

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
**Date of Committee** 6 April 2011  
**Report Title** PRU –Interim Report

**Summary**

**For further information please contact:**

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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision]**

**No**

**Background papers**

Ofsted Inspection Report – June 2010  
 Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 24 November 2010  
 Cabinet – 16 December 2010

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:**

Details to be specified

Other Committees

- Overview and Scrutiny Exclusions from Mainstream School. 2010
- Overview and Scrutiny Pupil Reintegration Unit
- Primary Head teachers Consultation Group 17 January 2011.
- Chairs of Area Behaviour Partnerships 26 January 2011

Local Member(s)

- Cllr Frank Mccarney – Bedworth West
- Cllr Claire Watson – Lawford & New Bilton
- Cllr Sarah Boad – Leamington North
- Cllr Eithne Goode – Leamington North
- Cllr Mike Gittus - Alcester

Other Elected Members

- Cllr June Tandy

Cllr John Ross

Cllr Peter Balaam  
Cllr Carolyn Robbins

- Cabinet Member  Cllr Heather Timms
- Other Cabinet Members consulted  Cllr Martin Heatley
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  Fay Ford *"no comments"*
- Finance  John Betts, *"comments incorporated into report"*
- Other Strategic Directors  .....
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  Steve Smith, Head of Property, Resources  
Jane Pollard, Democratic Services Manager

**FINAL DECISION** **YES**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  .....
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

# Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 6 April 2011

## PRU –Interim Report

### Report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families

#### Recommendations:

That the Committee:

1. Supports the strategic plan.
2. Notes the updates on the Committee's recommendations.

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty under section 19 of the Education Act 1996 "to make arrangements for the provision of suitable education at school (including pupil referral units), or otherwise than at school, for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, will not receive a suitable education without those arrangements".
- 1.2 In June 2010 the Warwickshire Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) was inspected by HMI Ofsted. The inspection report concluded that the 'school requires special measures because it is failing to give its pupils an acceptable standard of education'. A monitoring inspection from HMI Ofsted in January judged that progress since being subject to special measures was inadequate. Without a fundamental change, it is considered unlikely that the PRU will be fit for purpose in the foreseeable future.
- 1.3 The WCC Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee established a select committee in November 2010 and considered the wide variety of issues facing the PRU. This led to a number of recommendations for change that were approved by Cabinet on 16 December 2010. The strategic plan for change at the PRU was approved by Cabinet on 17 February 2011.
- 1.4 In terms of central government policy, the Schools White Paper 2010 states:

*So we plan to trial a new approach. Schools will be free to exclude pupils, but they will then be responsible for finding and funding alternative provision themselves. In line with our plans to give schools greater autonomy and more control of funding, we will explore shifting the money for alternative provision from local authorities to schools so schools can purchase for themselves the alternative provision they think will best suit disruptive children.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> *The Importance of Teaching* (2010), Department for Education, p.39.

- 1.5 In order to address concerns about the current provision at the PRU and the wider system of permanent exclusions, Warwickshire has offered to be part of government pilot schemes, in line with the new approach set out above.
- 1.6 The Education Bill takes forward the legislative proposals in the White Paper and is now before Parliament.

## **2. Strategic Plan**

2.1 A project management approach is being adopted to oversee the change required and implement the recommendations approved by Cabinet. The PRU Project Board meets monthly and is chaired by Cllr Heather Timms.

2.2 Three overarching strategic aims are identified:

- To meet the learning needs of pupils at risk of exclusion or who have been excluded by introducing new approaches;
- To reduce the number of exclusions, and consequently demand on the PRU;
- To improve the quality of education for young people attending the PRU.

2.3 Ten workstreams have been identified in order to deliver the project which follows the ambitions for change:

1. Improving teaching and learning at the PRU.
2. Improving behaviour management at the PRU.
3. Improving management, leadership and accountability at the PRU.
4. Improving school environment and facilities at the PRU (including accommodation/ICT).
5. Eliminating primary school age referrals to the PRU through the use of primary learning support units.
6. Eliminating secondary school age referrals to the PRU through establishing one-year pilots of alternative approaches (including learning support units).
7. Reducing exclusions of children with SEN by increasing capacity for EBSD.
8. Providing alternative provision at KS4 for excluded pupils (eg. studio schools, college placements).
9. Managing the changing role of the PRU from provider to hub or facilitator.
10. Communication and information.

