

## Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4<sup>th</sup> November 2014

### Area Behaviour Partnerships

#### Recommendation

That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider and note the update provided on the four Area Behaviour Partnerships (ABPs) operating within Warwickshire.

#### 1.0 Current arrangements

- 1.1 The Committee will be aware that Warwickshire County Council has a statutory duty<sup>1</sup> to provide for excluded pupils, but that the Warwickshire approach devolves the operational responsibility for managing provision for excluded pupils to schools which are organised into four Area Behaviour Partnerships (ABPs). The devolved responsibility and budget allows Area Behaviour Partnerships to use £2.4m of devolved resources flexibly to prevent exclusion. Chairs of ABPs report on the work of their partnerships six times each year via the Access to Education Steering Group.
- 1.2 The new approach has seen number of permanent exclusions remain at a low level. In 2010/11 there were 88. This fell to 32 in 2011/12 and in 2012/13 the total was only 20. In 2013/14 the figure was 37. This figure is still well below the national average and Warwickshire's statistical neighbours
- 1.3 In addition, there has been a decline in fixed-term exclusions suggesting that schools are using other strategies to respond to incidences of poor behaviour. For example, The George Eliot School in Nuneaton has a policy of not issuing fixed-term exclusions and has a unit on site for working with young people whose behaviour has been a concern.

More detailed figures are given in **Appendix A**

- 1.4 ABP chairs report that the new approach has enabled young people at risk of permanent exclusion to gain appropriate qualifications and progress to some form of education, employment or training when they leave school.

Figures are available in **Appendix B**

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<sup>1</sup> Section 100 and 101 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

- 1.5 The work of ABPs has become more closely aligned to the Priority Families programme so that many of the families of pupils at risk of exclusion are in receipt of support. ABP chairs report that this is leading to a more coherent package of support which is contributing to these improved outcomes. In the second phase of the Priority Families programme, more families affected by school behaviour issues will be supported.
- 1.6 The use of Alternative Education Provision decreased during 2013/14. Chairs of ABPs report that this is because schools are becoming increasingly able to meet the needs of pupils using provision on the school site. There have also been some concerns about the quality of some of the alternative provision.

Details of the use of alternative provision are provided in **Appendix C**

- 1.7 The Framework Agreement for Alternative Education Provision currently consists of 20 active part-time providers and four full-time providers. Following consultation, the framework agreement has been extended for another year. A decision about the future of the framework agreement will be made during 2014/15 in the light of new legislation which provides the opportunity for more flexibility in allowing new providers to become signatories as and when they become available.

## **2.0 Quality Assurance**

- 2.1 During the academic year 2013/14 visits were made to all providers of alternative provision to establish how they had responded to recommendations made during quality assurance visits the previous year, and to ensure that each provision met the quality standards specified in the agreement. In almost all cases the quality of provision was found to be good. However, there were concerns about one full-time provider such that it was prevented from accepting new students. WCC staff have worked with this provider to ensure that improvements were made. At the start of the current academic year following evidence of improvement the restriction on this provider was lifted.
- 2.2 Another finding from quality assurance visits in 2013/14 was that there is variation in how schools monitor the progress of their students. OFSTED inspection reports for a number of schools suggest that there the overall quality is good but chairs of ABPs have agreed that schools would benefit from being made aware of the best practice. Hence between September and November 2014 all schools will be visited by an experienced headteacher to determine how each school monitors its students in alternative provision.
- 2.3 In order to ensure that pupils in alternative provision are at all times kept safe, all providers of are being visited by between September and December 2014 by an experienced and suitably qualified professional who will evaluate safeguarding and health and safety arrangements. Each provider will experience rigorous checks and will be provided with detailed feedback.

Should any provider fail to meet the minimum standards then they can be made inactive or removed from the framework contract.

### 3.0 Concerns and further developments

- 3.1 Chairs of Area Behaviour Partnerships, particularly the chairs of the North Warwickshire/Nuneaton & Bedworth ABP and the Central ABP, have expressed a concern at the Access to Education Steering Group that the funding currently made available is insufficient. Funding is currently used to meet the needs of pupils at imminent risk of permanent exclusion, who often need full-time alternative provision, and also support schools to intervene to reduce the numbers of young people emerging at risk of exclusion.
- 3.2 This concern has been put to Schools Forum with a request for a greater share of the high needs block of the dedicated schools grant. Schools Forum has asked that more evidence be provided before a decision can be made.
- 3.3 A working group, the Priority Young People/ABP group, has been established to gather this evidence and also to consider the wider impact of ABPs and whether the approach needs to be reviewed. In order to provide evidence and provide a full evaluation of the work of ABPs, The University of Warwick has been commissioned to carry out a study. This will be complete by the end of November 2014. The group will then consider the findings of the study before reporting to schools forum with recommendations.

