

**Report to Hartlepool Schools' Forum 22 October 2020**  
**From Martyn Gordon - Headteacher: PRU (Soon to be Horizon School, Hartlepool)**

**Item 9: Pupil Referral Unit – Operating Model and Financial Review**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 In 2019 the Schools' Forum agreed to fund Hartlepool PRU and Home and Hospital for 2020/2021, at a cost of £0.750m, pending the completion of a long term review to ensure that the organisation became sustainable over the coming years.
- 1.2 In the autumn of 2019, a thorough review of the staffing structure based upon a rising need within Hartlepool for support with students either permanently excluded or on the edge of permanent exclusion was completed.
- 1.3 In September 2020 the Children Services Committee agreed to change the name of the Hartlepool PRU and Home and Hospital to The Horizon School

**2. Update**

- 2.1 In September 2019, the Hartlepool PRU started the academic year with 35 Permanently Excluded students on roll.
- 2.2 During the 2019/20 academic year, 11 students were permanently excluded and 11 students were successfully re-integrated back to into mainstream schools.
- 2.3 In July 2020, 10 Y11 students left school in summer 2020, all moving on to their first choice at Post 16 and ensuring school has a 0% NEET rate.
- 2.4 So far during 2020/21:
  - 4 further students have been reintegrated or have been given an EHCP
  - 21 Permanent Excluded Students remain on roll
    - Of these 21 students:
      - a plan has been designed to ensure 7 are able to reintegrate in to secondary schools or
      - 7 students have started down the statutory assessment process
      - 7 Y11 students who will naturally transition into Post 16.
- 2.5 Prior to 2019/20, Hartlepool had a high number of permanent excluded children for a variety of reasons and though a 66% reduction in permanent exclusions was achieved in the last academic year, 11 PEX's still occurred.
- 2.6 The significant reduction in permanent exclusions students on roll at The Horizon School has ensured that outreach work was carried out which ensured a 6 further permanent exclusions were avoided. Already during 2020/21 further outreach work is having an impact and meaning no further permanent exclusions have occurred so far this academic year.
- 2.7 In 2019/20, The Hartlepool PRU and Home and Hospital total spend was £80k below what was allocated and predicted during the outturn projections in year, whilst supporting some of the most vulnerable young people in Hartlepool.

- 2.8 For 2020/21, 9 KS4 students continue to access alternative provision throughout the week, most part time for 2/3 days and spend the remainder of their week in school. This funding has come from the High Needs Block and has ensured suitable post 16 pathways to be developed and also increased capacity to work with students who are suitable for reintegration and offer outreach work to avoid further permanent exclusions.
- 2.9 The Horizon School has worked hard to re-engage all Hartlepool Secondary Schools; they are all now accessing some outreach support for students who are at risk of being permanently excluded.
- 2.10 The Horizon School wishes to continue with 12 places funded for permanently excluded children and 12 places funded for Home and Hospital.
- 2.11 The Horizon School wishes to continue to engage with local schools, in the first instance the secondary sector, offering outreach for up to 2 places per secondary school funded by the High Needs Block and thereafter a per day rate £100, for additional students per secondary school. In the summer months they wish to support the inclusion strategy as it develops in Hartlepool and work with vulnerable year 6 pupils across Hartlepool ensuring transition to secondary school can be successful.
- 2.12 The Schools North East Alternative Provision Partnership and the Horizon School have carried out research and the national average funding for pupil referral units is £20k.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Horizon School would like the Schools Forum to agree to continue its support whilst the new Hartlepool Inclusion Strategy is developed by the local authority in conjunction with schools.

It is requested that the Schools Forum agrees to either:

- a) To fund The Horizon School for 12 permanently excluded places, 12 Home and Hospital Places and 10 further funded places (2 per secondary school) at £20k each at a total of £680k for one year

or

- b) To fund The Horizon School for 12 permanently excluded places, 12 Home and Hospital Places and 10 further funded places (2 per secondary school) at £20k each at a total of £680k for two years

Forum Members are asked to vote on the two options above to give The Horizon School the time to continue to develop its own systems and process whilst having surety of funding to support the most vulnerable students in the secondary sector in Hartlepool.

All Forum Members are eligible to vote on this recommendation.