

Schools' Forum Report
Pupil Referral Unit Review of Commissioned Places
21 September 2017



Subject: Review of ESFA Commissioned Places at the PRU

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Council currently commissions 24 full-time equivalent (fte) places at the PRU. These places are for children and young people permanently excluded from school.

1.2 The Home and Hospital provision is for an additional 12 places.

2 COMMISSIONED PLACES

2.1 Currently the Council commissions 24 places for pupils from schools across the town, priority is given to those children/young people who are permanently excluded. These places are commissioned via the Education Funding and Skills Agency (ESFA) allocation.

2.2 The table below indicates the number of permanently excluded (PEX) full time equivalent (FTE) pupils accessing the PRU over the last three years, including attendance information.

Academic Year	Number of permanently excluded pupils (PEX)	Context, including full-time equivalences
2014-15	3	
2015-16	14	Breakdown of data is not available but is believed to be approximately 6 full time equivalent (fte) places.
2016-17	20	This figure equates to approximately 9 full time equivalent places. Attendance at the PRU of the 9 fte was only 47.6%.

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- 2.3 Based on the information in the table above around the number of fte PEX pupils, the Council is proposing to reduce the number of commissioned placements from 24 fte to 12 fte places. If the Council needs to commission additional places for permanently excluded pupils, this will be done as and when the need arises, in partnership with the PRU and other educational providers, such as schools and academies.
- 2.4 The change to the number of commissioned places will be reported through the ESFA placement funding submission that the Council completes in November 2017. It is proposed that the reduction in numbers will take effect from September 2018.
- 2.5 A report will be presented to Children's Services Committee in October 2017 requesting that the proposal outlined above is approved.
- 2.6 This proposal is in addition to a planned review of all ESFA funded places as part of a wider SEND review that commenced in September 2016. A significant amount of work has already been undertaken in relation to identifying solutions for the growing issue of SEMH provision across the town. In order to address these priorities the Council will have to review all ESFA funded places to ensure that they are aligned with the needs of the children and young people in the town. The Council is unable to obtain additional places from the ESFA and therefore has to utilise the current places to the best effect.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 An additional consideration to this proposal is the PRU Management Committee's decision to convert to academy status.
- 3.2 On conversion to academy status, the PRU will be entitled to take all ESFA funded commissioned places as part of the conversion process. This effectively locks all commissioned placements to the new academy chain, removing the opportunity for the Council to redress any future placement shortfalls across the town.
- 3.3 This proposal therefore protects the planning for all commissioned placements across the town to ensure that the delivery model is aligned to meeting the needs of the children and young people of Hartlepool.

4. CONTACT OFFICERS

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