

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Cllr Alexandra Sanderson - Cabinet Member for Children's and Education

Date: 17 October 2022

Subject: High Needs Academies and Post 16 2023/24 Place Commissioning

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Responsible Director: Jacqui McShannon, Strategic Director of Children's Services

SUMMARY

Hammersmith & Fulham (H&F) is responsible for ensuring sufficient local provision for children and young people with special educational needs. This includes ensuring there is suitable provision and sufficient numbers and types of specialist placements to meet local and regional needs in H&F.

This paper summarises the place commissioning intentions for the 2023/24 academic year at establishment level for academies and Post 16 settings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet Member for Children and Education:

1. Approves the Academies and Post 16 place commissioning numbers for 2023/24 academic year at a total cost of £4,760,000.
2. Delegates authority to the Director of Education to finalise Service Level Agreements with Academies to give effect to point 1.

Wards Affected: All

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Building shared prosperity	Continue the delivery of outstanding education provision for H&F children and young people to enable and empower them to reach their full potential.
Creating a compassionate council	Support the sustainability of the H&F school economy to support H&F children and young people with a range of provision that offers the right

	interventions at the right time, improving the life outcomes for children, young people, and their families.
Doing things with local residents, not to them	Maintaining high quality provision to allow further co-design with schools, parents, and partners to meet aspirations and changing needs.
Being ruthlessly financially efficient	Continued delivery of a robust education offer to meet the learning needs of H&F children and young people locally.
Taking pride in H&F	Support the H&F school community to deliver a robust education pathway for H&F children and young people. Allowing schools to continue to support H&F children and young people to play and active part in their local community, achieving paid employment, independent living, good health, and relationships.
Rising to the challenge of the climate and ecological emergency	Schools are a key partner for supporting H&F's climate agenda alongside partner organisations; building on their knowledge to design a robust climate curriculum for all settings in H&F.

Financial Impact

Setting	2022/23 Commissioned Numbers	2023/24 Proposed Commissioned Number	FY 2023/24 cost £	Additional cost impact £
Queens Manor Primary School (see detail below)	20	20	132,000	-31,334
Queensmill Academy	246	246	2,460,000	0
Ealing, Hammersmith, and West London College	300	300	1,800,000	0
William Morris Sixth Form	50	50	300,000	0
Total			4,692,000	-31,334

Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College

The proposed commissioned places of 300 for the academic year 2023/24 represent no change to the current commissioned places.

William Morris Sixth Form

The proposed commissioned places of 50 for the academic year 2023/24 represent no change to the current commissioned places.

Queensmill Academy

The proposed commissioned places of 246 for the academic year 2023/24 represent no change to the current commissioned places.

Queens Manor Resource unit

The proposal is to commission 20 places for the academic year 2023/24 which represents no change to the current commissioned places at the Resource unit.

There are currently 17 pupils registered at the unit which has increased from 8 previously registered. This affects the cost of funding the unit as each filled place generates a cost of £6000 per place to the High Needs Block (HNB) rather than £10000 per void place. If these numbers remain at this level in the October 2022 census, there will be a reduction in HNB costs of £31,334 in the financial year 2023/24.

Implications by: Caroline Baxter, Finance Manager. 20th September 2022.

Verified by: Andre Mark, Head of Finance (Strategic Planning and Investment), 18 October 2022

Legal Implications

Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on a Local Authority to ensure sufficient primary and secondary education provision is available to meet the needs of the population in its area including pupils with additional Special Educational Needs.

The Council also has duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 to make special educational provision for children and young people whose needs cannot reasonably be met from the resources normally available to schools and post-16 institutions

Education funded by the High Needs Block of the DSG is provided to meet the Council's statutory duties under section 19 of the Education Act 1996 to provide education for pupils needing alternative education and the Council's statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 to meet the needs of pupils and young people up to the age of 25 with special educational needs.

Approval of the Academies place commissioning numbers contributes to the fulfilment by the Council of these obligations.

Implications by: Jade Monroe Chief Solicitor, Social Care, 14 September 2022

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Background and context

1. Hammersmith & Fulham have high aspirations for all children and young people and are committed to ensuring every child has the best possible start in life. Effective commissioning will ensure we can provide the right support at the right time to ensure all children reach their full potential.
2. Local Authorities have a duty to ensure there is sufficient provision locally for children and young people with special educational needs. This includes ensuring there is suitable provision and sufficient numbers and types of specialist placements to meet local need and that placement processes are effective.
3. The purpose of this paper is to set out the commissioning approach for children and young people in receipt of High Needs Funding and the operational arrangements with academies and post 16 to ensure high quality and good value provision and sufficient places to meet need. This has been informed by the Summer 2022 census data. This is in lieu of the completion of the SEND Sufficiency review which will inform both the future designation and commissioning arrangements for provision in H&F to meet the projected medium to long-term needs.

