

## Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 17 November 2015

Electoral Division affected: ALL
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### **Lancashire Alternative Provision Offer** (Appendix A refers)

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#### **Executive Summary**

The report describes the current offer for Lancashire Children and Young People placed in alternative provision and a number of developments being implemented.

#### **Recommendation**

The committee is asked to note the information and gives its views on the planned developments.

#### **Background and Advice**

- The local authority is responsible for providing alternative education for pupils who have been permanently excluded from school, are unable to attend their school temporarily due to significant medical conditions. The local authority is also responsible for the education of those for whom there is no other appropriate school place and where alternative provision is judged as meeting need. Lancashire commission this provision from Pupil Referral Units (PRU) across the county through a Service Level Agreement.
- PRUs are Short Stay Schools where pupils' needs are assessed so that support can be provided to reintegrate them into mainstream schools or so that they can be placed in specialist schools to meet their needs.
- There are 10 Pupil Referral Units which serve pupils in Lancashire County Council including 3 Primary phase PRUs and 7 Secondary phase PRUs. A map showing their location is attached at Appendix A.
- The PRUs are formally designated as schools and have delegated budgets. They are inspected by OfSTED and currently 50% are good or better with one judged to be inadequate.

- The 3 primary PRUs are located to cover the County Council area with Stepping Stones in Lancaster covering North Lancashire, Golden Hill covering Central Lancashire and Hendon Brook covering East Lancashire.
- The 7 secondary PRUs cover the County Council area as follows:
  - The Chadwick Centre (Lancaster)
  - The McKee Centre (Fylde and Wyre)
  - The Larches (Preston)
  - Shaftesbury House (South Ribble)
  - Acorns (West Lancashire)
  - Oswaldtwistle (Hyndburn, Rossendale, Ribble Valley)
  - Coal Clough (Burnley and Pendle)

### **Primary PRU Offer.**

The Primary PRUs provide educational placements for primary pupils aged between 5-11 who have been permanently excluded, or are at great risk of permanent exclusion.

They also offer Early Intervention Support for pupils and staff in mainstream schools. The core aim of this Early Intervention service is to prevent pupils from exclusion and provide support and strategies in order for pupils' challenging behaviours to be managed supportively and effectively. Each Primary PRU has a dedicated intervention team and support packages that include, observation and assessment, in-class support, individualised programmes, staff training and development.

### **Secondary PRUs Offer**

Secondary PRUs provide for students who have been permanently excluded from mainstream school, or those who are at serious risk of exclusion. Typically, students have experienced a disrupted educational experience in mainstream schools that often includes long periods of absence. At KS4 pupils may follow a personalised curriculum that includes core curriculum subjects and vocational experience and qualifications. Pupils with medical needs are educated in the environment appropriate to their needs which may include a nurturing environment. Each PRU provides a range of intervention programmes within their area in response to local needs.

### **Alternative Provision Team**

The team is led by the Head teacher for Looked After Children and the main functions are:

- To manage the placement of permanently excluded pupils in PRUs
- To support the reintegration pupils into mainstream schools
- To track the placement of permanently excluded pupils into and out of PRUs
- To oversee the provision of Early Intervention for primary aged pupils

- To agree and allocate High Needs funding for pupils at risk of permanent exclusion
- To create and maintain a directory of Alternative provision for pupils whose needs cannot be wholly met in mainstream schools
- To monitor the educational provision for those pupils who are not accessing 25 hours per week
- To manage the Lancashire Education Medical Service for pupils who are inpatients within Lancashire hospitals, a number of other NHS provisions for children and young people with significant mental health needs- both inpatients and out patients and a Home Teaching service for those housebound due to medical conditions.

### **Outcomes**

- The rate of permanent exclusions in Lancashire is above the national average and a cause for concern,
- The rate of fixed period exclusions in Lancashire is below average.
- Hours of provision for children with medical needs has increased with the majority being able to access 25 hours and a full curriculum.
- The Home teaching service has supported 100% of pupils successfully back into main stream school in 2015-16.
- Educational provision at the Junction (NHS residential provision for children with significant mental health issues) was praised as excellent in a recent NHS inspection.

### **Key areas for development**

- There is a high level of pressure on the PRUs and on mainstream schools in meeting the needs of pupils with social and emotional difficulties, including mental health issues and complex issues:

#### **Actions:**

The local authority is working with schools, PRUs and other providers to:

- Clarify the current offer to schools including support and the development internal knowledge, skills and strategies to meet a range of needs within school
- Establish a clear understanding of what support mainstream schools want and need
- Provide counselling training for key school staff
- Increase the range of preventative and intervention work through local school to school support, sharing of good practice, the extension of proven interventions
- Create a more consistent offer of Alternative Provision across Lancashire with PRUs and other providers offering different levels of Early Intervention.
- Create a more comprehensive Directory of Alternative Providers with greater quality assurance

The local authority is also working to:

- Improve the assessment process to help identify pupils' needs consistently in a timely way
- Review the intervention offer in the primary phase to include early response and assessment.

### **Consultations**

N/A

### **Implications:**

N/A

### **Risk management**

No significant risks have been identified in relation to the proposals contained in this report.

### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A