers
- Looking at options to provide 16-20 additional places for pupils on the Endeavour Academy site
- A Free School bid for a new Free School on the Halt Robin Road site to provide places for pupils with SEMH and ASD has been approved.

The key challenges that will ensure adequate, high quality special school and specialist provision in Bexley are:

- Ensuring adequate, high quality, places on Bexley schools for the increasing number of young people that have a diagnosis of Autism. This will be achieved by the development of an Autism Strategy that will describe the range of needs of pupils seeking places and ensure that Bexley

adjusts provision regularly to meet these needs. It is likely that Bexley will need to deliver additional Resourced Provision places in mainstream schools.

ASD diagnosis is still running at a high level and is becoming better understood with our provisions aiming to meet their complex needs. Further work is also required on future demand for other groups of students. SEMH presentation of need is the second fastest rising primary need in the borough.

Statutory duties upon Local Authorities

Local authorities continue to retain responsibility for a number of statutory duties around ensuring an education and training offer that meets the needs for our SEN learners:

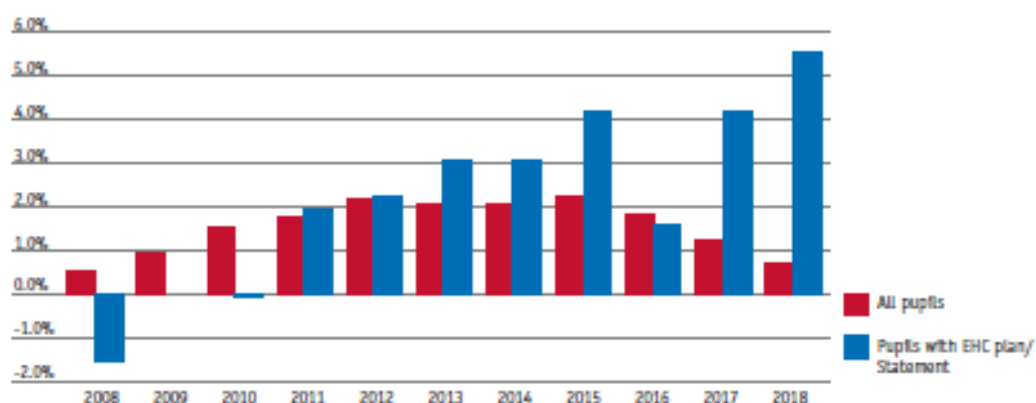
- Secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for those up to age 25 with Education, Health, Care (EHC) plan in their area.¹To fulfil this, local authorities need to have a strategic overview of the provision available in their area and to identify and resolve gaps in provision.
- Make available to all young people aged 13-19 and those up to age 25 with an EHC plan, support that will encourage, enable and assist them to participate in education and training.²

Demand for places for pupils with SEND is increasing dramatically. The number of pupils with EHCPs has risen by 29 percent since 2010 in London with the complexity of these needs also increasing. LA's are committed to providing high quality school places for children with SEND as shown in the table below.

¹ Section 15ZA and 18A of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by the Apprenticeships, Skills and Children and Learning Act 2009)

² Section 68 Education and Skills Act 2008

Figure 10: London pupil population growth



³Increase in numbers of EHC Plans issued for Bexley Children & Young People with SEND since 2014.

Local Authorities are expecting demand for SEND places to continue to increase, if the proportion of children and young people who have an EHCP remains the same, London will need to provide support for 2,340 more young people of secondary school age over the next 5 years.

The type of AP that is needed to meet demand differs from borough to borough. The provision that boroughs identified being short of (which is also the case at Bexley) includes provision for children and young people with SEMH needs, particularly in Secondary Aged pupils. SEMH is the second fastest growing need within Bexley after ASD.



Parkway SEN unit.

