

EXECUTIVE BOARD – 18 MARCH 2014

Subject:	Nottingham City Secondary Education Partnership Inclusion Strategy Update		
Corporate Director(s)/ Director(s):	Alison Michalska, Corporate Director for Children and Adults		
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor David Mellen, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services		
Report author and contact details:	Sukhjinder Johal, The Fernwood School Business Manager Tel: 0115 9286326 x 2014 Email: s.johal@fernwoodschool.org.uk Anna White, NCSEP Strategic Director Tel: 07969 812773 Email: a.white2@fernwoodschool.org.uk		
Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Subject to call-in <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Reasons: <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital		
Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Total value of the decision: £0.595 million plus any unspent Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) top-up			
Wards affected: All	Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s): 6 February 2014		
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:			
Cutting unemployment by a quarter	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Cut crime and anti-social behaviour	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Ensure more school leavers get a job, training or further education than any other City	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Your neighbourhood as clean as the City Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Help keep your energy bills down	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Good access to public transport	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Nottingham has a good mix of housing	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Nottingham is a good place to do business, invest and create jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Nottingham offers a wide range of leisure activities, parks and sporting events	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Support early intervention activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Deliver effective, value for money services to our citizens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):			
<p>In September 2012 a report was presented to Executive Board regarding proposals to develop an improved strategy for the support of pupils displaying challenging and/or anti-social behaviour. Executive Board agreed to fund the Nottingham City Secondary Education Partnership (NCSEP) Inclusion Strategy for the first year through its centrally held Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The Partnership has achieved a number of outcomes since September 2012 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a decrease in permanent exclusion across the city; • schools/academies taking increased responsibility and accountability for the continuing education of young people with complex behavioural needs; • schools and academies developing a collaborative strategy for the placing, tracking and monitoring of the provision for these young people; • a decrease in the number of young people who become Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) and the consequent benefit to the community that this will bring. <p>This report describes in detail the Partnerships outcomes and requests funding for year 2 to enable the Partnership to continue with its work and implement a longer term strategy.</p>			

Recommendation(s):

1. To approve the transfer of £0.595m DSG and any unspent 2013/14 PRU top-up to NCSEP to enable the Partnership to implement a longer term strategy, noting that this follows a report presented to Schools Forum on 21 March 2013 and that the £0.595 million will be transferred and a final performance report will be presented to Schools Forum and any unspent 2013/14 PRU top-up will be paid after the closedown process has been completed (May 2014).
2. To note that the NCSEP Strategy continues to be successful in line with the proposals set out in the September 2012 Executive Board report. Significant achievements include the work done in schools to achieve greater consistency and best practice, the operation of Managed Moves and Fair Access and the registration and quality of assurance of alternative providers in raising standards. The Strategy is continuing to develop these areas, as well as securing a robust continuum of provision outside of schools, which meets Nottingham's needs as well as developing the workforce.

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 In order to continue the positive work in year two the Partnership will require additional funding, this funding will allow the Partnership to further embed the work done to date and to evaluate and review the elements of the strategy. The funding will be necessary to support the staffing structure of the strategy, but also to support pupils being placed into appropriate alternative provision in a more cost-effective way and as a means of reducing permanent exclusions. £0.190 million will be spent directly on supporting pupils who have triggered Fair Access during this current financial year. £0.300 million will be spent on supporting schools in funding assessments and placements for high-needs pupils. £0.105 million will be put towards the cost of running the strategy, including towards staffing costs.
- 1.2 Since September 2012 the Partnership has made significant progress to work with young people requiring additional support. The Partnership has worked with numerous agencies to develop and implement successful strategies and a number of positive successes have been achieved. Last academic year saw year 1 of the strategy implemented resulting in a decrease in permanent exclusions by 44% across the city. Analysis of permanent exclusions shows that they peak in the Autumn Term. This year the numbers are in line with last academic year. So far in the Autumn Term of 2013 15% of exclusions come from outside of the Partnership and 42% are attributable to one academy. Aside from this academy, all other permanent exclusions had been through the Partnerships available alternatives and have been mutually agreed as necessary. To date the City Learning Centres still require pupils to be permanently excluded as their admissions criteria, meaning that some exclusions continue to be necessary. 63% of exclusions have been for pupils in Key Stage 3 highlighting the need for better quality support, intervention and alternatives to exclusion for pupils aged 11-14.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 A report was presented to Nottingham City Council's Executive Board in September 2012 outlining the Partnership's Inclusion Strategy to support young people displaying challenging and/or anti-social behaviour in schools and the community. In the report it was stated that this would be achieved by empowering the Partnership to provide a range of services which would

fulfil the statutory duties of the Local Authority (LA). The report discussed the key benefits which would be achieved. These included:

- a decrease in permanent exclusion across the city;
- schools/academies taking increased responsibility and accountability for the continuing education of young people with complex behavioural needs;
- schools and academies developing a collaborative strategy for the placing, tracking and monitoring of the provision for these young people;
- a decrease in the number of young people who become Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) and the consequent benefit to the community that this will bring.

