

# Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda  
Item No.

## Report to Education Board

January 2017

Report prepared by: Cathy Braun,  
Group Manager Access & Inclusion

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### Proposed Local Authority Service Level Agreements with Seabrook College post academisation

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#### 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To update members on the progress of negotiating the three service level agreements currently held with Seabrook College with the new Academy sponsor Parallel Learning trust, for the delivery of:

- Alternative Provision and prevention pathways
- Outreach Service for Behaviour and Reintegration Support
- Individual Tuition Service

#### 2. Recommendations

2.1 To note the amended service agreements including the revised service objectives, key service delivery and performance indicators and previously agreed funding

2.1 To approve the contents of the draft service agreements and agree final sign off with Parallel Learning Trust, anticipated academy conversion date (01/02/17).

#### 3. Background

3.1 The current service level agreements held between Southend Borough Council and Seabrook College and previously agreed by Schools Forum commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and were agreed for 3 years.

##### 3.2 Alternative Provision and Prevention Pathways

3.2.1 Agreed 81 place numbers which consisted of:

6 primary prevention

6 SEMH (PRU Plus) for children placed through their statement of special education needs or Education Health Care Plan

24 KS3 (6 FT for permanently excluded or at the point of exclusion and 18 prevention)

45 KS4 Full time places

3.2.2 Places were agreed under a fixed funding formula of £10,000 place funding (DfE defined) plus a single top-up band at £8,000 per pupil based upon actual pupil numbers.

3.2.3 The service is to meet the local authority's statutory duty to provide alternative provision for Southend resident pupils who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, would not otherwise receive suitable education. This includes full time education for either permanently excluded or those at the point of exclusion and the

provision of short term preventative programmes, for children identified as at risk of exclusion.

**3.3 Outreach Service for Behaviour and Reintegration Support** relates to:

3.3.1 The local authority's duties in relation to monitoring, supporting and challenging schools on effective behaviour management strategies and reducing exclusions.

3.3.2 Delivery of an outreach service for behaviour and reintegration support to mainstream

3.3.3 Management of the Harbour Development Centre providing primary age pupils who are experiencing social, emotional or mental health difficulties with a short, part time external placement and nurture approach, currently for 6-10 pupils. This provision is currently run from a satellite unit based at Thorpedene Primary School, (this agreement terminates in March 2017).

3.3.4 Funding is made up of a number of components:

£154,000. (£75,000 of this is funded through de-delegation arrangements from the primary Dedicated Schools Grant. This is agreed annually by the Schools Forum. The rest is funded by the Council which enables a service to secondary schools.)

£161,000 from the Central area's devolved nurture budgets for 2016/17 (Dedicated School's Grant)

£161,000 from the funding for the West area's nurture base for 2016/17 (Dedicated School's Grant)

£ 161,000 from the East area's devolved nurture budgets for 2016/17 (Dedicated School's Grant)

**3.4 Individual Tuition Service** relates to:

3.4.1 The delivery of the Local Authority's duties and policy in relation to providing full time education for Southend children of compulsory school age (ages 5-16) who are unfit to attend school due to health needs.

3.4.2 The provision of short term education for pregnant school girls and young mothers of compulsory school age.

3.4.3 The provision of education for children of compulsory school age that are in hospital in Southend who are well enough to access education.

3.4.4 Total funding is £185,100, which includes £32,000 for the provision of hospital tuition.

3.5 Latest feedback from the school's annual survey identified 90% of schools that used Seabrook's behaviour services said the service was satisfactory or better and 70% said good or better.

3.6 Over the past 17 months there have been consistent capacity issues in most year groups due to a steady number of children being admitted to the college but with limited numbers reintegrating back into mainstream. This has had a significant impact on the number of prevention places available due to the rise in pupils on roll. There has also been a significant rise in permanent exclusions from academy secondary schools, impacting upon place need.

3.7 The changes in the proposed agreements focus primarily on tightening the service objectives and key performance indicators, in order to measure outcomes more robustly.

## **4. Implications**

### **4.1 Financial Implications**

4.1.1 Money has already been agreed by Education Board (and previously Schools Forum) to commission all three service areas.

4.1.2 Although negotiations with the Parallel Learning Trust have maintained the current designated budgets for all three services, the Trust have not agreed to fund the transportation of pupils on prevention places through the received top up banding. Transport costs will therefore need to be met by the home school.

4.1.3 There are no other changes to the distribution of allocated budgets for each of the three services, from the previously agreed Seabrook agreements.

### **4.2 Pupil Implications**

4.2.1 The overall pupil numbers for the alternative provision have reduced from 81 places to 75. This is due to the SEMH special school taking children from the age of 5, rather than 11 as previous. This change allows for a greater variance in pupil need for children with SEMH statemented special needs.

4.2.2 Once in the new school site, the available primary short term nurture places will increase to 16 as previously anticipated.

### **4.2 Risks**

4.2.1 DfE have already agreed to maintain the current pupil place numbers as part of the academy conversion.

4.2.2 Any delay in agreeing the service specifications could disrupt the continuation of alternative provision and services for vulnerable children as well as reducing support for schools requiring improvement.

4.2.3 There is a risk that the planned works to the new school site is further delayed and that the current Harbour provision is unable to move across at the end of March, when their current tenancy at Thorpedene Primary ceases.

## **5. Background Papers**

none

## **6. Appendices**

1. Draft Alternative Education Provision Pathways Service Specification
2. Draft Outreach Service for Behaviour and Reintegration Support Service Specification
3. Draft Individual Tuition Service Specification