Approach per setting

Queen's Manor Primary School

4. Queens Manor operates a Specialist Resource Base for children with moderate learning difficulties. Commissioned numbers have historically been maintained at 20, despite several VOIDS following the end of an arrangement with Queensmill School whereby one of the classrooms was utilised for children with complex autism. During the last academic year, Officers have worked with Queensmanor to accommodate a mixed model which has increased participation to 17. It is intended to keep place commissioning numbers at 20 for the 2023/24 academic year on the expectation that participation will continue to further increase over time.

Queensmill Academy

5. Queensmill Academy is a special school for children and young people with a diagnosis of autism from 3 to 19 years. The school caters for children and young people with complex learning needs.

6. In 2021, place commissioned numbers were regularised at Queensmill following the decision to approve the academy conversion of the school. This resulted in an increase of 50 places to reflect the 246 pupils on roll.
7. The commissioned numbers for the 2022/23 academic year remain at 246. The Summer 2022 census shows a total of 249 learners on roll. For the 2023/24 academic year we intend to maintain the current commissioned numbers of 246 on the expectation that the needs of the additional three learners can be met from within the ordinarily available and existing funding the school receives.

Ealing, Hammersmith, and West London College

8. Ealing, Hammersmith, and West London College (WLC) is the H&F local Further Education Provider. The college offers an inclusive approach to post-16 education and training where learners attend mainstream courses as well as bespoke provision through the inclusive learning department.
9. The college provides tuition for Supported Internships and Apprenticeships. It is the Education partner for the H&F and L'Oréal Supported Internships and provides the tuition programmes for some Inclusive Apprenticeships.
10. As the headquarters of the College are in the borough, H&F operates as the regional commissioner and in this role has a duty to work with partner authorities to understand their future commissioning needs.
11. WLC commissioning places were increased in-year from 102 to 251 in 2019/20 to reflect regional needs and regularise arrangements. The import/export element of the High Needs Formula compensated the H&F DSG for young people from other local authorities and consequently for this increase. It was further agreed to increase commissioned numbers to 300 for the 2022/23 academic year to reflect regional needs.
12. The Summer 2022 census shows a total of 306 learners on roll. For the 2023/24 academic year we intended to maintain the current commissioned numbers of 300 on the expectation that these needs can be met from within the ordinarily available and existing funding the college receives.

William Morris Sixth Form

13. William Morris is a maintained 6th Form provision providing integrated, discreet support for students with a range of SEND.
14. For the 2022/23 academic year, commissioned numbers of 50 were agreed. As at the Summer 2022 census there remains 50 students on roll. It is therefore intended to maintain the existing commissioned arrangements for the 2023/24 academic year.

Reasons for Decision

15. As detailed in the High Needs Funding Operational Guidance: 2022 to 2023: “High needs funding is provided to local authorities through the high needs block of the dedicated schools grant (DSG). Local authorities must spend that funding in line with the associated conditions of grant, and School and Early Years Finance Regulations.”
16. The high needs funding block provides local authorities with resources to support provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) from their early years to age 25, enabling both local authorities and institutions to meet their statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014.
17. Local authorities determine how much to set aside in their high needs budget for place and top-up funding given to institutions and have flexibility to change funded place numbers.
18. Place funding should broadly reflect both local authorities’ recent commissioning activity and strategic planning to secure suitable special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision and AP, in line with their statutory responsibilities and regional requirements.
19. Local authorities are required to consult with institutions in their area and discuss both current numbers of places being taken up, which will be included on the school census and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision (ILR) returns, and the number of places required in future.

Equality Implications

20. There are no direct negative equality implications for groups with protected characteristics, under the Equality Act 2010, by the approval of the school place commissioning arrangements set out in the recommendations.
21. Officers anticipate a neutral impact as the funding model outlined in this report is intended to provide financial stability to schools. The report does not recommend a decrease in the place funding allocation. In some cases, the report allows for an increase in the place funding allocation.
22. In addition to place funding, individual learners also attract top-up funding to deliver to the specification in their Education, Health, and Care Plans.

Risk Management Implications

23. The paper sets out the Council’s place commissioning intentions for the 2022/23 academic year enabling both the Local Authority and local education settings to meet their statutory responsibilities by securing sufficient provision to meet local needs through commissioning activity and strategic planning.

Implications verified by: David Hughes, Director of Audit, Fraud, Risk and Insurance, 7 September 2022

Climate and Ecological Emergency Implications

24. This decision does not have direct climate and ecological implications. The main expected greenhouse gas emissions sources associated with this provision are in the energy use on-site. These are being managed separately through the council's corporate retrofit programme.
25. Schools are a key partner for supporting H&F's climate agenda alongside partner organisations; raising awareness and understanding of the climate and ecological emergency, and the steps that people can take, will remain an important part of educational provision.

Implications verified by: Jim Cunningham, Climate Policy & Strategy Lead, 12th September 2022

Consultation

26. Hammersmith & Fulham have the role of sub-regional commissioner for academies and Further Education provision located within the borough. As the Commissioner H&F must consult with settings and regional partner authorities to set the number of places to meet the needs in the local area. Consultations on the proposed commissioning intentions have been completed with all settings.

LIST OF APPENDICES

None