

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. In 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. This is being used to fund a "retained" service as described below.
4. This report provides an update for Schools Forum on progress to date.

Main Considerations

5. The YPSS service formally closed on 31st August 2012 and the majority of YPSS staff made redundant. Some staff were retained within the "retained service" for those students for whom the LA retained responsibility for provision.
6. A new EOTAS (Education other than at school) Service has been created comprising the Hospital tuition and medical needs service (which was part of YPSS that wasn't included in the re-structure) and the retained part of YPSS required to deliver provision for permanently excluded pupils that the LA still has responsibility for until they reach statutory school leaving age.
7. The 'retained' part of YPSS is located in two of the previous centres – Trinity in Trowbridge and John Ivie In Salisbury catering for 29 pupils in year 11 and a small number of KS3 students who should be reintegrated in mainstream shortly. Three teachers, six support workers, one outdoor learning worker and one administrator were retained/re-deployed from the previous YPSS staff to deliver programmes to this cohort for this academic year. They have had their redundancy deferred for a further year when this service will close.

8. All schools except one (Sarum Academy) are participating in the Government School Exclusion Trial (SAP) and have signed the Power to Innovate (PTI) and the SLA with the LA. Funding has now been devolved to all schools (except Sarum) and schools are now responsible for the education provision for any permanently excluded pupils
9. In Year Fair Access Panels (IYFAP) are operating in all three federations of schools and placing any hard to place pupils that are moving into the LA who are permanently excluded or are hard to place for other reasons
10. The West and North schools have funding devolved to them as individual schools and are making provision individually and Wessex Federation have pooled devolved funding and have commissioned CfBT (A national education charity) to make provision for any pupils in the south. CfBT have similar centres in other parts of the UK including Bristol and Swindon. They are currently sharing the John Ivie centre with our EOTAS service and the building has been partitioned to accommodate both providers.
11. Although it is early in the terms EOTAS has got off to a stable start
12. The retained part of the service although no longer YPSS will remain in special measures until Ofsted consider it is no longer in special measures – next visit early December when we are optimistic it will be taken out of special measures.
13. Alternative Providers, and there around 34, will be monitored by schools and the local authority to ensure high quality provision. There is emphasis in the new Ofsted framework that places the onus on schools to check that provision meets the pupils' needs and raises their attainment.
14. Schools still have right to exclude and follow the normal procedures including enabling parents to have a right of appeal. The difference in the PTI trial is that schools rather than the LA retain responsibility for the pupil's education up to statutory leaving age.
15. The trial is due to finish in 2014 and legislation to enable the trial to become law is expected. If the DfE do not achieve this then the LA will commission the provision for excluded pupils to a range of Alternative Providers.
16. Ofsted has monitored YPSS progress since its inspection and in the first two monitoring

Proposals

17. Schools Forum is asked to note the updated position for YPSS and alternative provision.

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