

School Exclusions and Sixth Day Provision Update

Key Messages

Forum members are asked to note the attached Committee paper on School Exclusions and Sixth Day Provision. This is a live and developing area of work, and the report is being shared for information at this stage.

1. Introduction/background

- 1.1. The paper was considered by the Council's Education, Children and Families Policy Committee on 10 June 2025. A few key highlights are summarised below.
- High and rising exclusion rates: permanent exclusions in Sheffield remain very high, with 190 exclusions recorded this academic year – 160 from secondary, 25 from primary and five from special schools. Since 2022, Sheffield's exclusion rate has exceeded national, statistical neighbour and core city averages.
 - Systemic weaknesses: the city lacks a coherent strategy to prevent and respond to exclusions. Key challenges include inconsistent sixth-day provision, variable accountability across schools, disproportionately high exclusion of vulnerable pupils, low reintegration rates from alternative provision, and weaknesses in data and exclusion processes.
 - Urgent and coordinated response: the committee report outlines the urgent need for reform and the actions underway to address the scale of the challenge. This includes alignment with the Belonging Strategy, SEND Manifesto, and Learn Sheffield alternative provision (AP) Review.
 - Strategic actions and milestones:
 - City-wide Strategy: co-produce an exclusions strategy by autumn 2025, underpinned by a senior Challenge Board and strengthened data systems.
 - Sixth-day provision: expand Sheffield Inclusion Centre capacity; shift to school-based primary hubs by September 2025; implement service level agreement (SLA) to ensure delivery expectations.
 - Accountability: targeted engagement with high-excluding multi-academy trusts (MATs); establish senior leaders' roundtable; AP Taskforce to report on intervention strategies.
 - Inclusion of vulnerable pupils: embed exclusion reduction into the SEND Manifesto rollout; extend Compass Network; use data tools for early identification and support.
 - Reintegration from AP: make reintegration a core principle of the new AP Strategy; introduce key performance indicators (KPIs); implement performance monitoring through the Challenge Board.

- Operational delivery: review staffing and workflows within Access and Inclusion; establish performance clinics to monitor KPIs and improve oversight.

2. Recommendations

Forum members are asked to **note**:

- The content of the attached Committee paper and to ensure they are aware of the scale of the challenges identified, as well as the coordinated actions currently underway to address them.
- That a further update will be provided in due course.