

# Children's and Education Services Directorate



<b>Meeting Title</b>	CYP Scrutiny Committee
<b>Report Title</b>	Alternative education provisions for permanently excluded children
<b>Meeting Date</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> November 2024

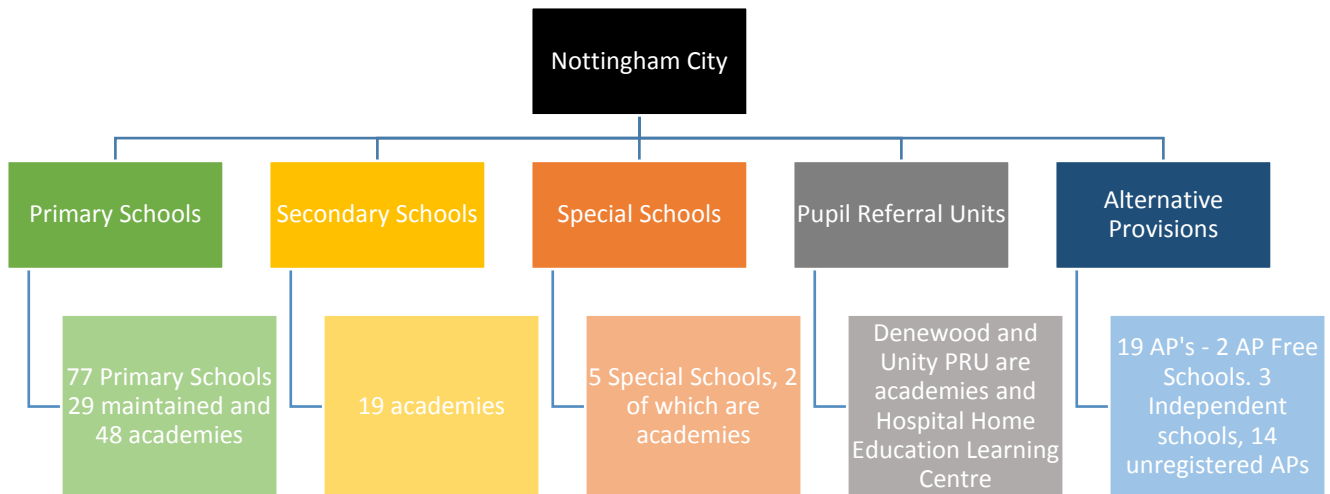
<b>Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):</b>	Jill Colbert, Corporate Director for Children and Education, Nick Lee, Director of Education
<b>Portfolio Holder(s):</b>	Cllr Cheryl Barnard
<b>Report author and contact details:</b>	Neil Langham and Jennifer Hardy

<b>Summary of issues:</b> <p>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.</p> <p>The challenges we are facing in relation to Alternative Provision (AP) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Increasing number of permanent exclusions across all key stages</li><li>- Increased use of AP by schools to prevent permanent exclusions</li><li>- Place pressures across the AP landscape</li><li>- Capacity in our Pupil Referral Units is also a challenge</li><li>- There is no Key Stage 1 capacity for permanently excluded children</li></ul>
<b>Action Required:</b> <p><b>1. The Committee is asked to make any comments or recommendations in regards to the information presented at the meeting.</b></p>

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Nottingham City is historically a high permanently excluding authority, with averages often 50% higher than national.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 Permanent exclusions in key stage 1 have thankfully been rare, and therefore the Local Authority has not had to put specific provision in place to meet this need. Where there have been permanent exclusions in the past in key stage 1, the child was offered a place at an alternative mainstream school.

- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 An overview of the education system in Nottingham:



## 2. Current Position

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 The Local Authority had 3 key stage 1 permanent exclusions, as well as another pupil in key stage 1 who was needing to be placed as schools had refused the parent's application due to challenging behaviour
- 2.3 Due to the lack of key stage 1 provision, the Local Authority has used the primary element of Hospital Home Education Learning Centre in order to meet our statutory duty for 6<sup>th</sup> day provision
- 2.4 Denewood Academy has been increased from a 42 place onsite provision to a 70 place provision. All places are currently taken, and therefore any further exclusions in key stage 2 and key stage 3 will need to access an external AP
- 2.5 With more children being permanently excluded and needing to be placed in external AP, the majority of AP's are now full and it is very difficult to secure education provision for permanently excluded pupils.
- 2.6 Denewood and Unity Academy are also seeing a number of breakdowns for children who are accessing an AP provision, which is creating additional work and resource to find an alternative.
- 2.7 The Inclusion Model is due to end in April 2025. An alternative to this model is being looked at currently, and the Education Division has just interviewed for a newly created Inclusion Manager role, who will be responsible for evaluating the LA's behaviour strategies and devising an Inclusion Strategy to hopefully reduce exclusions in the future.

