Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Children and Young People Select Committee

Agenda

Date:
Wednesday 11 November 2026 at 5.00 pm

Venue:
Council Chamber, Dunedin House, Columbia Drive, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 6BJ

Cllr Carol Clark (Chair)
Cllr Barbara Inman (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Ray Godwin, Cllr Jack Miller, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr Emily Tate, Cllr Sally Ann Watson and Cllr Katie Zagoria

Agenda

1. Livestreaming

This meeting will be filmed for live and / or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website. The whole of the meeting will be filmed, except where there are confidential or exempt items, and the footage will be on the website for 12 months. A copy of it will also be retained in accordance with the Council's data retention policy.

If you attend and make a representation to the meeting, you will be deemed to have consented to being filmed. When admitted to the Council Chamber you are also consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for livestreaming and / or training purposes. If you do not wish to have your image captured, please contact Democratic Services prior to attending the meeting.

If there are any technical difficulties with the livestreaming, the meeting will still proceed.

2. Evacuation Procedure (Pages 7 - 10)

3. Apologies for Absence

4. Declarations of Interest

5. Minutes (Pages 11 - 14)

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 14 October 2026.

6. Scrutiny Review of Alternative Provision (Pages 15 - 26)

To receive a presentation around the key lines of enquiry.

7. Select Committee Work Programme (Pages 27 - 28)



Jonathan Nertney
Head of Democratic Services
Tuesday 3 November 2026

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please.

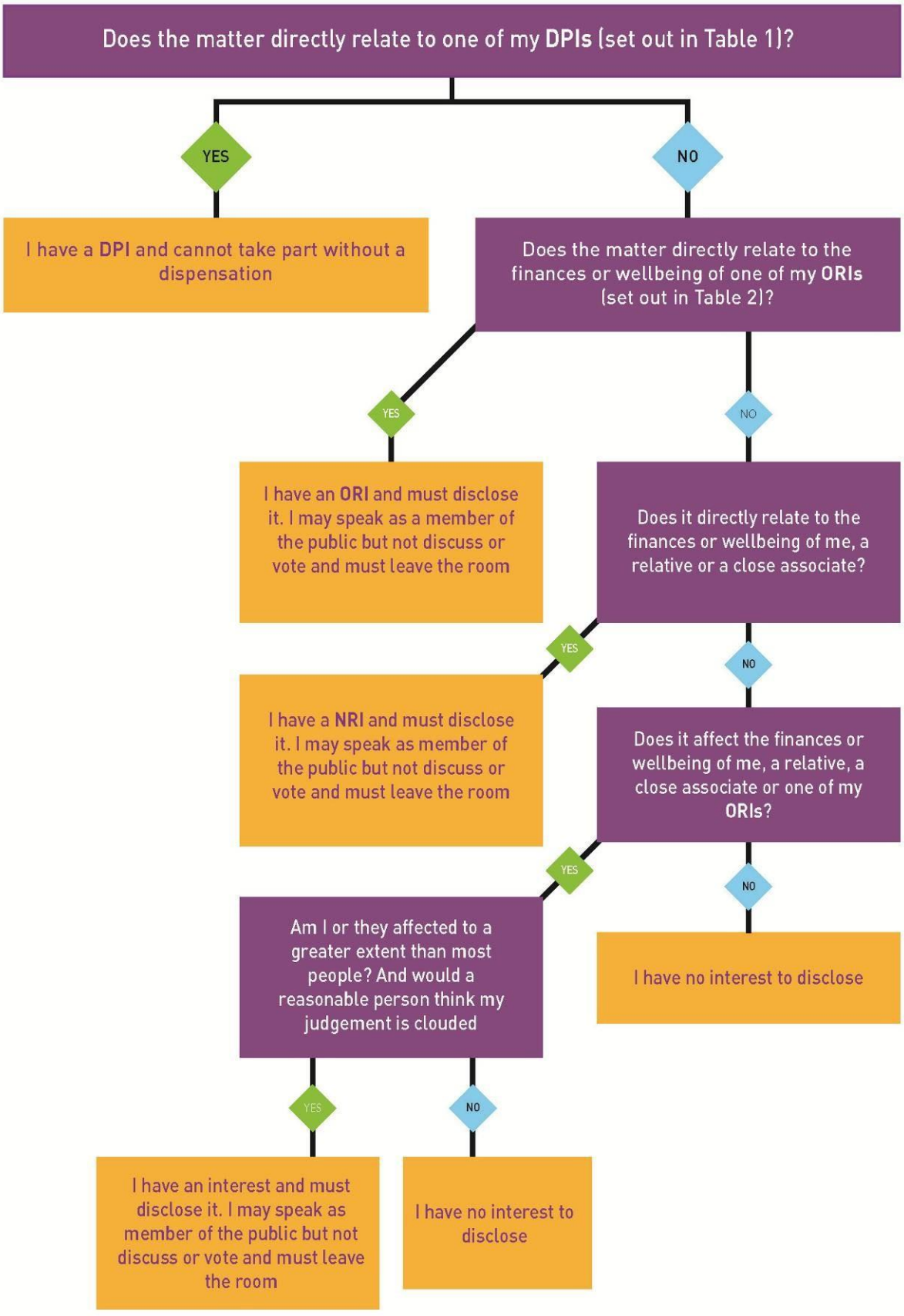
Contact: Judy Trainer, Democratic Services Manager on email judy.trainer@stockton.gov.uk

Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL

Key – Declarable interests are :-

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's)
- Other Registerable Interests (ORI's)
- Non Registerable Interests (NRI's)

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance



Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL

Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

a) any unpaid directorships

b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority

c) any body

(i) exercising functions of a public nature

(ii) directed to charitable purposes or

(iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

Council Chamber, Dunedin House
Evacuation Procedure & Housekeeping

Entry

Entry to the Council Chamber is via the Council Chamber entrance indicated on the map below.



In the event of an emergency alarm activation, everyone should immediately start to leave their workspace by the nearest available signed Exit route.

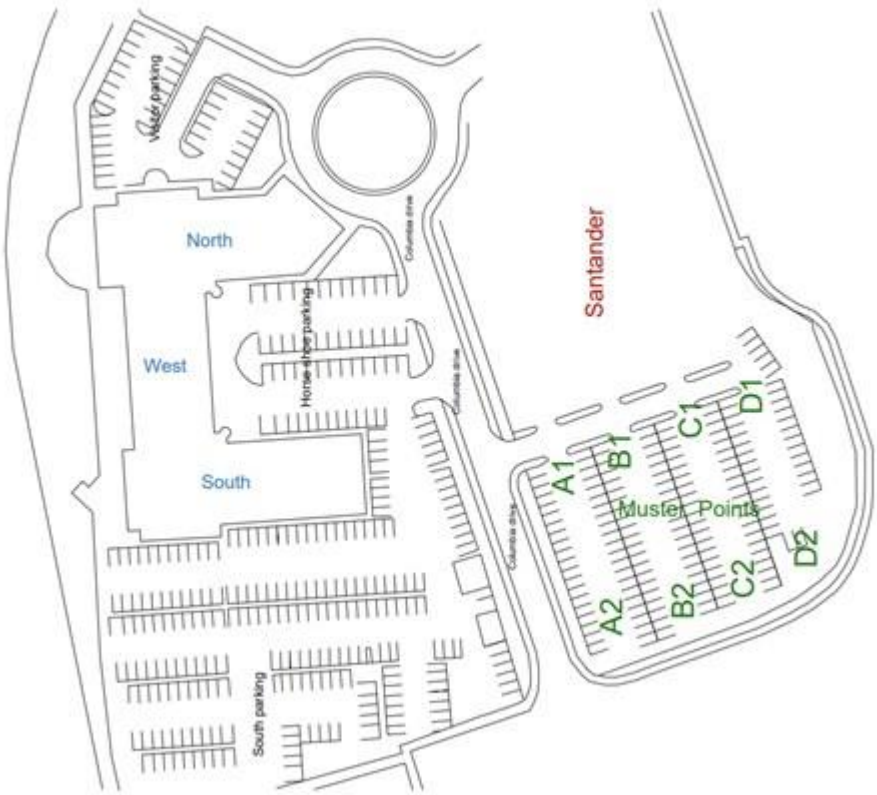
The emergency exits are located via the doors to the left of the raised seating area at the front of the Council Chamber and the rear of the Council Chamber.

Fires, explosions, and bomb threats are among the occurrences that may require the emergency evacuation of Dunedin House. Continuous sounding and flashing of the Fire Alarm is the signal to evacuate the building or upon instruction from a Fire Warden or a Manager.

The Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point is in the overflow car park located across the road from Dunedin House.

The allocated assembly point for the Council Chamber is: D2

Map of the Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point - the overflow car park:



All occupants must respond to the alarm signal by immediately initiating the evacuation procedure.

When the Alarm sounds:

1. **stop all activities immediately**. Even if you believe it is a false alarm or practice drill, you MUST follow procedures to evacuate the building fully.

2. **follow directional EXIT signs** to evacuate via the nearest safe exit in a calm and orderly manner.

    - do not stop to collect your belongings
    - close all doors as you leave

3. **steer clear of hazards**. If evacuation becomes difficult via a chosen route because of smoke, flames or a blockage, re-enter the Chamber (if safe to do so). Continue the evacuation via the nearest safe exit route.

4. **proceed to the Evacuation Assembly Point.** Move away from the building. Once you have exited the building, proceed to the main Evacuation Assembly Point immediately - located in the **East Overflow Car Park**.

    - do not assemble directly outside the building or on any main roadway, to ensure access for Emergency Services.

5. **await further instructions.**

    - **do not re-enter the building under any circumstances without an "all clear"** which should only be given by the Incident Control Officer/Chief Fire Warden, Fire Warden or Manager.
    - do not leave the area without permission.
    - ensure all colleagues and visitors are accounted for. Notify a Fire Warden or Manager immediately if you have any concerns

Toilets

Toilets are located immediately outside the Council Chamber, accessed via the door at the back of the Chamber.

