



Report to CYP&FS Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

31st November 2017

Report of: Executive Director People Services Portfolio

Subject: Alternative Provision

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Summary:

The information presented has been requested by the Committee to enable it to scrutinise performance in the area of Alternative Provision.

The report provides a context overview for Alternative Provision and provides a strategic commissioning update. The report provides a detailed overview of the Sheffield Alternative Provision cohort and the local provision offer.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	X
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

The Committee is asked to consider the information provided and provide views and comment.

Background Papers:

- DfE. (2013). Alternative Provision: Statutory guidance for local authorities.
- Taylor, C. (2012). Improving Alternative Provision. Department for Education.
- Sheffield Secondary Inclusion Audit, March 2016.
- Report to CYP&FS Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee – Exclusions 11th September 2017
- Cabinet Report - Commission of Alternative Provision 18th October 2017

Category of Report: OPEN

Report of the Executive Director of People Services Portfolio

Alternative Provision

1. Context

The CYP&FS scrutiny committee have requested a report on Alternative Provision in Sheffield. This report provides information about Alternative Provision under the following DfE category:

Directing a pupil off-site for education to improve his or her behaviour

The term Alternative Provision is also used to describe provision for pupils who are permanently excluded from school (subject to CYP&FS scrutiny in September 2017) and to describe provision for pupils who cannot attend school due to medical needs. These definitions remain outside of the scope of this report.

As a city, we are committed to providing the best start in life for all Sheffield children. One vital element of this work is supporting children to thrive and engage within their education provision. This involves promoting inclusion and reducing escalation through the education system by successfully meeting the needs of children in their local school and being responsive to changing needs. Alternative Provision in all its forms are a component part of our 0-25 Lifecycle Approach to Inclusion and this report should be read alongside the September 2017 report on School Exclusions.

1.2 Department for Education guidance on Alternative Provision

Good alternative provision is that which appropriately meets the needs of pupils and enables them to achieve good educational attainment on par with their mainstream peers. All pupils must receive a good education, regardless of their circumstances or the settings in which they find themselves.

The Department for education provide best practice recommendations for the provision of Alternative Provision. In Sheffield these are secured by partnership working between the schools and Local Authority.

2. Sheffield Alternative Provision Network

The People Portfolio leads an extensive, established Alternative Provision provider network drawn from the private, public and voluntary and community sectors which has successfully engaged learners at Key Stage 4 in off-site vocational and employability related studies including substantial numbers of those at risk of becoming NEET post 16 since its inception in 2004.

The programme is entirely demand led and is completely funded by participating schools as a fee paying service.

The AP provider network is managed and quality assured on behalf of Sheffield schools by the Local Authority on whose behalf the Progression Team contract manage and quality assure a diverse range of provision from a network of suitably experienced and qualified providers. AP commissioned services in Sheffield are in place to:

- Ensure a sufficiency of provision is in place to allow schools to direct pupils off-site for education, to help improve their behaviour (Sheffield Alternative Provision Network).
- Provide suitable reengagement programmes for pupils demonstrating exclusion risk factors that despite the schools usual multi agency strategies are not showing improvement

