



Early Years SEND Sufficiency

Reading Borough Council



www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org

Aims:



- Understand our current situation of SEND sufficiency in Early years
- Inform school place planning

Concerns:

- Giving “permission” for setting to have “limited spaces”
- EY Data is not statutory therefore reliance on self-reporting/local data.



What data did we already have



- Early Years SEND Data Annual Reports/Trends
- Portage Active & Waiting List
- Specialist Setting Waiting Lists
- Paediatrician Notifications
- Inclusion Funding Applications
- School place planning No of children unplaced
- GLD Data
- Local Nursery Closures



What else did we do?



- School Tracking Project (EHCP's and EY history from Year 0-2)
 - Looked at children who attended specialist in EY and where they are now
 - Looked at all children with an EHCP in Year 0-2 and tracked back EY history
- Survey to EY Settings
 - Asked number of SEN children they are supporting
 - No of SEN children with high needs
 - “how do they feel about their SEND capacity”



What we found out & complied into one Sufficiency report :



- 54% of settings felt they did not have capacity to take any more high need SEN children
- Only 3% of respondents felt they could support more high need children
- 51% of children who require an EHCP by/in Reception (or before) require a specialist school placement by Year 2.
- 81% of children in specialist in EY required specialist in school.
- 2 year funded children had EHCPs in a timely manner which supported place planning.
- Place planning meeting- 21 children in NCY -1 are likely to be unplaced in Reception
- 39 children known to Portage waiting list were unplaced (those that are entitled to 2 or 3/4 year old funded places)
- 100% increase in number of Portage referrals since 2020



Continued...

- 37 Children with complex needs on specialist setting waiting list or not accessing their full entitlement.
- Increase for Cognition/Learning & SEMH Primary Need since 2020.
- Increase in number of paediatrician notifications with children with complex needs.
- SENIF funding maxed and had to request to overspend to meet needs in 2022-2023
- 4 pre-school closures occurring within 2 years



Closing Summary

- Reading does not have sufficiency of EY SEND places for children with complex needs/intellectual needs as well as SCD in EY including Reception.
- We have sufficiency of places for children with SEN who can access Mainstream Curriculum/Environment (Highest primary need is still Communication/Interaction but now cognition & learning needs is increasing)



Recommendations:

- Request to temporarily increase EYIF budget to enable additional funding to be provided to place children (where possible) and funding to be provided straight away (criteria to be created)
- Input is required to the BfFC strategic school planning group to include place planning for SEND EYs places.
- Explore Satellite nursery classes managed by a special school set in mainstream nursery
- Explore extending current early years resourced provision with possibility of specialist oversight.
- Explore Including an early years assessment centre in future DfE new school bid.

