

Dear Freedom of Information Officer

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) in relation to the special schools provision of your Local Authority:

In relation to the budget, spend and contract arrangements for children needing special school places and/or any alternative education provision including unregulated.

Question 1	Response
What is your annual budget and spend for commissioning services for children needing special school places and/or any alternative education provision including unregulated?	20/21 Special Maintain & Ind Day Budget £12.1m Actuals £12.9m Residential Budget £1.8m Actuals £1.87m

Question 2	
What contracts or framework agreements are in place to source special school places and/or any alternative education provision including unregulated for Children with needs?	
Response: Maintained SS : No contract NASS contract for independent Special Schools https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s8406/2004%20-%20Placements%20for%20children%20with%20Special%20Educational%20Needs.pdf	
Question 3	Response
When were these contracts/ arrangements put in place?	NASS – 26/03/2013
Question 4	Response
When do you anticipate a new procurement process starting for the services covered by these contracts?	n/a
Question 5	Response
How many providers are delivering services through these contracts?	NASS – approx. 30 per year

Question 6	Response
Does the capacity of contracted providers meet the full demand for these services (i.e. no need for spot contracting)?	Yes
Question 7	Response
If not what percentage of the spend is on spot contracts?	0

Question 8	Minimum	Maximum	Average
What is the range of weekly fees for services delivered under established contracts?	£380	£2,256	£1130
Question 9	Minimum	Maximum	Average
What is the range of weekly fees for services delivered by spot contracts?	N/A		

Question 10		Response		
Which role is ultimately accountable for these contracts?		Director of SEN		
Question 11		Response		
Does the authority commission jointly with other authorities? If so which ones?		CCG NHS		
Question 12	Name	Type of provider? (Internal, Private, 3rd Sector)	What proportion of the total budget is with each provider?	How many children were looked after by each provider as at 31/1/21?
Which providers are delivering services through these contracts?	1. See attached spreadsheet for Independent day and residential day under the NASS contract			

Question 13	Response
In the role of encouraging better outcomes, innovation and value are you actively encouraging new provider engagement for these services?	No

In relation to the quality and improvement priorities of services in place for children needing special school places and/or any alternative education provision including unregulated

Question 14	Response
Are the contracts performing well / meeting needs?	Yes
Question 15	Response
Is there a priority to improve outcomes?	No
Question 16	Response
Is there a priority to streamline the commissioning processes?	Yes
Question 17	Response
Is there a priority to streamline the commissioning processes?	Repeated above
Question 18	Response
Is there a priority to enable affordability?	Yes
Question 19	Response
Is there a priority to increase capacity?	Yes
Question 20	Response
If there are other priorities for improvement if so, what are they?	Ensuring provision available meets all types of needs

Question 21	Response
How many children needing special school places and/or any alternative education provision including unregulated are living in commissioned Children's homes?	8, We do not place children in unregulated Children's homes.
Question 22	Response
Do you currently commission residential and schools places together under a single arrangement?	Yes, for some children
Question 23	Response
Are you considering commissioning residential and schools places together under a single arrangement?	n/a

In relation to the demand and capacity of services in place for children needing special school places and/or any alternative education provision including unregulated.

Question 24	Response
How many children were receiving special school places and/or any alternative education provision including unregulated on 31/1/21, commissioned by your authority?	857
Question 25	Response
Over the 12 months 1/1/20 to 31/12/20 how many new referrals of children did your authority refer to these services?	300
Question 26	Response
What percentage of children receive services in a location covered by another authority (out of county)?	19.10%
Question 27	Response
How many children are receiving services, commissioned by your authority, from an unregulated provider?	9

Question 28	Response
Over the last 2 years has the demand for children needing special school places and/or any alternative education provision including unregulated grown?	Yes
Question 29	Response
What growth are you anticipating over the next three years?	growth from current number of EHCPs 2899 to 3553 within next 3 years
Question 30	Response
Is the budget growing at the same rate as the expected growth in demand after allowing for inflation? If not what is the expected impact?	High Needs Average budget growth is 8% for 21/22

Question 31	Response
What is the average No of looked after children cases your social workers are expected to hold at any one time?	caseloads vary from 12 – 17 looked after children.

Question 32	Response
What percentage of children are receiving services with a primary need categorised as social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH)?	13.90%
Question 33	Response
What percentage of children are receiving services with a primary need categorised as learning disabilities?	15.90%
Question 34	Response
What percentage of children are receiving services with a primary need categorised as autism?	37.87%
Question 35	Response
What percentage of children are receiving services with a primary need not included above? Provide a summary of the additional primary needs?	30.17%

I would prefer to receive the above information in electronic format to this email address:

simon.dooley@horizoncare.co.uk

If you are not the appropriate authority for this request, or for part of it, please inform me as soon as possible. If the gathering and release of this information incurs any costs that require reimbursement, please inform me as soon as possible. If the information requested contains sections of confidential information, please anonymise, or omit these sections, and mark clearly where this is the case. Thank you for your help and I look forward to receiving your information within 20 working days.

Kind regards

Natalie MacPherson

Business Development Director

Horizon Care and Education