

## Special Educational Needs and Disability Capital Investment Fund – 2020/2021: Consultation Survey Questions

- 1) Who are you? Parent, Teacher, Head Teacher, Governor, Pupil, Carer, Other

### Thought Tank – 5 young people participated in process – All pupils

Do you agree that the Local Authority should invest £530K of the SEND Capital Investment grant to fund 13 pods to support pupils with SEND this includes a £50K allocation for variations to the 2 PFI schools?

**Yes all 5 agreed that it was a good idea because; somewhere safe to go when feeling anxious or frustrated in school, will encourage more young people to stay in school if they have a designated place on the grounds that they know is safe and has adults there that can support them.**

- 2) Do you agree that the Local Authority should invest a further £50K of the SEND Capital Investment grant to support schools in adaptations and equipment to support pupils with SEND?

**All 5 agreed that YES was a good idea.**

- 3) It is proposed to use the remainder of the Capital Investment Fund to target a number of smaller projects as like previous phases. Do you agree with this?

**All 5 agreed that would be better to do smaller scale projects with the money, that way more schools across Swindon would benefit and in turn this could benefit more children and young people.**

**All 5 were also in agreement that the project needs to be specifically and directly helping children with SEND not just the whole school population – schools need to prove what difference the project would make to SEND children.**

- 4) The Capital Investment Fund will be allocated to projects in criteria order. Please rank the criteria in your priority order. (1 most important and 6 least important).

**Young people felt that some of the criteria points below were equal in importance so scores reflect this.**

Criteria	
Projects that can promote an ASD friendly classroom or whole school approach through changes to the school environment, this can include the creation of quiet spaces; however priority will be given to those bids that demonstrate integration.	2
Social Emotional and Mental Health by promoting inclusion in mainstream resulting in a reduction of fixed term exclusions and increased attendance levels, for example a nurture provision.	3
Physical Disability by promoting inclusion so the needs of pupils with physical disabilities can be met, for example, lifts, ramps or any building adjustments.	2
Projects that promote greater inclusion of students with Education Health and Care Plans into mainstream school settings.	5
Early intervention with aim to either strengthening earlier interventions on the graduated response and/or improve attainment and progress outcomes.	1
Showing a link to enable strong links to be built with the new mental health support teams available to schools as part of the trailblazer pilot.	3

Supporting evidence of the proposal and its potential to support future careers, apprenticeships and life skills.	4
Supporting evidence of the proposal in the form of plans and/or quotes to support the allocation of funding and proof of deliverability.	1

- 5) A minimum level of the bid is £4,000 and the maximum £100,000. Do you feel that the minimum and max bids proposed are set a realistic amount?

The young people had concerns that the larger amount of £100,000 was too big and was most of the pot of funds they thought the maximum amount should be smaller £25,000. They also feedback that if a significant amount of the money was going to be given to one project then the school must be able to show statistical evidence to prove need.

Young people also felt that schools should be able to show evidence that they have consulted with young people, there is no point in spending money on something that young people don't want and won't use.

They also felt that if a bid came in that was under the £4,000 minimum BUT could show impact then this should be considered; they were not sure why there was a minimum amount.

- 6) Projects will be match funded by the provider at 25% of the project cost. Do you agree that 25% is the right percentage?

No, young people felt that this was a high % - suggested that % expected to be paid by the schools should be means tested.

Young people also suggested a 0% interest option be made available for schools so that they could fundraise or budget to pay the money back (in next financial year)?

- 7) Bids will be invited from providers between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 and 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 in order to try and approve some schemes required for the September 2019 intake. Do you agree with the proposed timeframe?

No, young people felt this was a short time frame especially if the school is needing to get quotes from outside businesses to work out how much the project is going to cost. Does not leave a lot of time for planning, consulting with young people/staff/governors/caregivers etc...

If a substantial project does not give the person/people completing the bid much time (they may be busy with other commitments)

- 8) Do you have any other comments?
- Young people felt it was really important that the people deciding who got the money needed to really make sure that they scrutinised all the bids and made sure that the projects that showed the most impact.
  - Young people would like to know, once awarded what the money is being spent on.

Young people also asked that SBC let them know what they think about the comments they have made, where they useful? Will anything be changed because of the comments they have made?