

REPORT TO: Kingston Schools Forum
DATE: 18 June 2019
SUBJECT: SEND Transformation Plan update - Review of Alternative Provision

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 To update Schools Forum on the approach to reviewing Alternative Provision for Kingston pupils

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Forum members discuss the approach to reviewing alternative provision and make associated recommendations.

3. Context

3.1 Alternative provision (AP) is education outside school, arranged by local authorities or schools, for pupils who do not attend mainstream school for reasons such as school exclusion, behaviour issues, school refusal, or short- or long-term illness. It includes settings such as pupil referral units (PRUs), although some pupils who are on the roll of a PRU will also attend other forms of alternative provision off-site.

3.2 Local authorities are responsible for arranging suitable education for permanently excluded pupils, and for other pupils who – because of illness or other reasons – would not receive suitable education without such arrangements being made. Governing bodies of schools are responsible for arranging suitable full-time education from the sixth day of a fixed period exclusion. Schools may also direct pupils off-site for education, on occasions when this might be beneficial. Statutory guidance sets out the Government’s expectations of local authorities and maintained schools who commission alternative provision and pupil referral units.

3.3 Schools Forum will be aware that the Council has agreed a four year SEND Transformation plan with the Department for Education to address the escalating funding gap for high needs education. Schools Forum considered and commented on this plan in November 2018 and it was formally endorsed by local partners at the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 28th March 2019. As part of the plan a review is being undertaken of all budget lines in the High Needs Block to identify where resources may be misaligned with need or where efficiency savings can be made through improving processes. Alternative provision was specifically identified as an area for review.

4. Current delivery model for alternative provision in Kingston

4.1 Alternative provision is currently delivered via two main providers:

- **Malden Oaks**

Malden Oaks is commissioned to provide tuition for pupils who are unable to attend school due to medical issues. These pupils typically receive around 7.5 hours a week tuition as their medical needs mean that they frequently cannot access more education than this. This provision is increased as appropriate and develops to include group sessions at Malden Oaks

if the CYP is well enough and to support the reintegration to school. Schools refer to this service via Malden Oaks (<https://maldenoaks.org/gallery/referrals-medical-tuition/>). In order for a CYP to be eligible for medical tuition there has to be written evidence from a medically qualified Consultant confirming that the CYP is currently too unwell to be in school. In May MO were supporting 11 children on medical tuition.

Malden Oaks also provides education to pupils that have been permanently excluded. Where a child is permanently excluded they complete a referral to Malden Oaks, in liaison with the AfC Exclusions and reintegration officer. Local authorities have responsibility to provide education for permanently excluded pupils from the 6th day of exclusion from school.

Where a school wishes to refer a CYP for a respite place, they refer directly to Malden Oaks (See <https://maldenoaks.org/gallery/school-referrals/>). The suitability of the referral is discussed at a weekly internal Malden Oaks panel of AfC officers and the school's headteacher and following this the place is confirmed or otherwise. An AfC fortnightly individual pupil referral panel provides oversight of pupils joining Malden Oaks and agrees when pupils should be taken to the Fair Access Panel to be reintegrated back into school.

Finally, Malden Oaks provides one day a week programmes for KS3 and year 11 pupils who are at risk of disengaging from education. Students gain a range of qualifications from a range of outstanding local providers such as Albany Park. At the end of March 2019, there were 4 year 11 pupils and 4 KS3 pupils on this programme. Schools refer directly to Malden Oaks to access the MOOT programmes.

The following funding is planned to be provided to MO during 2018/19. Funding that relates to EHCP support has been excluded.

