

HEREFORDSHIRE CHILDREN'S WELLBEING DIRECTORATE**BRIEFING 31 OCTOBER 2016****PLACE PLANNING FOR SPECIAL SCHOOLS 2016-2026 (NOT INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE PROVISION)**

The information below is presented in order to assist Herefordshire Council in its planning for an appropriate number of high quality places in special schools for the children and young people of Herefordshire from 2016 – 2026, also to inform council planning for capital investment in special school sites and buildings over the next five years.

Information sourced from the following benchmarking spreadsheets -

- Excel spreadsheet high needs spend analysis 2015, Malcolm Green. (pertinent to children and young people 5-16). Local Authorities included – Herefordshire, East Sussex, Wiltshire, Dorset, Shropshire, Cornwall, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, Somerset, Suffolk, Devon, and Worcestershire.
- Excel spreadsheet SFR 16_2015 LA tables (pertinent to children and young people 2-19). Local Authorities included – Herefordshire, Shropshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, East Sussex, Cornwall, Devon, Gloucestershire, Somerset, and Wiltshire.

Comparative information pertinent to place planning decisions

- Herefordshire provided 1.4% of the 5-16 school population with special school places in 2015. (Data skewed, as the total number of 5-16 pupils was used for calculation, but the subset special schools number used included 2-5 year old and 16-19 year old special school placed children). Re-calculating with a 2-19 higher figure for total, puts the percentage special school places nearer the 1.2% figure in the national spreadsheet below.
- Herefordshire provided 1.2% of the 2-19 population with special school places in 2015. This placed Herefordshire second of ten, East Sussex recording the highest % with 1.27%, Cornwall the lowest with 0.5%. See table.

	Special			All schools	
	State-funded (5)	Non-maintained	Total		
ENGLAND (7)	101,249	3,953	105,202	8,438,143	1.20%
NORTH EAST(7)	6,689	284	6,973	393,805	1.70%
WEST MIDLANDS (7)	14,274	103	14,377	920,064	1.55%
Herefordshire	296	0	296	24,567	1.20%
Shropshire	435	0	435	43,139	1.01%
Norfolk	1,199	0	1,199	117,285	1.02%
Suffolk	977	0	977	108,143	0.90%
East Sussex	909	177	1,086	71,431	1.27%
Cornwall	367	13	380	72,927	0.50%
Devon	916	111	1,027	102,215	0.90%
Gloucestershire	1,090	35	1,125	92,650	1.18%
Somerset	525	0	525	76,682	0.68%
Wiltshire	554	0	554	72,129	0.77%

Information pertinent to other settings providing SEN education – resourced provision.

Current numbers of pupils in resourced provision in Hfds (The Bridge at BHBS, the speech, language and autism setting at Hampton Dene) – see table a. below. Information regarding this for our LA statistical neighbours is shown in table b.

Table A – numbers of children with EHCPs or statements of special need educated in resourced provision. (From SEN Tribal database).

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Table B – numbers and percentages of children in primary education with EHCPs or statements educated in SEN units, or resourced provision, in Herefordshire and its statistical LA neighbours.

LA	Total	No. in SEN unit	%	No. in resourced provision	%	Total % in unit or RP	Rank
Herefordshire	157	0	0	30	19.1	19.1	3
Shropshire	392	4	1.0	6	1.5	2.5	10
Norfolk	967	10	1.0	28	2.9	3.9	9
Suffolk	684	120	17.5	5	0.7	18.2	4
East Sussex	671	42	6.3	39	5.8	12.1	6
Cornwall	737	62	8.4	21	2.8	11.2	7
Devon	929	18	1.9	101	10.9	12.8	5
Gloucestershire	645	31	4.8	32	5.0	9.8	8
Somerset	155	0	0	30	19.4	19.4	2
Wiltshire	849	129	15.2	62	7.3	22.5	1

Table B – numbers and percentages of children in secondary education with EHCPs or statements educated in SEN units, or resourced provision, in Herefordshire and its statistical LA neighbours.