³ Published DfE data (SEN2 Jan 18) plus MPD Bexley for Oct 18

Section 4 Analyses; Special Educational Needs Provision in Bexley

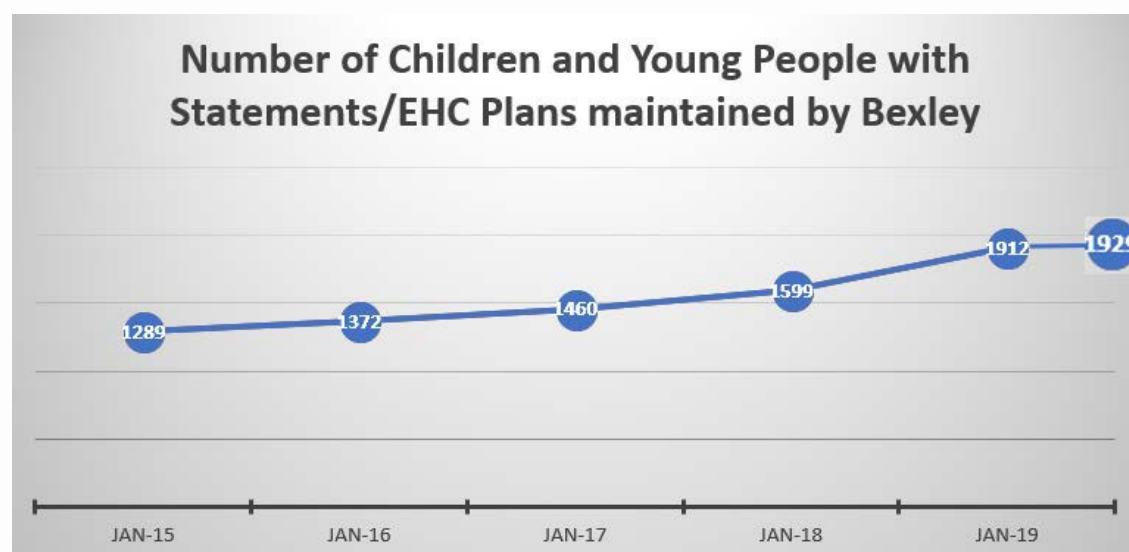
Special Educational Needs Provision

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reforms

The reforms to the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) system were introduced in September 2014, this included the new in the Children and Families Act 2014 being issues following on from this a new SEN Code of Practice was issued in January 2015. These reforms have been described as the largest reforms and the most significant to the 'world of SEN' and impact significantly on how the Local Area works with C&YP 0-25 to ensure they have appropriate support and provision in place via their EHC plan and can enjoy and achieve in their local borough, having their needs met, working with their aspirations to achieve life outcomes rather than focusing only on educational targets.

The legislation and guidance in the CoP demands a particular focus on person centred planning, aspirational and outcomes focused thinking and co-production with families. The still relatively new legislation is as much about changing processes as it is about changing mind-sets and culture. Bexley has responded to this and developed an SEND Strategy and a strategic SEND Improvement Board, consisting of key partners and key stakeholders across Education, Health, Social Care and the Voluntary Sector, parent representatives being detrimental to informing and improving practice. Bexley has also set up a Bexley Pupil Forum which ensures children and young people's voices are heard and informing service delivery and commissioning.

There are 1912 (January 2019) children who are Bexley residents who have EHC Plans as shown in Table 1.0 below. However this changes daily and at February 2019 there were 1929 EHC Plans. There has been an 97.5% increase in the number of children who have an EHC Plan in Bexley with the primary need of Autistic Spectrum Disorder since 2012 (367 increased to 725 pupils). The increase in issued EHC Plans over the last year alone has been 19.57%.



We are seeing a clear increase in EHC Needs Assessment requests for under 5's, often for young children with more complex and profound needs, often requiring specialist provision at an earlier stage of their journey through school.

SEN2 Data January 2019; Under Age 5: 74

- Aged 5 to 10: 669
- Aged 11 to 15: 641
- Aged 16 to 19: 422
- Aged 20 to 25: 106

Total: 1912, which is a 313-increase compared to the same stage last year.

8.1 National Special Educational Needs Trends

National Trends are echoed and visible here in Bexley:

1. The number of children and young people with SLCT and ASD continues to rise significantly
2. The number of Children and Young People (C&YP) requesting an EHC Needs Assessment continues to rise, especially under 5's
3. Families are more often requesting for their child to be placed in a special/independent special school
4. C&YP have EHC Plans earlier and for longer
5. High Needs Funding awarded does not cater for the increase in C&YP having EHC Plans issued and maintained nor for the increased complexity of need, often requiring a higher banding level so that needs continue to be met in mainstream settings.

Gender

Nationally in schools/education settings significantly more boys than girls have both SEN support needs and EHC plans. The gender difference in the percentage of the school population with EHC plans has remained the same since 2015 (4.0% of boys and 1.5% of girls).