2.2 A number of recommendations were made within the report to enable the Partnership to fund the strategy but also to ensure the Partnership followed governance arrangements as set out by the Director of Children's Services (DCS). The Partnership has followed all the recommendations and a total of £0.825 million has been transferred to the Partnership in line with the September 2012 Executive Board approval.

2.3 A delay in the transfer of funding from the LA to the Partnership has occurred which has unfortunately hindered the Partnership's progress in implementing its full strategy, for example, a lack of funding held up the appointment of a Fair Access Facilitator (Complex Case Co-ordinator) for an academic year. The Partnership has, however, still achieved a number of positive outcomes:

2.4 **Tier 1 Outcomes:**

2.4.1 **City Behaviour Policy** - Work has been undertaken with the Partnership Senior Leaders in Behaviour Network (PSLBN) and an NCSEP Behaviour Policy has been agreed by the PSLBN. The Partnership is currently consulting with external agencies on their response to the four main triggers of permanent exclusion: weapons, drugs, assault and persistent disruption. By Easter 2014 additional senior level strategic consultation will be completed including input by Family and Community Teams, the Youth Offending Team (YOT), as well as Nottinghamshire Police. The Safer Schools Strategy is being rewritten and will set out longer term commitments for working with schools.

2.4.2 **Pupils at Risk (PAR)** - Schools have produced a register of pupils whose behaviour is causing concern. This staged overview will allow for more effective tracking, earlier intervention and more effective evaluation of interventions. The Partnership Support Plan (PSP) documentation has been rolled out in the Summer Term 2013 for pupils identified on the staged register ensuring accurate and detail records are kept and more effective levels of information sharing. The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) paperwork and Team Around the Child (TAC) process has been embedded alongside this documentation. Schools are currently populating their Attendance PARs and reviewing a staged approach to intervention.

2.4.3 **SkillForce Intervention** – In academic year 2012-13 NCSEP commissioned SkillForce on behalf of the Crime and Drugs Partnership to deliver the Streetwise gang and knife crime intervention to up to 90 Key Stage 4 male pupils across the city. This piece of work took place last year and has been

re-commissioned aiming to target an additional 180 young people this academic year. This process is also used to trigger Vanguard Plus referrals. Nottingham is one of few areas in which the police have managed to fully engage education in the Ending Gang and Youth Violence Strategy.

2.5 **Tier 2 Outcomes:**

2.5.1 In the year 2011-12 19 managed moves were processed as a trial cohort in the Summer Term with a 42% success rate. In 2012-13 this improved with 55% of the total 60 managed moves completing successfully. An analysis of the reasons for termination has been undertaken and the protocol reviewed and support identified. So far in 2013-14 there have been 49 managed moves attempted and currently 70% of students have successfully completed and are now on-roll out of a total of 69 managed moves considered for suitability. There are currently an additional 17 students being supported through the managed move process in host schools at this time. The managed move protocol is being implemented by all schools within the city regardless of membership of the partnership and there has been positive engagement with the protocol from a number of County schools. 27% of managed moves processed have come through the Fair Access panel.

2.5.2 **Collaborative Learning Manager (CLM)** - All pupils educated out of school, including those on managed moves, are now monitored by the use of CLM. There were 510 such learners last academic year. At least 41 schools and 47 providers are now trained and on the system. This enables the Partnership to have an overview across the Partnership schools and the individual schools receive daily information on pupils. The use of this system has significantly improved safeguarding for these vulnerable pupils.