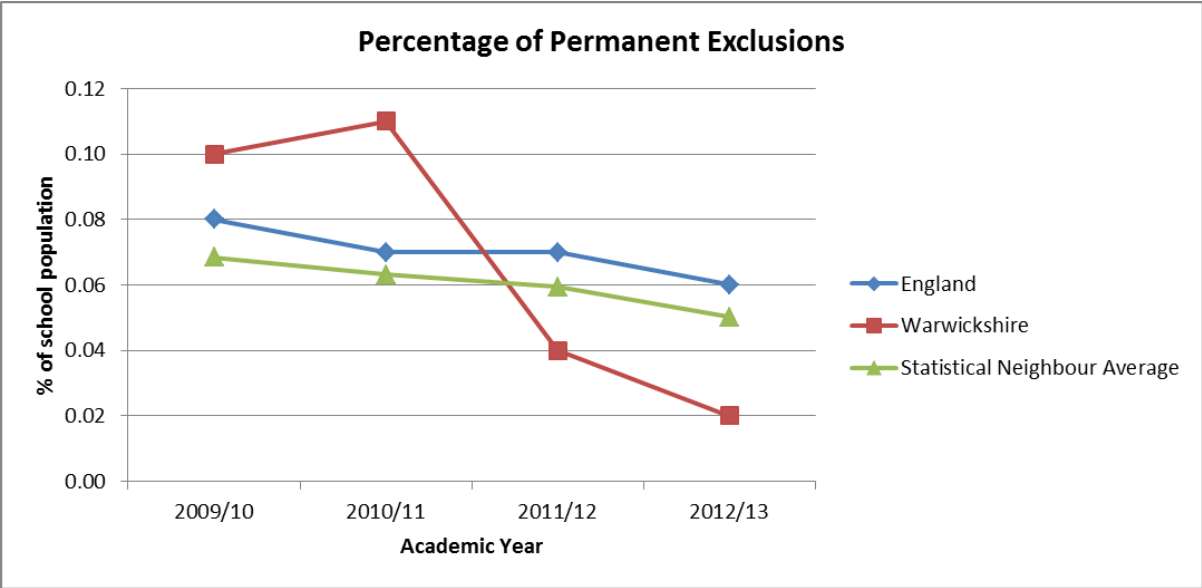
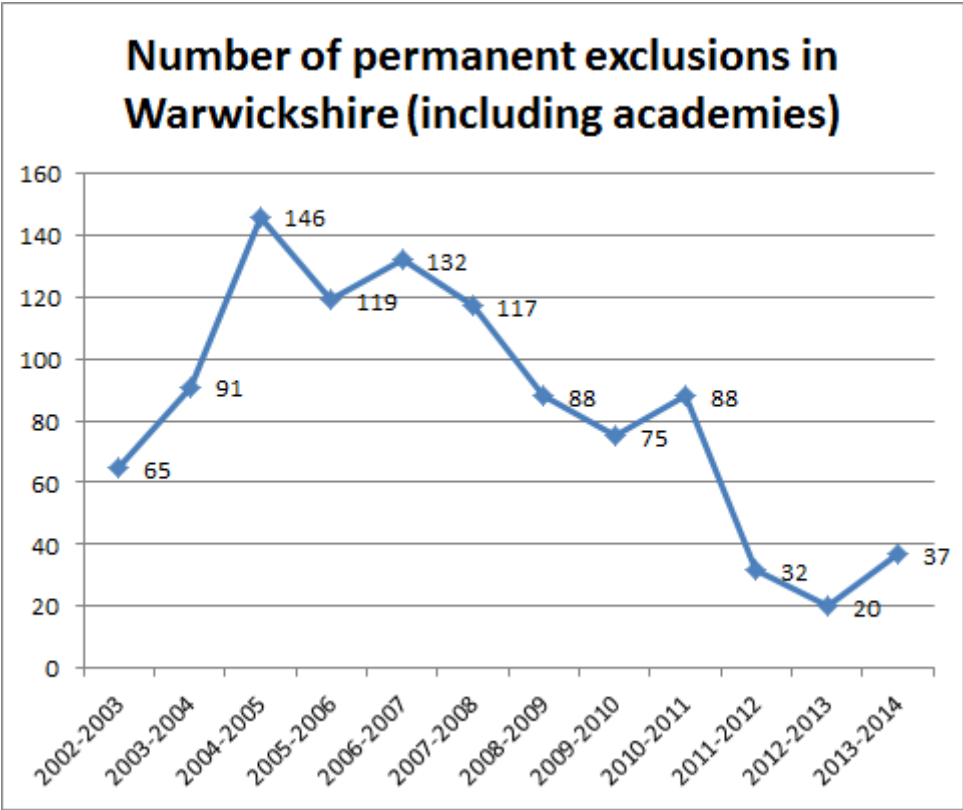
#### Background Papers:

