

SCRUTINY INITIATION DOCUMENT (SID)

Review: Alternative Provision

Scrutiny Review Committee: Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Director leading the review: Mark Taylor

Lead Officers: Gabby Grodentz and Jeff Cole

Overall aims of the review:

1. To identify how we can reduce the numbers of children on alternative provision.
2. To identify how we can ensure that provision is of the highest quality.
3. To make recommendations to further improve the outcomes, attendance, and accountability for those in alternative provision.
4. To identify how schools and academies are ensuring the best possible outcomes for the most vulnerable children, including their emotional well-being, and make recommendations about how best practice can be in place in all schools and Academies.
5. To evaluate the quality, standards and value for money of alternative provision providers, and the range of provision.
6. To identify how early intervention and 'Think Family' approaches can be mainstreamed once the pump priming funding is no longer available.

How is the review to be carried out:

Scope of the Review

The review will focus on:

- 1. The national and local context**
 - The role and responsibilities of Schools and Academies, and the Local Authority
- 2. The reasons why children are in alternative provision**
 - The profile of AP students including attainment, attendance and other outcomes
 - Trends in family histories
 - The child's journey into and through the AP system
- 3. The local AP arrangements**
 - The role of schools
 - The local method for delivering alternative provision
 - Current AP providers
 - Current performance
 - Quality of providers
 - Funding and value for money

4. Opportunities to make local arrangements more effective

- The use of early intervention (i.e. the new wraparound service, IFIT, approaches used by schools, the demand for therapeutic interventions)
- Strategies to ensure schools take full ownership of children on AP
- Outcomes in individual schools with contextual data such as exclusions

Types of evidence:

1. Documentary evidence including

- Contextual report/presentation
- Anonymised audit of young people in alternative provision
- Case studies
- Government guidance and officer briefing notes
- Service plans, performance indicators and update on impact

2. Witness evidence including

- Officer presentations (e.g. IFIT, project lead for new wraparound service)
- A range of secondary schools and Academies, and New River College
- Effective providers of alternative provision
- Other 'good practice' local authorities e.g. Lincoln, Camden's White British Underachievement Project
- Young people in alternative provision and their parents

3. Visits

- A local provider of alternative provision, such as New River College.

Additional Information:

Programme	
Key output:	To be submitted to Committee on:
1. Scrutiny Initiation Document	15 September 2015
2. Draft Recommendations	17 May 2016
3. Final Report	18 June 2016