

Subject: RE: St Christophers  
Date: 08 August 2022 16:08:08

Hi James,

Thanks for sending this through.

[@Paul Chick](#) I have read through the report and there are a number of issues with it. I will list them in order:

- Firstly, there are a number of issues with the wording in section 4 and I feel the writer of the report has a limited understanding of SEND.
- There are serious errors in the data here. Section 5.3 states that 1,166 pupils attend a special school. Today we have 1,209 pupils in special schools in Bristol and 219 in resource bases. The report is distinguishing between special schools and specialist units attached to mainstream schools (resource bases). However, in reality the children accessing resource bases do have complex needs and so we need to be thinking about specialist provision in terms of special schools and resource bases, and not separate.
- I would question section 5.4, the percentage of EHCP needs assessment requests is growing rapidly, with a 17% increase seen in the month of July alone. I believe the percentage of EHCPs to be growing more rapidly than is suggested in the report.
- Section 5.5 – ‘Soundwell is in the process of filling up’ – There is currently a phased opening at Soundwell Academy. Bristol have a pre-agreed number of places and Other Local Authorities have the same. This academic year Bristol have 57 places at the school, all of which are full. Next year Bristol will have 78 places, again all have been filled already. ‘Consequently, there is a considerable number of surplus places apparent when known capacities are compared to the numbers on roll for the Bristol special schools’ – this statement is incorrect.
- Table 2 is incorrect, there are a number of schools where the Number On Roll (NOR) is too low. Most notably Venturers’ Academy, which states there are 165 pupils on roll. In actual fact there are currently 220 pupils on roll. For Soundwell the table states 28 pupils on roll when there are actually 57 Bristol pupils on roll and additional Other Local Authority (OLA) pupils.
- This leads on to section 5.6 which is completely incorrect, there are not 170 spare places in Bristol and this data is wholly inaccurate. Again sections 5.10, 10.2 and 10.4 are incorrect as there is not a significant surplus of specialist provision places in Bristol.
- To give the writer of this report some context, Bristol are spending more than 10m on Independent Places for children and young people this academic year. This is a great drain on the High Needs Block and is massively contributing to the deficit which is a severe risk to the council as a whole. More local specialist provision is needed to reduce this reliance on the independent sector. As well as this, we are seeing a great increase in the number of EHCP needs assessment requests, with an average increase of 15% per year. There are predicted to be a total of 997 EHCNA requests by end of this year. If we assume only 20% of these children and young people (CYP) require a special school, then 200 CYP will need special school by September 2022. There are currently already a high number of CYP who require a specialist provision place but do not have one. Even with the projects which Bristol are working on to increase specialist provision, we will still have a deficit in places due to the rapid rise in demand.

In terms of sections 5.8, 5.9, 5.10 and 5.12, this relates to ALP. [@Emma Lloyd](#) are you able to provide comment on these?

I am not able to comment on the remainder of the report, however due to the significant flaws in the data I don’t think we can use the findings of this report with any certainty.

Kind Regards

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