

Report for: Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

Item number:

Title: Update on the Alternative Provision Review

Report authorised by : Charlotte Pomery, Assistant Director Commissioning

Lead Officer: Ngozi Anuforo, Head of Early Help Commissioning and Culture

Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** N/A

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 This report sets out progress on carrying out and implementing a Review of Alternative Provision in Haringey. A presentation on the Review will be made to the Panel meeting.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

3.1 Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel is asked to note the contents of the report.

4. Background information

4.1 The Council in partnership with schools and the alternative provision sector is carrying out a Review of Alternative Provision, the aim of which is to improve educational outcomes for all children and young people and to ensure access to mainstream education wherever possible. The Review Group is working as a partnership and is taking a whole systems approach, which looks at the many factors which may lead to a pupil becoming excluded and in need of alternative provision, rather than solely on the alternative provision itself.

4.2 At any one time, schools will be able to identify a number of vulnerable pupils whose learning needs, medical needs, behavioural challenges, social difficulties or family circumstances combine to have an impact on their ability to fully participate in, and benefit from, the curriculum on offer to them in mainstream education. The aim is to keep children and young people in our schools, but it is recognised that there will be instances where alternative provision is needed to ensure that the young person's needs are met, but with an assumption in most cases that the young person will return to mainstream at the earliest opportunity, having regard to their needs.

- 4.3 Alternative Provision is 'Education arranged by Local Authorities for pupils who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons would not otherwise receive suitable education: education arranged by schools for pupils on a fixed term exclusion and pupils being directed by schools to offer off-site provision to improve their behaviour'. It can take a variety of forms as it is designed to meet the needs of a range of children and young people.
- 4.4 Local authorities are responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for permanently excluded pupils, and for other pupils who, because of illness or other reasons, would not receive suitable education without such provision. This applies to all children of compulsory school age resident in the local authority's area whether or not they are on the roll of a school, and whatever type of school they attend.
- 4.5 Schools are the main education provision for the majority of children. Evidence highlights that life chances are significantly reduced for pupils who spend a significant amount of time out of school and whose education is therefore disrupted. It is noteworthy that Alternative Provision for Haringey pupils will support some of the most vulnerable pupils in the Borough, many of whom have a range of needs which no one agency is likely to be able to meet. Indeed, it is the case that challenging behaviour is a manifestation of unmet need.
- 4.6 A number of recent pieces of work have had direct impact on the progress of the Alternative Provision Review: notably, Haringey's Young People at Risk Strategy, the Haringey Exclusions Review and the National Review of Exclusions, led by Sir Edward Timpson, published in April 2019.
- 4.7 The Review of Exclusions carried out in Haringey over the Autumn through to the Spring 2019 has had particular relevance to this Review. It found that the national picture on exclusions is broadly mirrored in Haringey, but with specific variations. White British pupils are excluded at a lower rate in Haringey than nationally and Turkish and Turkish Cypriot pupils are also overrepresented in exclusion statistics – although not to the same degree as Caribbean pupils. Fixed term exclusions for physical assault are also more common in Haringey when compared nationally. The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions in primary schools remains very low, with figures for secondary schools higher and increasing slightly, although Haringey remains below the national average.
- 4.9 The Review is drawing to the close of its formal review phase, which it is aiming to conclude in Autumn 2019. It has considered a range of quantitative and qualitative data, the outputs from a series of interviews with schools and partners and engagement with young people, research into and visits to provision within Haringey and in other authorities, overview and consideration of the academic literature and ideas generated through the Review Group itself. This has led to rich discussions at the Review meetings and over the last month, the Review Group has also been working on an Implementation Plan, which is being refined as new data and information is captured. This Plan attempts to respond to the emerging findings of the Review and the aim is to publish both the Review and the Plan together in order to set out clearly next steps for Haringey.

5. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 5.1 The vision for the People Priority set out in the Borough Plan is for a Haringey where strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to live well and achieve their potential. The completion and approval of a review of Alternative Provision are set out as delivery priorities in the Year 1 Delivery Plan for the Borough Plan, approved by Cabinet in July 2019.

6. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

N/A

7. Use of Appendices

N/A

8. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A