

19 November 2009		ITEM 6
Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
UPDATE ON THE PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT (PRU) AND PUPIL SUPPORT SERVICE (PSS)		
Portfolio Holder: Cllr Sue MacPherson, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: No	
Accountable Head of Service: Christine Tinkler, Head of Schools' Provision		
Accountable Director: Jo Olsson, Corporate Director Children Education and Families		
This report is Public		
Purpose of Report: To report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the activities within the PRU / PSS		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pupil Support Service (PSS) exists to support schools in reducing exclusions, and to provide full-time provision for those pupils who are permanently excluded, with medical needs or those with no school place.

The following report gives an indication of global budget allocations, cost pressures, and details of the use of additional resources previously agreed by Schools Forum.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.1 That Overview and Scrutiny note the activities within the PRU and PSS in the previous year.**

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 2.1** PSS currently is comprised of five discrete services: Secondary and Primary Pupil Referral Units, Statement Support, Tuition Services, and Behaviour Education Support Team (BEST). However there is a significant degree of

overlap between the services in order to secure the best possible provision to meet the needs of individual children.

- 2.2 Primary Mental Health shares the PSS referral system and premises at Jack Lobley, but is separately managed and funded. Additional funding previously agreed by Schools Forum which enabled the appointment of 1.35 fte additional members of staff to the team, increasing and diversifying the skills-set, and enabling it to provide services to a greater number of families, expired in July 2009. (£230k over 2 years)
- 2.3 Appendix A provides details of the numbers and types of referral received by PSS in the last academic year.
- 2.4 Appendix B provides costings for each service area, and Statement Support Year 1 costings.
- 2.5 Appendix C gives details of total current pupil numbers in each part of the service, with a separate table showing those that have been in provision for a year or more.
- 2.6 Difficulty in recruiting permanent, qualified teaching staff has led to the long-term use of supply staff.
- 2.7 Income is received from various sources.
- 2.8 For permanently excluded pupils, there is straightforward claw-back of the proportion of Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) applicable to a child according to its age and the point in the financial year the exclusion becomes final. Thurrock has so far chosen not to levy any additional financial penalties against schools that permanently exclude, although this remains an option.
- 2.9 Pupils on time-out placements with the primary or secondary PRUs are funded by their schools by a proportion of AWPU appropriate to the period of time they attend.
- 2.10 The PSS receives the statement funding for those pupils placed in the PRU whilst waiting a special school place.
- 2.11 Relatively small amounts are received from other sources, e.g. Primary and Secondary Strategies, Practical Learning Grant, Devolved Formula Capital. Cumulatively, income to the Service is in the region of £250k per annum, which, when added to the core budget gives a total of approximately £1.7 million.

3. ISSUES AND/OR OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The Pupil Support Service has striven not only to deliver on its statutory obligations, but also to continue to provide a range of support services to schools and pupils in order to reduce permanent exclusions.

- 3.2 Difficulties recruiting and retaining suitable staff, coupled with long-term sickness absences, have led to over-reliance on agency staff.
- 3.3 The demand from schools for support has continued, and this has led to dissatisfaction from schools because of a lack of access to time-out placements.
- 3.4 The number of children being maintained in the PSS for long periods of time means that it is becoming increasingly difficult to respond to new referrals from schools.
- 3.5 A draft proposal for making the service more effective is currently being considered by a Task and Finish group of officers and headteachers.

4. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 4.1 Not applicable

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 5.1 The Council is committed to providing appropriate support for vulnerable children and young people

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Yannick Stupples-Whyley**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652532**
ystupples-whyley@thurrock.gov.uk

The funding for the Pupil Support Services highlighted in the main body of the report is contained within the overall resources of the Children, Education & Families Directorate.

6.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Kevin Colville**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652042**
kcolville@thurrock.gov.uk

Section 19 of The Education Act 1996 is the primary legislation setting out local authority duties pertaining to the provision of education for children who, for a variety of factors, are not receiving education.

“Suitable” education is defined as “efficient education suitable to the age, ability, aptitude and any special needs the child (or young person) may have.

