

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**16 November 2012**

**Covering Report for**

**ALTERNATIVE PROVISION AND SUPPORT**

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this covering report is to introduce the attached briefing paper which informs Members of the Committee of a wide range of provision made available for children educated outside mainstream schools. The Report is attached at Annex A.

## **2.0 Background**

The Committee through the Work Programme have requested a briefing from the Assistant Director, Quality & Improvement on the alternative provision and support available for children and young people educated outside mainstream schools.

Members of the Committee have specifically noted their interest which includes:

- how this particular service is accessed;
- the provision available
- if there are any delays for young people and their families in being referred
- the use of Enhanced Mainstream Primary Schools;
- the Foremost School development and
- the educational support available and provided to children who have long-term illness.

## **3.0 Briefing Paper on Behaviour & Medical Provision Continuum**

The Briefing Paper attached at Annex A provides further detail under each of the main headings and will be accompanied by a presentation. Members will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive further information and explanation on the Alternative Provision available for children educated outside mainstream schools.

#### **4.0 Recommendation**

Members of the Committee are requested to note the contents of this report and to note and comment on the report attached at Annex A.

**Bryon Hunter**  
**Scrutiny Team Leader**  
**Central Services**

Report prepared by: Stephanie Bratcher, Corporate Development Officer  
Contact Details: Tel 01609 532049  
[Stephanie.bratcher@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Stephanie.bratcher@northyorks.gov.uk)  
Date: 5th November 2012  
Background Documents: None  
Annexes: Briefing Paper on Behaviour & Medical Provision  
Continuum

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Friday 16 November 2012**

**ALTERNATIVE PROVISION AND SUPPORT  
BRIEFING PAPER ON BEHAVIOUR & MEDICAL PROVISION CONTINUUM**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This brief paper covers a wide range of provision made available for children educated outside mainstream schools.

**2.0 ENHANCED MAINSTREAM PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

2.1 There are eight primary schools in North Yorkshire that have been enhanced to support schools and work with primary-aged children with challenging behaviours. These schools also provide support to younger children with medical needs:

- Barrowcliff School;
- Braeburn Infant & Nursery School;
- Malton CP School;
- Bedale CE Primary School;
- Greatwood CP School;
- Barwic Parade CP School;
- Starbeck CP School;
- Grove Road CP School.

2.2 These schools, all funded from the high needs block, were established between 2008-10 as a direct action resulting from the 2006 SEN and Behaviour Review.

2.3 Currently work is underway on developing a school in the North of the County. In the meantime services are provided from Hambleton & Richmondshire PRS.

2.4 The schools work on both an outreach and in-reach basis both advising other schools on good practice as well as directly educating and caring for some of the most challenging pupils either on a part-time or full-time basis.

2.5 A review of practice and impact of these schools in January found performance to be good overall and developing.

**3.0 ALTERNATIVE PROVISION – PRUS**

3.1 As of September 2012, North Yorkshire has five pupil referral units, Scarborough, Harrogate, Hambleton and Richmondshire, Craven and Selby.

3.2 The Pupil Referral Units provide both statutory and discretionary/preventative services. Statutory service included the education of:

- Children permanently excluded from school;
- Children with medical needs;
- Young offenders.

Preventative/discretionary work includes educating the following groups:

- Chronic non-attendeers, including those who have a medical note and/or are deemed to be school-phobic;
- Pupils who have had repeated fixed term exclusions, or at risk of permanent exclusion;
- Pupils who are 'Looked After' by the LA and are vulnerable to exclusion;
- Pupils who are known to the Youth Justice Service;
- Pupils within families which have been identified through the 'Troubled Families' initiative;
- Pupils who are difficult to place and to whom the 'In Year Fair Access' protocol applies;
- Pupils who require a highly personalised KS4 curriculum beyond which can reasonably be provided by their mainstream school;
- Pupils requiring a 'managed move' or awaiting school placement;
- Pupils requiring alternative provision as a result of complex medical needs or pending a medical assessment;
- Pregnant school girls who require support beyond that which could be reasonably provided by a mainstream school;
- Young mothers and fathers who require a specialised curriculum and/or pastoral support beyond that which could be reasonably provided by a mainstream school;
- Pupils encountering exceptional circumstances which require a highly personalised curriculum and specialist advice and support.

3.3 Access to the PRUs is decided by a local Behaviour and Attendance collaborative. This group is made up of senior representatives from local schools and LA Officers and representatives from the PRU/s. Ultimately it is the decision of the headteacher of the PRS to decide whether a placement is appropriate or not.

3.4 All PRU/s go way beyond their statutory duties providing exceptional services to children families and schools. Delays in admission are rare – if a child needs a placement they will receive it – however there is a fine balance between a new child entering the service and this over-stretching the overall service being offered.

#### 4.0 **FUNDING FOR THE PRS**

4.1 This has evolved over the years largely on demand-led basis. Currently consultation is underway on a new formula for funding the PRUs from the high needs block – as a direct result of national funding changes.

4.2 Currently all PRU/s are centrally led operating with devolved budgets but from April 2013. PRUs will have delegated funds for statutory work and the Local Authority will commission PRUs directly for preventative work.

#### 5.0 **MEDICAL NEEDS**

5.1 Since 2009 and as a direct result of proposals in the 2006 SEN and behaviour Local Authority review, PRUs also began to take responsibility for the children who had medical needs. The statutory responsibility is to educate these children for five hours a week –

through a combination of commitment and clever timetabling most children in North Yorkshire are offered education for 10 hours per week. In 2012-11, 76 children were in receipt of this service and in 2011-12 it rose slightly to 85.

## 6.0 **BESD SPECIAL NEEDS**

- 6.1 North Yorkshire has two special schools for children with challenging behaviours, Brompton Hall, near Scarborough and the newly opened Foremost School - between Harrogate and Scarborough. Brompton Hall is a good school working with children between 8-16. It has been successfully run by its Headteacher Mark Mihkelson for ten years.
- 6.2 Foremost School – is largely an old school – Baliol on a new site. It has been opened since March 2012. There have undoubtedly been challenges in developing this resource and work is on-going.

## 7.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 Members are requested to note and comment on the information in this report and the accompanying presentation.

**Cynthia Welbourn**  
**Corporate Director Children and Young Peoples Service**

Report Prepared by John Bell, Assistant Director, Quality & Improvement Service  
Email: [john.bell@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:john.bell@northyorks.gov.uk)

Date: 7 November 2012

Background documents: None