

Decision Maker: EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE

Date: 17 January 2016

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: RESPONSE TO THE SECOND REPORT OF THE EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE 2016/17 - ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

Contact Officer: Philippa Gibbs, Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 020 8461 7638 E-mail: Philippa.Gibbs@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Director of Corporate Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

To report responses to the recommendations made by the Education Select Committee at its second meeting held on 15 September 2016.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Education Select Committee note the responses to the recommendations made by the Committee that have been received to date.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable:
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Excellent Council
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: 2016/17 Budget – Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £335,590
 5. Source of funding: N/A
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 8 posts (7.27fte)
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All users of Education Services in the Borough
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Education Select Committee held its second meeting on 15 September 2016 and considered “Alternative Provision”.
- 3.2 The purpose of the inquiry was *“To examine the efficiency and effectiveness of alternative education in Bromley.”*
- 3.3 The report is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 3.4 At its meeting on 12th December 2016, Full Council resolved to (a) refer the recommendations to Service Directors where appropriate and (b) provide a written response to the Education Select Committee for consideration at their next meeting on 17th January 2017.
- 3.5 Executive will be considering the Education Select Committee’s second report at its meeting on 8th February 2017. The response from the Executive will be circulated to Members of the Education Select Committee and included in the agenda for the Committee’s meeting on 23 March 2017..
- 3.6 The Director of Education has made the following responses to the recommendations:

3.6.1 Recommendation 1: The School Partnership Board consider how the progress of pupils who have attended Bromley Trust Academy can be better monitored so prevent re-admittance and to enable evaluation of the outcomes of the Academy.

It should be noted that the School Partnership Board is school led and cannot be directed by the Local Authority; the potential future governorship arrangements and terms of reference are in development. However, LA officers will raise this with the Schools Partnership Board Chairman for possible inclusion as an item, or standing item, at future meetings.

The onus for monitoring the progress of pupils reintegrating mainstream education falls more to LA officers and BTA. In 2017, officers will seek to revise the current contract with BTA for the funding of Alternative Provision places to improve the monitoring and reporting requirements, particularly in relation to leavers and outcomes.

In addition, a number of work streams are in progress concerning the strategy for preventing permanent exclusions – part of this will be consideration of additional support for BTA learners transferring back into mainstream education at a Bromley school.

3.6.2 Recommendation 2: That the School Partnership Board examine how best practice can be disseminated with regard to the provision of work for pupils unable to attend school through ill health.

As above, this will be raised with the Chairman of the Schools Partnership Board for possible inclusion at future meetings.

The guidance on provision for pupils who cannot attend school due to health needs sets out a number of expectations of the school and the LA both for supporting learning while away from school and in working together to set up individually tailored reintegration plans for each child.

As part of a review of the Home & Hospital service, we will seek to strengthen the monitoring of school engagement with the child’s learning while they are out of school and at reintegration and, where there are concerns, we will feed back to schools directly and via the Partnership Board with a clear evidence base.

3.6.3 Recommendation 3: That the School Partnership Board consider how the work of the Core Panel can be made more widely known to schools and to consider whether standardised information questionnaires regarding pupils in need of support through alternative provision might be helpful.

As part of the development of the strategy for permanent exclusions, work is currently being undertaken to revise the terms of reference of the Core Panel and to develop a standardised referral form. It is intended to produce a transparent Core Panel guidance book which will be distributed to all schools in Bromley on a regular basis. Awareness raising will also be conducted through the Schools Partnership Board.

3.6.4 Recommendation 4: That the School Partnership Board identify best practice for the reintegration of pupils into mainstream education and encourage all schools to adopt it.

Officers will be discussing best practice for the reintegration of pupils into mainstream education through a number of routes including as part of its contract relationship with BTA, as part of the Fair Access Protocol and Core Panel arrangements, and we will seek to raise it with the Schools Partnership Board.

3.6.5 Recommendation 5: That if required, further analysis of the reasons for the rise in the number of children with mental health problems be undertaken in the light of the findings of the review by CAMHS.

Noted; we will await the completion of the CAMHS Review.

3.6.6 Recommendation 6: That the Executive be requested to examine what resources from other sources including the CGC might be accessed to ensure a seamless service for children in education with serious medical needs.

This will be followed up with Health colleagues, while noting that the statutory guidance on school pupils with medical conditions gives clear expectations and responsibilities to schools and alternative provision providers (including the Home & Hospital provision) to ensure arrangements are put in place to accommodate their needs. In particular, the Home and Hospital service will seek to strengthen its arrangements with CAMHS, given the primary needs of the majority of Home & Hospital are mental, emotional and behavioural health needs.

3.6.7 Recommendation 7: That the Council directly and through the Members of Parliament for the Borough makes representations to the Government for the following changes in the law:

- 1. To introduce a registration system for all young people not educated in a formal school;**
- 2. to enshrine in law the right of parents to home educate such a right is subsidiary to the right of every child to a proper education so as to be able to find employment and be a full member of the community;**
- 3. to ensure that Local Authorities have the power investigate and ensure that children outside the formal education system are safe and well;**
- 4. that the recommendations of the Badman Report and the Select Committee on Education Report be taken into account in drafting other legislative proposals.**

A draft letter concerning these topics, noting that several proposals arising from the Badman Report in 2009 were not taken forward through legislation, and whether it is intended to revisit these proposals will be prepared to go to:

- *The Secretary of State for Education;*
- *Bromley Members of Parliament;*
- *The Regional Schools Commissioner*

Non-Applicable Sections:	Financial Implications, Legal Implications, Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Minutes of the Education Select Committee – 15 September 2016