



Torbay SEN 2019 CAPITAL FUNDING

Consultation Report June 2019

| Method | Number of Valid Responses |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Total on-line | 14 |
| Blank Submissions | 1 |

This consultation was open between

3 May to 30 May 2019

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1. Executive Summary

Local Authorities must ensure there are sufficient good school places for all pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The Government originally committed £215 million of capital funding, subsequently increased to £365 million, to help local authorities create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with SEN and disabilities. This funding is:

- intended for the children and young people with education, health and care plans for whom the local authority is responsible.
- to support local authorities to invest in provision for children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 to improve the quality and range of provision available to the local authority.

The following areas have been identified by Torbay Council and are built upon the overall proposal for the funding stream which was initially consulted on in 2018:

| | |
|--|--|
| Special unit or resourced provision: | <p>Enhanced provision at the Spires school for students with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) - (this is now in operation and growing)</p> <hr/> <p>Additional provision to support students with at Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties (SEMH) to be developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at Paignton Community and Sports Academy (PCSA) – (this is now in operation and growing) • at 3 primary schools within Torbay (yet to be identified) • at 1-2 secondary schools within Torbay (yet to be identified) • at South Devon College for post-16 students |
| Pupil referral unit and alternative provision academy: | Expansion of Medical Tuition Service (MTS) to include Post 16 provision – (Plans to move the site of MTS to aid expansion are underway) |
| Mainstream school or college: | Access grants available for mainstream schools (not special schools), private/voluntary and early years providers to submit bids – (in 2018-2019 there were 9 successful applications for projects to increase inclusion within mainstream schools) |

The purpose of the 2019 consultation was to gather opinions on these proposals and inform the decision making process regarding implementation.

The consultation was intended for pupils with SEND, their parents/carers, all Torbay schools and residents of Torbay. It started on 3 May 2019 and closed at midnight on the 30 May 2019. An on-line questionnaire and briefing paper were published on the Torbay Council website and promoted both via Children Services and through direct correspondence with partners.

This Report covers the analysis of the information provided in the valid on-line responses that were received.

Where the on-line responses were essentially blank, in circumstances where the survey was opened but submitted with the overwhelming majority of questions unanswered, these were been placed in a separate category as "Invalid". In this way if they did contain any small items of data from when the person considered submitting a response, such as the category of submission only, these did not affect the analysis of data from the fully completed or the almost fully completed questionnaires.

Overall, the majority (85.7%) of respondents were in agreement with the proposals that were put forwards. Two respondents (14.3%) were unsure with one citing the need for greater clarity around implementation and the second giving no reasons. None of the respondents disagreed with the proposals.

Themes which emerged from the written responses to Q2a covered the need for there to be more assistance in the main stream educational environment, and to increase the pool of local expertise (which would tend to keep funding resources within Torbay). Those from Q3 set out a need for greater expenditure on local specialist schools.

2. Summary of Results

- 86% of respondents confirmed that they were in support of the proposal;
- 0% of the respondents confirmed that they were against the proposal;
- 14% of the respondents were 'Not sure';
- 93% of the respondents were Staff Members at a school in Torbay;
- 29% of the respondents were male and 71% were female;
- 79% of the respondents were between 35 and 64 years of age with the largest single age group being from 45 to 54 years of age (43%);
- One of the respondents (7%) considered themselves to be disabled in some way but did not indicate what effect this had on them.

