

SSA EQUALITY IMPACT AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

Directorate	Children's Services
Service Area	Early Help
Service/policy/function being assessed	Siward Road Nursery
Which borough (s) does the service/policy apply to	Wandsworth
Staff involved	Rachel Egan, Paul Martland, Susan Reid Carol Payne
Date approved by Policy and Review Manager All EINAs must be signed off by the Policy and Review Manager	2 July 2018

SUMMARY

Siward Road nursery for children with social and communication difficulties and complex needs is a Council managed service located at Early Years Centre, SW17 (Earlsfield).

The provision predates the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Local Offer, which has improved choice and capacity, and is a legacy of a time when few nursery providers offered places to children with disabilities.

As this is no longer the case it is recommended that Siward Road Nursery ceases operation at the end of the summer term, 31st July 2018.

Children that would have taken up the offer at Siward Road for the 2018/19 academic year will be offered a range of alternative provision in a mainstream setting, a special school or a specialist Resource Base in a mainstream school. Including Little Hillbrook Resource Base, Paddock and Greenmead Schools, Balham and Eastwood Maintained Nursery Schools.

An enhanced package of support in these, appropriate to the needs of the child will be made available and funded through the Dedicated School Grant and the Early Years Inclusion Fund.

The current capacity of Siward Road Specialist Nursery is 16 places:-

8 for children with complex needs
8 for children with social and communication needs.

As at July 2018, 11 of the 16 places are occupied. The breakdown of these is: -

2 are of statutory nursery age and have confirmed places in primary reception for September

3 are of pre-nursery age and have confirmed places at nurseries in September.

3 have places at Greenmead. Discussion is ongoing about whether the children can also spend time at the Ronald Ross site as per the aim of co-locating the schools. However on the basis of parental preference one of these children has taken up a place at Balham Nursery, whilst a second parents is seeking a place at The Alton School in preference to Ronald Ross.

3 do not yet have a confirmed place although the Special Needs section is in discussion with a number of schools. This has resulted in a confirmed place for one child at Balham Nursery, and offer of the 15 hour early learning entitlement for one child at Paddock but this does not meet parental preference of 30 hours. Discussions for this child is active with Little Hillbrook. Visits are booked to several sites for the remaining child's parents as it is parental preference to see all of the options including those most closely identifying as meeting the child's needs.

The facilities at Siward Road will be used to continue provision of support to children with special educational needs and disabilities and will allow extension of current provision to provide family support to children up to the age of 8, that have been referred to the Autism Pathway for diagnosis

1-2-1 meetings and telephone consultations with a senior SEND advisor have been offered to the parents of all children impacted by this. 5 parents have taken up this option proposal to discuss options and packages of support.

Larger open and representative group meetings have also been held with parent representatives and representatives of parents whose children previously accessed Siward Road Specialist Nursery.

1. Background

The directly managed nursery for children with social and communication difficulties and complex needs operating at Siward Road Early Years Centre, SW17 (Earlsfield) predates the development of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Local Offer. The nursery was developed at a time when few mainstream providers offered places for nursery age children with special educational needs and disabilities. Local Special Schools' offer and capacity for younger children was also less developed.

The recommendation is to cease operation of Siward Nursery Road Nursery. The rationale for this change is supported by much better provision, support and expertise to help our young children with special needs at many other places throughout the borough.

Young children who would have chosen Siward Road now have a range of provision through which to access early education including Hillbrook Primary

School and Eastwood Nursery School. Both provide 10fte places for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder/Social Communication Disorder allowing 40 children to take up 15 hour places. Both schools are judged outstanding by Ofsted.

The maintained nursery schools Balham, Eastwood and Somerset are all graded Outstanding by Ofsted. Each nursery provides 4fte places for children with special educational needs and disabilities allowing 24 children to take up their 15 hour places.

Wandsworth special schools also offer assessment placements for children with very high levels of need. Greenmead (from 2yrs), Linden Lodge (from 2yrs) and Paddock (from 3yrs). Greenmead and Paddock are both judged 'Outstanding' and Linden Lodge is 'Good'.

A newly introduced Early Years Inclusion Grant is now in place with the specific intention of enabling as many children with SEND as possible to be included within mainstream early years provision. There are over 200 children supported by this which enables children to access their local settings with support fund with a range of diverse settings supporting them.

