

**SUTTON PARENTS FORUM CAFÉ**  
**15 SEPTEMBER 2017**  
**RESTRUCTURE OF SUTTON EDUCATION SERVICES (SES)**

Adrian Williams, Interim Head of Education and Tracey Burley from Sutton Education Services explained the restructure and bullet points are listed below.

- Adrian Williams Interim Head of Education until February 2018.
- Tracey Burley Managing Director of SES
- Implications of 2014 Family act.
- School budgets protected until now but Local Authority budgets have not been protected so have had to make use of the resources available.
- Requests for statutory assessments have increased by 40%. EHC plans have also gone up by 40% in the last three years.
- In 2014, there were 1,100 Statements/EHC plans. Now there are 1,534 but the budgets remain the same.
- £33 million budget for this last year but £36 million has been spent.
- The national funding formula for mainstream schools is used which impacts on SEN schools.
- Sutton looking to protect services for SEN and SES has been set up to deliver services for children with SEN so that frontline services are protected.
- SES is now fully operational. It is a private company owned by the Council and some schools.

Q Who works out the budget?

A The Local Authority are given a set amount of money for all education services, the Local Authority then make decisions on how to deliver statutory duties.

Central government give a grant DSG (Direct Schools Grant) to spend on education. Many schools have become Academies so they receive money directly from the Government. The National funding formula is now used. Of the £33 million that is allocated, some of it is used for Early Years but the majority goes to schools.

Q How many schools buy into this?

A 14 schools have bought into this and the Local Authority retain 75%.

Q There is a £33.5 million budget. Where does the £2.5 million deficit come from?

A They come from other sources including underspends from previous years and the amount allocated per child has been reduced. 55% requests for EHC plans go through first time and more children now have EHC plans in this area. If children are identified with SEN at 4, 5 or 6, they could have another 20 years of SEN support and there are financial growing pressures to meet the needs of new children into the system.

Q Where does the funding for SES come from?

A There are several funding sources but the main contract is with the Local Authority. 66% from Local Authority, a grant from the Arts Council and around 125% from schools buying the services of SES. The contract with the Local Authority will get smaller and the Local Authority are looking to get income from billing/charities.

Q How much of the £33 million budget goes to SES?

A £4.1 million is received by SES from the Local Authority. SES then administer the SEN budget, but do not actually receive any funding. £10,000 per place is allocated to specialist schools and they still received the funding whether or not the place has been filled.

In various units money will be given where a place has been filled which gives funding stability. All children with SEN who have an EHC plan get a top up which will vary according to the needs of the child and historic costs of the school. In mainstream schools a top up is only given for the child with SEN and nothing else.

- More children in Sutton go to Independent schools because of complex needs, which is a disproportionate number as local schools in Sutton will not take them for a number of reasons, mainly due to them not being able to meet their needs. There is not enough specialist provision locally for children with ASD as the number of children diagnosed has increased dramatically and there is the wrong definition for units in the mainstream schools due to this ASD increase. With 1,530 children with Statements/EHC plans, 200 of these are placed out of borough.

Q Are the Council going to build specialist schools locally to deal with these complex needs?

A Local councils can no longer build special schools, however, parents can make a bid to build new schools with capital being given from the Government.

Q How are the Local Authority engaging with the NHS regarding cuts?

A We need to make services more joined up.

Q As the ASD service is being reduced, how will this affect schools who are unable to afford to buy in the ASD services and how will this be funded in the future in schools?

A Last year, Sutton took the view that SES would be set up for this purpose.

- Tracey Burley (TB) confirmed that SES is owned by the Local Authority and the purposes would be to deliver the services in the best way possible with the funding that is available. TB believes there is an opportunity for SES in going forward, although funding will decrease as time goes on.

Q What about the 60% who do not?

A They are subject to the same pressures as the Local Authority and some are part of the Academy chains who do this individually. The Autism service is being reshaped and LSAs are being trained to help build capacity within schools.

Q Why is National Autistic Society not involved?

A The service is not statutory and was purchased by The School forum on behalf of local schools. There were a number of services purchased in this way, and most have now been either stopped or reduced. However, the focus of the service was to schools not children (all of whom will continue to receive support if it is part of their EHCP).

Q What exactly are the proposed cuts?

A The budget that SES receive was reduced by £1.4 million.. Decisions are still being made as to how this can be done. The ASD service has been cut from 4 people to 1.9 people due to the decision at Schools Forum to reduce the funding, the original cut would have been greater, but schools have purchased the service which has helped in sustaining more posts.

The majority of costs within the business are staffing, and the obvious place to start is within management costs as opposed to frontline staff. It is not the intention to reduce the full time equivalent of the SIAS services, but at this time conversations have not been had with individuals involved and therefore no more can be said.

Q How is the ASD service being redefined?

A TB has spoken to The Schools Forum to get value for money which will be supplied with two elements: 1) capacity building element 2) face to face service for people with more emphasis on ASD.

Q What SEN services have transferred to SESs?

A SES covers transport team, management of SEN, high needs, block data collection, educational psychologists, SIAS, sensory impairment, local OTs and

SALT. Local Authority cover rates people pay, planning and strategic financial management and schools forum.

Q Where does planning/complaints and regress sit?

A The Local Authority is responsible for delivering education to the children. How this is arranged is put to the Local Authority. SALT and OT will go from the Royal Marsden to SES from 1 November 2017.

Q As the ASD service is being cut from 4 people to 1.9, will they be losing staff with specific specialisms?

A SES are trying to retain staff with specialist knowledge. They will make the best of the people they have and train them to full capacity and they will then provide training to staff in schools

Q Are there any cuts being made in transport?

A No changes are being made to the transport entitlement policy and entitlement will continue to be based on distance and needs.

Q As you have acknowledged that ASD is rising can SES employ more ASD workers if finances improve?

A There is an element of 1:1 provision. The reason it has now increased to 1.9 staff from the original proposal is because schools have bought in the ASD service and SES feel that more schools will also buy in. SES can try and get additional funding for ASD through schools and any other opportunities available.

Q Will the age you receive OT change as the cut off age is currently 6 in Sutton but 19 in Merton?

A TB does not know and will have to come back on this.

Q What about OT support in EHC plans? This is not being received in some schools. If someone receives OT in their current provision, will they be able to transfer this provision to another school?

A TB will have to come back on this.

Q If SES need more funding how do you ask for this?

A Many decisions are made with the Chief Executive of the Council and decisions going on to ensure there is enough funding, however there is an increase in the number of places.