LA	Total	No. in SEN unit	%	No. in resourced provision	%	Total % in unit or RP	Rank
Herefordshire	118	0	0	4	3.4	3.4	9
Shropshire	582	8	1.4	36	6.2	7.6	7
Norfolk	1277	59	4.6	58	4.5	9.1	6
Suffolk	853	8	0.9	4	0.5	1.4	10
East Sussex	696	47	6.8	39	5.6	12.4	5
Cornwall	714	79	11.1	65	9.1	20.2	3
Devon	1036	55	5.3	143	13.8	19.1	4
Gloucestershire	589	13	2.2	14	2.4	4.6	8
Somerset	213	19	8.9	34	16	24.9	1
Wiltshire	467	72	15.4	28	6.0	21.4	2

For information

LA	% of total school pop. With EHCP/statements
Herefordshire	2.6
Shropshire	3.8
Norfolk	3.4
Suffolk	2.5
East Sussex	3.7
Cornwall	2.6
Devon	3.1
Gloucestershire	2.6
Somerset	1.6
Wiltshire	2.7

Data for calculation of numbers moving forward.

- **2-19 pupil numbers predictions for 2021** (Premise for 5-16 numbers - check this with Karen) Premise for 16-19 numbers in five years' time, current actual numbers of year 7, 8 and 9 pupils with percentage increase indicated by KK in her calculations
- Number of primary age pupils predicted in five years' time – 13 598 (now 13 006)
- Number of secondary age pupils predicted in five years' time – 9 272 (now 8 612)
- Number of 16-19 pupils predicted in five years' time – 5680 (now 5550)
- Total number predicted – **28 550** (now 27 168)

Applying a variety of percentages to the predicted total above **

- Planning for 1.2% (Herefordshire current position in table above) of the predicted number in 2021 we would need **343** places for children and young people with special educational needs in 2-19 special schools.
- Planning for 0.5% (Cornwall) of the predicted number in 2021 we would need 143 places in special schools.
- Planning for 1.27% (East Sussex, highest percentage recorded by a statistical neighbour LA) of the predicted number in 2021 we would need 363 places in special schools.
- Planning for the median number between highest and lowest percentage recorded by statistically neighbouring LAs we would need 253 places in special schools.

Current (October 2016) 2-19 placements in special schools –

The Autumn 2016 Census shows the current numbers on roll for the 4 special schools as follows:

School Name	Single Registered	Dual Registered - Main	Dual Registered-Subsidiary	Grand Total
Barrs Court	111			111
Blackmarston	79			79
Westfield	56		2	58

Brookfield	78	2	11	91
Grand Total	324 (represents 1.19% of current population)	2	13	339

Note** Data predicting the numbers in ten years' time would be unreliable, however consideration should be given to the likelihood of further increases after 2021. In addition, the impact of housing development and outcomes of Herefordshire core strategy, may increase or lessen the numbers needed.

Proposal A

Bearing in mind current numbers accommodated in special schools, and the predicted increase in the 5-16 school age population over the next five years, the planned number of places available by 2026 will need to be somewhere in the range between 324 and 343 (1.2% of the predicted number in 2021). In addition to this, planning could factor in the creation of provision that can accommodate inflation in numbers, but aiming to stay within the range planned for. Economies of scale should be sought so that funding is maximised across all settings. Shared leadership and governance could create the flexibility of provision that would be responsive to need from year to year

Proposal B

Bearing in mind the pressures brought to bear on schools in Herefordshire by the relative low level of education funding, a review of the mechanism for funding special school places, and the level of top up funding applied to special school places and mainstream SEN should be carried out.

Proposal C

When the total number of planned places for 2021 has been decided, a decision regarding the number of places needed for pupils with severe and complex special needs, as a subset of the overall total must be made. Consequently, in the discussion currently ongoing regarding capital investment in Herefordshire special schools, sufficient flexible provision to support those with severe and complex needs should be planned for.

Decision making body for

Proposal A -

Proposal B -

Proposal C -

S Woodrow 31 October 2016. Revised 22 Nov. 2016. Revised 5 Jan 2017 to show resourced provision.