

**PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
IN-DEPTH STUDY 2016/17**

**TOPIC: ALTERNATIVE PROVISION – OFF SITE EDUCATION
PROVISION FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**

FRAMEWORK FOR SCRUTINY / SCOPE OF PROJECT:

Children aged 5 – 18 are of compulsory school age. If education is provided somewhere other than a school it is called 'alternative provision'.

- (i) To investigate the current alternative provision for permanently excluded pupils, those deemed at risk of exclusion and for other pupils who, because of illness, or other reasons (behavioural, emotional, social challenges), would not receive suitable education.
- (ii) To investigate whether the current provision meets the needs / discharges responsibility effectively, it happens in a coordinated way and aims for securing good outcomes for every child. This will include the implementation and effectiveness of the Council's fair access protocol, an agreement between schools as to how we collectively manage the education of these learners.
- (iii) To determine the future shape of alternative provision that is the responsibility of the Local Authority to provide and make recommendations to further improve the outcomes, attendance and accountability for those in alternative provision.

Outcomes as a result of the project:

As a result of the project, it is envisaged that the Council working through its partners in schools and the Alternative Provision providers will:

1. Over time, ensure that learners who are service users of Alternative Provision return to, and remain at, their substantive and permanent school as soon as appropriate;
2. Ensure that older service users within Alternative Provision are helped to secure appropriate and relevant sustainable pathways into further education, employment or training;
3. That over time, the outcomes for service users improve in comparison to the national relevant cohorts.

Method: Through project team meetings, witness sessions, visits and/or workshops.

Target date: April 2017

MEMBERSHIP:

Councillor Moyies (Chairman), Councillors Boyd, Buckley, Butler, Walker, Borton, Nevin and Endersby.

Officer / partner support – Brin Martin, Head of Learning, Cathy Braun, Group Manager for Access and Inclusion and Fiona Abbott, project coordinator.

SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

The evidence base will be:

- (a) Legislation (S19 Education Act 1996), statutory guidance (January 2013)
- (b) Data, profiles, trends and patterns
- (c) Information on current position / work done across the Council
- (d) Education Strategy

POTENTIAL WITNESSES:

- (a) Admissions Team
- (b) Group Manager, Access and Inclusion
- (c) Success for All representative (Fair Access)

- (d) Head teacher representatives (possibly Inclusion Lead) from schools which use Alternative provision and those which do not
- (e) Head teacher -Virtual School
- (f) Alternative providers - including Seabrook College (PRU) (becoming an academy in the Autumn Term 2016, Parallel Learning Trust) and Southend YMCA Free School (and site visits)
- (g) Education Board representative

- (h) NELFT

- (i) Executive Councillor

- (j) Parents/service users

Scrutiny process is structured to add value and is supportive of the challenges already set to be delivered, but has limited resources, which need to be focused on providing the front line service and the priority outcomes for the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To make appropriate recommendations to the Council.