

Statement: PS14.01

Cabinet – 14th JANUARY 2023

Re: Agenda item 14 - Local Area SEND Re-inspection October 2022

Statement submitted by: UNISON

Bristol UNISON statement; to agenda item 14 SEND Local Area Re-inspection October 2022.

to agenda item.

We note the report's findings and that some improvements have been made.

We also note that there is a desire to improve interaction with parents and ensure that their children receive adequate school placements. Also of note is the reluctance of some schools to provide places for SEND pupils and the lack of resources.

This has also been highlighted by the schools Forum, who are looking to provide places for pupils, within existing school provision in Bristol. The term "oven ready" has been used.

We wish to bring Cabinet's attention to St Barnabas School, which is earmarked for closure. We have tried to engage with the public consultation and brought this to the attention of the schools forum.

St Barnabas is a small school, with falling numbers. With a capacity of 210, but only 70 pupils at present. However, it is a wonderful SEND resource and could offer significant support to numerous pupils and improve relations with SEND parents.

The school could also serve as an assessment centre. Where professional analysis of pupil's individual needs could be undertaken,

Please see our attached statements that have been fed into the public consultation.

St Barnabas has two sensory rooms, 4 vacant classrooms, a safe and enclosed play area, a modern 4G sports pitch, a forest school provision and already caters for SEND children.

Furthermore, the pupil numbers are likely to increase as new builds in the area are finalised.

We implore Cabinet to analyse this educational community resource, in line with the findings and proposed outcomes from the local area re-inspection.

“A panel of representatives with a broad range of roles and experience had been brought together within the ‘Belonging with SEND’ programme for 2022-2023. The Panel, focused on inclusion within mainstream schools and settings, had met initially to discuss the allocation of funding in line with a strong evidence base and in conjunction with sustainability, scalability, value for money as well as alignment with other strategies. The Forum were asked to support the incorporation of already identified (“oven ready”)

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Our question is, has this panel been consulted with, regarding the closure of St Barnabas. The closure of a central primary school, with significant SEND resources, does not seem to be logical.

20. Update on High Needs (Delivering Best Value)

“The programme had the key focus on sustainability and delivering better value within the SEND system. This included service efficiencies, early intervention and increasing capacity.”

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Within this agenda item, there are numerous references to in-house SEND provision and financial sustainability. As above, it would seem that a decision to close St Barnabas at this time lacks logic.

On behalf of Bristol UNISON