

Wiltshire Council

Children's Services Select Committee

29th March 2012

The future development of the Young People's Support Service (YPSS) – update

Purpose of Report

1. This is an update report as requested by the Children's Services Select Committee in November 2011. This report contains the latest information on Wiltshire's development of the Department for Education's (DfE) Power to Innovate (PTI) and the proposed closure of the Young People's Support Service (YPSS) in August 2012 following the Cabinet decision in November 2011.
2. Reference is also made to the provision for young people currently in the service who will be directly affected by the closure of YPSS.

Background

3. YPSS was placed in Special Measures in May 2011 by an Ofsted inspection and a decision to seek closure from the Secretary of State was submitted in January 2012. Despite several communications being received and answered a final decision is awaited.
4. YPSS has received a monitoring visit from two additional inspectors appointed by OfSTED. They reached a conclusion after two days visiting the four centres, talking to staff, scrutinising lessons and planning and interviews with senior managers that the service was making satisfactory progress in relation to the action plan. The key issues raised by the two inspectors were that progress in relation to improving students' progress and achievement was still inadequate, however attendance had improved, fixed-term exclusions had declined, there was an increase in the range of vocational courses offered, resources had improved, the quality of teaching and learning had improved and that overall the improvement in the pace of change was satisfactory. The inspectors commented that the local authority had provided good monitoring, guidance and training to help address issues within the service. A further monitoring visit is expected in

March 2012. Internal case conferences have been held by senior staff with centre managers and evidence shows that this progress has been sustained.

5. In relation to the proposed closure of the service, discussions have been held with all secondary schools to determine their approach to devolving responsibility for permanently excluded pupils or those at risk of exclusion. Their overwhelming response has been to delegate the finances to individual schools and for them to decide whether they collaborate with other schools in their federations or to seek to make individual provision. In addition, meetings have been held with union representatives and all staff in YPSS to explain the proposals and consult with them. Most YPSS staff have also had individual meetings with senior managers to discuss their particular circumstances. Non-teaching staff are seeking voluntary redundancy. Teaching staff are either seeking alternative employment or for those who are continuing until August, being made compulsory redundant in line with their conditions of their service. A few staff have already sought alternative employment with two members seeking early release.
6. A draft submission was sent to the DfE in January and subsequently this has been amended in the light of the comments and an exemplar from the DfE. There are 11 local authorities interested in the trial but Wiltshire is far in advance of the other local authorities.
7. A meeting for those interested in providing alternative provision (AP) was held in February with a number of interested organisations who wish to be considered for accreditation as alternative providers. We have around 34 organisations who are either considering or who have signed up to our accreditation register (Appendix A). We have also met with a national organisation who is interested in developing further their on-line learning provision in Wiltshire.
8. The Power to Innovate (PTI) submission has been sent to all secondary schools. Chairs of Governing Bodies are asked to hold discussions then sign the documentation and return. Once completed these will be sent to the DfE for an Order to be raised to change section 19 of the Education Act 1996. In essence we are seeking is to change the requirement for schools to remove the pupils name from the school register following a permanent exclusion. This will maintain the young person's name on the school register and the school will continue to make provision, albeit off-site, for that young person. This does not remove the right of the head teacher to exclude nor does it remove the right of appeal for parents. The school will have delegated responsibility for making

provision and the devolved funding to provide a personalised learning package for providing education for permanently excluded pupils or those at risk of permanent exclusion. As a local authority we will provide a catalogue of alternative providers that have been through an accreditation process. Schools themselves will have the responsibility for assuring the quality of any in-house provisions and any external providers that they commission. In addition the local authority will carry out overall monitoring through data collection and visits to sample the quality both of schools' own provision and that being delivered by alternative providers.

9. As part of our new developments we will have a number of young people who are below the current year 11 who will still be the responsibility of the local authority. We have plans to make provision for this group as follows:

- **Pupils currently excluded at Key Stage 3 (KS3)**

The focus for any student permanently excluded at KS3 should be to return them to mainstream provision. The newly established Fair Access Panels will be allocating placement for this group of young people. If there is a question about a pupil's suitability for mainstream education they should be assessed for a statement and placed accordingly once this has been done. There are currently 11 pupils who have been permanently excluded at KS3, 1 Year 7, 3 Year 8 and 7 in Year 9. Of these, 3 pupils are in the process of being assessed for a statement of special educational needs and the remaining 8 pupils will return to mainstream schools. All pupils will, therefore, receive a full time curriculum. All pupils will be in their new provision no later than 1 July 2012.

- **Pupils currently excluded at KS4**

Provision for pupils who will be in Year 11 next year will be more varied. The guiding principle has to be to design for each pupil the provision that best meets their needs and agree this with the pupil and the parent / carer. There are currently 24 permanently excluded pupils in Year 10 who will be year 11 in the academic year 2012-13. Provision planned at the moment for them is as follows;

- 1 pupil will go to a BESD special school once the statement has been completed.
- 2 pupils are LAC children who have returned out of county
- 2 pupils are to be placed at a neighbouring PRU
- 2 pupils will attend an FE college
- 3 pupils will return to mainstream school with support

- 5 pupils will follow special packages of core provision either via tutoring or online learning e.g. with Nisai or Apricot, vocational subjects and work experience
- 9 pupils will be placed at independent special schools
- All pupils will have 25 hour provision. All pupils will be in their new provision before the end of term 6 July 2012 in the academic year 2011-12. Each pupil will have a Personal Learning Plan. The plan will sent out the intended educational outcomes and the provision agreed to achieve these. Monitoring will be done by the LA through six weekly reviews of the pupil's progress against the agreed outcomes carried out with the pupil, parent / carer and the provider or providers.

Recommendations

To note the update report and comment as appropriate.

Carolyn Godfrey
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Appendix A
Register of Accredited Providers