

Exclusion Prevention Update

Key Messages

Forum members are asked to note:

- The challenging situation faced by the city and the sector with regard to rising numbers of permanent exclusions.
- An update on the prevention-led response to this.

1. Introduction/background

- 1.1. Permanent Exclusions have grown in number over the past three years and are now well above pre-Covid levels.
- 1.2. Sheffield Inclusion Centre is currently offering 220 places, which are under extreme pressure. To reduce some of this pressure, from November, we have commissioned 10 additional places for primary aged children who have been excluded from school, with another provider.

2. Exclusion Prevention

- 2.1. Our key response to this challenge is to work with the sector to prevent exclusions from school where possible, including through the commissioning of a diverse range of alternative provision that can be used as an intervention to help meet the needs of different children.
- 2.2. Brigantia Learning Trust was commissioned to provide exclusion prevention alternative provision, from summer term in 2024. This replaced the provision previously provided by Sheffield Inclusion Centre.
- 2.3. There are now 36 full time equivalent (FTE) places in this provision, including an additional 12 places for key skills (KS)4 students which started this September. We are pleased by the working relationship that we have built with Brigantia and how they are performing.
- 2.4. In addition to this, we have commissioned a pilot for therapeutic alternative provision with 14 FTE places for secondary children at risk of exclusion which is starting this September 2024. We will also be closely monitoring the performance on this commission.

3. Further Work with the Sector

- 3.1. In conjunction with Learn Sheffield, we are planning a sector conference later this term to bring education leaders together on this topic and discuss a strategic approach to future plans.
- 3.2. We know there are some fantastic examples of inclusive practise across the city – such as the Compass Network - and hope that by bringing people together these can be shared and built upon.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. Forum members are asked to note the challenges faced by the city and our prevention-led response to address this.