Primary Need

Nationally there is: -

- an increased diagnosis/incidence of autism, including 'higher functioning autism', comorbidity and dual diagnosis given
- a changing profile of those with more severe and complex needs particularly in terms of more challenging behaviours, e.g. SEMH/PDA presentations often in line with the YP's diagnosis of ASD.
- an increase in the number of children surviving premature birth, early childhood trauma, acquired brain injuries with multiple and complex needs
- C&YP on SEN Support are seven times more likely to experience exclusions

8.2 Local SEN Trends

The national trends discussed above are generally reflected in London Borough of Bexley but it is important, when forecasting requirements for commissioned SEN School places, to have an accurate picture of these trends locally.

- 12% of pupils in Bexley schools have identified special educational needs (equating to 4924) May 2018 school census. This is in line with the national data.
- 2.7% of pupils in Bexley have a statement or EHC Plan compared with 2.8% nationally, currently 1929 EHC Plans maintained by Bexley
- The top 3 most common Primary Need of pupils in Bexley schools at January 2019 who have an EHC Plan is Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at 37.6%, the primary need for C&YP on SEN Support remains SLCN, 20.26%, followed by SEMH with 11.8%, this is out of the Grand Total of all disabilities.
- The primary need of SLCN often translates into a diagnosis of ASD at a later stage when a child has undergone the formal assessment process.

	Apr 2012	Apr 2013	Apr 2014	Apr 2015	Apr 2016	Feb 2017	Feb 2019	% Difference Since 2012	% Difference since 2014
ASD*	367	390	416	446	509	549	725	97.55%	74.28%
SLCN*	133	131	131	124	137	145	391	194.00%	198%
SEMH	196	194	173	156	165	168	228	16.33%	31.79%
Total of above disabilities	696	715	720	726	811	862	1344	93.10%	96.67%
Grand total all disabilities	1288	1315	1309	1310	1410	1478	1929	49.76%	47.36%

	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	Jan 2014	Jan 2015	Jan 2016	Jan 2017	Jan 2018	Jan 2019	% Difference since April 2012	% Difference since April 2014
All disabilities as per SEN2 return	1270	1282	1272	1289	1372	1460	1568	1912	50.55%	50.31%
% year on year difference		0.94%	0.78%	1.34%	6.44%	6.41%	7.39%	21.93%		-

** The Jan 2019 figure increase of 21.93% reflects the additional range of EHC Plans 0-25 and it is expected to continue to increase in future years.

Table 8.2 Numbers of Main Primary SEN Needs by Year

The above table shows that there has been a 97.5% increase in the number of children who have a EHC Plan with the primary need of Autistic Spectrum Disorder since 2012 (367 increased to 725 pupils).

Our data also shows that: -

Generally, the SEN data in Bexley Borough follows the trends in national data.

There is a continued increase in the number of children in Bexley who are being diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. These children have a wide range of needs and abilities requiring a range of provisions.

The Primary Need of Speech, Language and Communication Needs at SEN Support level often translates into a diagnosis of ASD at a later stage and is reflective of the higher number of children with ASD having an EHC Plan.

It is anticipated that we will continue to see a rise in the number of requests for Education, Health and Care needs assessments for pre-school children.

It is further anticipated that very young children require specialist provision earlier as severity and complexity of needs have changed

As the legislation allows for children and young people with special educational needs to receive support in education and training via their EHC Plan up until they are 25, if they continue to have educational and training outcomes to be achieved. We are and will continue to support increasing numbers of young people/adults for longer (whilst the YP still has educational or training outcomes to achieve)

We anticipate that, as young people who have special educational needs are now able to request statutory support via an EHC Plan in education up until their 25th birthday, we will see a rise in the number of young people in Year 11 asking for EHC needs assessments in order to receive statutory support as they prepare for and move into adulthood.

We have seen a rise in EHC Needs Assessment requests for young people with significant mental health difficulties who may have become school refusers during their secondary school years.

We anticipate the decreases in numbers of children who have a primary need of Physical/Medical Disability, Hearing Impairment and Visual Impairment to be in line with population increase.

We anticipate a rise in need for specialist placements in borough, catering for ASD/SEMH as well as for severe learning disabilities and PMLD.

It should be understood that children will be categorised under their primary need at the point of their Education, Health and Care Plan being finalised. The primary need will be reviewed at every annual review of the YP's EHC Plan to ensure the YP is accessing suitable and appropriate education provision and the local area can make informed predictions on trends, update needs analysis and plan ahead for future needs, avoiding children having to be placed out of borough. More and more children present with complex profiles of need, this means it is not always possible to clearly identify their primary need.

