

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE  
CORPORATE DIRECTOR MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

15 December 2020

**Scarborough Pupil Referral Unit, Scarborough**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek Member's approval to consult on a proposal that the Local Authority should lower the age range of Scarborough Pupil Referral Unit from 11-16 to 4-16 from 31 August 2021.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 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 area, whether or not they are on the roll of a school, and whatever type of school they attend. Full-time education for excluded pupils must begin no later than the sixth day of the exclusion.
- 2.2 Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) are a type of alternative provision which educates pupils who are unable to access mainstream schooling for any of the reasons set out above.
- 2.3 Although located in Scarborough town the PRU provides education to pupils from across the Scarborough District. The age range of the PRU upon its establishment was 11-16 and it is pupils from within this age range who have been placed at the unit.
- 2.4 For maintained schools the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 set out the manner in which prescribed alterations could be made. This is the process that NYCC would follow for changes of age ranges. However, Pupil Referral Units are not maintained schools and therefore the process is not prescribed. The NYCC Legal Team have advised on the process for this specific proposal.

**3.0 REASONS FOR PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 Scarborough Pupil Referral Unit has historically had an age range of 11-16 and it is predominantly pupils within this age range who have required this type of provision. However, there have also been a small number of pupils aged under 11 who have been excluded and have required an alternative provision. In these circumstances a number of different provisions in primary schools have provided places. In 2019 it was considered by officers that the expertise of the PRU was best suited to provide these places to the younger pupils. For the last year the PRU has temporarily accommodated a number of pupils aged under 11 and it is now the view of officers that this should be formalised as a longer term arrangement until at least such time that the SEND Strategic Plan is fully implemented.
- 3.2 It is essential that the Local Authority maintain options to provide provision for primary aged pupils who are excluded from school. The number of places required is likely to

be very low and it is unlikely that the Scarborough PRU would support more than 5 primary age pupils at any one time.

- 3.3 The PRU is considered the most appropriate provision to lead on the education of this younger group of pupils. The staff and leadership at the PRU have the necessary professional skills and primary education training to meet the needs of these pupils. At the last Ofsted inspection in 2018 the provision was judged 'Good' and the effectiveness Leadership and Management was judged 'Outstanding'. This proposal is being made with the support of the Leadership at the Scarborough PRU.
- 3.4 This will change will not affect the capacity of the Pupil Referral Unit but will change the age range of pupils which will make up the pupil roll.

## **5.0 CONSULTATION PROCESS AND TIMESCALE**

- 5.1 Should a decision be made to initiate a consultation to lower the age range of Scarborough Pupil Referral Unit from 11-16 to 4-16, a period of six term-time weeks is recommended. A draft timetable is set out below. A draft consultation document is attached in Appendix 1.
- 5.2 The final decision would be taken by the Executive Member for Education and Skills.
- 5.3 Suggested key dates are shown below:

Executive Member Decision whether to approve consultation	15 December
Consultation period start	5 January
Consultation period closes	16 February
Executive Member Final Decision	9 March
Implementation Date	31 August 2021

## **6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The Executive Member for Education and Skills is recommended to provide approval to consult on a proposal to lower the age range of Scarborough Pupil Referral Unit from 11-16 to 4-16, from 31 August 2021

Stuart Carlton  
CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE.

Report prepared by Matt George, Strategic Planning Officer

Action Agreed .....Executive Member  
Date:  
Action Requested .....Corporate Director  
Date:



# ***Consultation Document***

**Proposal to lower the age range of Scarborough  
Pupil Referral Unit, Scarborough from 11-16 to 4-16  
from 31 August 2021**

# Scarborough Pupil Referral Unit

2020

This paper sets out details of a proposal to lower the age range of Scarborough Pupil Referral Unit from 11-16 to 4-16, on 31 August 2021. It gives the background to the proposal. There will be a virtual public meeting on: **[Date to Be Confirmed]**

If you wish to be part of this virtual meeting could you please let us know by emailing [schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk)

If you do not have the facilities to participate in a virtual meeting but would still like to take part could you please liaise directly with Scarborough Pupil Referral Unit, Valley Bridge Parade, Scarborough YO11 2PG, 01609 536516

## Background

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 area, whether or not they are on the roll of a school, and whatever type of school they attend. Full-time education for excluded pupils must begin no later than the sixth day of the exclusion.

Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) are a type of alternative provision which educates pupils who are unable to access mainstream schooling for any of the reasons set out above.

Although located in Scarborough town the PRU provides education to pupils from across the Scarborough District.

## The Proposal

Scarborough Pupil Referral Unit has historically had an age range of 11-16 and its predominantly pupils within this age range who have required this type of provision. However, there have also been a small number of pupils aged under 11 who have been excluded and have required an alternative provision. In these circumstances a number of provisions in primary schools have provided places. In 2019 it was considered by officers that the expertise of the PRU was best suited to provide these places to the younger pupils. For the last year the PRU has temporarily accommodated a number of pupils aged under 11 and it is now the view of officers that this should be formalised as a longer term arrangement until at least such time that the SEND Strategic Plan is fully implemented.

It is essential that the Local Authority maintain options to provide provision for primary aged pupils who are excluded from school. The number of places required is likely to be very low and it is unlikely that the Scarborough PRS would support more than 5 primary age pupils at any one time.

The PRU is considered the most appropriate provision to lead on the education of this younger group of pupils. The staff and leadership at the PRU have the necessary professional skills and primary education training to meet the needs of these pupils. At the last Ofsted

inspection in 2018 the provision was judged 'Good' and the effectiveness Leadership and Management was judged 'Outstanding'. This proposal is being made with the support of the Leadership at the Scarborough PRU.

### What Happens Next?

Your views about this proposal are welcomed. You can either complete and return the attached response sheet, or submit an online response

Paper responses should be returned to North Yorkshire County Council at the address below:

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS  
Scarborough Pupil Referral Unit  
Strategic Planning  
North Yorkshire County Council  
County Hall  
NORTHALLERTON  
DL7 8AE

Online responses may be submitted by following this link:

**[LINK TO BE INSERTED]**

**The closing date for responses is 16 February 2021**

All responses to the consultation received by this date will be considered by the County Council's Executive Member for Education and Skills on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

### Anticipated Key Dates

All dates are subject to approvals at each stage.

Approval to Consult by Executive Members	15 December 2020
Consultation opens (6 weeks during term time)	5 January 2021
Virtual Public meeting	<b>[Date to be confirmed]</b>
Consultation closes	16 February 2021
Executive Members for Education and Skills considers consultation response	9 March 2021
Executive Members decision whether to implement	9 March 2021
Proposed Implementation date	31 August 2021



## **Scarborough Pupil Referral Unit, Scarborough**

### **A consultation on whether the age range of Scarborough Pupil Referral Unit should be lowered from 11-16 to 4-16**

Do you agree with the proposal? (Yes/No)

Observations and/or suggestions:

Interest/Status .....

e.g. Parent/Governor/Teacher/Community

Name of School .....

This information is collected to confirm your proximity to the school

Name (Block Capitals) .....

Address: .....

.....

Postcode: .....

Date: .....

To help us assess whether we have provided clear information, please let us know whether you found this consultation easy to understand? YES/NO

Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

.....

.....

Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, responses to the consultation may be published on the County Council's website where it may be accessed by members of the public. Your personal details will not be published.

Please send this response sheet to the following "FREEPOST" address. You do not need to use a postage stamp.

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS

Scarborough Pupil Referral Unit

Strategic Planning

North Yorkshire County Council

County Hall

NORTHALLERTON, DL7 8AE

Or go to: [\[Link to be inserted here\]](#)

and submit your response there

**To be received by no later than** 16 February 2021

*We are collecting this information for the purpose of gathering views on the proposal. Your personal data will not be published or passed to any other organisation unless a legal obligation compels us to do so. We may contact you to discuss your views further. For more information about how your personal data is handled at North Yorkshire County Council please visit: [www.northyorks.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/privacy)*