**Specialist Education Sufficiency News and Developments: July 2021**

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide an update on the sufficiency of places in specialist education and any associated developments that are happening in the system.

**Maintained Sector**

**Special schools and academies**

Pressure on the maintained sector places remains high. As such we are exploring a range of developments to put additional places into the system. These include:

1. Consultation has been undertaken to provide an additional 10 places at Heart of the Forest Special School for primary aged SEMH pupils. This will involve building some additional classrooms at the site. These places will be available from September 2022.
2. An additional class of 8 pupils at Reception and KS1 has also been created at Heart of the Forest Special School in order to accommodate pupils from the Forest of Dean. This will be in place from September 2021.
3. SANDMAT are going to consultation to change the remit of the Communication and Interaction Resource Base at Willow Academy to an SEN Base for primary aged children where specialist provision has been agreed. This will make up to 20 specialist primary placements available from September 2021.
4. The LEARNMAT Brockworth SEMH Academy build is underway. It is scheduled to be open for September 2022. LEARNMAT will be in a position to receive consults for the initial 32 places available in the first year from September 2021. These can be sent to [info@learnmat.uk](mailto:info@learnmat.uk). There will be 12 Year 7, 12 Year 8 and 8 Year 9 places available in the first year. Total numbers will rise to 80 over a three year period.

**Alternative Provision Schools**

1. Work has been undertaken over the last year to improve the offer for primary aged pupils. From September 2021 GFAPS primary provision will move from its current location at Joy’s Green to a larger, more fit for purpose site in Quedgeley, Gloucester. Work continues to develop a primary site for the SCAPS/CTAPS provision.

**Further Education Colleges**

1. Harbour House: Gloscol is due to open in September 2021. This is a new facility for PMLD post 16 to 25 students. There will be 20 places available in the first year rising to 40 overall in the second year. The curriculum intent for the provision is to be the link between education and community inclusion; preparing students for adulthood and provision post education.

* The individualised curriculum will be planned to meet each young person’s EHCP targets through accredited units.
* The curriculum will embed English, maths and ICT with progress being tracker against pre-requisite skills Q skills tracking.
* Community and social interaction activities will support the preparation of a timetable for life that can support the young person and family post education.
* Therapeutic needs can be met in collaboration with The Chamwell Centre.
* Strong links will be formed with adult social care and other relevant organisations to ensure families are supported through the transition from education to adulthood.

1. Gloscol: Cinderford Campus – developing a relationship and enhanced transition for Heart of the Forest pupils. Day release taster program for pre- 16s
2. SGS Stroud – Bespoke packages for vulnerable SEMH post 16 with mental health issues.

**Independent Non Maintained Special Schools**

Whilst most providers within or bordering county are close to full we still have some availability at the CMAS Belong School.

1. Following a change in ownership of Priory Group earlier in the year

Queenswood and Talocher Schools will become part of a standalone company focused on providing high quality, cost-effective provision and on delivering the best possible outcomes for children and young people. The new company will be called Aspris Children’s Services and will come into existence in early July. The new provider organisation will be the focus of a programme of significant investment to support the delivery of excellent outcomes for children and young people, to increase our breadth of provision offered across the UK, and to ensure that they provide the highest quality of support to their partners.

1. Aspris Queenswood has 12 places available in specialist unit for ASD with associated behaviours
2. Aurora Severnside (Berkley) – SEMH/ASD 11 to 16 provision. Will open September 2021 and has successfully been assessed by Ofsted to meet the standards of an Independent Non-maintained Special School. Starting with around 10 places but will expand over time to 60.
3. Norton College Tewksbury has worked closely with the local authority over the last 2 years to improve both its offer and outcomes for pupils. They have made great progress and continue to work with us.
4. Outcomes First Brookethorpe Hall (Gloucester) have a new provision planned for vulnerable/SEMH/ASD aged 7 to 14. They are currently awaiting planning permission but are aiming to open January 2022 with 60 places available.