GLA forecasts have previously under-represented the number of EHCP's in Bexley originally suggesting 1544 would be required in 2022 but the actual number of pupils with an EHCP plan is 1929 and increasing. This is an increase of 622 EHCP plans since 2012. We have had an increase of EHC Plans issued in 2017 of

17.2% and are currently at 19.8% with no signs of decreasing. The LA is however reviewing decision making at EHC Needs Assessment Level as well as exploring options of offering support below statutory EHC Plan Level.

Age of SEN Pupils in Bexley

The following table shows the ages of the pupils in Bexley who have a statement or EHC Plan and shows how this has changed over the last 5 years.

All Statements/ Plans	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	Jan 2014	Jan 2015	Jan 2016	Jan 2017	Jan 2019	Supported without Plans 2019	Total 2019	% Increase in those supported from 2012 to 2019
Under 5	70	77	59	55	77	68	74	10	490	5.71%
Ages 5-10	390	417	451	461	492	553	669	0	669	71.54%
Ages 11-15	670	652	609	578	577	552	641	0	641	-4.33%
Ages 16-19	140	156	165	230	220	258	422	0	422	201.43%
Over 19				10	6	29	106	0	106	-
Total	1270	1302	1284	1334	1372	1460	1912			50.55%

Table 8.4 Age of Children in Bexley who have EHCP's.

- Bexley is supporting increasing numbers of pre-school children who have EHC Plans or who have support funded through the High Needs Block pending assessment for plans and/or being offered 'inclusion funding'.
- These children are offered inclusion funding/high needs funding for a limited amount of time with the hope that longer term high needs provision may not be required as the young child's needs were identified and met early.
- Bexley is also supporting an increasing number of students to attend Post 16 and post 19 educational placements.
- Bexley is pleased to see that more and more young people chose Local Offer colleges and continue to have their needs met locally.

8.1 Types of SEN Educational Establishment

The pupils who have special educational needs have these needs met in a large variety of settings. They may attend a mainstream school, a resourced provision in a mainstream school or a special school. These schools can be based within Bexley Borough or in neighbouring boroughs. Some pupils attend independent schools out of borough, some as residential placements.

Table Bexley Maintained EHCP's as at February 20192

Total Bexley Maintained EHCP's	Total
Independent Mainstream Schools (with SEN specialism)	40
Independent Special Schools	106
Non-Maintained Special School	14
Out Borough Mainstream Schools	20
Out Borough Mainstream Free School	0
Out Borough Mainstream Resourced/Classes	8
Out Borough Special Schools	34
Out Borough Academies	91
Out Borough Academies Resource Provision	6
Out Borough SEN Unit	2
Out Borough Special Academies	54
Out Borough 6th Form College	0
Bexley Mainstream Primary	101
Bexley Mainstream Secondary	0
Bexley Academies	410
Bexley Academies Resource Provision	123
Bexley Academies UNIT	31
Bexley Mains Resourced Provision/Classes	27
Bexley SEN Unit	55
Bexley Special Schools (Bexley pupils only)	234
Bexley Special Academies	219

Bexley Pupil Referral Unit	0
Bexley Free School	2
Social Services	0
EHE	16
EOTAS (alternative provisions)	5
USA/Private nursery/pre school/playgroup	23
Out of School- receiving tuition	6
Apprenticeship	1
Sixth Form College	0
General FE and tertiary college/HE	182
Specialist Post 16	15
Adult Services	1
Unknown/NEET	94
EHCP issued, awaiting Placement	9
Total	1929

Table 8.5 Numbers of Pupils with EHCP's by School Type

It was important to establish the demand for places required by educational establishment type. This allows us to see, if no changes were made to the specialist provision currently in place, when each current special school or resourced provision would reach capacity and also how many pupils we could predict may need to be placed out of borough.

It has been acknowledged for some time that there is growing pressure for special school places in Bexley, particularly Marlborough School and Shenstone School, both being our PMLD/SLD providers.

It is clear that this issue of growing demand needs to be addressed and a robust amount of data informed understanding of the future demand for places at special schools is required. There are a number of pupils who have been placed in out of borough special schools as there were no places in the required year groups at Shenstone or Marlborough Schools. In addition to this families have expressed a preference for independent special schools as they often offer a wider and enhanced package of therapy.