3. Detailed Results

1. Are you completing this questionnaire as:

| | Number | Percent |
|--|-----------|-------------|
| A young person living in Torbay | 0 | 0.0% |
| A governor at a school in Torbay | 0 | 0.0% |
| A Staff Member at a school in Torbay | 12 | 85.7% |
| A Parent or Carer of a child at a school in Torbay | 0 | 0.0% |
| A Torbay Resident | 0 | 0.0% |
| Other | 2 | 14.3% |
| Total | 14 | 100% |
| No answer | 0 | |

After adjustment as per explanatory answers given to Q1a

| | Number | Percent |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| A young person living in Torbay | 0 | 0.0% |
| A governor at a school in Torbay | 0 | 0.0% |
| A Staff Member at a school in Torbay (Adjusted as per answers to Q1a) | 13 | 92.9% |
| A Parent or Carer of a child at a school in Torbay | 0 | 0.0% |
| A Torbay Resident | 0 | 0.0% |
| Other | 1 | 7.1% |
| Total | 14 | 100% |
| No answer | 0 | |

2. Do you agree with the proposed options to be funded through the SEN Capital Fund?

| | Number | Percent |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| Yes | 11 | 78.6% |
| No | 0 | 0.0% |
| Not sure | 3 | 21.4% |
| Total | 14 | 100% |
| No answer | 0 | |

After adjustment as per explanatory answers given to Q2a

| | Number | Percent |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Yes (Adjusted as per answers to Q2a) | 12 | 85.7% |
| No | 0 | 0.0% |
| Not sure | 2 | 14.3% |
| Total | 14 | 100% |
| No answer | 0 | |

Q2a Please tell us why you gave the above answer:

This question asked respondents to make written explanatory comments.

Two themes came out from the responses to Q2a and were made by those **in agreement with proposed options**. These were:

- a. To support children within the main stream of the education process; and
- b. To reduce the level of spending on services / expertise which moves so much funding out of Torbay. It is suggested or implied that there be investment in building that expertise locally.

3. Do you have any other suggestions as to how the SEN Funding should be spent?

This question also asked respondents to make written comments. The theme which came out of the responses follows on from those to Q2a with four similar, but not identical, suggestions (the last from a respondent who was “unsure” with regard to the proposals). This theme cuts across all three types of response to Q2 and is detailed in the following short extracts from the answers, namely:

- a. ...additional money be spent on further supporting SEMH schools around the bay...;
- b. ... additional support to children with MLD and other issues...;
- c. ...enhance the specialist school provision in Torbay...;
- d. Increase place funding at special schools to allow them to provide additional support to the most vulnerable students.

All of the responses to Q2a and Q3 have been included at Annex 1 to this Report. They are set out in the order of the answers to Q2 by:

- a. Agreement with the proposals and then alphabetically for the responses to Q2a;
- b. Next the “Not sure” response which has text at the start of the Q2a answer stating that the proposals **are** actually agreed with;
- c. Finally the two remaining “Not sure” responses – even though the last of these has no associated text for either Q2a or Q3. It is included for completeness and to demonstrate that the totals given in the Tables within the Report have been correctly extracted and displayed.

4. Respondent Profile

Gender

| | Number | Percent |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| Male | 4 | 28.6% |
| Female | 10 | 71.4% |
| Total | 14 | 100% |
| No answer | 0 | |

Age – which of the following age groups applies to you?

| | Number | Percent |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| 0 – 15 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 16 – 24 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 25 – 34 | 1 | 7.1% |
| 35 – 44 | 3 | 21.4% |
| 45 – 54 | 6 | 42.9% |
| 55 – 64 | 2 | 14.3% |
| 65 –74 | 1 | 7.1% |
| 75+ | 1 | 7.1% |
| Total | 14 | 100% |
| No answer | 0 | |

Disability - do you consider yourself to be disabled in any way?

| | Number | Percent |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| Yes | 1 | 7.1% |
| No | 13 | 92.9% |
| Total | 14 | 100% |
| No answer | 0 | |

If Yes, please tell us how it affects you:

| | Number | Percent |
|------------------------------|--------|---------|
| It affects my hearing | | |
| It affects my vision | | |
| It affects my mobility | | |
| It affects me in another way | | |

Note: There were no responses to this section.

5. Conclusion

This consultation did not attract a huge number of responses and the majority were from staff members of Torbay schools. However, as would be expected from this source, the written responses were concise and to the point.