- 2.8 New Permanent exclusions far outweigh the reintegration of previous permanently excluded pupils back into mainstream education, therefore the issues the LA is facing will only increase.
- 2.9 The Local Authority is working with Raleigh Learning Trust on a Free School to address some of the capacity issues that are being faced.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 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 6<sup>th</sup> day provision
- 3.2 Given the lack of capacity at Denewood Academy, more children will be placed on alternative provision, which will mean an increase of cost to the Local Authority to fund these provisions.
- 3.3 The Local Authority needs to develop a longer term solution for children who are excluded in KS1.

Appendix 1:

#### **ALTERNATIVE PROVISIONS IN NOTTINGHAM CITY**

<b>PROVISION</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>BRIEF DESCRIPTION</b>
CP Riverside School	DfE AP Free School OFSTED: Good	Meadows	GCSE: English Language/Maths/English Literature/Biology/Chemistry/RE/History/PE/Psychology/Business Functional Skills: English/Maths Vocational: Health & Social Care/Public Services
Crisp Vocational Provision	Unregistered alternative provision QA: Meets Standards	Bulwell	GCSE: English Language/Maths Functional Skills: English/Maths/ICT Vocational: Motor Vehicle Maintenance/Construction/Sport/Vocational Studies/Hospitality & Tourism
Equip Education & Support Services	Unregistered alternative provision QA: Meets Standards	Bulwell	GCSE: English Language/Maths/English Literature/Citizenship Functional Skills: English/Maths Vocational: Carpentry & Joinery/Bricklaying/ Painting & Decorating/Health & Social Care
Fast Forward Direction Thru Music	Unregistered alternative provision QA: New provider will be evaluated this academic year	City Centre	Vocational: Music Production/Creative Music Industry

FUEL Independent School	DfE Independent School OFSTED: Good	Basford	GCSE: English Language/Maths/Biology/History/English Literature Functional Skills: English/Maths Vocational: Mechanics/Construction/Health & Social Care/Child Development/Sport/Business
Glow Education Project	Unregistered alternative provision QA: Meets Standards	Lenton	GCSE: English Language/Maths/English Literature/Citizenship Functional Skills: English/Maths
Notts County Foundation	Unregistered alternative provision QA: Meets Standards	Meadows	Functional Skills: English/Maths/ICT Vocational: Sport/Personal & Social Development
New You Hair Academy	Unregistered alternative provision QA: New provider will be evaluated this academic year	Bulwell	Functional Skills: English/Maths Vocational: Hairdressing
Nottingham College	DFE FE College OFSTED: Good	City Centre	GCSE: English Language/Maths/Physics/Biology/Chemistry/RS/History/Geography/Psychology/Business/Sociology Functional Skills: English/Maths Vocational: Motor Vehicle/Construction/Hair/Art & Design/Engineering/Applied Science/Hospitality & Catering/Sport
Nottingham Education Alternative Provision	Unregistered alternative provision QA: Meets Standards	Sherwood Rise	GCSE: English Language/Maths/Art/English Literature/RS/History/Geography/PE/Business/Science Functional Skills: English/Maths/Science Vocational: Personal & Social Development/ Art
Nottingham Tutorial College	Unregistered alternative provision QA: Meets Standards	Sherwood Rise	GCSE: English Language/Maths/Physics/Biology/Chemistry/RE/History/Geography/Psychology/English Literature/Design & Tech Functional Skills: English/Maths/IT
REACH Learning Provision	Unregistered alternative provision QA: Meets Standards	Basford	GCSE: English Language/Maths/Science Functional Skills: English/Maths Vocational: RSE/Barbering

Rise Learning Zone	Unregistered alternative provision QA: Meets Standards	Bilborough	Functional Skills: English/Maths Vocational: Food & Cooking/Horticulture/ Occupational Studies Support for English/Maths
SEND Project	Unregistered alternative provision QA: Meets Standards	Sneinton	Vocational: Arts Award Support for English/Maths
SHAPE	Unregistered alternative provision QA: New provider will be evaluated this academic year	Radford	Functional Skills: English/Maths/IT Vocational: Art & Design/Vocational Studies/ Workskills/Construction/ASDAN courses
Silver Linings School	DfE Independent School OFSTED: Waiting for first inspection	Bilborough	Therapeutic provision SEMH – Early life trauma/ACEs
Stone Soup Academy	DfE AP Free School OFSTED: Outstanding	City Centre	GCSE: English Language/Maths/English Literature/Art/Photography/French/RS Functional Skills: English/Maths Vocational: Sport/Media/Construction/Art/Photography/Music/Catering/Motor Vehicle/ASDAN
Switch Up	Unregistered alternative provision QA: Have not had pre-16 learners	St. Ann's	GCSE: English Language/Maths Functional Skills: English/Maths Vocational: ASDAN qualifications
Take 1 Learning Centre Independent School	DfE Independent School OFSTED: Good	Hyson Green	GCSE: English Language/Maths Functional Skills: English/Maths/IT Vocational: Music Technology/Business & Enterprise/Health & Fitness/Arts Award/Science/PSHE
TBAC	Unregistered alternative provision QA: Meets Standards	City Centre	GCSE: English Language/Maths/Science/ English Literature/History Functional Skills: English/Maths/IT Vocational: NVQ/AIMS awards