

**Member Questions to Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee – 15 February 2024**

Q1

1. Can you please confirm the total number of additional SEND school places originally planned as part of the SEN Capital Programme?
2. How many additional SEND school places have been delivered to the end of December 2023 as part of the SEND Capital Programme? How many more are due to be delivered by the conclusion of the programme?
3. Can you please confirm the dates for each phase of the programme (1 – 4). Please also identify how many school places were originally planned to be delivered in each phase, how many school places have actually been delivered and/or are due to be delivered in each phase?
4. Can you please update the table in Annex 1 provided in the report to Cabinet dated 25 January 2022 to show projects planned up to the end of Phase 4, as well as updating the table with all the most recent information. Please add the following additional information to the table.
  - Gender of pupils catered for at the school/unit.
  - The original planned delivery date for the additional places.
  - The target planned delivery date for the additional places – if different.

Cllr Fiona Davidson

**RESPONSE:**

1. Between 2019 and 2023 Surrey's Cabinet approved the strategies and capital investment for four phases of Surrey's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Programme. With c£217m investment the programme was tasked to create around 2,440 permanent additional school places in state-maintained specialist schools, and SEN Units in mainstream schools in Surrey between 2019/20-2026/27. This was in order to expand SCC's state-maintained specialist education estate from around 3,320 places in 2019 to create capacity for 5,760 state-maintained specialist places by 2030/31. Original programme briefs are set out below.

ITEM 4

<b>Capital Strategy</b>	<b>Approval date</b>	<b>Original brief</b>
SEND Capital Programme Phase 1 Brief	24/09/2019	580
SEND Capital Programme Phase 2 Brief	29/09/2020	213
SEND Capital Programme Phase 3 Brief	26/01/2021	400
SEND Capital Programme Phase 4 Brief	25/01/2022	872
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>		<b>2,065</b>
Safety Valve bid (DfE Special Free Schools Programme):	07/03/2023	170
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,235</b>

2. The SEND Capital Programme created 917 new specialist school place availability between 2019 and the end of December 2023. This was carried out through successful delivery of 42 permanent construction projects in schools across Surrey.

New places from projects delivered in full and handed over to schools are phased in over a 2-5 year period, depending on the scale of individual schemes. This is because schools need to build their staffing capacity to support the new places.

Additional state-maintained specialist school place availability created through Capital Delivery between 2019-2023 is as follows:

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
New Places	77	74	285	247	234	<b>917</b>

As of academic year 2023/24, this has expanded SCC's state-maintained specialist education estate capacity from around 3,320 places in 2019 when the programme started to around 4,240 places now. The expectation is that the programme, in partnership with the Service remain on track to create state-maintained specialist education estate capacity for 5,760 state-maintained specialist places by 2030/31.

## ITEM 4

3. Dates and places for each phase of the SEND Capital Programme (1 – 4) below:

Phase	Cabinet Decision/ timescales	New Permanent Accommodation Delivered	New Permanent Accommodation To Be Delivered	TOTAL
1	<a href="#">SEND Capital Programme Phase 1 Cabinet Decision 24-Sep-2019</a>  'For delivery from 2019/20 over the next four years'	396	380	776
2	<a href="#">SEND Capital Programme Phase 2 Cabinet Decision 29-Sep-2020</a>  'For academic year 2021-2022'	149	106	255
3	<a href="#">SEND Capital Programme Phase 3 Cabinet Decision 26-Jan-2021</a>  'For September 2021'	375	40	415
4	<a href="#">SEND Capital Programme Phase 4 Cabinet Report 25/01/2022</a>  'From 2023 onwards'	56	903	959
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>2,405</b>

4. Spreadsheet emailed to Members available on request, [julie.armstrong@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:julie.armstrong@surreycc.gov.uk)

Q2

The first gold standard study in the UK (University of Salford, 2021) to assess Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder found FASD in between 1.8% of the population studied, and 3.6% when possible cases were also included. By comparison, the prevalence of autism is described as around 1%. There is no cure for FASD but research shows that early intervention can improve a child's development.

1. Do Mindworks' neurodevelopmental assessments consider FASD as a diagnosis? If not, why is that?
2. Does SCC commission FASD diagnostic and treatment services? If not, why is that?
3. If FASD services are commissioned, what level of provision is commissioned (e.g., the capacity of each service commissioned) each year?
4. Are professionals employed by SCC and partners (social workers, family centre personnel, SENDCOs) working with children and young people trained to recognise the potential signs of FASD? How is this training delivered?

Cllr Fiona Davidson

**RESPONSE:**

1. Yes, it is Mindworks' understanding that FASD would be considered a diagnosis.
2. Surrey Heartlands ICB, commission circa 8 assessments a year for children over 6 years of age, which is evidenced based.
3. Surrey Heartlands ICB, commission circa 8 assessments a year for children over 6 years of age, which is evidenced based. As part of the wider improvement work to improve outcomes for children with neurodiverse needs, this will be reviewed.

In addition to referrals for direct FASD assessment, the community Developmental Paediatricians, when assessing children under 6 years of age with, for example, suspected Autistic Spectrum Condition, will look to identify if there are signs related to FASD eg head size. If needed, these children would be supported by the tertiary (specialist) hospitals (and/or tertiaries in-reaching to local hospitals). The Developmental Paediatricians will also call the FASD consultant at SABP for clinical advice if required. Referrals can then be made to SABP's assessment service, if appropriate, for those over 6 years of age.

4. Training for individuals working with Children and Young People is available through the Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership and delivered by practitioners from SaBP iaccess (adult substance misuse treatment service)

All community paediatricians attend the FASD Training Course provided by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, and Mindwork's Neurodevelopmental colleagues have also been trained.

The national service of FASD operates from SABP and further information on local provision can be found here – [FASD : Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust \(fasdclinic.com\)](https://www.fasdclinic.com)