

1. Local Providers

Local providers tend to offer mainly or exclusively day places. They are often situated in more highly populated areas where a daily journey to college would not be too lengthy for the learners in scope. Both mainstream and specialist local providers often take learners from more than one LA. Specialist providers in this category are fulfilling a very specific need in their local area:

Benefits of residential: Whilst learners attending local providers will be almost exclusively day students, a period of time within the study programme or short breaks could be used to develop greater independence skills, confidence, and help decision making about future living options, as well as reassuring families that young people are transitioning to adulthood in a managed way.

Type of organisation	Number and Catchment	Cohort	Provision / programmes	Cost / added value
Includes all providers across the FE sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GFEs • Work based • ITPs • CCPs • LAs and ACL • Specialist FE / SPIs 	High number of options for young people to choose from Providers draw from 1-10 LAs Travel times: up to 1 hour	All providers: Less complex SEN, generally in higher incidence areas e.g. MLD, SEMH, ASD Also in lower incidence SEN e.g. sensory, which might be stable conditions where yp can access learning and is achieving appropriately to their cognitive abilities. Specialist providers: more complex or challenging behaviours, or yp with additional health & support needs, those requiring additional technology or facilities.	Mainstream and/or discrete 3 to 5-day provision, non-residential Could be an element of residential through integration of short breaks within study programme Work based or college based courses Range of vocational areas, routes to employment and independence	Lower cost, generally comparable between providers Added value / higher cost of specialist providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-disciplinary • Specialist staff and learning support • AT and IT facilities, expertise and equipment • outcomes

2. Area or Regional providers

Regional providers tend to cater for young people who have more complex conditions, potentially with additional social or mental health issues. There are fewer young people who might benefit from the approach on offer and therefore these providers offer economies of scale for LAs. Demand for this type of provision is higher than national, but not at a level where it merits a local provider in every area.

Benefits of residential: The residential provision results in a range of other benefits including more intense learning opportunities, greater independence outcomes, respite for families in crisis, the opportunities to explore future living options and / or specific vocational programmes that cannot be offered in every local area. Regional providers offer residential places because the daily journey would be too onerous for learners/impractical for LAs to fund.

Type of organisation	Number and Catchment	Cohort	Provision / programmes	Cost / added value
<p>Specialist FE colleges/SPIs (day and residential)</p> <p>GFE colleges with more specialist discrete units</p>	<p>Providers located in major urban areas; across regions or sub-regions.</p> <p>Fewer options for young people to choose from.</p> <p>Providers draw from 5-30 LAs</p> <p>Travel times: up to 2 hours</p>	<p>More complex individual situations and conditions, and more specialist e.g. multi-sensory, more challenging behaviours, PMLD, those with recent onset conditions which need specialist support for yp to adjust, acquired brain injuries, or where local provision has resulted in young people not achieving appropriately according to their cognitive abilities.</p>	<p>Mainstream and/or discrete programmes</p> <p>3 to 5-day provision, non-residential and residential</p> <p>Work based or college based courses</p> <p>Might specialise in one vocational area, routes to employment and independence</p> <p>Specialist training and / or outreach services for local providers, LAs and other organisations</p>	<p>Added value and higher costs due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher staff: learner ratio • 24-hour packages of support • Residential leading to increased independence and better outcomes • Multi-disciplinary • More specialist facilities, staff and learning support • AT and IT

3. National providers

National providers specialise in meeting needs for young people whose specific circumstances or much lower incidence SEN mean that they are not able to achieve appropriately in local or regional provision. National providers offer access to specialist staff, facilities and resources that it simply wouldn't be practical/affordable to offer more widely. They also combine healthcare (sometimes mental health care) and social care with education in a way most other providers cannot be resourced to do for individual learners with high needs, enabling learners who might not otherwise be able to access education to be in learning.

National providers would be recognised as national or international experts in their field, and their programme would include training and outreach events and services to support regional and local providers and other stakeholders.

Benefits of residential: With a national catchment area, it is inevitable that most student placements will be residential. It is important to note that national providers also act as regional and local providers for their own geographic area, so those benefits of residential are duplicated.

Type of organisation	Number required and Catchment	Cohort	Provision / programmes	Cost / added value
<p>Specialist FE/SPIs – research and training centres</p> <p>Sector specialists (equivalent to National Colleges)</p>	<p>A small number of providers across the country (5-8)</p> <p>Maybe the only option that can meet need well and deliver on outcomes</p> <p>Draws from 30+ LAs Catchment: from very local to across the UK</p>	<p>Complex and highly specialised SEN, generally in lower incidence areas e.g. PMLD, sensory/multi-sensory, complex autism, those with greater health needs</p> <p>National provision is also required for young people with complex individual conditions who have the ability to achieve at higher academic levels, to help them make the transition to appropriate employment or university.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discrete provision • Residential and multi-disciplinary • Recognised as national expert on complex conditions • Specialist training and support • Outreach services and research, national training programmes • International research and development. 	<p>Costs will vary, but generally higher than local provision</p> <p>Added value as above, plus: Achieving outcomes over and above what is possible locally</p>

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