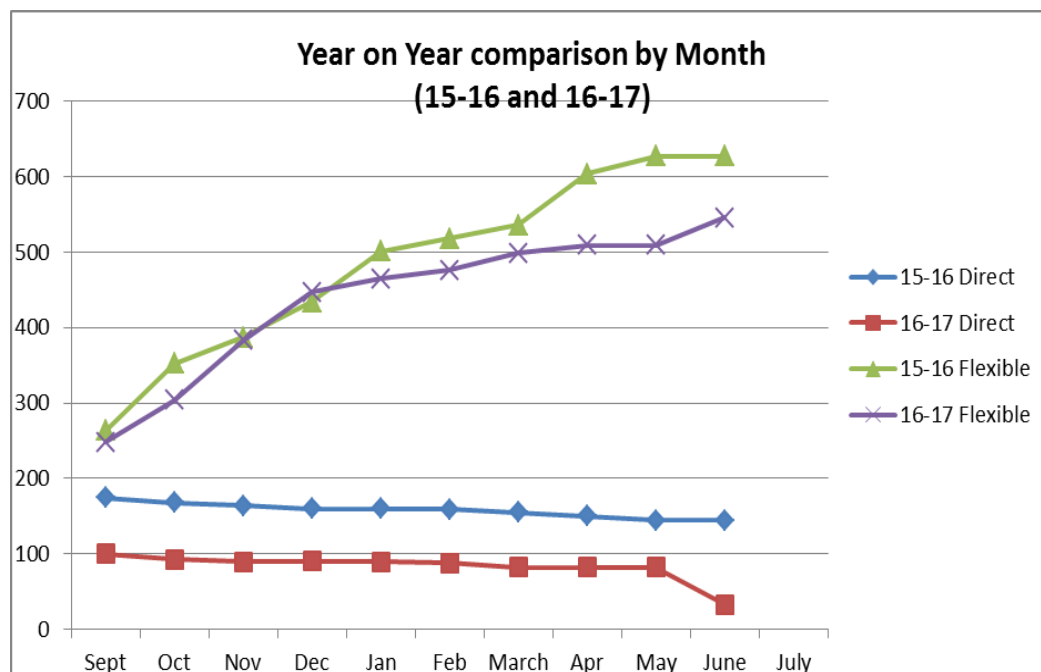
2.1 Demand

The provision delivered:

- 885 placements to Key Stage 4 pupils in 2016-17 which is a reduction from the previous year.
- 82 placements were of 3-4 days a week duration and a further 126 of a 2 day a week duration.

2015-16 saw the end of the previously large scale Vocational Skills Programme (direct) which provided vocational qualification to pupils in Key Stage 4 in areas including Engineering, Construction and Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy.

The number of Sheffield Secondary Schools referring pupils remains high with 25 mainstream and 4 Specialist schools referring in 2016-17 however the volume of referrals has continued to decrease. The Sheffield Inclusion Centre and Children Missing Education Service are currently the biggest user of the programme and it is therefore vital that any future service planning is completed in partnership.



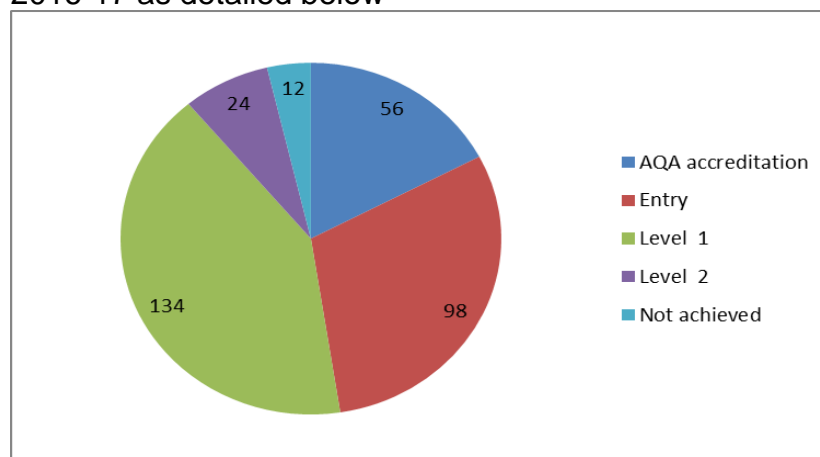
2.2 Provision Offer

Pupils attended placements at 24 different AP network locations. Details of the provision offered at each provider are given below:

Provision type	M	T	W	T	F	Course Type	Outdoors		Arts		Work skills				Core Curriculum		E=Embedded	PSD		
							Animal Care, Horticulture, Agriculture	Environmental Angling	Art and Design, Media Skills	Music	Performing Arts	Business/Enterprise	Catering	Construction, Engineering, Mechanics	Health and Social Care, Childcare	Hair and Beauty			Sports and Fitness	ESOL (speakers of other languages)
A Mind Apart		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•							E	E		•
Blended Learning Project (previously NotSchool)	•	•	•	•	•	•			•								•	•		•
Boys and Girls Clubs South Yorks (previously CYP)	•	•	•	•	•	•						•		•		E	E	E		•
Doncaster GTA		•	•	•	•	•						•				E	E	E		•
Education Through Angling		•	•	•	•	•	•	•								E	E	E		•
Endeavour Training	•	•	•	•	•	•			•				•		•	•	E	•	•	•
Heeley City Farm	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•			E	E	E		•
Heeley Development Trust (Recycle & SMP)	•	•	•	•	•	•			•			•		•		E	•	•		•
In2Change	•	•	•	•	•	•						•	•			E	E			•
Manor & Castle Development Trust (SignPost)	•	•	•	•	•	•												•		•
Musical Works		•	•	•	•	•			•	•							E	E		•
My Life Project	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•						E	E	E		•
NACRO					•	•						•	•		•	E	E	E		•
Onboard skatepark	•	•	•	•	•	•			•			•	•	•		E	E	E		•
Sharks		•	•	•	•	•			•			•		•			•	E		•
Sheaf Training/CDC		•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•					E		•
SWFC	•	•	•	•	•	•								•		E	E	E		•
Syreeta's Hair and Makeup		•	•	•	•	•							•				E	E	E	•
Together Women	•	•	•	•	•	•											E	E		•
Whirlow Hall Farm	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•								E	E	E		•
YASY	•	•	•	•	•	•						•			•	E	•	•		•

