

## Appendix 1 - Questions from members of the council and responses

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
MQ 1	Councillor SM Michael	Parents with children on the autistic spectrum are being turned away from the named designated schools within our county. Will the committee commit to scrutinising what provision is being made to ensure these and future children do not have to seek schools outside the county or have to home educate as this can have a detrimental effect on both the children and the families?	Chairman of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

### Chairman's response

The Council seeks to fulfil its duty to provide sufficient and suitable education for all of its children and young people including those with SEND. Although there is not a specialist designated school specifically for children on the autism spectrum, there are specialist resource bases for children on the autism spectrum at Hampton Dene Primary School and the Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat School. Our designated special schools for learning difficulty (Barrs Court, Blackmarston and Westfield) only admit children with a primary need of severe learning difficulty, profound and multiple learning difficulty as to admit other children would not provide a suitable education in line with the Council's statutory duty. Council officers are not aware of children meeting the criteria for the special schools who are not being admitted. Occasionally, the Council does have parents expressing a preference for a special school place where children do not meet the criteria. It is appropriate for the school to refuse to accept the child for this reason. The Council always consults with the school in line with parental wishes. In a very small number of cases, where children have very specialist needs as part of their autism condition, we have to seek specialist setting and some of these are in neighbouring counties. However, all of these are within 10 miles of the Herefordshire border. If parents choose to electively home educate, which they have a right to do, the Council would still need to determine whether they are in a position to offer a suitable education taking into account any specialist needs that the child might have. The Council also has a duty to keep SEN provision under review. The all-age autism strategy is currently being re-drafted and will contain a commitment to review educational provision for autism in line with this duty.