The majority of the responses (86%) received were in support of how the Council proposes to use the additional funding to enhance the inclusivity of educational and early years provision in Torbay.

Respondents acknowledged that the number of children presenting with additional needs is growing and that the Council has a duty to support them by providing them with the best possible opportunities to succeed. The importance and value of offering this support in mainstream settings was recognised.

There was no outright opposition to the proposals (0% disagreed with the proposals) while suggestions on alternative uses for the additional funding suggested there should be more funding/intervention at specialist schools.

Only two respondents (after adjustment according to statements in Q2a) actually responded 'Not sure', and only one gave any reasons. This respondent was not against what was proposed but did want more clarity on the SEMH provisions, their delivery and the impact on current SEMH school places.

In conclusion, the online consultation showed the majority of the respondents to be supportive of the proposals presented.

Responses to Questions 2, 2a and 3 – Sorted by answers to Q2

| Q2 Do you agree with the proposed options to be funded through the SEN Capital Fund? | Q2a Please tell us why you gave the above answer (regarding agreement with the proposed options): | Q3 Do you have any other suggestions as to how the SEN Funding should be spent? |
|--|---|--|
| Yes | Extra provision in mainstream to ensure that needs are met | Unit in a mainstream school for sight impaired children (this may be covered and I am unaware of it). |
| Yes | Focus on keeping children in mainstream education whilst recognising the need for additional funding in order for this to happen. | |
| Yes | I believe that supporting mainstream schools in supporting students with SEMH is fantastic especially if it keeps them in a main stream setting . I do also believe that some of this money needs to support additional provisions within special schools as the needs of students around the bay are becoming more complex. | How can additional money be spent on further supporting SEMH schools around the bay to meet the ever increasing complexity of the students. |
| Yes | It would be good to get more specialist placements set up. | No |
| Yes | More enhanced provisions are needed in Torbay. | No, this seems a sensible plan |
| Yes | Specialist provision will enable more children to stay within mainstream provision . | Outreach is extremely useful in extreme situations. |
| Yes | The need is obvious. We need to make provisions for our more vulnerable pupils in Torbay provision of <u>slow the spending on out of county places</u> | |
| Yes | The proposal aims to meet the main areas of need in Torbay. | |
| Yes | There is an increased level of need within the area for the new proposals | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | There is so much additional need in the bay. | More funding could be given to mainstream schools to provide additional support to children with MLD and other issues. There has been a lot of training for social and emotional needs, but not for those who really struggle cognitively. |
| Yes | We must do something to <u>reduce the spend on our higher needs group going out of area</u> - we need to develop expertise within the bay to help ALL schools have better capacity to support these children within mainstream. | |
| Not sure (In fact "Yes" when the highlighted response to Q2a is taken into account) | Agree with the proposals and that the services they will provide are essential to help us continue to meet the rising social, emotional, mental health and SEN needs of children and young people in the Torbay area. Working at Brunel Academy I have to put unsure as an increase in mainstream provision for ASC, SEMH etc. will have an impact on our student population , type and level of need. | Know the funding is being used efficiently to enhance ability to meet growing SEN need in mainstream schools throughout Torbay. However special schools such as ourselves cannot access this funding. I would be happy to find another funding possibility to enhance the specialist school provision in Torbay too, i.e. our plan to have a vocational centre and sixth form. |
| Not sure | It is not clear on what 'new' SEMH provisions are going deliver, how they will deliver, where the specialist support will come from and what impact it has on current SEMH school places. | Increase place funding at special schools to allow them to provide additional support to the most vulnerable students |
| Not sure | No response | No response |

The two themes in responses to Q2a are emphasised in bold or underlined respectively. The single theme from the responses to Q3 are highlighted in bold.

For further information please contact the [Education Team](#), TDA on 01803 208260 or email educationteam@tda.uk.net

The information used to collate this report has been collected and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act, and the GDPR.

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