

DERBY'S SEND LOCAL OFFER

Local Offer User Group Notes

Meeting Tuesday 18 June 11.30am-1.00pm

Attendees:

Amanda Allsop (AA) Peter Cades (PC), Sally Morton (SM), Catherine Omara (CO)
Charlotte Dolman (CD), Daniel Marson (DM)

Summary of discussion on Enhanced Resource Provision

To determine attendees' views on Enhanced Resource Provision (ERP) and how to communicate these views to parent carers.

DM presented the ERP plan and explained ERP as part of the wider system.

AA: In her experience, primary and secondary ERP is not same, no access to a mainstream curriculum.

DM: agreed the pathways need revising.

PC: There are not enough special school places. Are ERP's fit for purpose?

DM: This is a far point, it should be about placing the right child, in the right place.
1. Decision around placement
2. Special schools support ERPs with the correct specialisms
3. We are doing this in commissioning.

PC: It's not clear cut.

DM: The model isn't quite right yet, children need provision both in special schools and mainstream, need space within mainstream, a safe space.

PC: Asked if there was a service level agreement.

DM: Yes this can be shared. Funding is fundamental. Conversations are happening with schools for another 12-20 places. In talks with academy trusts to commission empty classroom space.

PC: Cost wise how does ERP compare to independent schools?



DM: Approximate values:
£18k per child for ERP
£23k per child for state school
£86k per child for independent schools

There's a need to make our local offer schools as attractive to parents and carers as independent schools. What would make parent carers choose an ERP?

AA: Independent schools have all the specialisms.

PC: School travel is a big consideration.

DM: Agreed travel is an issue, being near home is important. However, school travel is a huge financial concern for the council. What are the concerns?

AA: having a local secondary school to be able to go with their peers.

DM: 200x places are in the plan. Primary schools have more space, the challenge is in secondary.

PC: Academy trusts are more difficult to engage than local authority run schools.

DM: 8x primary schools have provisionally agreed to have ERP which are across 3x academy trusts.

AA: A positive for ERP is the ability to achieve, e.g. GCSE's. Special schools don't do that, ERP's look at ability. A negative for ERPS is the expectation of bullying.

DM: Schools need to reassure parents.

AA: They need a bullying policy and to educate the whole school about SEND and lastly a reporting mechanism.

DM Agreed to take these ideas back and to look to see what else is done across the country.

PC: What about the children for ERP is not appropriate? This £86k would rise.

DM: Accepts the need for independent schools, that a minority of children do need that level of specialism. It's about our 6 special schools having capacity to be able to meet the needs of the most complex young people.

PC: If capacity is the issue, how do we increase it?

DM: There is capital funding. E.G. £5.9m is being spent on St Clare's for building refurbishment by end of 2025. There is £11m to use increasing capacity across the other special schools. In conversation with all special schools. Derby is within the national average for the percentage of children within special school provision.

CO: Shared two stories from parent carers at local offer schools where the children's safety became an issue by being left unattended in a changing room and a reaction to a food allergy.



DM: Both these schools scored Good and Outstanding with Ofsted. Health & Safety policies are up to the schools, local authority can't specify details. However, these stories do affect parent carer confidence.

AA: Is there an intention to try to move children from their current school into an ERP? Children currently in special schools going to mainstream or ERP or the other way?

DM: It depends where children are in their academic lives whether a change of placement is appropriate, whether the current placement continues to be suitable or an efficient use of public resources.

AA: The plan is from September? There maybe capacity issues because ERP need to be larger.

AA: ERP's appear more special than special schools, they are a lot calmer.

PC: Shared the story of his son transition to Derby Moore, where he didn't cope so went to St Clare's. If there had been an ERP then he may have achieved more.

AA: Need to protect special schools to ensure they are being used to support the most complex needs, and to ensure that those who don't need that level of support have the opportunity to access ERPs.

DM: Agreed the breadth of need in schools is broad.

PC: What happened to the Hub and Spoke idea?

DM: Parked for now with focus on supporting mainstream schools to develop their ERP. It's possible mainstream will have a satellite school, the idea is not off the table.

AA: Are ERP's up to aged 16?

DM: Yes pre-16 however post-16 is being looked at. Sixth Forms might be commissioned to provide places.

AA: What about Derby College?

DM: College is very different but there are conversations with the city and the county to develop something. Proposals are being taken to trusts.

PC: Had a good experience with Derby College.

AA: Will this be publicized?

DM: Yes, 8 schools have been approved for the end of the academic year. However, there are concerns around managing parent carers expectations, an element of control as to how to publicise it.

PC: What about young people who don't need an ERP but have an EHCP – where's the money for them?



DM: Is building a business case, planning a financial model for those without a plan.

PC: Need to provide the people to make those decisions.

AA: Primary schools are nervous to apply for EHC assessments, they keep it under wraps. Once you're in an independent school, there's no coming back until aged 19.

DM: £19m that is not serving Derby schools.

AA: £19m could be for our children.

DM: Agreed! Only agrees to independent schools when there is no comparable offer in the local offer.

DM thanked attendees and is taking all the points above raised back to our working group meetings.

Action: CD

- Email these meeting slides
- Email set of standards
- Email draft service level agreement

AOB

None.

Next meeting in September

CD to circulate suggested topics for discussion.
CD to look at dates for the next meeting.

