

Review of SEND Capacity and Projection Data

Current Capacity:

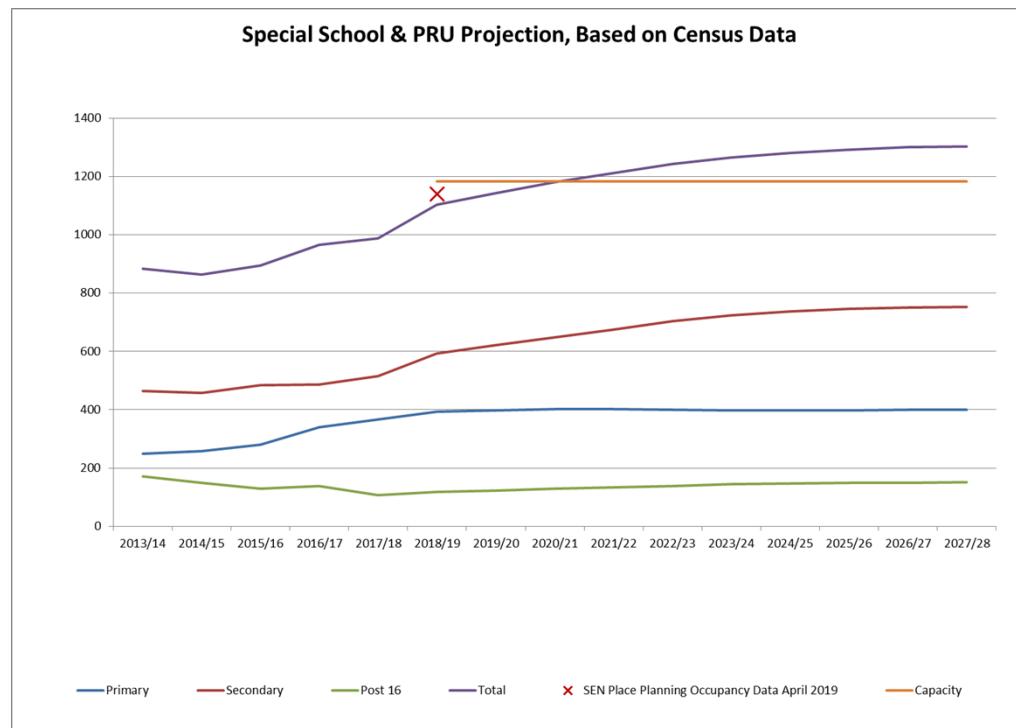
Feedback from Special schools and data from the Council Place Planning Team demonstrates that many of our settings are reaching capacity. Increasingly providers and the Council have to work together in innovative ways to ensure there are enough funded places within the city to cater for the young people that need them.

Funded places vrs the area guidelines for special schools (BB104)

Funded places are in effect what the SEND estate feels it is able to offer. The Council often supports schools with capital to utilise space more efficiently in order 'find' additional capacity. The area guidelines for special schools are different in that it looks at the appropriate area for young people with special needs rather than how many can be squeezed into a building. Over the next 6 months the Council will review the area capacity of its SEND schools and review against DfE area guidelines. This will allow us to consider the space requirements for young people with needs and assess if we are providing appropriate spaces. This will define if schools are overfull or if we can use them more efficiently.

It is worth noting that schools ideally operate at 90% capacity to allow for parental choice and the ability to accommodate short notice high priority young people. Numbers in special schools can vary across the year as pupils are placed and move from mainstream schools or from ALP. How full the schools are depends when in the year you look at the numbers in some cases.

Occupancy/capacity



- The orange line represents capacity based on funded places.
- The Blue line represents projected primary number. These have seen a small increase but will stay consistent.
- The Red line represents secondary capacity. This sees a significant increase through to 2027/28.
- The projections are based on census data collected in January 2019. The X signifies the real situation based on data collected in April 2019 and shows that current situation is ahead of projections.

