

**Children's Services – Devon Inclusion Project**

**Report of the Head of Education and Learning**

*Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.*

**Recommendation:**

To note the report and discuss



**Devon Inclusion Project**

The Devon Inclusion Project is a collaborative approach with Devon Schools to reduce the number of fixed term and permanent exclusions, reduce the number of children out of school on reduced timetables, and reduce those missing school due to medical needs.

Over the last academic year (2017-18) the Devon Inclusion Project has had 6 workstreams running:

- Revised protocol for inclusion of Looked After Children;
- Inclusion of children with medical needs in school;
- Early Help;
- Primary Work stream;
- Supporting Inclusive Practice;
- Re-Commissioning.

The work undertaken is based on Devon's vision of education:

- An inclusive education system that works for every Devon Child;
- Every school a good school with outcomes for children that always see Devon in the top quartile;
- An effective multi agency strength-based approach that helps families so that young people can engage and thrive;
- Every Child has a voice and it is heard;
- A system that works together so young people can achieve their ambitions and enter adulthood with the skills and confidence they need to succeed.

The success of these workstreams has been based on the considerable and invaluable commitment and participation of schools (please see a list of participants) at both primary and secondary level and other key professionals from Health, DCC, DAG, Exeter Diocese, parental representation & Babcock.

Workstream	Outcome	Key participants
<b>Revised protocol for inclusion of Looked After Children</b>	Under the leadership of the Headteacher of the Virtual School with support from primary and secondary representation, a new protocol for inclusion has been developed based around a	Alan Salt (KEVICC) Tim Rutherford (West Exe)

	<p>relational model which considers the impact of a child from the time they come into care to the actions necessary if the child is in breach of the school behaviour policy.</p> <p>The impact to date has seen Looked After Children accessing school with more support sitting around them due to the relational plan which supports them.</p>	<p>Nicky Dunford (The Link Academy) Jenny Ellen-Scotland (DCC)</p>
<p><b>Inclusion of children with medical needs in school</b></p>	<p>This workstream under the direction of Andrew Brent, DCC Policy &amp; Compliance Officer was the last workstream to start but is now well underway. The workstream has developed a new detailed passport for children accessing alternative provision in addition to the new medical consent form. This new paperwork has supported the new Access to Resource Panel to make more informed decisions about placing young people into alternative provision or referring them back to schools with advice from other services such as School Nursing.</p> <p>Other significant work is developing in relation to ensuring that all children are receiving the right provision for their need and supporting schools to effectively understand how they may be able to support children with medical needs. We have developed the support for schools with an Occupational Therapist and increasing this time to create a whole-time post. This has significantly supported a child to remain in school because of swift and responsive work with schools to explain changes and easy adaptations within school. Babcock now have a team reviewing the 'medical and illness' absences from school and linking in with the Inclusion Team to secure help and advice for schools to re-engage with learning</p> <p>Work is continuing within this workstream to: review the DCC medical policy. DCC in collaboration with health; Paediatrics, CAMHS, School Nursing and CCG input have developed work to review each of the children within the Alternative Provision Academies to seek the most recent medical advice, to ensure that every child is receiving the most appropriate education for their needs, and that it is sufficient to secure their reintegration without any gaps in learning. Work is also being developed to create a pilot with health to ensure that every child that is referred for medical needs will be seen by a relevant consultant within a set time frame.</p>	<p>Dr Anita Peirson (GP Lead) Kate Taylor (CCG) Dr Karen Street (RD&amp;E) Julia Allen (Hospital School) Paul Sutton (CVCC) Brett Rowson (Space) Jill Lake (Virgin – School Nurses)</p>
<p><b>Early Help</b></p>	<p>This workstream has been led by the Operations Manager for Mid &amp; East Devon who has worked with schools to understand how the Early Help principals can be embedded into the</p>	<p>Steve Powley (Withycombe Raleigh Primary)</p>

	working practices of schools. This will support school practice but also enable them to engage more easily with the most appropriate agencies when the needs of the family indicate this is appropriate.	Anne Billington (Offwell Primary now Beacon Primary)
<b>Primary Workstream</b>	The Primary workstream has professional focus and direction from Babcock LDP with highly influential and determined support from a range of primary schools. Following considerable work including investigating local needs, the work stream considered support for schools through the Boxall Profile to assess the social, emotional, mental health and behavioural needs of children and young people, whilst supporting provision development & effectively monitoring the impact of interventions by schools. Devon Association of Primary Heads voted to adopt this recommendation and Babcock LDP are rolling the free training out over the forthcoming months – December and January.	Range of Devon Primary Schools
<b>Supporting Inclusive Practice</b>	<p>This workstream has been led by Babcock LDP again with significant input and participation from schools across the County. With guidance from schools, Babcock are now in the final stages of completing an interactive 'Toolkit for Supporting Inclusion' entitled 'No Need to Exclude'.</p> <p>Separately, the Devon Inclusion Project Board has agreed the 'Zero Exclusion Project' which is being led by Aimee Mitchell, Headteacher at ISCA (Ted Wragg Trust) – This project will start in January 2019 for the entire calendar year. The project will involve 7 schools and include two support bases at two of the schools, to re-engage children into education. The Management Boards for these are starting immediately after the Autumn half term and will embed the Early Help model of working.</p>	<p>Range of both Primary &amp; Secondary schools across Devon</p> <p>Aimee Mitchell (ISCA) 7 other schools</p>
<b>Recommissioning</b>	This workstream has now concluded as the work in relation to recommissioning. SchoolsCompany is complete. The work has been re-brokered through the Regional Schools Commissioner. The new provider Wave Multi Academy Trust, which operated both outstanding and good provision across Cornwall will assume responsibility for alternative Provision in Devon from the start of November 2018.	Lead Simon Niles with project workstream.

During the year briefings were delivered to the Devon Association of Primary Heads (DAPH) at their conference and the Devon Association of Secondary Heads (DASH). The briefings were delivered in part by DCC staff but mainly the active and enthusiastic participants from Schools. The DAPH conference in particular allowed for input on each workstream by over 100 schools.

The Project Board continues to meet to review the progress and impact of these developments and may determine that new workstreams are required to move forward with identified key areas of work.

During the last academic year, the number of permanent exclusions has risen in line with other Local Authorities in England. However, there were twenty-one exclusions that have been overturned at governor's disciplinary panels or quashed at Independent Review Panels. As a percentage of the overall exclusions this represents 14.7%. This figure represents only those parents who have either attended the disciplinary meeting or taken the exclusion to Independent Review. The Inclusion Team continues to offer free training to Schools to ensure that all schools have up to date knowledge of the permanent exclusion process.

**Dawn Stabb**

Head of Education and Learning

**Electoral Divisions: All**

Cabinet Member for [Children, Schools and Skills](#): Councillor James McInnes

Chief Officer for Childrens Services: Jo Olsson

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

*Contact for Enquiries:*

Dawn Stabb, Head of Education and Learning

Email: [dawn.stabb@devon.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.stabb@devon.gov.uk)

Tel No: 01392 383000

Room: 130, County Hall