

12 December 2017		ITEM: 11
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Delivery of Inclusion Units and Alternative Provision Reform		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key	
Report of: Roger Edwardson, Strategic Lead for School Improvement		
Accountable Assistant Director: Not applicable		
Accountable Director: Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children's Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

Following the closure of the Primary Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) at Corve Lane, the department is investing in our schools to open referral units to keep young people in school, as opposed to primary PRU provision. The department will continue to work collaboratively with the main secondary Alternative Provision (AP) Olive AP Academy (*previously Secondary PRU*) and support schools to prevent referrals.

The secondary provision must both improve and reduce the pupil count. The new Olive AP secondary provision is intended to be turnaround which will enable pupils to return to mainstream school. There will be a maximum of two terms with fewer pupils as this type of provision is not deemed appropriate for SEND pupils with significant social and emotional mental health (SEMH).

Working closely with the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) following the Ofsted judgement placing the Olive Alternative Provision (AP) Academy in special measures, the council took responsibility and closed the Corve Lane provision (previously part of Olive)

From the beginning of the new academic year in September 2017, East Tilbury Primary School, as part of St Clere's Trust, took responsibility for the Year 6 pupils who were previously being educated by Olive Academy.

The development of a range of small inclusion units gives the council the opportunity to educate pupils at risk of permanent exclusion or who have been permanently excluded to be placed within our mainstream provision. Too often, under the previous arrangements primary aged pupils at Corve Lane transferred to the secondary AP provision located at the Culver Centre. The new arrangements, if

approved, will make provision in up to an additional four new referral units for a maximum of 2 terms before transfer to a mainstream school.

In establishing the “Hub” provision at the old Stanford-le-Hope Children’s Centre run by East Tilbury Primary School, the local authority sought expressions of interest from all Thurrock primary schools to develop a new “Hub and Spoke” model with satellite centres in up to 4 additional schools across the borough.

To date, the department has received 8 expressions of interest to work with the Hub at East Tilbury and work is on-going to agree the new bases. It is planned to have the full model implemented by the beginning of April 2018 in the new financial year.

1. Recommendation

1.1 The Committee are asked to note and provide comment on the planned changes in provision for children at risk of permanent exclusion or who have been permanently excluded.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Inclusion units

2.2 Following the inadequate inspection judgement, the Primary Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) at Corve Lane has been closed. As a result the council are currently exploring with all Thurrock primary schools the plan to open inclusion units across the borough to keep children in school settings, as opposed to the traditional primary PRU provision model.

2.3 The council is continuing to work collaboratively with the main secondary Alternative Provision (AP) Olive AP Academy (*previously Secondary PRU*) and support secondary schools to avoid referrals. The secondary provision, having recently moved to Tilbury was inspected in September 2017 following being placed in Special Measures by Ofsted earlier in the year. Inspectors said there were “green shoots” and that young people were now judged to be safe in the new buildings in Tilbury. Much remains to be done to move the provision to good.

2.4 Following the Ofsted decision to place both the primary and secondary alternative provision provided by Olive AP Academy in Special Measures the council worked closely with the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) and the Olive Trust to remove the primary provision and establish the new “Hub and Spoke” model under the leadership of the local authority.

2.5 The functions of the former primary age PRU run by Thurrock Council were transferred to the Olive Academies Trust on 1st April 2015 and became part of the Alternative Provision delivered by Olive Academy Thurrock. The primary aged pupils were based in a separate building at Corve Lane. The Primary Unit of Olive Academy Thurrock closed on the 5th June 2017 due to the setting being judged inadequate by Ofsted earlier in the year.

2.6 Since that time the provision has been gradually phased out with some children remaining on the roll of Olive Academies Trust and being educated in other settings and some transferring to mainstream primary settings. At all times, because of the specific needs of the children, their placement in a variety of settings has been driven by a careful assessment of their needs now and in the future.

2.7 Expressions of Interest have been received from a range of primary schools across the borough as we develop the new “Hub and Spoke” model of provision. Currently the following Multi Academy Trusts have expressed an interest in creating the four additional primary satellite inclusion units (see diagram)

- Osborne Co-operative Academy Trust
- South West Essex Community Education Trust (SWECET)
- Catalyst Academies Trust
- Ortu Federation Ltd (Stamford and Corringham Trust)

2.8 **The Hub & Spoke Model:**

Under the direction of St Clere’s Trust the “Hub” has been established under the leadership of East Tilbury Primary School creating an assessment centre to determine the needs of primary aged pupils who have been permanently excluded or are at risk of permanent exclusion.

