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 agreed by Cabinet	10th September 2018
Lead Cabinet Member	Mike Appleyard
Lead Senior Officer (Director)	Tolis Vouyioukas

VERSION CONTROL

Version No.	Changes	Name of response author	Date
Draft Final	Agreed by Cabinet Members	Chairman, Children's Select Committee	10 July 2018

Recommendation	Agreed Yes/No	BCC Cabinet / Partner Agency Response including proposed action	Responsible Cabinet Member (for BCC recs)	Senior Responsible Officer Owner	Six month progress update	RAG status
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	Gareth Morgan – Head of Early Help will attend these meetings During transition to the new service model being considered by Cabinet on 4.3.19, which includes an operational response and strategic focus to support this area of support needs. An appriopriate permanent delegate will be nominated thereafter	
2: It is recommended that: a. A series of workshops 'Towards Better Behaviour,	Yes	a. Cabinet accepts this recommendation. Officers will pilot a workshop	Cllr Mike Appleyard	Viv Trundell Education Entitlement	These recommendation have been actioned. a. Due to the pressures	

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 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.	Yes	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 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. We will continue to work with schools directly and as part of the Inclusion Hub work to prevent exclusions and encourage inclusive practice.		Manager	on School inset days We plan to take advantage of the summer term conference to disseminate new information and engage with teaching staff to disseminate best practice b. Three Behaviour training sessions were offered to the Primary sector. Topics covered were: • Managing low level disruption in the classroom • Managing extreme behaviours in school • Supporting colleagues to manage situations A more proactive approach was taken in promoting attendance, phone calls were made to individual Headteachers, which	

		The development of an Inclusion Charter will assist this culture change.			resulted in an improved uptake of between 30% – 50%. The feedback from schools was over whelmingly positive.	
3: It is recommended that: a. 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 b. 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	Yes Yes	a. Cabinet accepts this recommendation. Officers will action when new guidance is published. This is part of normal practice. We are not aware of any imminent changes. b. Cabinet accepts this recommendation.	Cllr Mike Appleyard	Viv Trundell Education Entitlement Manager	These recommendations have been actioned. a. The toolkit is up to date and accessible via Schools web. b. Processes have changed to ensure that the toolkit is removed immediately when there are changes to guidance which need the toolkit to be updated.	✔

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 system-led model to ensure that their policies and procedures are compliant with legislation and regulations and in line with current best practice	Yes	Cabinet accepts this recommendation. 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 Side by Side approach. Bids will be invited via the September Schools Bulletin. School outcomes as a result of this project will be monitored.	Cllr Mike Appleyard	Ben Dunne	This recommendation has been actioned. A Side by Side project has been initiated. It is focussing on the reduction of exclusions and increased inclusivity. Six schools were identified. All were very willing and welcomed the opportunity to take part. It is expected that this will conclude in the summer term. Each school will be audited, an action plan developed and reviewed to ensure progress. Together with joint meetings to share learning. The final action of the project will be to host a conference to share good practice and the learning which has taken place.	
5: It is recommended that: a. Education Service officers 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		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	Cllr Mike Appleyard	Viv Trundell Education Entitlement Manager and SEN Manager	This recommendation has been actioned. a. Please note that The Local Offer for SEND is under continual review. The most recent updates include revised templates from the SEN team., Specialist Teaching Service and the Early Years Team. Also included is a	

b. Education Service officers 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		Offer to ensure it offers leading edge advice. 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.			guidance document for schools entitled "How to write an EHC needs assessment". https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fsd/advice.page?id=y_3GT3zAxbc b. The Local offer currently reflects our menu of alternative provision. Our current knowledge suggests that the alternative provision market is very small. Schools prefer to commission provider with whom they have a previous and trusted relationship.	
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	No	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. As	Cllr Mike Appleyard	Katherine Wells Education Officer	This recommendation has been actioned. The possibility of collectively commissioning a private Education Psychologist to support the schools in the Liaision Group Area was discussed at each group. Whilst generating a lot of discussion the majority did not support this proposal. Many schools have	

		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			commissioned their own private EP, others felt their budget would not support this development and a national MAT felt they had support from their Head office. BCC are currently exploring the possibility of providing the primary PRU with an attached Education Psychologist. It was felt this was the best use of the limited resources focussing on early prevention. .	
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	Yes	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.	Cllr Mike Appleyard	Katherine Wells Education Officer	This recommendation has been actioned. A number of Headteachers were happy to be a point of contact to offer support on permanent exclusion issues. Headteachers who were part of a Multi Academny Trust felt they would be able to access this support from their central team. Additionally the Exclusion &Reintegration officers will sign post Headteachers to experienced school colleagues when appropriate.	

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	Yes	Cabinet accepts this recommendation and will ensure that the public website is updated and improved.	Cllr Mike Appleyard	Viv Trundell Education Entitlement Manager	This recommendation has been actioned. BCC website now includes a list of agencies that offer Independent advice and support. The link to the Department for Education guidance on exclusions provides advice and guidance for parents on exclusions and their rights.	✔

RAG Status Guidance (For the Select Committee's Assessment)

✔	*Recommendation implemented to the satisfaction of the committee.*	●	*Committee have concerns the recommendation may not be fully delivered to its satisfaction*
★	*Recommendation on track to be completed to the satisfaction of the committee.*	▲	*Committee consider the recommendation to have not been delivered/implemented*