Strategic Direction

Our overall aim is that more children are access local mainstream settings with appropriate support. Those children with highly complex needs that cannot be accommodated in mainstream will make use of Greenmead Special School.

Prior to recent SEND improvements in capacity a number of children stayed longer at Siward Road than intended. The provision was designed to take children for one year (pre-nursery year) and then to include them in a more inclusive setting.

The staff in the early years and the SEND service will continue to work with parents of children attending the nursery who do not yet have a place confirmed for September 2018 that meets their needs. The majority of the children do have a confirmed place, though at the time of writing not all parents have yet been notified in writing as this is work in progress.

The Head of Special Needs, Disability and Psychology was consulted in the process. Consideration was also given to the findings of the recent Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) consultation and strategy that were reported to the Council's committees and to schools in February.

All children will continue to be provided with state funded pre-school or school places as appropriate, as they would have been even without the closure. The Inclusion Fund is available for individual packages of support based on the needs of the child. This process is managed through the Multi-agency Complex Needs Panel. This is accessible for all children and is not dependent of them having an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). This and the Disability Access Fund is accessible now and will continue to be available from September 2018.

We are reviewing the other services in early years for children with SEND to make sure that we are using our resources to provide a seamless offer of support for children with SEND. Proposals relating to this will be taken to September Overview and Scrutiny.

It is proposed that this Centre be closed on the 31st July 2018 as alternative provision is now in place and therefore the capacity at Siward Road Specialist Nursery is not needed.

2. Analysis of need and impact

Protected group	Findings
Age	<p>Siward Road Specialist Nursery provides early education for children aged two to four, though the focus is for 2 year olds. 11 children access this at provision at the nursery.</p> <p>2 of these children are aged 4 years 8 are aged 3 years 1 child is aged 2 years</p> <p>High quality early education is available for children aged 2, 3 and 4 in a range of settings in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hillbrook Primary School / Eastwood Nursery School who both have 10fte places for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder / Social Communication Disorder and therefore can have up to 40 children attending part-time per year. Both schools are judged outstanding by Ofsted. • The three maintained nursery schools Balham, Eastwood and Somerset who have additionally resourced provision for children with SEND, they can admit to up to 8 part-time places each (4fte) and have enhanced staffing to enable the children to access the mainstream setting. Again, all three are judged outstanding by Ofsted. • Wandsworth special schools are able to offer some assessment placements for children with very high levels of need for example at Greenmead (from 2yrs), Linden Lodge (from 2yrs) and Paddock (from 3yrs). Greenmead and Paddock are both judged 'outstanding' and Lindon Lodge is 'good'.

	The support for children in these settings is equivalent to or better than Siward Road Specialist Nursery.
Disability	Siward Road Nursery currently supports 11 children with social and communication difficulties and complex needs/disabilities.
Gender (sex)	Siward Road Nursery currently support 11 children, eight boys and three girls.
Gender reassignment/ Gender fluid/variant	n/a
Marriage and civil partnership	n/a
Pregnancy and maternity	n/a
Race/ethnicity	Ethnic breakdown is 6 Black African 3 Mixed Race (self-identified) 1 White British 1 White European
Religion and belief, including non belief	Data not collected
Sexual orientation	n/a

3. Impact

Protected group	Positive	Negative
Age	<p>Meeting the requirement for savings is not the driver for the proposed decision, the driver is about connecting children that need it, to the specialist provision we have developed in Wandsworth based on their needs and supporting as many children as possible to benefit from accessing mainstream provision. We want children with SEND to get the most they can from their early learning entitlement and along with our resource bases and specialist settings we now have our Early Years Inclusion Grant to support them to do so. The decision about Siward Nursery Road Nursery and the reason we want to make a change is because we now have much better provision, support and expertise to help our young children with special needs at many other places in the borough. The current offer of early education and childcare for children aged 2 - 4 with SEND is now well developed. We are able to meet the needs of children in the early years who need a specialist 2, 3 and 4 year old place without the capacity of the 8 places for children with social and communication needs and the 8 places for children with complex needs for which Siward Road Specialist Nursery could provide.</p>	<p>Any change to provision for young children may cause anxiety for some parents / carers. To support parents and carers we have allocated a Senior Member of the Early Years Advisory and Inclusion Team to support parents in understanding and looking at the range of provision and settings that are now available. With the exclusion of Tuesdays they have been at the nursery on a daily basis, both m to address any concerns parents have and to ensure there is clarity of how children and young people will access the support they need on an on-going basis this includes the following offer being made to parents / carers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advise you on what early years setting will best meet the needs of your child • facilitate and go with you visit early years settings that she thinks will best meet the needs of your child • support you in making an application for support with transport if needed for your child • be a point of contact and liaise with other professionals on your behalf • advocate for you and your child • arrange for your child's Key Worker at Siward Road Specialist Nursery to support your child to settle into their new early years setting • listen to your views and concerns • support you