Any school established and maintained by a local education authority which :

- a) is specifically organised to provide education otherwise than at school;
and
- b) is not a county or special school

shall be known as a “pupil referral unit” (section 19 (2) and schedule 1 of the Education Act 1996 is the primary legislation about Pupil Referral Units)

Therefore, PRU’s are required to ensure that suitable education is available to those who are not receiving education for reasons relating to illness, exclusion or otherwise.

6.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**
Telephone and email: **01375 652472**
sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk

There are no direct diversity implications arising from this report, as it is for information only.

6.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

None

7. **CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 The Pupil Support Service has supported a significant number of children and young people throughout the last year. The Local Authority is working with Headteachers to ensure the service provides a quality provision and delivers value for money. This may require some radical change in the future.

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT:

- None

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- Appendix A – Pupil Support Service – Summary of Services Provided
- Appendix B – Summary of PSS Costs – Current Year
- Appendix C – Total Number of pupils within the PSS

Report Author Contact Details:

Name: Christine Tinkler

Telephone: 01375 652539

E-mail: ctinkler@thurrock.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

PUPIL SUPPORT SERVICE : SUMMARY OF SERVICES PROVIDED

Number of referrals during 2008/9

<u>Autumn 2008</u>	Spring 2009	Summer 2009	Total
69	44	44	157

Broken down by Cluster, Primary/Secondary, and referral request, as follows :

TIME OUT (PRU placements)

Time Out Placements PRIMARY	Central Cluster	Lakeside Cluster	North East Cluster	Excellence Cluster	OOB / No School	Statement/ Special Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	0	3	2	3	0	4
No. that led to Provision	0	3	1	0	0	3

Time Out Placements SECONDARY	Central Cluster	Lakeside Cluster	North East Cluster	Excellence Cluster	OOB / No School	Statement/ Special Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	1	1	1	0	1	4
No. that led to Provision	1	1	0	0	1	3

STATEMENT SUPPORT

Statement Support PRIMARY	Central Cluster	Lakeside Cluster	North East Cluster	Excellence Cluster	OOB / No School	Statement/ Special Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	0	2	0	1	1	3
No. that led to Provision	0	2	0	1	1	3

Time Out Placements	Central	Lakeside	North East	Excellence	OOB / No	Statement/ Special
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SECONDARY	Cluster	Cluster	Cluster	Cluster	School	Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	0	1	1	1	2	3
No. that led to Provision	0	1	1	1	2	3

TUITION

Tuition Service PRIMARY	Central Cluster	Lakeside Cluster	North East Cluster	Excellence Cluster	OOB / No School	Statement/ Special Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	2	1	1	2	1	3
No. that led to Provision	2	1	1	2	1	3

Tuition Service SECONDARY	Central Cluster	Lakeside Cluster	North East Cluster	Excellence Cluster	OOB / No School	Statement/ Special Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	5	4	7	5	3	7
No. that led to Provision	5	4	5	5	3	6

PLACEMENT

Placement PRIMARY	Central Cluster	Lakeside Cluster	North East Cluster	Excellence Cluster	OOB / No School	Statement/ Special Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	0	0	0	1	0	1
No. that led to Provision	0	0	0	1	0	1

Placement SECONDARY	Central Cluster	Lakeside Cluster	North East Cluster	Excellence Cluster	OOB / No School	Statement/ Special Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	3	0	0	1	12	6
No. that led to Provision	0	0	0	1	11	5

ADVICE FROM PSS

Advice PRIMARY	Central Cluster	Lakeside Cluster	North East Cluster	Excellence Cluster	OOB / No School	Statement/ Special Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	0	1	4	1	0	5
No. that led to Provision	0	1	3	1	0	4

Advice SECONDARY	Central Cluster	Lakeside Cluster	North East Cluster	Excellence Cluster	OOB / No School	Statement/ Special Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	0	2	2	2	0	5
No. that led to Provision	0	2	1	1	0	3

BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

Behaviour Support PRIMARY	Central Cluster	Lakeside Cluster	North East Cluster	Excellence Cluster	OOB / No School	Statement Or Special Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	4	3	2	0	1	6
No. that led to Provision	3	2	1	0	1	4

Behaviour Support SECONDARY	Central Cluster	Lakeside Cluster	North East Cluster	Excellence Cluster	OOB / No School	Statement/ Special Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	4	0	0	1	7	8
No. that led to Provision	4	0	0	1	5	6

