

Cabinet 10 September 2018

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Response to Select Committee Scrutiny Inquiry

Inquiry Title	Working Together to Reduce Permanent Exclusions in Schools
Select Committee Owner	Chairman, Children's Select Committee
Date to be agreed by Select Committee	10 th July 2018
Lead Cabinet Member	Mike Appleyard
Lead Senior Officer (Director)	Tolis Vouyioukas

VERSION CONTROL

Version No.	Changes	Name of response author	Date
Final		Viv Trundell, Education Entitlement Manager	10 July 2018
Final – V2		Viv Trundell	23 August 2018

Recommendation	Agreed Yes/No	BCC Cabinet / Partner Agency Response including proposed action	Responsible Cabinet Member (for BCC recs)	Senior Responsible Officer Owner	Action by date
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1: It is recommended that Early Help representation should be part of the Bucks Inclusion Hub to ensure families and pupils experiencing difficulties or needing access to additional services get the early help they need	Yes	Cabinet accepts this recommendation and view it as a positive step. The Head of Early Help, Gareth Morgan, will identify a representative to become part of the work being undertaken by Buckinghamshire Inclusion Hub.	Cllr Mike Appleyard	Gareth Morgan Head of Early Help	10th September 2018
2: It is recommended that: a series of workshops 'Towards Better Behaviour, Sharing Best Practice' should be offered on selected INSET days during the academic year 2018/19, to be attended by all head teachers, their INCOs/SENCOs and chairs of governors with the possibility of rolling out the programme on a wider basis; and b. senior leadership teams across all	Yes Yes	a. Cabinet accepts this recommendation and officers will pilot a workshop on 'Towards Better Behaviour, Sharing Best Practice' in December A decision will be taken on future events once this has been evaluated. b. Behaviour training workshops were initiated and financed by BCC as an exception for this	Cllr Mike Appleyard	Viv Trundell Education Entitlement Manager	31 st December 2018

<p>schools in Buckinghamshire should be strongly encouraged to attend BCC-commissioned behaviour training (for example, Behaviour Network Meetings) and to include low-level disruptive behaviour training as a standard element in their school.</p>		<p>academic year due to the importance of promoting a school led model for the future (an approach that is supported and driven by the DfE). Attendance at the Behaviour Network meetings has been inconsistent and therefore a comprehensive Communications Plan is being developed to ensure good attendance at the meetings in the next academic year (Primary Schools). The secondary sector will receive training as part of the 'Towards Better Behaviour, Sharing Best Practice' workshops, which will also be promoted in the Communications Plan</p> <p>We will continue to work with schools directly and as part of the Inclusion Hub work to prevent exclusions and encourage inclusive practice. The development of an Inclusion Charter will assist this culture change.</p>			
<p>3: It is recommended that:</p> <p>3a. BCC guidance and toolkit templates should be reviewed immediately if there are any changes to national guidance or legal advice. Any changes should be made within 5 working days at a minimum and communicated to head teachers and governors within the same time period; and</p> <p>3b. the toolkit should be removed from the schools website when amendments are being uploaded to ensure version control integrity and prevent out of date material being used by schools</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>a. Cabinet accepts this recommendation and officers will action when new guidance is published. This is part of normal practice. We are not aware of any imminent changes.</p> <p>b. Cabinet accepts this recommendation.</p>	<p>Cllr Mike Appleyard</p>	<p>Viv Trundell Education Entitlement Manager</p>	<p>Immediately the DfE produce new guidance – date unknown.</p>
<p>4: It is recommended that, through the Side by Side project, the BCC SEN Team facilitates and supports schools in setting up regular SEN audits using a</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Cabinet accepts this recommendation, and BCC officers will work with colleagues in Side by Side to encourage bids from schools. This will ensure the audits are school led reflecting the principles of the</p>	<p>Cllr Mike Appleyard</p>	<p>Ben Dunne</p>	<p>10th September 2018</p>

system-led model to ensure that their policies and procedures are compliant with legislation and regulations and in line with current best practice		Side by Side approach. Bids will be invited via the September Schools Bulletin. School outcomes as a result of this project will be monitored.			
<p>5: It is recommended that Education Service officers:</p> <p>a. more effectively promote and signpost guidance to schools to help them to identify, within statutory requirements, how much information and evidence to include on Education Health and Care Plan forms ; and</p> <p>b. review communications to head teachers concerning alternative provision opportunities through the SEND Local Offer to ensure all avenues are being explored when pupils are in imminent danger of being permanently excluded</p>	<p>In part</p> <p>In part</p>	<p>a. Buckinghamshire's Local Offer is hosted on the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service Website. It has a wealth of information on EHC processes and 'the SEN support' offer. EHC plans should be specific to a child's needs and therefore it would not be appropriate to publish a 'good example' generic document. BCC officers will review the published Local Offer to ensure it offers leading edge advice.</p> <p>b. BCC officers will work with Buckinghamshire Family Information Service to ensure that the current menu of alternative provision accurately reflects the alternative provision on offer to schools.</p>	Cllr Mike Appleyard	Viv Trundell Education Entitlement Manager and SEN Manager	10th September 2018
<p>6: It is recommended that, as part of the review of the outcomes of SENDIAN pilot, the Education Service should also review the impact and value of a 'named' Educational Psychologist for schools and explore ways in which mixed primary and secondary school clusters could be set up to achieve this objective where budgets allow</p>	No	<p>Cabinet is unable to support this recommendation. There is a national shortage of Education Psychologists and recruitment in Buckinghamshire is difficult. Existing BCC Educational Psychology resource is focused on meeting our statutory duties. When there is capacity preventative work will be delivered and this approach will be included in our review and restructure of SEND.</p> <p>As an interim action the School Liaison Officers will discuss with schools the possibility of collectively commissioning a private Education Psychologist to support the schools in the Liaison Group area</p>	Cllr Mike Appleyard	Katherine Wells Education Officer	September 2018

<p>7: It is recommended that, as part of its work on the Inclusion Hub, officers should facilitate formal locally-based networks of head teachers to support each other on permanent exclusion issues</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Cabinet accepts this recommendation and officers will use the established School Liaison Groups to facilitate this. The School Liaison Officers will include on September meeting agendas.</p>	<p>Cllr Mike Appleyard</p>	<p>Katherine Wells Education Officer</p>	<p>September 2018</p>
<p>8: It is recommended that the BCC website is further strengthened to make it more user-friendly for parents. This should include: a link to a permanent exclusion Q&A format or leaflet for parents whose child has been permanently excluded; and signposting to a range of advocacy services to help parents negotiate the permanent exclusion process, an approach which is favoured by other local authorities</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Cabinet accepts this recommendation and will ensure that the public website is updated and improved.</p>	<p>Cllr Mike Appleyard</p>	<p>Viv Trundell Education Entitlement Manager</p>	<p>10th September 2018</p>