

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 27th September 2011

REPORT OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

COMMISSIONING SPECIALIST PLACES FOR PUPILS WITH STATEMENTS OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SSEN)

Executive Summary

At the Schools Forum in July 2011 £120,000 was identified and agreed to be used to commission specialist places for pupils with SSEN for Social Communication Difficulties/Autistic Spectrum Disorders (SCD/ASD).

This paper seeks agreement to commission these places from Clare Mount Special School and consult with secondary schools and academies on this proposal.

Background

Clare Mount Secondary Special School meets the need of pupils with moderate learning difficulties and, in addition, has Resourced Provision to meet the needs of pupils with SCD/ASD. Clare Mount currently provides 30 places in its Resourced Provision, 10 from historic funding and a further 20 have been created over the last 2 years, with the Forum's agreement, to convert funding from 17 MLD places into 10 ASD places each year. Clare Mount has also received additional monies to develop this Resourced Provision. This process has run in parallel to the development of Resourced Provision in mainstream secondary schools for pupils with MLD.

Both of these developments have proved popular with parents. There are currently no empty places for Resourced Provision at Clare Mount School.

The demand for specialist SCD/ASD places continues to grow locally and nationally. As such places can cost at least 2 to 3 times in the non-maintained sector the proposal is about developing local provision.

Recommendations

The Forum is asked to:

- Support the proposal to consult all secondary schools that the £120,000 be placed in Clare Mount School's budget in April 2012 to secure 8 further places in its Resourced Provision for SCD/ASD bringing its total number in the provision to 38.

David Armstrong
Interim Director of Children's Services