

Dear Colleagues,

We want to set out the next development within the overall **Local First Inclusion** programme (LFI) with advance notice of an Expression of Interest process early in the new year for an exciting further expansion of Secondary Specialist Resource Bases (SRBs) across the county.

Secondary school leaders will be well aware of the aims of the Local First Inclusion programme and the joint DfE/NCC investment of £100million revenue alongside capital funding. Local First Inclusion aims are:

- Promoting inclusion so that children and young people's needs can be met in schools and settings as close as possible to their homes and communities
- Supporting schools and settings to identify and address needs
- Providing graduated and collaborative services to meet children and young people's needs as early as possible
- Ensuring services provide evidence-based and effective support to children and young people, their families, and schools and settings
- Listening to and incorporating the views of children and young people to improve our planning, provision and services
- Working in partnership with parents and carers.

Further information regarding the programme can be found here [Local first inclusion improvement programme - Norfolk County Council](#).

We know that there has been very positive engagement from Secondary school leaders, through the summer and autumn terms, within the LFI workstream looking at a new model for Alternative Provision (AP) (this work is being led by Andy Tovell, Assistant Director Inclusion & Opportunity). The further expansion of Secondary SRBs complements both the AP developments and the work of the Inclusion and Opportunity team in developing a graduated response to meeting need. It will also build on a growth in Primary school SRBs, our aim being to align with the developing Specialist Hubs of Inclusive Practice (SHIPs) model.

This expansion of Secondary SRBs as part of the LFI programme will generate 180 funded places across 10 Secondary SRBs for 'complex needs' and a further 20 funded autism places in West Norfolk. The information we publish next year will clarify the profile of this cohort of young people and set out the proposed provision model which we want to complement developments in the Primary phase.

Secondary leaders may have direct experience of SRBs, including through your involvement within your Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), but for many of you the operating model for SRBs will not be familiar. The Expression of Interest to host Secondary SRBs will be set out in detail in January and there will be opportunities for 1:1 discussion with the SEND Strategic Improvement team. Engagement sessions will be held on Friday 19 January and Tuesday 30 January from 10:00 to 12:30. Please email [SecondarySRBs@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:SecondarySRBs@norfolk.gov.uk) if you would like to book a 15 minute discussion on Teams. It would be helpful if you could let us know in advance if you would like general or specific information so that we can ensure the right people to help you are available on the day.

Please look out for the request for Expressions of Interest which will be published on 16 January 2024 with a closing date of 2 February 2024.

Yours sincerely

Michael Bateman

Assistant Director SEND Strategic Improvement & Partnerships