

Keeping you up to date following our review of provision for children & young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Progress to date:

We are delighted to announce that the East and West Governing Bodies have formally notified that Adrian Carver and Rachel Burstow have accepted the role of Executive Head teacher for their respective Hub. Adrian Carver will lead the East Hub (including Downs View, the Cedar Centre and Downs View Link College) and Rachel Burstow will lead the West Hub (including Hillside and Downs Park). Work can now be undertaken in conjunction with the Executive Head teachers and their Governing Bodies to develop the provision provided through the Hub.

We can also confirm that the post of Executive Headteacher for the SEMH Hub has been nationally advertised and interviews are arranged for the beginning of December. We will update on this recruitment in further newsletters.

Joint committees established in respect of both the East and West hubs formulated proposals to enable governors from the CPD Federation to join the governing bodies of both Downs View and Hillside schools. These reconstituted governing bodies, which are scheduled to be operative in January 2018, will facilitate joint working and decision making across the governing bodies of the schools before the hubs formally come into existence in September 2018.

Additionally, the two management committees for the PRUs should have completed their merger by the end of January 2018. Homewood has now successfully re-constituted to include representation from the management committees. This will allow for successful joint working between the PRUs and the SEMH School in the future

What planning work is being undertaken at the moment:

We are currently in the final phase of school place planning for the new Hubs. This has been quite a detailed piece of work as we have been required to look carefully at our current pupils, what properties we currently use and what property we expect to use in the future. This would also include projecting our future pupil numbers in our specialist facilities. This has resulted in a number of options being raised and explored to establish the least disruptive process for our current and future pupils, particularly as we are aware that extensive building work will be required.

As part of this plan, we have explored all of the main buildings linked to each Hub and started the preliminary planning process. We know that we expect significant building work at both Downs View and Homewood and our aim is to ensure that any building work is as least disruptive to our children and young people as we can. We will be working closely with parents/carers to ensure trouble free transition. For many children and young people, this will mean no change to their school base.

The official planning process is due to begin in January 2018 with building works likely to start in September 2018 with a potential completion date of summer 2019. It is anticipated that buildings will be ready for occupation in September 2019.

The vision for integration and extended days:

One of the main questions raised in relation to the development of the Hubs is what is meant by integration? We thought it may be helpful to outline the LA's perspective. Fundamentally, integration is when professional boundaries begin to dissolve and new ways of working begin to emerge. Subsequently, instead of working as solo entities, teams/services deliver to children, young people and families a seamless approach without evidence of boundaries. The critical factor is the importance of cultural integration. Integration is a way of thinking differently; a mutual willingness to change. Therefore, our emphasis is based on service integration; how we deliver our services collectively.

An example of things we would like to see develop are:

- Both health and social care being represented on each Hub's leadership team to develop a shared understanding of needs
- For children to have every element of their Education, Health and Care Plan commissioned and delivered by services available in each Hub, where possible
- For families to receive the right support at the right time through the school based networks
- For families to receive the right advice and signposting through the school based networks
- Clear collaboration is evident to children and their families and this is making a positive difference to their outcome

This does not mean a loss of specialism or professional identity but a shared commitment to working together to make a bigger impact.

Forthcoming consultations:

As part of the development of the Hubs, further consultation work will be undertaken in relation to a number of issues. Firstly, the proposals for children and young people already placed in the Cedar Centre School will need further consultation to ensure each pupil has a clear proposal and pathway for their placement from September 2018 once the Centre has officially closed. Throughout this process, we will co-produce plans with parents/carers, Executive Head teachers and parent/carer forums to ensure the proposals are clear, transparent and fair.

A critical element of the Hubs is the development of the proposals for delivering the extended day and short breaks offer. An initial document outlining the options available has been drafted and is currently being considered in terms of feasibility.

Work is also underway with our health colleagues to identify what our extended health provision might look like. This will require the views of the Executive Head teachers, parents and carers to ensure their views and ideas are outlined. A number of meetings are planned in the coming months.

Jeanne Saunders Centre (specialist nursery):

Further to the initial scope that is considering moving the specialist nursery provision from the Penny Gobby building, the views of parents/carers were gathered at a meeting last week. The meeting was very well attended by past and present parents. Alongside this, further work is being planned, concentrating on parents who have children that are under 3 years old and are likely to require specialist provision longer in the future. This allows the LA to consider the views of current and future users of this service.

At this point, further negotiations are taking place to identify the new specialist nursery site. Further update will be provided at a later date.

New Special Facility:

We have recently undertaken visits to two existing National Autistic Society special facilities that are open in a neighbouring LA. These visits were undertaken with a Brighton Head Teacher and SENCO to explore if we can establish this type of facility in a Brighton mainstream secondary school. The visits were very interesting and allowed us to see the facilities in operation. A tour of one building was led by pupils who attend the facility so we were able to gain their views first hand.

The National Autistic Society is now planning to visit a secondary school in Brighton to undertake a survey to see if the new facility can be hosted at this school. We will update when a final decision is reached.

Government Grant:

The Government has announced that all Local Authorities will be offered the ability to apply for a grant in order to develop a capital project for children with special educational needs. Any bid from Brighton must be made in co-production and agreement with PAC and Amaze. Submissions must be made by 31st March 2018. Negotiations between PAC, Amaze and the Local Authority have already begun and we hope to submit a bid. Further updates will be provided once the details of our project are complete. Use this link if you would like more information <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-provision-capital-funding-for-pupils-with-ehc-plans>

Viewpoint:

This is a new item that we will continue in every Newsletter until the SEN Review is completed. Within this section we will provide you with a profile of someone linked to the SEN Review. This could be a parent, child, school or one of the people working on behalf of the Council. In each review, the person will outline what their individual role is in the SEN Review and what impact it has had on them. Please do contact Deborah.Johnson@brighton-hove.gov.uk if there is a particular viewpoint you would like to see presented in the future.



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**