We expect that the demand for places at Shenstone and Marlborough School will continue to increase as children from neighbouring boroughs seek Special School places in Bexley due to the neighbouring boroughs also facing increased demand for specialist places and increased numbers of pupils with significant SEN.

There are also increasing numbers of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder who require resourced provision places.

There is currently a gap in provision in Bexley for YP with 'high functioning ASD and SEMH presentation' at secondary school level. These YP are often struggling in a large mainstream environment and may also struggle in a Resource Provision attached to a large secondary school.

We have also seen a rise in YP presenting with significant mental health difficulties, often having become school refusers and not being able to access suitable education. These young people often require a highly therapeutic environment to have their needs met.

8.4 SEN Developments in 2015-16

The following were the main issues and developments that were progressed in 2015/16

Pupils who have Special Educational Needs are supported in Mainstream Schools where possible and are placed in line with expressed parental preference wherever possible and appropriate

Most mainstream schools provide excellent support for pupils who have special educational needs.

There is, however, some disparity across the borough with some schools being more able and willing to support pupils with SEND and some seeking alternative placements as soon as a pupil's additional needs are identified and assessed. This may be due to a difference in experience, attitude and knowledge within the schools. It is proposed that areas of good practice and knowledge are identified and shared in other schools. It is anticipated that a "hub and spoke" model can be developed to allow the sharing of knowledge and experience within Bexley Schools. In addition to this Bexley is currently delivering an SEN Support Pilot, supporting schools with identifying and meeting needs, applying the 'graduated approach'

Resourced Provisions were reviewed and developed to meet the needs of the SEN pupils in Bexley.

Resourced Provisions are regularly being monitored and reviewed. A formal provision review has now been completed and as a next step a quality assurance framework will be developed and delivered, this will be led by the SEN Subgroup of the Strategic Education Partnership. It was clear that some Resourced Provisions were underutilised and had vacancies whilst others were full to capacity. This reflected the changing profile of SEN in Bexley. Work has been undertaken to increase the number of commissioned places at Resourced Provisions that provide for pupils who have ASD and to change the needs met in other provisions to meet the increased demand for places for pupils who have ASD. This work will be further clarified with the introduction of a "Local Offer" and a simplified funding model.

Developments included: -

- A new 8 place Resourced Provision for children who have Autism opened in September 2015 at Royal Park Primary School.
- Expansion of the Resourced Provision Unit at Blacken School for Girls to include an additional 8 places taking the total places to 16.

Increased Demand for Post 16 places

Changes to SEN Code of Practice allow Bexley to support pupils, who have a special educational need and require an EHC Plan, in achieving their educational outcomes until they are 25 if required. This will result in an increased demand for post 16 SEN Places.

This demand is being met in part in collaboration with local colleges and employment services with the development of the “Local College First” Programme. We are pleased to see that more YP have their SEN met at local colleagues, for example LECB now has 48 high needs learners whilst having only 12 in 2016/17. LECB is also catering for young adults with profound and complex learning needs, as well as LSEC Bexley Campus via their Nida Volans Centre.

Special School Places

- It is clear that there will be an increased and ever rising demand for special school places for children who have profound and multiple learning disabilities
- as well as those who have moderate learning difficulties and associated complex needs. The new free school Cleeve Meadows will cater for 120 YP/learners from September 2019 onwards.
- Children are also presenting with increasingly complex medical needs. We predict there will continue to be an increase in the demand for places at Shenstone School and Marlborough School. The potential for increasing classroom space in Shenstone and Marlborough Schools is very limited. The likely future demand for places and the current numbers at both schools are being monitored closely including ongoing liaison with our colleagues in health which has made clear that numbers of pre-school children especially those with ASD and medical/complex physical needs is continuing to grow.
- The new building for 6th form Marlborough School students at Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School has now been completed and is in full use.
- The extension of the Resourced Unit managed by Shenstone School, based at Royal Park School, has provided an additional 32 places. This unit will continue to provide for EYFS and KS1 pupils who attend Shenstone School. This has also allowed some nursery places for children with complex needs to be re-established at Shenstone School.

