

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
13 November 2024**

Alternative Education Provisions for Permanently Excluded Children

Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To scrutinise the alternative education provisions in the City for Children who have been permanently excluded from school.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked:

- 1) To make any comments or recommendations in response to the information provided at the meeting.
- 2) To consider whether any further scrutiny of the issue is required.

3 Background information

- 3.1 Nottingham City is historically a high permanently excluding authority, with averages often 50% higher than national.
- 3.2 Nottingham City has a diverse education landscape and the alternative provision landscape is no exception. There are 19 alternative provisions in the city including three independent schools and two AP Free Schools.
- Increasing number of permanent exclusions across all key stages
 - Increased use of AP by schools to prevent permanent exclusions
 - Place pressures across the AP landscape
 - Capacity in our Pupil Referral Units is also a challenge
 - There is no Key Stage 1 capacity for permanently excluded children
- 3.3 The Local Authority commissions Raleigh Education Trust to place excluded children through Denewood and Unity Academy, with Denewood primarily providing onsite provision for key stage 2 & key stage 3 pupils, and Unity Academy sourcing an appropriate alternative provision for key stage 4 Pupils.
- 3.4 Given the rate of increase of permanent exclusions, capacity at Denewood Academy has been raised over the last two years in order to meet demand, from 42 places, to 50 places and now to 70 places. Last academic year saw the highest number of permanent exclusions in Nottingham City, with over 200 pupils needing to be placed either at Denewood Academy or Unity Academy.

- 3.5 In order to try and reduce permanent exclusions in secondary schools, the Local Authority set up the Inclusion Model, where funds were delegated to schools in order for them to support children in mainstream education and hopefully avoid the need to exclude. Where pupils were excluded, as part of the Inclusion Model, funding would be recouped from schools in order to meet the cost of providing an appropriate education provision.
- 3.6 If current rates of permanent exclusions continue, then it will be unlikely that the Local Authority will be able to meet its statutory duties to provide 6th day provision. The Committee may want to assess the risk this poses to the Council, and the long term strategy in place to reduce the number of exclusions.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Report from the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education, the Corporate Director for Children and Education, and the Director of Education.

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

- 5.1 None.

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 None.

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 All.

8 Contact information

- 8.1 Damon Stanton, Scrutiny & Audit Support Officer
Damon.stanton@nottinghamcity.gov.uk