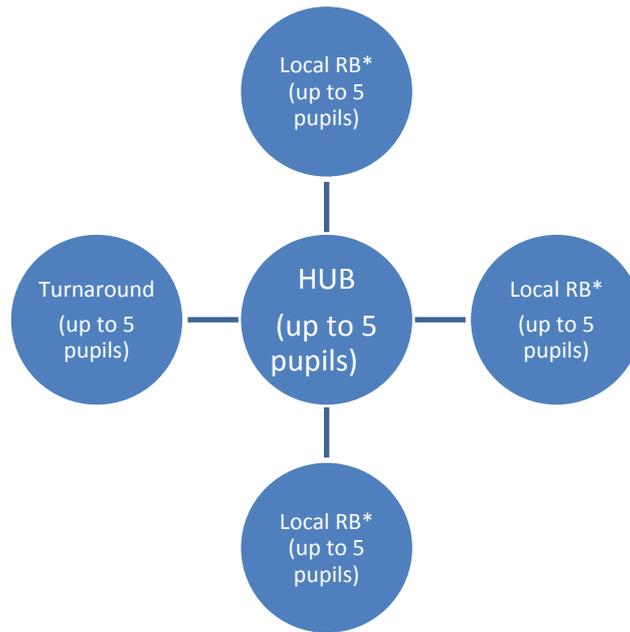
The centre focuses on de-escalation and seeks to:-

- support age appropriate interventions and preventative in-school support, with the intention of providing therapeutic services and turnaround so that pupils are returned to mainstream within 2 terms.

Resource Base Spokes (locality based, up to 4 pupils in each)

- Reintegration programme to prepare for mainstream
- Pupils to work in age appropriate mainstream classrooms with the TA
- One-to-one support and mentoring as appropriate to withdraw from mainstream classrooms to de-escalate and re-engage.
- Pupil numbers:
 - Resource bases (4 x 4) 16
 - Hub assessment 5
 - Total pupils 21
- 4 ½ day week curriculum provision (23.5 hours)

The “Hub and Spoke” model.



3. Issues, options and analysis of options

- 3.1 Working with the four academy trusts capital funding will be provided, where necessary, to create an inclusion base in one of their primary schools. The funding will be secured from the basic schools capital fund supported from the SEN capital recently allocated to Thurrock by the DfE.

Revenue funding will be required to staff each of the units making up the Hub and Spoke model. Funding will be provided from the Dedicated Schools Grant and individual school contributions. Consultation needs to be undertaken whereby funding follows the pupil from the excluding primary schools.

Currently, pupils removed from the roll of an excluding school do not lose any funding in terms of Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) funding or the associated Pupil Premium. In future, this funding will be transferred and In addition, in order to meet the costs of the new model, excluding schools would need to contribute £6k to meet the needs of the pupil removed from the roll. Together with the removed pupil funding and the additional school contribution the new provision will ensure appropriate staffing is in place in the hub and the associated satellite units. The school funding will follow the pupil on transfer to a maintained school.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 Having established new Alternative Provision for secondary aged pupils in the borough, this proposal, if approved, creates good provision for primary aged pupils for up to two terms before returning to mainstream provision. The schools chosen to deliver the new model will demonstrate very good inclusive practice and will be located geographically in easy reach of every primary school in the local authority. This will ensure that children remain in good

quality provision and enable them to continue their education in a mainstream school.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 Following approval from O&S a consultation period early in 2018 will make recommendations to Cabinet in 2018.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- Create a great place for learning and opportunity
- Improve health and well-being

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Nilufa Begum**
Management Accountant

Pupils removed from the roll of an excluding school do not currently lose any funding in terms of Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) funding or the associated Pupil Premium. In addition, to meet the needs of the new model, excluding schools would need to contribute £6k to meet the needs of the excluded pupil located in the new provision. In this way the funding would follow the pupil and would provide an incentive to the new receiving school on return to mainstream provision. Together with the removed pupil funding and the additional school contribution and the re-allocation of funding from Olive AP Academy the new provision will ensure appropriate staffing is in place in the hub and the associated satellite units.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lucinda Bell**
Legal Officer

There are no direct implications in this report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**
Community Development Officer

There are no direct implications in this report.

8. Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

- None

9. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None

10. Risks

The local authority has a statutory responsibility to meet the needs of permanently excluded pupils from both maintained and non-maintained school in the borough. This new model, if adopted will create up to 25 additional places for vulnerable young children to ensure they receive their full educational entitlement. Failure to deliver this new approach will create a significant risk in that the LA will not meet its statutory responsibilities

11. Conclusions

Following consultation with primary schools and academies the council will seek to establish the new provision building on the excellent work being undertaken by East Tilbury Primary School as the "Hub" and assessment centre for the new provision.

12. Appendices to the report

- None

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Children's Services