

Children at risk of permanent exclusion

Nick Lee, Director of Education

Dr Sarah Cooper, Education Psychologist

Dr Maddi Popoola, Education Psychologist and Manager of
Mental Health Support Services

Jennifer Hardy, Head of Access to Learning

Together for Nottingham



It is well documented that permanent exclusion is associated with damaging outcomes and long-term negative impact for the excluded individual e.g. increased likelihood of contact with the justice system and reduced training or employment opportunities (Herbert, 2021). There are also negative societal impacts that exclusions can lead to; for example, economic costs (Valdebenito et al. 2018). These are stark reminders of why it is so important that we are working towards supporting inclusion and reducing exclusions



- **Receiving a permanent exclusion increases the probability of custody by 33%** - School Exclusions and Youth Custody, a report prepared for the Nuffield Foundation (Clare Cathro, Giulia Tagliaferri and Alex Sutherland, 2023)
- A joint inspection of education, training and employment services in youth offending teams in England and Wales, an inspection by HM Inspectorate of Probation, Estyn and Ofsted June 2022 reviewed 181 cases for their research. **Of these, 65% had been excluded from school, 47% of them permanently**



Background

- Levels of permanent exclusion in Nottingham have historically been high compared to our regional and statistical neighbours
- Challenging Education landscape in Nottingham
- Inclusion Model – all secondary schools signed up in 2022
- However, levels of exclusion continue to be very high
- Research project undertaken by a group of Educational Psychologists
- Since then, work has begun on the identified themes, which we will share with you today



CAR research – what did we want to find out?

- Which children and young people are at risk of permanent exclusion in Nottingham City?
- What helps to support inclusion within settings?
- What would further support inclusion in Nottingham City?
- What support have parents/carers of CYP who are at risk of permanent exclusion found to be helpful? What else might be helpful to parents/carers in the future?



What did we do?

Review of academic literature

Nottingham City Exclusion Data

Focus groups with key staff from primary and secondary settings

Interviews with parents/carers

Focus groups with pupils from primary and secondary settings



Key themes

Creating a
vision/ shared
understanding
of Inclusion

Multi-agency
working

Preventative
Work

Ethnicity

Relationships
Between LA
and Settings

Teacher
Factors

Work with
parents/ carers

Funding and
Provision

Transition

Mental health



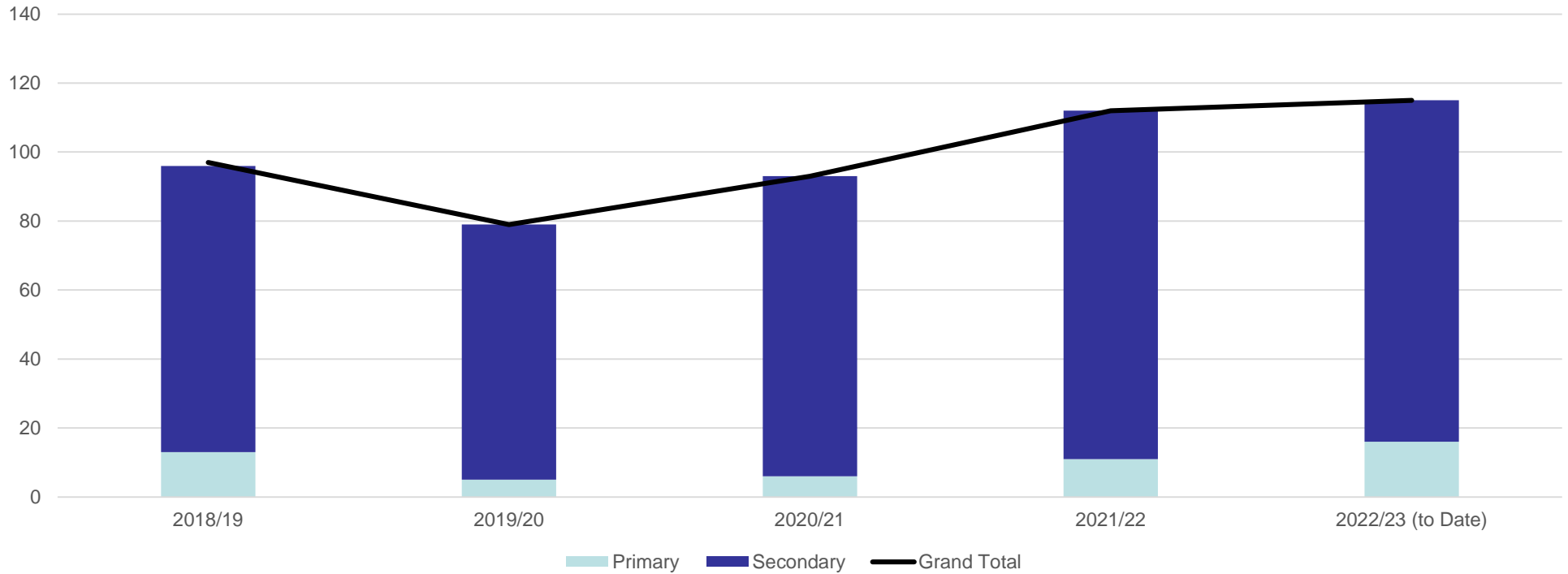
What has happened since?



Together for Nottingham

Levels of PEX

Permanent Exclusion rates over the last five years



CAR panel

Joint knife
crime
guidance

INclude

Best
practice:
Enfield

Best
practice:
Bristol

Multi agency working

THEME: Multi-agency working is something that works well for children at risk of exclusion, and both settings and parents want more of this in Nottingham City.

IMPLICATION: Decision makers may wish to consider what makes multi-agency work most effective for CYP at risk, and how this can be implemented across educational settings, external agencies and the LA as a whole.

ACTIONS SO FAR: Multi-agency panel meetings to consider children at risk of permanent exclusion have been in place since January 2023, and membership has recently been expanded to include the VRP and YJS. Many of the individual referrals have led to offers of systemic work and staff training, which will impact on more students than those referred to the panel. We are also currently considering how a multiagency approach can be implemented at the early intervention level.

Joint initiatives include re-writing the knife crime guidance for schools and the Include pilot



Preventative work

THEME: Preventative Work around at-risk groups: It is not clear how Nottingham City identify individuals from ‘at risk’ groups at an early stage and what preventative work is being implemented to counteract any potential risk.

IMPLICATION: It would be beneficial to consider how to enhance the use of data in order to support LA and educational setting’s understanding of their most ‘at risk’ groups.

ACTIONS SO FAR: We are developing a consultation model for early identification for children at risk of exclusion, the routes to inclusion team are leading on this and will use the evidence from CAR to support the process.



The ask?

- A city-wide exclusions task force – recommended by the Partnership Board
- A full online, digital directory of support and services available for young people and schools
- Development of an Inclusion and SEND Strategy