	<p>The replacement provision will meet or exceed the quality of Siward Road Specialist Nursery. In schools children will benefit from qualified teachers, the SENCO and Speech and Language and Educational Psychologists who all make up the staffing of the school provision.</p>	<p>It has been confirmed that if any parents whose children are currently accessing Siward Road Specialist Nursery want their child to continue to do so in September 2018 this is an option. The majority of children do however have a plan of where they'll be going in September 2018. We will be ensuring all children have a place that parents and professionals feel meets their needs. Steps include support as set out above, working with Head Teachers to explore how best to meet the needs of children and give the required stretch, challenge and socialisation for example development of an additional class at Greenmead, looking at combining time at Greenmead with Ronald Ross, supporting children to access mainstream with enhanced inclusion packages.</p>
<p>Disability</p>	<p>Whilst Siward Road Nursery is a provision valued by parents it pre-dates the development of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Local Offer and was developed at a time when few mainstream providers offered provision for nursery age children with disabilities and local special schools' offer to younger children and their capacity was less well develop. Now the resources bases are able to support children providing early intervention starting from the age of two years.</p> <p>It is proposed that the space at Siward Road Specialist Nursery be utilised by the Garratt Park Advisory Service and Early Years Professionals providing support to children with SEND. This will allow them to extend their current provision and provide an enriched family support package for</p>	<p>Siward Road Nursery currently supports 11 children with social and communication difficulties and complex needs. Any changes will impact on these children.</p> <p>Of the 11 children, six have confirmed place for September, along with a further four who will receive confirmed places at the next Special Needs Panel on the 10th July 2018. The remaining one child is waiting for a nursery confirmation from a maintained school which is the parents' preferred choice. They would therefore have experienced a change in support in September 2018. Individual meetings have been held with parents to discuss the changes and confirm that the pre-agreed packages provide support for the individual children.</p> <p>A member of the Early Years Team has been at the nursery on a daily basis to address any concerns parents have and to ensure there is clarity of how children and young people will access the support they need on an on-going basis.</p>

	children who have been referred to the Autism pathway for diagnosis, working directly with parents and children before diagnosis, including providing training and modelling opportunities.	Former parents have expressed concern that the skills of the staff in Siward Road which enable them to identify the support needs of children is not in place in other settings. This was raised with Cllrs at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 19 th June who were reassured that equivalent or better levels of expertise was available and would be provide throughout the provider network.
Gender (sex)	As in disability section	As in disability section. There are currently more boys than girls accessing the provision
Gender reassignment	n/a	n/a
Marriage and civil partnership	n/a	n/a
Pregnancy and maternity	n/a	n/a
Race/ethnicity	As in disability section	As in disability section. The majority of young people attending are BAME.
Religion and belief, including non belief	As in disability section	As in disability section
Sexual orientation	n/a	n/a

4. Actions

Action	Lead Officer	Deadline
Offer brokerage advice and guidance on placements	SR	29 th June 2018
Enhanced inclusion grants available	SR	Completed

Support transition to new providers in the Autumn Term	SR	End of September 2018
All placements confirmed at Early Years Special Needs Panel	CP	10 th July 2018
Providing ongoing support to parents / carers to ensure a smooth transition.	SR	End of September 2018 (reviewed based on individual needs)
Facilitating Key Workers to continue to provide support where required to support children to have a positive transition and settle into their new early education place.	SR	30 th July 2018