

## **External review of Alternative Provision in East Riding Yorkshire**

### **What is Alternative Provision?**

Alternative Provision is for children of compulsory school age where education is arranged through full or part-time, and short or longer-term placements;

- by schools where a pupil has been subject to a fixed-period exclusion of more than 5 school days
- by local authorities for pupils because of permanent exclusion (from day 6 after exclusion),
- by local authorities where children are too ill to attend school,
- for pupils who do not attend mainstream or special schools, are not electively home educated and who would not otherwise receive suitable education,
- by schools to an off-site provision to support a pupils' behaviour.

AP is not exclusively for Children and Young People with SEND.

### **Why are we undertaking a review of Alternative Provision?**

The recent focus on Alternative Provision (AP) which the new Joint Area SEND Inspection framework requirements now provide along with the recent publication of the national SEND & AP Improvement Plan, it is timely to undertake an external review of our AP arrangements in East Riding to establish:

- current provision / arrangements that the Local Authority have in place,
- the arrangements schools are making with AP providers / commissioning outside of Local Authority involvement,
- gap and needs analysis projecting over the next 5 years looking at what AP provision we need across the East Riding of Yorkshire,
- High Needs Block allocated projected funding requirements over the next 5 years, so how much this is going to cost so we can plan financially to support the development of this offer.

There was an educational working group who did some work in 2020 on an East Riding Alternative Provision proposal. This work, importantly, reflected the recommendations of the Timpson Review (May 2019), and will enable and inform the external review arrangements for AP in 2023-24.

### **SEND Development and Improvement Plan**

Although AP provision is not solely for children and young people with SEND, the external review of Alternative Provision is part of the implementation of the SEND Development and Plan in relation to ensuring we have the right AP offer for children and young people in East Riding both in terms of the number of places but also the quality of the offer available across the county.

### **Who is undertaking the Review?**

ERY have recently commissioned SEND Consultancy Ltd. To undertake the external review. The reviewers are Kate Browning and Jane Friswell, they will make contact with all key stakeholder groups over the next few weeks. The review outcomes will include:

- The development of an evidence-based AP Strategy and action plan overseen by a project working group with full stakeholder representation.
- Review current AP arrangements and identified gaps to inform our integrated commissioning arrangements
- Review current pathways and decision- making processes including ER fair access protocol
- Clarification of roles and responsibilities for all partners
- Look at best practice in AP and share this evidence base to inform the development of our ER offer
- Develop a register of local AP, quality assured, providers

### **How can you get involved?**

We need your support to enable the external review of AP to complete on time, by the end of October 2023. We, therefore, will be approaching the respective Chairs of your partnerships and groups to request representation from your sector on the AP project group. The Project Group will meet virtually, half-termly with Kate and Jane for a maximum of two hours each time. It is important that local representation informs our local AP offer of support to our children, young people and their families as a valued element of our local continuum of provision for pupils with and without SEND.

We look forward to working with you in the next few months to engage in the process of external review of AP and meet the challenge of getting support right for every child and young person who may require AP.

Thank you

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