



Welcome back to our monthly newsletter, we hope you had a fantastic summer! We're delighted to continue our journey of keeping you informed about the progress we're making in piloting the proposals outlined in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities & Alternative Provision (SEND&AP) Improvement Plan. As we dive deeper into the program, we invite you to join us in exploring the latest updates and developments.

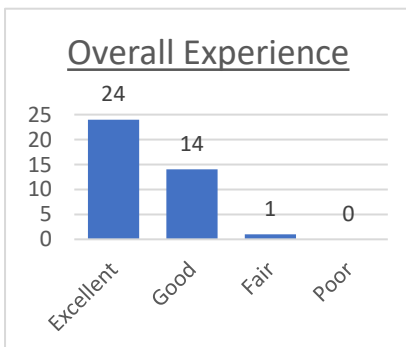
What's been happening?

Alternative Provision (AP) Conference - 10.07.2024

Back in July, Portsmouth schools, alternative education providers, and local authority colleagues came together for our (PCC's) first Alternative Provision Conference. The day included update presentations about the SENDAP Change Programme, Portsmouth's alternative provision approach, and the shared health & safety responsibilities of schools and alternative providers. There was also a keynote speech from an East Sussex alternative provider titled 'Alternative Education for Reintegration', which explored how schools and providers can work collaboratively to achieve school reintegration. In addition, delegates engaged in roundtable discussions on alternative provision best practice, covering key topics such as effective referral processes and strategies for successful school reintegration. Finally, providers showcased their offers through exhibition stands giving delegates a valuable opportunity to network with one another and learn about the range of provision available for Portsmouth's students.



As the chart highlights, the event was an overwhelming success with the vast majority of attendees rating their overall experience as either 'excellent' or 'good'.

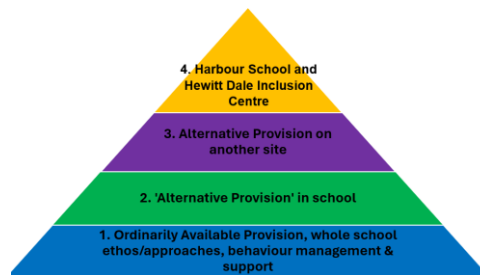


One attendee said: "Excellent conference - more opportunities to network and come together would be great." The theme of providing more opportunities for networking ran through the evaluation forms we received so we are certainly thinking about similar events that we would like to run in the future.

Thank you to all those who attended and contributed to the conference. If you have any questions about our alternative provision work and/or suggestions for events you would like to see in the future, please email: APCommissioning@portsmouthcc.gov.uk.

Alternative Provision Quality Assurance Process Update

Over the last few months, we've developed a 2-stage quality assurance process to assess tier 3 alternative providers' ability to keep children safe and provide good quality education. Tier 3 providers in Portsmouth typically offer alternative education outside of school settings, though sometimes within the school environment as well. *The pyramid below outlines Portsmouth's 4-tier AP model.*



Stage 1 of the process involves providers completing a detailed application form that covers key areas such as their educational offerings, safeguarding, and health & safety.

Stage 2 is an in-person or virtual assessment, where PCC colleagues conduct site visits, hold meetings, and observe the provision in action. Providers must successfully complete both stages to achieve 'assured' status.

It's important to note that schools and local authority commissioning teams are still responsible for completing their own due diligence when making alternative provision referrals. We'll be issuing guidance on this in due course.

The stage 1 application form went live in July 2024 and 32 providers were invited to apply. We've already received 6 applications, and some stage 2 assessments are arranged for September. Many providers have confirmed they will be submitting their applications in the coming weeks.

Additionally, we have created an [Alternative Provision Directory](#), hosted on the Portsmouth Education Partnership website. This directory is a work in progress, with the goal of listing providers as they pass the quality assurance process. So, watch this space!

If you'd like to know more, or have any questions, please email us at APCommissioning@portsmouthcc.gov.uk.

SEND&AP Change Programme Evaluation Meeting

In August, the SENDAP team met with the independent evaluation team (ICF) to discuss key activities within the Change Programme. The evaluation team was particularly interested in our progress on:

- LAIP development
- Testing and implementing the EHCP reforms
- CPP plans for improving OAP
- Work being done or planned for Alternative Provision
- Establishing and developing partnerships

We also outlined our plans for the next 3-6 months, ensuring continued progress in these critical areas.

Co-production workshop with local artist Fark.



The ELSEC Team (Early Language Support for Every Child) is working with street artist FARK to support the development of a logo to promote the message of 'Chat, Play, Read' across Portsmouth City. On Friday 16.08.24 we held a co-production event held at Buckland Family Hub where 21 children and their families attended the session which was set out in a 'chat, play, read' format. The Team and Fark engaged with the children about their art and talked about 'Chat, Play, Read'. There was colouring, chalking, painting, cutting and sticking and general free play in the garden. Fark also made some hand drawings on flipchart paper of the three draft birds he had created. The children named them and then voted which bird they liked the best to for our logo. Fark also made a piece of art whilst the children were watching, which was then gifted to Buckland Family Hub.

A colouring competition was also launched to help to work out the colours of the logo bird. Blank copies of the birds have been left at libraries, Family Hubs and Parenting Network sites across the city, with details on how to enter, from these, three winners will be selected and they will get a signed copy of one of Fark's prints.

A great day was had by all!



To find out more about the SEND&AP Change Programme please visit: [Portsmouth's SEND&AP Change Programme < Portsmouth Local Offer](#)

*If you have any specific questions about the SEND&AP Change Programme or would like to provide feedback, please email:
SENDAPChangeProgramme@portsmouthcc.gov.uk*