2.6 **Tier 3 Outcomes:**

2.6.1 **Fair Access** – The Partnership has taken over the running of Fair Access this academic year and has appointed a Chair. Members of the PSLBN have been empowered to make decisions and to take corporate responsibility and accountability for this vulnerable group. This has been running in this format since September 2012. In academic year 2012-13 Fair Access had an Actual Admission rate of 51.2%. So far after Term 1 of 2013-14 the Actual Admission rate stands at 71.6%. At the time of writing the panel had heard 68 cases; 6 were refused and remained on roll at their school, 2 moved out of Nottingham and 43 pupils had already started at their allocated school. 6 pupils have been reintegrated to mainstream from the City Learning Centres through the panel and 19 cases were processed as managed moves as they required additional support and intervention to increase the chances of a successful transition. Of the pupils yet to be admitted 1 is receiving support for a direct admission and the other 16 are on either a managed move trial or a Learning Centre reintegration plan and are being monitored as such. The Complex Placement Co-ordinator appointed by NCSEP in September 2013 works closely with the Chair, LA officers, schools and families and has oversight of all pupils. This member of staff also monitors attendance for the first four weeks after admission. They initially engage families, facilitate admissions meetings and identify support and necessary intervention. In addition to raising the actual admission rate the close monitoring of admission stages means that the timeframe for admission is also significantly shorter.

2.6.2 Alternative Provision (AP) – A full handover from the 14-19 Team was necessary and commenced in October 2012. A project plan was submitted to the LA in July 2012, however, the handover to the Partnership occurred in a much tighter timeframe than proposed as key staff departed the LA over the summer holidays. The Partnership appointed a co-ordinator from 1 October 2012 and instigated a more robust Quality Assurance (QA) process based on the Common Inspection Framework. From September 2014 providers must have secured a Grade 2 judgement to maintain or secure approved status. A provision mapping exercise is underway and consultation with various organisations wishing to submit Free School proposals is ongoing to try to eliminate any duplication of services and to ensure any gaps in provision are to be addressed.

All alternative providers who are commissioned by partnership schools must be registered and approved by NCSEP. The registration and compliance process includes a stringent safeguarding checklist and site visit that has been approved by the Nottingham City Local Authority Designated Officer LADO. Supporting evidence of the quality checks are collected from all alternative providers prior to inclusion on a centralised database of registered provision available to schools.

NCSEP provides support and development for alternative providers to address any deficiencies identified in the registration and compliance process before approval for commissioning. In addition to this, regular quality assurance evaluation visits are made to ensure that the quality of the provision can be maintained, or developed further when required. NCSEP has designed a clear inspection framework including a QA framework that is closely matched to the Ofsted Mainstream Inspection Schedule to ensure alternative provision being commissioned is of Good or better quality and, where provision is less than good, action plans and development work is undertaken followed by reinspection. Any alternative provider who does not show sustained improvement within the required timeframe loses their registration status and schools are notified of this. The consistency and rigour of the QA process is maintained through the development of standardised QA processes, guidance and supporting paperwork alongside a team of 26 school leaders, NCSEP and learning centre staff who have undertaken training in QA inspection provided by lead HMI's and through regular monitoring and moderation by the QA Network Managers forum run by NCSEP.

In 2012-13 a total of 27 alternative providers were subject to QA monitoring by NCSEP, in January 2014 this had increased to 47 approved registered providers with NCSEP ensuring the quality of provision for young people and schools in Nottingham City as well as the County Council through the learning centres.

Analysis of QA inspections highlighted that in 2011-12, 15.2% of alternative provision was good or better, 42.4% of all alternative provision was inadequate and overall 84.8% was less than good. Following support and development from NCSEP upon reinspection 87.5% of providers had made progress by at least one grading. End of year QA data for 2012/13 showed significant improvement following support provided through NCSEP, including a series of pedagogical workshops for alternative providers, with 48.3% of provision being good or better, 0% inadequate and 51.75%

requiring improvement. A schedule of support and quality assurance inspections is in place for the academic year 2013-14.

The QA arrangements provided by NCSEP were the subject of a longitudinal study on the quality of alternative provision for the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofsted concluded that as a result of the QA work undertaken by NCSEP "Alternative Providers are offering a more effective service and there are better links between them and schools." The QA process is due for publication on Ofsted's website as a national best practice case study.

Attainment, progress and attendance are all crucial elements of the QA process managed by NCSEP for alternative providers who are registered with NCSEP. All AP's upon annual registration report upon attendance, progression and attainment data for the previous year. This data is then used to inform the focus of inspection and the judgement made in the areas of attainment and behaviour and safety during the QA inspection and is reflected in the overall judgement of the quality of provision reported to schools.

In a sampled group of Alternative Providers from 2012-13 40% of the providers reported that 100% of students who completed the course progressed to Further Education or returned to mainstream school.

