

EET Business Case, Background Paper 2

Programme:	Warwickshire Education Strategy	Project:	EET :EYFS /Primary Exclusions and transitions
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1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report to request additional funding to support provision for primary exclusions and transitions from EYFS to primary stage and primary stage to secondary stage.

2 Executive Summary

The Options Appraisal - Future Vision & Structure for Warwickshire's Specialist Teaching Service proposes to transfer responsibility and accountability for primary exclusions to the Education Entitlement Team with identified funding of £100K and for the current STS education provision for primary children to end July 2019.

Currently there are discussions with Nuneaton & Bedworth consortia head teachers to establish their future viability and function of the two Link centres. This is currently not a countywide resource.

Following the closure of the primary PRUs in 2012, the historic devolved budget was £400K to meet the demand as identified at that time.

The demand has risen exponentially over the past six years. This has led to an increasing number of primary children without a suitable school/educational setting for a significant amount of time. The function of STS moved from prevention of to provision for permanently excluded primary children.

WE2 outlines 'The wellbeing of learner's currently missing education will improve as will their educational outcomes. By Sept 2019, all children and all children/ young people of school age will have a suitable educational placement, and will be enjoying their learning. We will support children and young people who find conventional schooling difficult, so they can still achieve their potential.'

To achieve this, it is imperative that there is appropriate funding to not only meet current demand but to form part of demand management, by putting in place preventative measures to reduce the rise in permanent exclusions through all key stages. This will include a forward plan to support smooth and safe transition into each key stage of a vulnerable child's education.

The current secondary strategy successfully implemented from September 2018 has resulted in a reduction of permanent exclusions. The key elements of the strategy are:

- Realignment of the Fair Access Protocol (FAP).
- Introduction of a Managed Move Protocol.
- Alternative Provision (AP) framework improving the quality of the current provision.
- Submission of an AP Free school bid.
- Improved multi-agency partnership through the administration of FAP and multi-agency approach via the ABP lead groups.
- Agreed funding consultation on how place funding will be devolved from Area Behaviour Partnership (ABP) funding and commitment from schools to commission the top up (plus funding).

These outcomes have been achieved by greater collaboration, collective accountability across schools and partners and more efficient use of financial resources. The use of ABP devolved funding to build capacity within schools also allows time for schools to draft 3 year financial plans to eventually take on the full financial commitment.

To now reflect the same success in the primary sector the primary strategy needs to prioritise the same outcomes. Developments to date:

- Primary ABP Steering group developing a managed move protocol and are discussing future alternative provision models.
- 6 Primary alternative provision model Pathfinders have been established across the county and being rolled out this Autumn term. These are consortia based significant adults to support identified (Tier 2) vulnerable children including permanently excluded children. The children for these pathways are identified via the FAP & Assessment Gateway panel.
- FAP and assessment gateway being established. It is the aim to implement a joined up and consistent approach across the key stages. This will provide an overview of the children in the system who are at risk of not having their education entitlement and ensure a co-ordinated multi-agency approach which meets the needs of the child and is cost effective.
- Scoping discussions on how schools will develop a similar financial model to the secondary schools, placing primary schools in a position to commission any developed Alternative Provision.

Currently there is no approved primary Alternative Provision in Warwickshire. Therefore there is a clear gap in Alternative Provision for 5 to 11 year olds who need a targeted Tier 2 response to maintain their school/setting placement. There is no capacity to link up all strategies to ensure smooth transition from EYFS to primary stage and primary stage to secondary stage.

There is significant concern that the proposed funding allocation will not allow statutory duty to be met.

The use of the Warwickshire “W” Code will allow monitoring of these previously untracked children to ensure celebration of achievement, identification of real cost of inclusion and return on investment.

3 Reasons

- To meet the statutory function of providing appropriate education provision for primary permanently excluded pupils.
- To develop quality primary Tier 2 alternative provision that meets the needs of the children and prevents children being escalated unnecessarily to Tier 3 specialist provision. In line with SEND & Inclusion Strategy.
- To provide continuity of process and partnership working across the key stages, Tiers and agencies.
- To pool resources at a time where individual budgets are being cut.
- Identify duplication of effort whilst building on partnership collective accountability
- To reduce the number of primary permanent exclusions.
- To increase focus on preventative work and maintaining placements.

4 Business Options

1. **To do nothing.** We will not be meeting our statutory function for primary pupils.

2. **Engage with primary schools and special schools to commission**

14 cross county places for permanently excluded children: These will be time-limited (one term), with a focus on nurturing restorative intervention to inform identification of next setting (mainstream or special) via the assessment/FAP Gateway. The commission will include transport, support for transition into the identified next setting, appointment of IDS Pre school Child Care Coordinator to support Key Stage transition, in addition to identification and tracking of “W” coded children.

3. **AP Free school.**

With options 2 or 3 the appropriate funding is required to allow the LA to either place purchase and/or provide plus funding for schools.

5 Expected Benefits

- Reduction in permanent exclusions.

- Quality Alternative Provision or intervention with positive outcomes that complement the SEND & Inclusion Strategy.
- Supported and informed managed moves to improve likelihood of success.
- Potential for prevention / early intervention to maintain Tier 1 placement in the local community.
- Early identification of need informing effective provision planning across all phases and stakeholders.
- Joint commissioning of projects to ensure the right expertise are involved.
- Better use of shared resources including pooling of resources/funds to create better outcomes for our children and young people.
- To bring together a panel of expertise to provide schools and settings with the right support and guidance to manage situations at each tier and assess where there may be gaps or duplication in services.
- Return on investment.

6 Expected Dis-Benefits

Closure of Links might affect partnership working with schools in 2 consortia in Nuneaton & Bedworth. This is at a time of a strategy being developed in Nuneaton & Bedworth to improve outcomes for children and young people.

7 Timescales

Funding to be in place from April 2019 in order to have statutory provision in place by July/September 2019.

8 Costs

Option 2:

- 14 FTE places established in settings across the county (schools to provide transport). If placement not used for permanent excluded child funding may be used to support outreach. £25K per place. Total £350K.
- Integrated Disability Service (IDS pre-school) Rising 3 - Child Care Co-ordinator- £35K
- Administrative support to facilitate FAP/Assessment Gateway , tracking of placements county wide and retrieving perm ex AWPU from schools who permanently exclude.- £35K

Total cost per annum for 3 years: £420K

Option 3:

- 40 FTE places

Total cost per annum for 3 years: £400K

9 Investment Appraisal

Option 2 would be the most cost effective and support the development of the preferred school to school support model and capacity building in schools. This will allow the tracking and monitoring of W coded children and support the wider Warwickshire strategies including Warwickshire Education Strategy.

10 Major Risks and mitigations

- Schools do not function in partnerships
- AP s/placements are filled with no clear exits for pupils

To mitigate against these risks the following are in place:

- FAP/Assessment Gateway
- Ethical leadership
- Tracking & celebration of W Code children

11 Document Information

11.1 Approvals

This document requires the following approvals.

Approved documents will be rendered Read Only and any changes saved in further versions of the document.

Document Date of Issue	Document Version	Name / Group for Approval	Approval Date	Actual / Inferred*	Exec. Approval Date
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11.2 Revision History

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