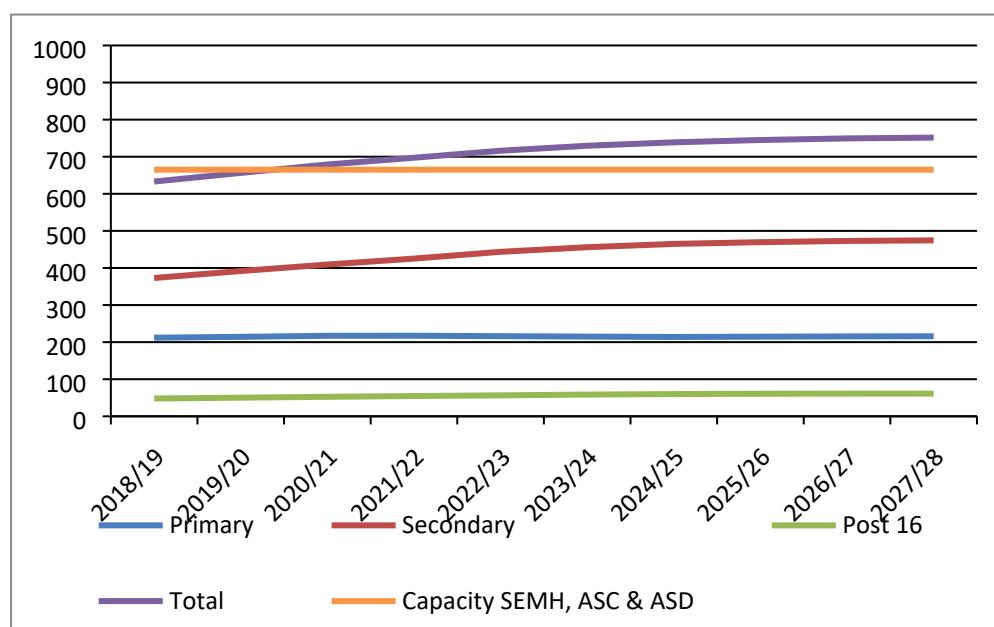
Key Numbers and info:

- Assuming diagnosis rates remain consistent we will reach capacity in 2020/21
- 120 additional places will be needed by 2027/28
- The majority of those places are in secondary and for the large growth need area of young people with autism needs (SEMH/SLCN/ASC/ASD)
- The next section will identify what need types are driving the need.

Pressure by Need Types:

The data shows that the largest need types are for children with autistic needs including SEMH, ASD and ASC. Many of the other types such as hearing impairment and PMLD have much smaller numbers and do not have the ‘critical mass’ to affect overall need significantly.

Proportion SEMH, ASC & ASD



This graph shows how SEMH, ASC and ASD need types specifically intersect with current capacity. As the main graph we see we reach full capacity in 2021/22.

The data indicates that assuming no changes in diagnosis rates then **87** new SEMH/ASD/ASC places will be required by 2027/28. With additional capacity needed from 2020.

Key Considerations:

ALP strategy

Due to a lack of SEMH/ASD and ASC places it is currently common for young people with those specific needs and often EHCP's to be sent to ALP provision. Alternative Learning Provision fulfils the role of Pupil Referral Units (PRU's) and should not be seen as a permanent solution. Council strategy is now based around reducing and eliminating the use of ALP where it is not the appropriate for the needs of the pupil (when a pupil has an EHCP). This will require permanent special school places to be made available.

These additional numbers are not quantified in the data within this report.

Free Schools

The DfE are currently developing a new SEMH/ASD/ASC school to be run by the Learn@ Trust. This will be in South Gloc (the old Soundwell fire station site) and provide the opportunity of 80 places from 2021.

The DfE are also building an 80 place ALP provision in Sea Mills. This would be unsuitable for SEMH/ASC/ASD pupils who form the majority of our capacity challenge in the short to medium term.

Non registered settings

The Council will not be utilising unregistered providers. This puts further pressure on currently stressed capacity.

Diagnosis rates and higher complexity of diagnosis

SEND colleagues have articulated that there have been significant increases in diagnosis rates and levels of complex needs. Current projections make no assumptions about increases however any increase over the current trends will result in insufficient capacity and the need to purchase additional expensive Independent Non Maintained (INM) places.

Anticipated Future Capacity Requirements

To ensure to ensure medium term sufficiency two key projects that deliver 120 places are critical. These are:

1. Learn@ Soundwell – 80 SEMH/ASD/ASC places. To be constructed by DfE
2. KnowleDGE Sixth Form – 40 additional 11-16 SEMH/ASD/ASC places to be constructed by BCC

Once complete yearly monitoring of actual data is required. Future projects could be initiated at Briarwood or other settings to ensure sufficiency of places and minimise INM placements.