PERMANENT EXCLUSIONS

Exclusions PRIMARY	Central Cluster	Lakeside Cluster	North East Cluster	Excellence Cluster	OOB / No School	Statement/ Special Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	1	5	1	0	0	5
No. that led to Provision	1	4	1	0	0	5

Exclusions SECONDARY	Central Cluster	Lakeside Cluster	North East Cluster	Excellence Cluster	OOB / No School	Statement/ Special Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	8	8	1	7	4	13
No. that led to Provision	6	8	1	6	3	11

PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH CARE TEAM

PMHC PRIMARY	Central Cluster	Lakeside Cluster	North East Cluster	Excellence Cluster	OOB / No School	Statement/ Special Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	9	2	5	2	1	13
No. that led to Provision	7	1	4	1	1	10

PMHC SECONDARY	Central Cluster	Lakeside Cluster	North East Cluster	Excellence Cluster	OOB / No School	Statement/ Special Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	3	8	4	5	3	14
No. that led to Provision	1	8	1	5	3	11

MANAGED MOVE (excluding those arranged directly between schools, or facilitated by central LA officers)

MANAGED MOVE PRIMARY	Central Cluster	Lakeside Cluster	North East Cluster	Excellence Cluster	OOB / No School	Statement Or Special Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. that led to Provision	0	0	0	0	0	0

MANAGED MOVE SECONDARY	Central Cluster	Lakeside Cluster	North East Cluster	Excellence Cluster	OOB / No School	Statement/ Special Need
No of referrals Sept 08-July 09	2	1	0	0	0	1
No. that led to Provision	2	1	0	0	0	1

APPENDIX B

SUMMARY OF PSS COSTS – Current Year

Per annum	Normal income	SRPG	
Phoenix Primary PRU	349521		
Secondary PRU	793401		
Tuition Service	237138		
Statement Support Service	301153	143264	3 yrs
BEST		219547	3 yrs
	PMHCT	230000	2 yrs (expired 07/09)

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT SUPPORT COSTS – YEAR 1

SRPG income for Statement Support 08-09	-139,498	
Primary Teacher (7 months)	£24,400.00	Sept - March 09
Temporary Lead Teacher (12 months)	£41,340.00	Apr - March 09
Learning Mentors x 2	£38,220.00	Apr - March 09
Admin (SH £11,745 & NH 50% @ £9699)	£21,444.00	Apr - March 09
Resources for setting up	£3,875.00	Apr - March 09
Carry forward	-£11,051.00	

PROJECTIONS BEST & STATEMENT SUPPORT COST YEARS 2 & 3

(Salaries only, on the basis of 2.7% cost of living increase)

Year	BEST	Statement Support
1	219,547	139,498
2	225,475	143,264
3	231,562	147,132

APPENDIX C

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUPILS WITHIN THE PSS

The following information is as of the Provisions List for July 2009

PROVISION	<u>NO. OF PUPILS</u>
PRIMARY - Key stage 1 +2	17
PRU – Key stage 3	18
PRU – Key stage 4 (Including Alternative Provision)	56
STATEMENT SUPPORT – Key stage 1 + 2	5
STATEMENT SUPPORT – Key stage 3	12
STATEMENT SUPPORT – Key stage 4	16
TUITION – Key stage 1 + 2	8
TUITION – Key stage 3	13
TUITION – Key stage 4	11

PUPILS RECEIVING PSS PROVISION FOR 1 YEAR +

PROVISION	TIMEOUT	PERM. EXCLUSION	OTHER (Includes Managed Move + No School)	NO.OF PUPILS
PRIMARY - Key stage 1 +2	3	1	0	4
PRU – Key stage 3	5	4	1	10
PRU – Key stage 4	2	5	5	12
ALTERNATIVE PROVISION – Key stage 4	9	16	7	32
STATEMENT SUPPORT – Key stage 1 + 2	1	0	0	1
STATEMENT SUPPORT – Key stage 3	3	1	3	7
STATEMENT SUPPORT – Key stage 4	3	3	5	11
TUITION – Key stage 1 + 2	0	1	1	2
TUITION – Key stage 3	0	0	4	4
TUITION – Key stage 4	0	0	1	1