

14 March 2018		ITEM: 10
Cabinet		
Delivery Of The New Primary Inclusion Units In Thurrock Mainstream Schools. (A Hub And Spoke Model)		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key	
Report of: Councillor James Halden, Portfolio Holder for Education and Health		
Accountable Assistant Director: Michele Lucas, Assistant Director Learning and Inclusion.		
Accountable Director: Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children's Services		
This report is public		

Executive Summary

Working closely with the Regional Schools Commissioners (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). This was provision for primary aged pupils up to the age of 11 years and continued under Olive Academy until June 2017 when it finally closed.

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 at Corve Lane.

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 school to develop a new "Hub and Spoke" model with satellite centres in up to 4 additional schools across the borough.

To date, we have 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. Recommendations Cabinet are asked to:

1.1 Comment on the planned changes in provision for children at risk of permanent exclusion or who have been permanently excluded.

1.2 Acknowledge and comment on the agreement with the Regional Schools Commissioner that the council will take responsibility for the new primary provision for these vulnerable children.

2. Introduction and Background

Inclusion units

2.1 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.

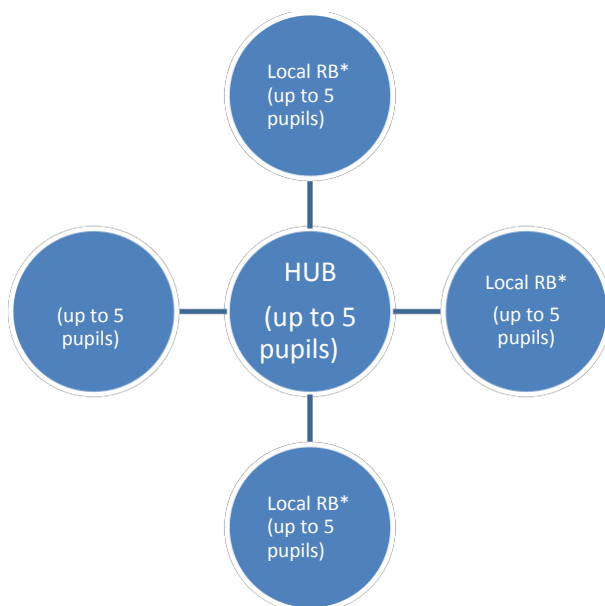
2.2 The authority is continuing to work collaboratively with the main secondary Alternative Provision (AP) Olive AP Academy (*previously Secondary PRU*) and support secondary schools to avoid referrals. The secondary provision, having recently moved to Tilbury was inspected in September 2017 following 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.

2.3 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.

2.4 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.

2.5 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

The Hub and Spoke model.



3. Issues

- 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 in the borough. The funding will be secured from the basic schools capital fund supported from the SEN capital recently allocated to Thurrock by the DfE.
- 3.2 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. Consultation needs to be undertaken whereby funding follows the pupil from the excluding primary schools
- 3.3 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 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. 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. Phase two of this initiative will include developing opportunities for short term time out placements this will not involve removing children from the home school roll – funding for this will be met from the home school. The aim of this is to allow schools the opportunity to look at a range of different strategies for when the pupil returns to the home 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 A paper was taken to Overview and Scrutiny in November 2017.

Overview and Scrutiny agreed:-

The planned changes in provision for children at risk of permanent exclusion or who have been permanently excluded and confirmed the agreement with the RSC that the council will take responsibility for the new primary provision for these vulnerable children.

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.

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

6.1 Create a great place for learning and opportunity

6.2 Improve health and well-being

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Nilufa Begum**
Finance Officer

There are no direct implications in this report

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

There are no direct implications in this report.

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

- N/A

9. Risks

- 9.1 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

10. Conclusions

- 10.1 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.

11. Appendices to the report

- None

Report Author:

Michele Lucas
Assistant Director Learning and Inclusion.