

Record of Delegated Executive Decision(s)

1. Subject of decision

Consultation on changes to special educational needs provision in North Tyneside

2. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Julie Firth, Director Children's Services

3. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

None

4. Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform the Director of Children's Services, about the responses to the pre-publication consultation on changes to special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision in North Tyneside to enable the Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion, Employment and Skills, and the Head of Law, to determine if there should be statutory consultation with schools, parents and other stakeholders on proposals to changes to SEND provision in North Tyneside.

On 29 July 2024, Cabinet authorised the commencement of an initial pre-publication consultation in relation to the proposed change to SEND provision in North Tyneside. Cabinet also authorised the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion, Employment and Skills and the Head of Law to:

- (i) consider the responses to the pre-publication consultation and;
- (ii) to determine if there should be statutory consultation with schools, parents and other stakeholders on potential changes to Additional Resourced Provision and special educational needs and disabilities Provision in the Borough in line with the Department for Education statutory guidance.

The pre-publication public consultation took place throughout September 2024 and December 2024 and was carried out in accordance with Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance and the outcome from the pre-publication consultation is set out in paragraph 1.15 and the table in 1.18 of the Delegated Decision report.

The findings of the pre-publication consultation have been considered, and the recommendation is to proceed to the formal stage of issuing statutory publication notices to make proposed changes to SEND provision in North Tyneside. Any final decisions will be taken by Cabinet in line with the DfE guidance on making changes to maintained schools and a report will be presented to Cabinet in September 2025.

5. Alternative Options considered

None

6. Decision(s)

The Director of Children Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion, Employment and Skills and the Head of Law agree the following:

- that there should be statutory consultation with schools, parents and other stakeholders, in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on proposed changes to provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and on potential changes to the provision of Additional Resourced Provision units and special education needs and disabilities in the Borough and to take all necessary steps to commence such consultation.
- 1. that a further report be presented to Cabinet following the conclusion of the statutory consultation so that Cabinet can consider and determine what, if any, changes, there should be in relation the Additional Resourced Provision units and special educational needs and disabilities Provision in the Borough.

The Authority and its partners, as set out in the SEND Inclusion Strategy 2021-2024, are committed to ensuring that the right provision is available for children and young people with SEND at the right time. The commitment made in the Authority's Safety Valve Agreement with the DfE is to expand the range of ARP and SEND unit provision in the Borough. Specifically, as part of that commitment, by January 2028, there will be an increase in the total places across primary and secondary phases by an additional 114. This is a key part of developing the wider system of SEND placements, to better reflect the changing needs of the cohort of children with SEND.

The changes to ARP and SEND unit provision will focus on increasing capacity for children with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs, speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), and those with autism. (This will include changes to some ARP designations from moderate learning difficulties (MLD) to SLCN).

8. Date Decision Made

27 May 2025

9. Is this decision subject to call-in and if so expiry date of call-in period

After 5pm on Wednesday 4 June 2025

10. Date of Publication

28 May 2025

11. Implementation Date

16 June 2025