

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to inform you that a proposal is going to Cabinet next month, which is looking to unlock funding for a significant investment in Bristol's special schools.

Young people and adults with SEND and their families are a priority for Bristol City Council.

It's really important to us that improvements in SEND in Bristol are co-produced with parents, carers, families, communities, and our partners in education and health, so all the proposals outlined in the Cabinet paper will be subject to a full consultation process.

We will carry out a full consultation in the autumn with all schools, the City of Bristol College, parents, pupils, communities and all other stakeholders prior to progressing feasibility options.

The SEND Sufficiency and Capital Proposals outline an investment of over £28m in Bristol's special schools, which would see major improvements to current special schools, as well as significantly increasing the number of specialist provision places in new and refurbished buildings for students with SEND.

The proposals outlined would enable us to increase our offer of specialist provision for children and young adults with SEND and at the same time, address the suitability and condition of the current buildings used for educating pupils with SEND.

These new and refurbished buildings would provide high quality learning environments for vulnerable children and young adults, designed specifically to meet SEND teaching needs, including much improved facilities for mobility, environmental control, welfare, landscapes, and hydrotherapy facilities, for example.

If approved, the proposals would enable the council to deliver more specialist provision for children and young adults with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans to help meet its statutory requirements - relieving pressure on the current system and providing better outcomes for families and carers with children and young people with SEND.

We look forward to engaging with you further on this and will be in touch with more information about the upcoming consultation.

Councillor Anna Keen

Alison Hurley

Cabinet Lead Member for Education and Skills

Director for Education and Skills