

## **Update on expenditure the expenditure on Independent Specialist Placements (ISPs)**

### **Key Messages**

Forum members are asked to:

- Note the following information regarding the cost of ISPs being used by Sheffield, and our strategy to manage the number of these high-cost placements.

### **1. Introduction/background**

- 1.1. At the February meeting of the Schools Forum, members requested additional information relating to the increased budgets for ISPs. The table below shows the extract from the February Paper 4 - High Needs Funding Block Allocation.

	2022/2023	2023/2024
	£,000	£,000
Independent Placements (pre-16)	5,898	7,154
Independent Placements (post-16)	2,835	3,523
	<b>8,733</b>	<b>10,677</b>

### **2. Expenditure**

- 2.1. Expenditure on ISPs has increased for two reasons. The first being increases in charges due to pay inflation and general inflation. The second being the increased number of placements.
- 2.2. Since 2017 the overall placements in our special schools and ISPs have grown by 33%. Throughout that period the %age of placements in ISPs has remained constant at 6% - 7%.
- 2.3. The table below shows the overall increase in costs and number of placements in ISPs.

	Number of Placements	Cost £
April 2021	108	6,677,982
April 2022	124	7,679,801
April 2023	134	8,341,474
June 2023	140	9,295,532

2.4. For the financial year 2023/24:

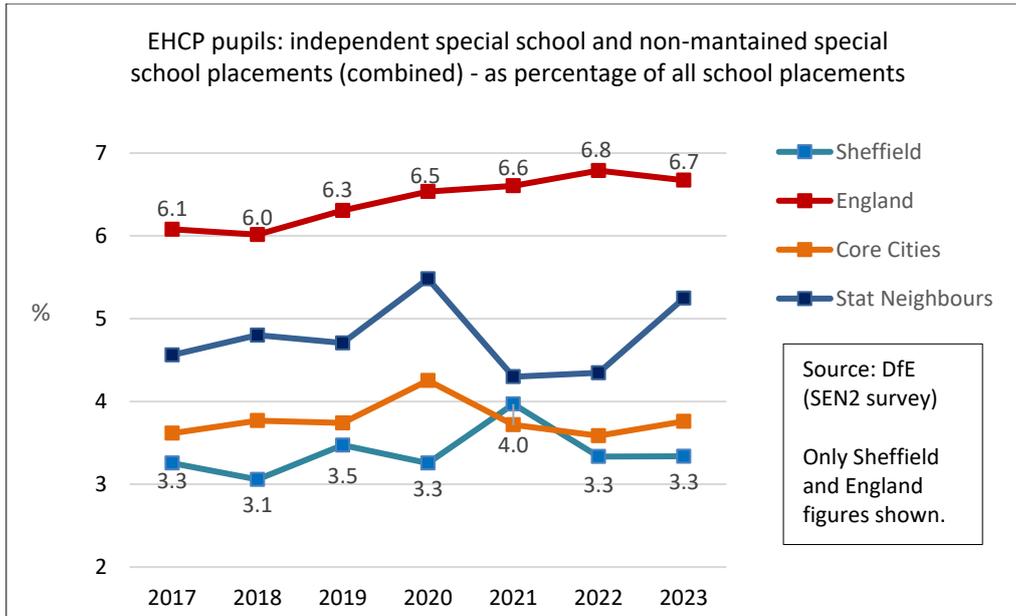
- 49% of placements in ISPs are for pupils with the primary need of ASD.
- 45% of placements are as an outcome from a tribunal.
- The cost of an ISP placement varies significantly depending on both the setting and the young person, see below:

Annual Cost	£
Average Cost	70,000
Lowest	13,000
Highest	111,000

### 3. Comparison with Other Local Authorities

3.1. In comparison to other local authorities, it doesn't appear that Sheffield stands out with the numbers of these placements.

3.2. The table below shows the %age of pupils and young people placed in ISPs and non-maintained special schools in comparison to England, core cities and statistical neighbours. We have used %ages to allow for the fact that the total pupil numbers will vary.



## 4. Future use of ISPs

- 4.1. For many young people, an ISP is the correct setting for them, and we will continue with these placements where that is the right decision.
- 4.2. With an average cost of £70k however, ISPs place a significant pressure on our high needs allocation. In Sheffield we have therefore, consistently planned to meet demand for High Needs places in our own provision wherever possible rather than being dependant of ISPs.

Two new special schools have been approved to meet some of the anticipated increased demand. We have expanded and will continue the strategy of growing our places in integrated resources. We are also looking to develop special-led hubs as part of our sufficiency activity. A special-led hub is co-located with a mainstream school – learners are placed on the roll of the special school.

Further information on how we plan to improve sufficiency of SEND placements is also available in Paper 7 - Capital Allocation.

- 4.3. To assist young people and their parent/carer identify the right setting for them, we are about to engage a dedicated Conciliation and Relationships Officer. They will work with families in or heading towards the Tribunal process and we hope that, in time, this will reduce Tribunal cases and help ensure that pupils are only placed in ISPs where it is the right option for their needs.

## 5. Recommendations

Forum members are asked to note:

- The factors driving the increase in expenditure.

- Our strategy to meet anticipated growth in demand for placements for young people with High SEND Needs.
- The drive to increase integrated resource and hub provision and consider whether their settings could support this.