None

#### Appendices:

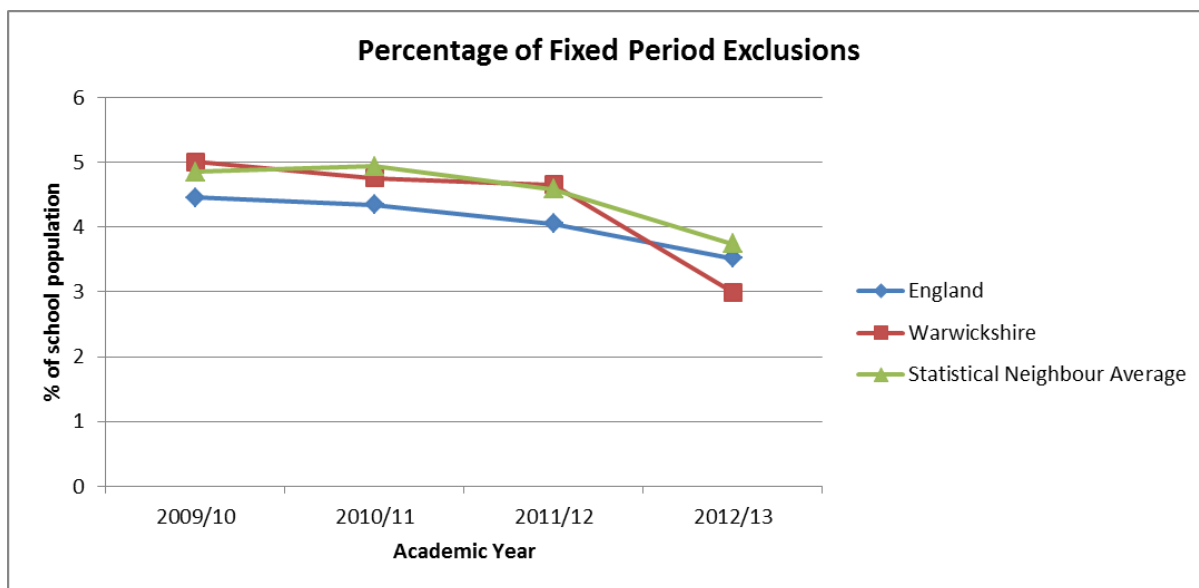
- Appendix A – Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions  
Appendix B – PRU Leavers 2012 and ABP Leavers 2014  
Appendix C – Use of Alternative Provision by ABPs (June 2014)

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### Fixed Term exclusions – Warwickshire Secondary Schools by ABP

ABP	2011	2012	2013
Central	438	379	409
East	793	790	473
North	1342	1390	533
South	421	289	305
<b>Total</b>	<b>2994</b>	<b>2848</b>	<b>1720</b>



**APPENDIX B**

		PRU leavers 2012	ABP leavers 2014
Positive	Continuing in Education	20	40
	Training (non-employed)	6	6
	Employment	8	0
	Total	34	46
Negative	NEET	7	13
	Not Known/still tracking	9	19
	Total	16	32
Total		50	78

**APPENDIX C****Use of Alternative Provision by ABPs (June 2014)**

<b>Area</b>	<b>No of Learners</b>	<b>Y7&amp;8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>
<b>North</b>	39	1	8	11	19	31	8
<b>South</b>	22	4	2	8	8	7	15
<b>Central</b>	29	0	0	8	21	0	29
<b>East</b>	19	2	4	8	5	15	4
<b>WCC</b>	19	0	4	7	8	11	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	128	7	18	42	61	64	64

**NB. 188 pupils in alternative provision in June 2013**