
York Schools Forum

12th July 2023

Report of the Assistant Director, Education and Skills

Draft Alternative Provision Commissioning Strategy, 2023-25

Summary

- 1 This paper asks the members of Schools Forum to comment on the draft Alternative Provision Commissioning Strategy (Annex A).

Background

2. The development of Alternative Provision (AP) Commissioning Strategy is being done in the context of the Safety Valve delivery plan and the publication of the Department for Education's SEND and AP improvement plan which was published on 2nd March 2023. A priority in the SEND and AP improvement plan is to ensure that local area partnerships deliver a clear plan for AP which focuses on '*new approaches to the funding of alternative provision, based on the three-tier system that prioritises preventative work and reintegration of pupils back into mainstream schools. Funding changes will also need to reflect the role that local partnerships will play in organising alternative provision for an area and establish a more stable financial system for those delivering this provision.*'
3. The local area needs to develop and publish an AP commissioning strategy this links to Ofsted expectations and the DfE SEND and AP Implementation Plan. This should be published for the start of the school year in September 2023. The focus will be on reintegration where possible (particularly in the primary phase), improving early intervention through an SEMH outreach service, a focus on outcomes led commissioning of long- term AP places to ensure secure destinations into further education, employment and training.
4. There is currently no citywide data to map the direct commissioning of AP by schools, but it is recommended that this is considered as part of the development of the local area AP commissioning strategy. This would ensure that the costs of AP to the local education system are fully understood and would also help to inform future sufficiency planning.

Recommendations

5. The members of Schools Forum are asked to comment on and suggest amendments to the draft Alternative Provision Commissioning Strategy, 2023-25.

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