8.5 Developments in 2016-17

1. To identify alternative accommodation for the pupils on the Halt Robin Road site of Woodside School. For the primary pupils, a facility has been opened at Parkway School Primary and this will gradually expand as children are identified.
2. Expansion of the Resourced Provision at Hook Lane to include an additional 4 places with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.
3. Expansion of the Resourced Provision at Slade Green School to include an additional 2 places for children with multiple needs.
4. Expansion of the Resources Provision at St Columba’s Catholic Boys School to include an additional 8 places, taking the total places to 16.
5. An additional resourced provision unit at St Columba’s Catholic Boys School of 8 new places.
6. A resource provision unit at Welling School for 8 new places.
7. The possible expansion, subject to building re-configuration, in order to provide an additional 8 places at the Shenstone Early Years provision on the Royal Park site.

8. Expansion of Marlborough School to provide an additional 16 places

8.6 Completed and Proposed Developments from 2017-22

1. Shenstone Double Modular to provide 20 additional places
2. Expansion of St Columba's provision to provide extra places
3. Feasibility undertaken at Endeavour to re-provide places
4. Woodside Colyers, additional classrooms to provide places
5. New Free School at Cleeve Park Site
6. New SEN Provision
7. Additional places at Aspire Academy
8. New Free School at Halt Robin Road Site in Belvedere

Section 5 Capital Funding

Bexley, like other boroughs, received a letter from Edward Timpson MP, Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families, regarding "Capital Allocations and Planning for Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disabilities. A capital allocation of £2.052m split evenly over three years from 2018/19 to 2020/21 was been confirmed which has now been allocated. Bexley published a concise plan to describe how we intend to use the funding which can be found on the Local Offer. The funding can be used as investment in new places and improvements to facilities for pupils with Education Health and Care Plan (EHC) in mainstream and special schools.

- St Columba's Specialist Provision – Previously we were placing more than the agreed number within the provision and they take on some of our most challenging students. Therefore part of the SEN funding received was allocated to the school to expand the provision to provide much needed places and present out of borough placements.
- Shenstone Special School - The site projections indicated that a minimum of 8 additional places were to be required by September 2017, we allocated part of this SEN funding to place a double modular to provide 20 additional places spread through 2 classrooms, toilets and an office space based on the Early Years site in Sidcup which was completed in September 2018.
- Woodside Colyers Site – Our long term priority of relocating pupils from Woodside Halt Robin Road has now been achieved, as a result of this Woodside Colyers will need to provide an additional 4-6 classrooms, 2 intervention rooms and toilets which will provide additional specialist ASD places.

Since this allocation we have received a £477k top up funding which we have allocated to two projects which are detailed below.

- £439k on Endeavour Academy to provide extra places where a feasibility has been undertaken and officers are working out the best option to take forward.
- £38k on the provision of HI/VI equipment for Bexley children

In addition to all of these projects and outside of this allocation Bexley has plans to further enhance the facilities at Marlborough School and deliver a new £12m 120 place Free School on the site of Cleeve Park School funded jointly with the DFE with Bexley contributing £2m towards this project. The new school will promote inclusion with the aim that pupils will be able to use some of the existing facilities.

Future funding models could include working with Free Schools and Academies to secure joint or full funding to meet the cost of expansion for pupils with SEN needs.

Bexley will continue to pursue appropriate bidding opportunities for government grant and has recently put in an EOI for a new Free School in the borough.

Existing Premises and Sites: Where possible utilising or re-purposing existing space is investigated and has provided some cost effective extra places. In drawing up options and proposals around reshaping provision and/or providing additional places feasibility studies are commissioned to consider the condition and suitability of existing premises, the ability to expand or alter the premises, the works required and the associated costs, the size and topography of the site and road access to the site including road safety. An example of this would be works to improve and expand the provision at Aspire Academy subject to securing additional funding for works required. Any expansion will be future proofed to ensure that any work is sustainable and fit for purpose over a reasonable period of time.

Value for Money: Any decision to build new school provision will be based on the long term sustainability of school rolls. Modular buildings and modern methods of construction will be used to meet the pressures on school places and to ensure complete value for money. Full consideration will be given to which route provides the best value for money which can be achieved within the timeframe available. This will include relocating any existing modular buildings once they become available and identifying schools where expansion can be achieved through refurbishing and utilising existing areas within the school.

The planning window for additional primary places is short and can often be affected by external factors. This will frequently mean that schools suitable for expansion will need a temporary solution followed by a permanent expansion once statutory consultation has been completed.



Shenstone Modular completed in September 2018