

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUPPORT SERVICE – UPDATE REPORT**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Schools Forum on the current position of the Young People's Support Service (YPSS) and Wiltshire's involvement in a pathfinder pilot Trial of Alternative Provision being run by the Department for Education (DfE).

### **Background**

2. In October 2011 Schools Forum considered a report on the strategic direction for the YPSS and agreed the following proposals:
  - a) Schools' Forum supports the delegation of the responsibility of permanently excluded young people to secondary schools.
  - b) Schools' Forum agrees in principle to devolve funds to individual secondary schools to enable them to fulfil this responsibility.
  - c) Schools' Forum accepts the proposed formula as the most effective and equitable way to devolve the funds.
  - d) Schools Forum will set the quantum to be devolved in the light of the budget settlement for 2012-2013 and further work to be done to establish the real costs of provision. However in principle it accepts that at least for 2012-2013 the quantum should not be less than the current historical budget for YPSS.
  - e) Schools' Forum supports the general direction of development for alternative provision, Wiltshire's participation in the DfE trial and the proposed closure of YPSS.
3. This report provides an update for Schools Forum on progress to date.

### **Main Considerations**

#### ***Current Position***

4. Ofsted has monitored YPSS progress since its inspection and in the first two monitoring inspections has judged progress to be satisfactory. The strong focus on teaching and learning and detailing the progress made by young people has been acknowledged positively. We were looking to achieve at least 65% of lessons as good or better.
5. All schools, with the exception of one, have signed up to the Power To Innovate (PTI). We have a new fair access protocol and panel and as a result permanent exclusions have fallen considerably to well under two thirds of what they were last year. Schools are making good arrangements for Key Stage 3 young people. We are releasing the funds currently used to support the YPSS to schools from September 2012. Funds are being released to schools according to the agreed formula.
6. We are still working with schools on the Service Level Agreement (SLA) to ensure that our young people are the focus of the devolved money. A small working party of Heads has worked with us to complete and agree the SLA following the input of our legal department and the Academies' solicitors. We have achieved a compromise by working with our schools and academies in the interests of all the young people concerned.

7. We have held an accredited providers' session on 29 May 2012 in Devizes. This invited school leaders to meet providers of personalised learning packages for our young people. This will consolidate the work we have been doing in developing provision for those who will need to be educated off-site.
8. We have held one-to-one meetings with the majority of staff who requested them in line with our redundancy procedures.

### **Closure of YPSS**

9. A decision was made by Cabinet to close the YPSS with effect from 31 August 2012, permission for the closure was granted by the Secretary of State. Through the PTI it was expected that the group of young people currently in the Service would be included in our provision to pass responsibility for their personalised learning back to schools. The DfE informed us at the end of April 2012 that the PTI could not be applied retrospectively for those young people already permanently excluded and in the service when PTI was applied.
10. The serious issue this leaves us with is 10 Year 10s at Trinity Centre and the equivalent number at the John Ivie Centre have no clear provision for their personalised learning from September 2012. This means we will have a number of young people in the West and in the South with some clear needs who the LA must retain responsibility for until they reach statutory school leaving age.
11. As a result it has been decided that full closure of the service will be deferred for a period of one year i.e. until August 2013. A service will therefore be retained at the Trinity and John Ivie Centres to provide for this small group of young people. A reduced number of teaching and support staff posts will therefore be retained and recruited to from within the service. Redundancy dates will be deferred for those staff who are successful in obtaining posts for one year.
12. We believe that this solution is in the best interests of our young people, it maintains continuity in their lives and educational progress and will help parents to feel confident about their provision. We will of course still be subject to monitoring by OfSTED and may be subject to a full inspection under the new framework. However, this new arrangement will be a closed service and no new referrals from schools will be accepted during the year as we are engaged in the PTI. Throughout the year we will work with the ever increasing number of providers to consolidate and support schools in monitoring their provision. We will also work with them to consider the skills of our remaining staff and any issues of their future employment.

### **Financial Implications**

13. At the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012 Schools Forum agreed to allocate £0.400 million from the 2011/12 DSG underspend to support the costs of those young people for whom the local authority would retain responsibility for provision. The available budget for the retained service is therefore £0.400 million and work is being carried out to develop the staffing model within this budget.
14. Provision has been made within the authority's accounts 2011/12 to meet the redundancy costs of YPSS staff.

### **Proposals**

15. Schools Forum is asked to note the updated position for YPSS.
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CAROLYN GODFREY  
DIRECTOR, CHILDREN & EDUCATION

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*Report Author: Mark Brotherton,*

*Tel: 01225 713835 e-mail: [mark.brotherton@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:mark.brotherton@wiltshire.gov.uk)*