

2.2 - Annual Report on Alternative Provision

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1 Purpose

- 1.1 This paper intends to update Schools Forum on the use of alternative education provision in the primary and secondary sector in 2019/20 and 2020/21 to date and based on that use, confirm the number of places to be commissioned for 2021/22.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To **note** that 18 places will continue to be commissioned at the Primary PRU.
- 2.2 To **note** that 195 places will continue to be commissioned at Bridge Academy.

3 Background

- 3.1 Local authorities and schools have statutory duties in relation to the provision of alternative education as follows:
 - a. Education arranged by local authorities for pupils who, because of permanent exclusion, illness or other reasons, would not otherwise receive suitable education
 - b. Education arranged by schools for pupils who have been excluded on a fixed term basis
 - c. Pupils being directed by schools to off-site provision to improve their behaviour.

Primary Arrangements

- 3.2 The council fulfils its statutory duties to offer sixth day education provision to children of primary school age who are permanently excluded from mainstream schools at the Milton Keynes Primary Pupil Referral Unit (Primary PRU). In the academic year 2019/20 placements needed to be found for 9 children who were permanently excluded from 8 separate schools. From March 2020 there were limited

numbers of children accessing face to face education in schools due to Covid-19, so the number of permanent exclusions in 2019/20 would otherwise likely to have been higher.

- 3.3 Following collaboration and consultation with the school community, the Primary Inclusion Partnership was launched in September 2020. The local partnership has determined that the Primary PRU is also used for proactive dual roll placements, to offer short term intervention and support for children identified as at risk of exclusion. This means that the commissioned places need to be sufficient to address unavoidable permanent exclusion (normally the result of a sudden, unpredictable incident) and intervention, (where a pattern of behaviour is occurring and early intervention is not proving successful).
- 3.4 A permanent exclusion event means there is direct access to a PRU placement. Proactive placements are determined by a monthly panel of peers as determined by the Primary Inclusion Partnership. If the panel agrees to the admission, the child stays on roll of the referring school and there is an aim to ensure successful reintegration. Reintegration also takes place via the partnership, either via the child returning to their original school, or an alternative school where considered appropriate. The monthly panel also oversees the administration of the local primary Fair Access Protocol, which ensures hard to place pupils are proportionately admitted across all schools or to the Primary PRU, if the child is not able to access mainstream provision at that time.
- 3.5 So far this academic year (as at the end of November 2020) no children have been permanently excluded in Milton Keynes, compared to 3 children at the same time last year. As at the end of November 2020, 5 children were accessing a place at the Primary PRU, all of which were accessing as a result a proactive dual placement.
- 3.6 The Primary Pru has experienced a number of changes over the last year with the Local Authority SEND Teams providing interim leadership support to the Primary Pru between November 2019 and October 2020. Following a recruitment process Dr Neil Barrett is the interim Executive Headteacher this academic year with Chris Wragg as interim Head of Centre.
- 3.7 As part of the work through the Primary Inclusion Partnership there is also an agreement that pupils requiring a year 6 places will be supported through the Bridge Academy rather than through the Primary PRU and that in light of this there is considered to be sufficiency of places across alternative provision in Milton Keynes.

Secondary Arrangements

- 3.8 The council and schools fulfil the same responsibilities towards children who require alternative education within the secondary sector via the commissioning of 195 places across three sites of Bridge Academy. One site offers placements for Key Stage 3 behaviour support, one for Key Stage 4 and the third is a medical provision.

- 3.9 A permanent exclusion event means there is direct access to a Bridge Academy placement. There is also an emergency placement mechanism in place which enables schools to achieve an immediate placement for a young person. This is normally because there has been a serious incident meaning that it is not appropriate for the young person to be on the referring school's site but the young person remains on the roll of the referring school at that time.
- 3.10 Proactive access to the placements is undertaken by a monthly alternative education panel comprising of senior leaders from all 13 mainstream secondary schools, senior LA officers and Bridge Academy. The placement request is either for a 'refocus' (a short term KS3 placement of 2,3,4 weeks duration used by schools as an early intervention) to a longer term proactive referral.
- 3.11 This panel also oversees the administration of the local secondary Fair Access Protocol which ensures that hard to place pupils are proportionately admitted to the 13 mainstream schools. The adopted Protocol also enables any young person moving into Milton Keynes whom was permanently excluded from their last school or the last school was an alternative provider, to immediately access a Bridge Academy placement.
- 3.12 As at the end of November 2020, 112 of the 195 commissioned places in Bridge Academy were being taken up, 7 of which were being accessed by students who had previously been permanently excluded (including children who were attending out of borough schools but live in Milton Keynes).
- 3.13 The quality and sufficiency of this secondary provision is monitored by the Milton Keynes Inclusion Partnership (MKSIP) Steering Group which meets half termly. Three senior LA representatives and three secondary headteachers sit on this group which receives regular performance data and reports from the Executive Principal of Bridge Academy. Annex A sets out the Secondary Alternative Education Placement Data from Autumn 2019 to Autumn 2020.

4 Key Issues

4.1 Primary

Given the current use of the Primary PRU provision, the fact that demand for places generally rises during the academic year, and launch of the new Primary Inclusion Partnership, it is recommended that 18 places continue to be commissioned for future use but that this is kept under annual review.

4.2 Secondary

Given the current use of the Bridge Academy provision and the fact that demand for places generally rises as the academic year continues it is recommended that 195 places continue to be commissioned for future use but that this is kept under annual review.

Annex A – Alternative Education Data 2019/20

Alternative Education Data 2019-2020

School / Academy Name	Autumn 2019 (Sept-Dec)						Spring 2020 (Jan-Mar)						Summer 2020 (Apr-Jul)						Autumn 2020 (Sept - Nov)									
	Panel Referrals	Emergency Placements	Permanent Exclusions	Reintegrations / Integrations	Fair Access	Refocus	Managed Moves	Panel Referrals	Emergency Placements	Permanent Exclusions	Reintegrations / Integrations	Fair Access	Refocus	Managed Moves	Panel Referrals	Emergency Placements	Permanent Exclusions	Reintegrations / Integrations	Fair Access	Refocus	Managed Moves	Panel Referrals	Emergency Placements	Permanent Exclusions	Reintegrations / Integrations	Fair Access	Refocus	Managed Moves
Bridge Academy	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Denbigh	1	1	0	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	3
Hazeley	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Lord Grey	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Milton Keynes Academy	0	4	0	1	3	0	0	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	1	2	0	0	
Oakgrove	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	6	1	0
Ousedale	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2
Radcliffe	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Shenley Brook End	2	0	0	1	4	1	1	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	0	
Sir Herbert Leon	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
St Paul's Catholic	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	2	5	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	2	0
Stantonbury International	0	0	1	2	6	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0
Walton High	1	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
Kent's Park Hill	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	0	3
Watling Academy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Out of Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS:	6	10	1	8	46	3	6	17	9	1	0	25	10	2	2	1	0	2	10	0	0	9	7	0	3	43	3	9