

Wirral Alternative Education Provision Outcomes of the Review: Autumn 2015

Jan Levenson

'It is important to note that many children who are referred to PRUs and AP come from the most deprived backgrounds. They often come from chaotic homes in which problems such as drinking, drug-taking, mental health issues, domestic violence and family breakdown are common. These children are often stuck in complex patterns of negative, self-destructive behaviour and helping them is not easy or formulaic. Many also have developed mental health issues. To break down these patterns they need the time, effort, commitment and expertise of dedicated professionals working in well-organised, well-resourced and responsive systems.'

'Improving Alternative Provision' by Charlie Taylor, Government Adviser on Behaviour DfE, 2012

Review findings:

Provision in 'silos'; lack of coordination, provision mapping, sharing of best practice, ensuring that all students' needs/interests can be met through a high quality local offer

Student attendance and wider safeguarding concerns

Geographical spread

Equality of opportunity

Lack of agreed protocols for information/ data sharing

Review findings cont'd

The need for good quality progression routes for students accessing AE

Variation in the cost of provision, and expectations of providers concerning payment arrangements

Concern for the needs of students at KS2 and KS3

Wirral Alternative Education:
Moving forward through the implementation of an
improved strategy

The establishment of a Wirral Guild of Alternative Education

The Wirral Guild of Alternative Education

Vision Statement

**“To operate as a Guild to ensure that young people
have access to high quality education and learning
opportunities within Alternative Education on Wirral”**

► **From September 2016, The Guild will:**

Adopt a common referral protocol from schools to providers, including the implementation of a single agreed application form to ensure improved information sharing

Facilitate the effective use of the new Wirral Alternative Education Portal in order to utilise new technologies to track students' attendance, progress and behaviour whilst educated through alternative pathways

Participate in robust procedures for monitoring safeguarding arrangements, policies and procedures through compliance with a newly established Section 175 Safeguarding Audit

Be held to account through a new Quality Assurance model, with regular monitoring visits in order to both capture and share best practice and ensure that all providers continue to offer high quality placements

Ensure that each placement has explicit timescales for intervention and review, including reintegration where appropriate

Work together to further develop programmes and interventions for students at Key Stages 2 and 3

Work together to improve transition programmes for students in KS2, KS3 and KS5, particularly for those at risk of becoming NEET

Work in consultation with Headteachers and the LA to continue to develop the breadth and quality of the local offer of Alternative Education

And Finally...

‘The existence of good quality AP in any one area is usually more a matter of luck than of any systematic planning by schools, PRUs or LAs.’

Charlie Taylor

Can we in Wirral change that?