The average percentage of progression to further courses in the remaining 60% of providers was 85.5%. The lowest reported figure was 75% but this data excluded students who had progressed into work or apprenticeships. Some Providers were better than others in tracking their students when they left; the best were still in contact with ex-students and were still providing advice.

In terms of achievement similar high success rates are reported although in its present form it is difficult to extrapolate meaningful data across all providers, as the CLM system has only recently been upgraded to manage achievement data however the new functionality once fully implemented will lead to an increased ability to provide comparative data year on year. Providers offer a wide variety of negotiated outcomes with their feeder schools. Almost all qualifications obtained carry points for the schools. In addition, an increasing number of providers are offering English and Maths GCSE tuition and the quality of this provision is a focus in the updated 2013/14 QA framework. In the sample 50% of Providers achieved 100% success in meeting agreed outcomes (a significant number exceeded these targets). The lowest figure was 83% of students achieving their targeted qualification(s).

In the November 2013 Ofsted inspections of several Nottingham City Schools and Academies several positive aspects were identified in relation to alternative provision:

"Students attending off-site provision achieve appropriate qualifications in the courses that they study....staff regularly and receive frequent updates and information in order to check students' attendance and progress "

The learners "find the courses they study relevant and are motivated to attend regularly. The majority of these students have improved their attendance. "

Students “benefit from focusing on developing their basic skills”

These statements echo the evidence based longitudinal study of alternative provision following analysis of central NCSEP data and the individual school data of a selection of schools and academies Ofsted concluded that *“success rates are rapidly improving across Level 1 and Level 2 courses in vocational areas including engineering, construction, sport, media, music technology and hairdressing. Nearly all students make progress into further education, training or apprenticeships, often in related vocational areas. Improved success rates for students on these courses are anticipated to make a significant contribution to each school’s GCSE pass rates. Overall school attendance has improved markedly over time, and this is reflected in the attendance records of many students on the off-site programmes.”*

- 2.7 **Securing Tier 3 provision** - The Partnership has met with the LA and the Head and Chair of The Management Committee for the PRUs to look at a joined up approach to the academisation of the PRUs. The Partnership actively wishes to play a part in shaping future PRU provision in the city and this dialogue is on-going. The Partnership is also pro-actively exploring solutions to the gaps in provision that exist.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The additional funding of £0.595 m will allow the partnership to continue its on-going work, but will also allow the Partnership to actively play a part in shaping future PRU and specialist provision for hard to place pupils.
- 3.2 The Partnership is also actively researching and where viable implementing sold services such as Quality Assurance provision, these services are/will be sold to private education providers as well as other LAs, this will ensure on-going future income for the Partnership.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 On 18 September 2012 a report was approved by Executive Board on the use of DSG ranging between £0.705 million - £0.905 million to NCSEP to support the pilot Inclusion Strategy. This included an allocation of £0.050 million to Nottingham City Council. The final payment made to NCSEP was £0.825 million.
- 4.2 This report seeks approval for a further £0.595 million to support the pilot extension into academic year 2013/14. The allocation of this funding from DSG reserves was agreed by Schools Forum on 21 March 2013 and will be transferred as follows:
- by 31 March 2014 - £0.381 million;
 - up to £0.214 million depending on agreement by Schools Forum.
- 4.3 The 2013/14 PRU budgets also include a top-up element; the report approved by Schools Forum was for any 2013/14 unspent top-up to also be transferred to NCSEP to support the pilot. The value of this will be included in the 2013/14 outturn report and payment of this element will be made in May 2014.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)

- 5.1 As set out in the report to the authority's Executive Board dated 18 September 2012, it is advisable that detailed advice is taken from the relevant officers in relation to the proposals and recommendations in this report. In particular, since it remains unclear what the current status of the NCSEP is given that it is not a company limited by guarantee like Nottingham City Schools and Academies Limited, it is currently difficult to set out the legal implications of the funding proposals in this report.

6 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7 REGARD TO THE NHS CONSTITUTION

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

Has the equality impact been assessed?

- (a) not needed (report does not contain proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions, financial decisions or decisions about implementation of policies development outside the Council)
- (b) No
- (c) Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN WRITING THIS REPORT (NOT INCLUDING PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION)

- 9.1 None.

10 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT

- 10.1 Nottingham City Secondary Education Partnership (NCSEP) Inclusion Strategy Update – Schools Forum report and minutes – 21 March 2013
- 10.2 Nottingham City Secondary Education Partnership (NCSEP) Inclusion Strategy – Executive Board report and minutes – 18 September 2012

11 OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE PROVIDED INPUT

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