

## **Alternative Provision: developing the model and funding in Sheffield**

### **Key Messages**

Forum members are asked to:

- Note the work taking place to review the alternative provision offer in Sheffield at all levels.
- Note that Sheffield is supporting two multi-academy trusts to apply to set up an alternative provision free school in Sheffield.
- Note the intention of officers to review funding models for alternative provision, including investigating if one funding model (or variations of one funding model) could be used across the city for all alternative provision.

### **1. Introduction/background**

- 1.1. Sheffield currently has a range of alternative provision (AP) commissioned by the local authority (LA) or directly by schools. This includes provision for excluded pupils, pupils unable to attend due to health needs and provision for pupils directed to attend away from the school site. It is delivered through a range of routes with various funding models.
- 1.2. The SEND/AP Green Paper and new SEND local area Ofsted inspection framework have a focus on how the local area is AP across the area to meet needs.
- 1.3. To ensure that Sheffield has sufficient appropriate AP in line with growing need across all ages in the city, we are currently reviewing what is in place and what our vision for AP is.
- 1.4. There are two specific pieces of work that must take place this academic year to which a funding model needs to be applied:
  - The Sheffield AP framework expires at the end of the current academic year and will need to be re-commissioned on a longer-term basis in sufficient time for provision to be in place in September 2023.
  - As part of the current free school capital round, the LA is supporting two multi-academy trusts who are submitting bids to open an AP free school. The deadline for submissions is February 2023.
- 1.5. To ensure a sustainable system, it has been recognised that we need to clearly identify the different funding streams currently being used for AP and agree future funding models, including considering the extent to which a single model (or small variations of one funding model) could be used across the city. We recognise that some of Sheffield's most vulnerable children access AP and that sufficient resource needs to be in place to ensure that it is successful.

- 1.6. As part of reviewing the funding model we will need to consider the sufficiency needs within the city and the number of places commissioned from various providers.
- 1.7. The funding element of this work will include how we consistently and appropriately fund:
  - Provision for excluded children currently delivered by The Sheffield Inclusion Centre.
  - Provision for children unable to attend due to medical needs currently delivered by Becton School: Chapel House.
  - Provision for children who are directed to attend offsite currently delivered via the Sheffield AP Framework and other commissioned short-term AP.
  - The proposed AP Free Schools.
  - Any other provision identified as being in scope as part of the review.

## **2. Recommendations**

Forum members are asked to:

- Note the information and anticipate future updates on funding proposals for AP in Sheffield.
- Note the requirement that the new model must be simple, fair, transparent and ensure that the offer of AP across the city is financially sustainable.