2.2 Outcomes

17 individual AP providers achieved 256 qualifications on the programme in 2016-17 as detailed below



Level 2 qualifications were achieved at 5 providers and included GCSEs and technical qualifications.

3. Quality Assurance

3.1 Quality of Teaching and Learning

Ofsted visited 22 Alternative Provision providers as part of the Sheffield Inclusion Centre inspection in June 2017. The report found that the quality of provision was not consistently good, indicating a slowing in progress for pupils at the Sheffield Inclusion centre who are the largest user of the provision. The report highlights the need to increase the effectiveness of the checks carried out on the quality of teaching and learning delivered within the provision and this is therefore a focus for the coming year.

3.2 Annual Provider Review

Contracts are in place with 18 individual organisations for the Alternative provision provider network as some providers operate on multiple sites. Annual provider review rates indicate a year on year improvement with 14 of the 18 receiving a Low risk banding.

4. Developments within the Network

In 2015 at the request of the Primary Inclusion Panel the 14-25 Progressions Team began an early intervention Alternative Provision pilot. These young people are exhibiting high risk factors for permanent exclusion and require a holistic education support approach which in some cases includes Alternative Provision. Intelligence gathered from the piloting of this work indicates some key successes in helping primary age young people make an early return to school/mainstream settings

In 2014-15 the 14-25 Progressions Team began testing the framework to commission places for high needs young people with SEND at post-16. These children present complex cases for education requiring bespoke packages in order for them to be able to access provision within Sheffield. This programme is proving successful and may be expanded to support programmes for other vulnerable groups such as children in care/care leavers, teenage parents or new arrival young people.

The Government proposal for the introduction of Technical Level qualifications starting from Key Stage 4 (as set out in the Post 16 Skills Plan) provides an opportunity to renew the Sheffield Vocational Skills Programme. This would be developed in consultation with post 16 organisations that are able to offer pathways to progression within the 15 sector route ways outlined by the Government.

4.1 Recommissioning

The current framework has been in existence for twelve years and whilst there are many positive elements of a largely stabilised group of providers the changing nature of the City and the new strands of Alternative Provision been sought mean we need to consider the market once more. Cabinet approval was granted in October 2017 and a commissioning strategy is now under development which will ensure the network provision develops in response to both current and future identified needs.

5. What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?

Alternative Provision programmes have a focus on supporting vulnerable young people through the transition phase between secondary education and post 16 learning.

Post-16 learning and training organisations benefit by building progression pathways to their provision from this offer. Employers benefit from having a potential workforce which is better prepared to enter the labour market.

The programme supports an extensive network of voluntary and community sector training organisations and over recent years has significantly developed the capacity of these organisations to deliver education and training.

5.1 Next Steps

The continuance and adaptation of the Alternative Provision Programme preserves an essential part of the city's offer to learners, providing an introduction to technical and employability skills and supporting the development of the skills needs for successful progression.

The results from the Secondary Inclusion Audit and work undertaken through the Primary Inclusion Panel highlight the continued importance schools place on having access to a range of provision to support them to differentiate their offer. The next stage of development of the network will be to look to maximise opportunities locally and nationally to ensure the network is well placed to support schools and services.

In addition to this the provision network needs to be reformulated to ensure it is able to provide the necessary pathways to support pupils to secure technical qualifications in line with the post 16 skills plan.

6. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to consider the information provided and the work underway to recommission the Sheffield Alternative Provision Network as part of both wider Inclusion approach to supporting children excluded and at risk of exclusion and transition to adulthood approach.