	2019/20	Actual No. pupils*
	£000	May 19
54 Places (£10,000)	540,000	56
54 Top Ups (£4,850)	261,900	
Reintegration Support Service	281,000	19
Transition teacher	13,000	
Alternative provision 19-20 funding reduction	-75,000	
Total funding provided to MO (excludes EHCP)	1,020,900	75
Recoupment of 2018-19 underspend	-125,000	
Total	895,900	

*reflects number of pupils not number of full time timetables

**RSS includes 8 MOOT who receive 1 day a week tuition

- Anstee Bridge (part of Achieving for Children)

Anstee Bridge is currently located within Kingston College, however this arrangement will change from 1st September. Anstee Bridge provides 'respite' places for young people in Y11 from Kingston Secondary schools. Young people attend Anstee Bridge for one day a week and then are expected to continue for the other four days at their secondary school.

Anstee Bridge is an alternative learning programme for young people facing emotional challenges that cause them to struggle and disengage from education. The programme provides bespoke support for young people with a range of emotional and social issues, helping them to cope with the pressures of their final year of education. This is achieved through a holistic approach that links every aspect of a young person's care including:

- Emotional support and coaching to help young people find a post-16 destination.
- Life skills, including healthy eating and looking after sexual health.
- A programme of creative activities to build confidence and increase mental well-being

The aim is to ensure our young people complete the programme with an increased level of confidence and self-esteem so that they want to re-engage with education in an appropriate post-16 destination.

Last year 23 young people from Kingston schools enrolled, alongside two students from Richmond schools (Richmond schools were charged £3,000 per student to cover costs). For September 2019, 33 young people have been nominated by Kingston schools. This will mean that teaching groups will be approximately 8 young people per day.

Staff make use of Fridays for administration and planning. There are two members of staff, the Anstee Bridge Co-ordinator and a Teaching Assistant. The funding covers the salary costs of staff and the minimal accommodation costs (currently £2,000). All other costs are covered by the substantial fundraising that the Anstee Bridge Co-ordinator manages.

5. Update on review progress

- 5.1 The review of Alternative Provision is being co-ordinated by AfC officers in the SEND Transformation Local Provision workstream. To date the work in this area has focused on reviewing whether the resource provided to Malden Oaks is appropriate and aligned to need and also looking at possible future funding models for Anstee Bridge.

Malden Oaks

- 5.2 Kingston DSG will provide £896k to Malden Oaks to support pupils who need to access alternative provision in 2019/20 (excludes EHCPs). Work is underway with the school to better understand how many pupils are accessing support and what level of support (timetable hours) is being provided. There is a need for a clearer information sharing protocol between AfC / Council and Malden Oaks to ensure that AfC and borough schools are able to have effective oversight to enable limited DSG resources to be prioritised appropriately.
- 5.3 To begin this process AfC officers have discussed the financial position with the Headteacher and it has been mutually agreed that the school's underspend from 2018/19 of £125,000 will be repaid in to the DSG pot in 2019/20. In addition a reduction of a further £75,000 has been agreed. Based on the pupil data that is known it is suggested that this reduction comes from the Reintegration Support Service but AfC have given Malden Oaks the flexibility to allocate resources between the pupil places as they think best.
- 5.4 This arrangement will enable £200,000 to be reallocated towards other high needs priorities where there is insufficient funding in 2019/20. The Local Provision workstream will continue

to review the current delivery model during 2019/20 and Schools Forum will be kept updated and given the opportunity to comment on any changes that may directly impact on support available to pupils.

Anstee Bridge

- 5.4 The workstream have also been considering alternative funding models for Anstee Bridge. Anstee Bridge is currently funded through a combination of DSG grant funding (£100,000), Council general fund budget (£9,200) and through other grants and income that are claimed on a specific business case / pupil basis (£24,000 to date). The workstream are looking at funding model options which could make Anstee Bridge financially self sufficient. The possible options include allowing Anstee Bridge the flexibility to charge schools for services or to become an independent charitable body so that they can bid for more grant funding outside of the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 5.5 To progress the assessment and development of all options the workstream are planning to set up a working group consisting of headteachers, AfC officers and other relevant parties to develop proposals and make recommendations. If changes are agreed these are likely to be effective from September 2020.

6. Next steps

- 6.1 The review of alternative provision is ongoing and AfC officers will keep schools updated where tangible options that would change the current model arise.

7. Contacts

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