2.4 The key milestones for the project will be:

- Consultation on restructuring of the PRU for 2011/12 (January to April 2011).
- Agreement of Area Behaviour Partnerships to undertake pilot projects in 2011/12 with new approaches to tackling exclusions.
- Restructuring of the PRU ready for 1 September 2011.
- Pilot projects commence from 1 September 2011.
- Initial evaluation of 2011/12 pilot projects.
- Decision on countywide approach to tackling exclusions and new role of the PRU in Spring 2012.

2.5 The main risks for this project are that:

- Area Behaviour Partnerships do not agree to pilot projects.

- Pilot projects fail to reduce referrals to PRU.
  - Unable to agree financial models with schools.
  - Insufficient funding to continue PRU and support pilot projects.
  - Lack of funding for capital changes needed for Learning Support Units.
- 2.6 The local authority is working with Headteachers to mitigate these risks. Regular meetings are taking place with the chairs of the four secondary Area Behaviour Partnerships to ensure that the views of Headteachers are taken fully into account. Communication with Headteachers is also being made through existing policy groups and briefings.
- 2.7 The local authority is also working the local further education colleges to explore alternative KS4 provision from September 2011. Initial discussions have been positive, although the detail and cost of such arrangements is still to be agreed.
- 2.8 An update on the progress on implementing the recommendation of the Committee is given in **Appendix A**.

## **Financial implications**

- 3.1 Changing the current provision of the PRU and the wider system of the permanent exclusions of pupils is expected to lead to cost savings. However the amount of savings will be dependent on any ongoing provision offered through the PRU and alternative provision that may be preferred by key stakeholders – namely schools.
- 3.2 The PRU is wholly funded through the dedicated Schools Grant and so it is anticipated that any savings arising from these changes would be redirected to alternative provision or passed to schools through the Local Funding Formula. While it is not a formal requirement, it is proposed that options for the distribution of PRU related funding will be considered and agreed through the Schools Forum.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that the capital cost of implementing improvements to the PRU will be met from within CYPF 2011/12 capital programme. However, this will be dependent on the final assessments of costs and provision being available within the final settlement. Should there not be sufficient capital funds, alternative solutions will be proposed for Cabinet's consideration.
- 3.4 Further capital and revenue requirements, including redundancy costs, will be determined as alternative provision is considered and fully evaluated, although it is expected that any redundancy related costs will be met through the Dedicated Schools Grant.

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Strategic Director for Children,  
Young People and Families  
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Ansell Way  
Warwick

25 March 2011

## Appendix A - Update on recommendations

	Recommendation	Progress
1a	To restructure the whole of the PRU service including a reduction in the number of centres from 4 to 2 no later than the commencement of the September 2011 term. There should be one centre in the North and one in the Central area.	<p>A staffing restructure is underway, with the consultation on the restructure ending on 25 April. Current proposals are for the staffing to reduce from approx 88 fte to 58 fte for 2011/12.</p> <p>The number of centres at the PRU will be reduced from 4 to 2 as agreed by Cabinet with one centre in the North and one in the Central area. This will mean the closure of the Seymour and Merttens centres subject to consultation with schools and stakeholders. Plans for future use or disposal of these sites will be brought to Cabinet at a future date.</p>
1b	To consult with the Strategic Director of Resources to identify possible alternative sites, particularly for the Keresley Centre, and to bring proposals forward to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.	The strategy for change aims to reduce demand for the PRU through a new approach to exclusions. Therefore the need to find an alternative long term site for the PRU is no longer a priority.
1c	To secure proper provision for the teaching of science at all the PRU centres to ensure that pupils receive their educational entitlement.	This has now been secured. Pupils at Pound Lane and the Keresley centre are able to share specialist science equipment at neighbouring schools.
1d	To ensure there is provision for a hot meal at each of the PRU centres as a matter of urgency	County Caterers now provide hot meals at the Pound Lane. Provision at the Keresley centre is imminent pending the arrival of equipment that is on order. Lunchtime supervisors have been appointed.
1e	To ensure that from September 2011 the 2 centres should be available for KS3 and 4 pupils only and have adequate provision for English, Maths and Science on site supported by adequate ICT facilities.	Progress is being made in teaching and learning against the Post-Ofsted action plan. This includes lesson observations, training, analysis of assessment and progress data, review of the PRU curriculum and personalised action plans where appropriate. ICT facilities have been improved.
1f	To come forward with recommendations to Cabinet for alternative arrangements as a matter of urgency	The local authority is working with schools to ensure that primary schools children are not accommodated within the PRU from March 2011. Pilot 'inclusion support groups'

	to ensure that primary school children are not accommodated within the PRU from September 2011 onwards.	are running in five clusters during the summer term, targeted in the areas of highest impact. Schools would work together in inclusion support groups to deliver support for learning and behavioural needs. Any pupils at risk of exclusion outside these clusters are being offered early intervention support and/or supported in the managed transfer process. Where appropriate, children with emotional, behavioural and social difficulties (EBSO) will be placed in Special School provision. At present, all primary school clusters have access to a teacher with specialist knowledge of learning behaviour to provide support, advice and training. There are currently 11 primary age pupils attending the PRU. For each pupil there is a plan in place for meeting their learning needs through provision other than the PRU (eg. mainstream schools, EBSO school if appropriate).
2	To put forward proposals to Cabinet before the end of January 2011 for a Strategic Plan to meet the needs of excluded pupils or those at risk of exclusion which includes different and separate alternative provision for excluded primary school children. The Strategic Plan should be supported by a business case and a plan for implementation.	The business case and strategic plan have been approved by Cabinet (17 February 2011). Extracts of the plan are above.
3a	To ensure in the short-term there are standing arrangements for a CAF to be carried out where a pupil is at risk of exclusion.	All schools are provided with clear guidance on when a CAF should be carried out. Preferably, CAFs should be in place well before a child becomes at risk of permanent exclusion. The CAF manager is visiting all Area Behaviour Partnerships to remind them of the benefits of using a CAF and how it is most effectively used. Primary heads will also be reminded of the benefits as part of communication about supporting pupils at risk of exclusion through inclusion support groups.
3b	To ensure in the short-term there are standing arrangements for the Head of PRU/Head of Centre to be invited to every CAF Assessment where there is the possibility of permanent exclusion	Due to capacity and the restructure taking place at the PRU it is not feasible for the head teacher or deputy head teachers to attend every CAF where there is the possibility of permanent exclusion. However, it is anticipated that the pilot projects undertaken by Area Behaviour Partnerships will reduce the number of permanent exclusions, thereby increasing capacity of the PRU to engage early in the most serious cases.

3c	To ensure in the short-term there are standing arrangements for the PRU has contact details for a person who can give an informed view of the pupil on the referral to the PRU following exclusion	This will form part of the information passport (see 4 below).
4	To develop an information passport to improve the information being passed from schools to the PRU and from the PRU to schools.	An information passport has been developed and is currently being trialled with secondary schools.
5	To actively encourage the development of Learning Support Units in secondary schools in consultation with Headteachers and the Area Behaviour Partnerships	Pilot projects for reducing exclusions in each Area Behaviour Partnership are being agreed for 2011/12, including the establishment of learning support units. Each area is free to develop its own model. As part of this, a funding model is being developed in consultation with secondary head teachers to redistribute resources from the PRU to schools. An expression of interest to undertake a government pilot has also been submitted. It is recommended that Cabinet consider the progress of the pilots early in the Spring term in 2011/12 in order to inform a decision on the future role of the PRU.
6	That progress on implementing these recommendations should be reported to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee within 6 months.	Interim report today, with full report at next meeting of O&S.