Water Cooler

A water cooler is available at the rear of the Council Chamber.

Microphones

During the meeting, members of the Committee, and officers in attendance, will have access to a microphone. Please use the microphones, when invited to speak by the Chair, to ensure you can be heard by the Committee and those in attendance at the meeting.

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Children and Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday 14th October 2026.

Present: Cllr Carol Clark (Chair), Cllr Barbara Inman (Vice-Chair), Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Shakeel Hussain (sub for Cllr Sufi Mubeen), Cllr Jack Miller, Cllr Emily Tate and Cllr Katie Zagoria

Officers: Darran Hope, Mandie Rowlands, Vanessa Housley, Claire Tiffany, Judy Trainer and John Devine

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: Cllr Ray Godwin, Cllr Sufi Mubeen and Cllr Sally Ann Watson

CYP/31/26 Livestreaming

The Chair announced to those present that the meeting would be live streamed.

CYP/32/26 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

CYP/33/26 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

CYP/34/26 Minutes

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CYP/35/26 Monitoring - Scrutiny Review of Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships

The Select Committee received a progress update in relation to the Select Committee's previous review of Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships. All recommendations from the review had now been assessed as Fully Achieved.

Overall, the review found a stronger, more coordinated partnership approach leading to improved safeguarding responses for children and young people at risk of harm outside the home. Key achievements included:

- A Tees-wide Harm Outside the Home (HOTH) Strategy 2024-2027 was now embedded across safeguarding and community safety partnerships
- Shared definitions, procedures, screening tools and referral pathways were in place, creating a more consistent multi-agency response to exploitation and youth violence
- Improved systems and performance monitoring had strengthened the identification and tracking of children at risk

- Training and awareness for professionals, schools, partners and communities had increased understanding of exploitation and contextual safeguarding
- Dedicated services, strengthened MACE arrangements and the development of a Community Guardians model had enhanced prevention, disruption and safeguarding activity

AGREED that the progress update be noted and the assessments of progress be confirmed with all progress updates signed off as fully achieved.

CYP/36/26 Monitoring - Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment

The Select Committee received progress updates in relation to recommendations 11 and 15 of the Select Committee's appreciative inquiry into Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment:

11 Strengthen understanding of career pathways
Clarify pathways to careers early in school life:

- Design and delivery of courses to clarify current career pathways for pupils and parents, including vocational careers and options other than traditional routes
- Employment & Training Hub to link with schools to notify parents of apprenticeships events
- Promote aspirational/motivational approaches
- Strengthen links between schools/parents/careers advisor
- Share best practice regarding "careers" evenings/ events in primary and secondary schools
- Invite parents into school who have unusual careers
- Educate parents on opportunities post 16

Progress outlined included:

- Strengthened relationship across all post 16 providers. A Post-16 Partnership had been established, a new work experience network was being developed, and multi-agency initiatives had been introduced to improve careers education and progression opportunities for young people
- Across post-16 providers, enrolment and conversion rates had improved. A-level performance had exceeded the national average, and the proportion of young people who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) had reduced from 7.1% to 5%

15 Embed and extend pastoral support
Embed and extend pastoral support in schools targeted to need.

- Engage with the Healthy Schools Programme and Healthy Settings Programme

Progress outlined included:

- An ABC Framework, risk indicator matrix and school support arrangements had been developed and implemented to better identify and support pupils at risk of disengagement
- Targeted support had contributed to improvements in school ratings, increased uptake of interventions. There had also been positive feedback from schools and earlier identification of pupils requiring support

The Select Committee noted that attainment data would be consider by Cabinet in March after release and requested that details should also be submitted to the Select Committee.

AGREED that the progress update be noted and the assessments of progress be confirmed.

CYP/37/26 Monitoring - Scrutiny Review of Holidays are Fun

The Select Committee received a progress update in respect of their earlier in-depth review of the Holidays are Fun programme. All recommendations had now been fully implemented and achieved.

The Select Committee commended officers on the work that had been carried out to implement the recommendations from the review and noted that there had been increased participation, particularly among secondary-age children and those with SEND. The range and accessibility of provision had been expanded along with improved communication and engagement. Improvements included a more efficient booking system, strengthened support for families, and opportunities for leadership and employment. The programme also demonstrated greater sustainability through expanded provider capacity, paid places and stronger partnerships working.

AGREED that the progress update be noted and the assessments of progress be confirmed with all progress updates signed off as fully achieved.

CYP/38/26 Scrutiny Review of Alternative Provision

The Select Committee received a presentation covering key contextual data, including:

- What are the reasons why children and young people attend Alternative Provision (AP) in Stockton and who is more likely to access AP?
    - Suspension and permanent exclusion
    - Challenging behaviour
    - No school roll
    - Increased anxiety and emotional barriers to education
    - Section 19 education
    - Home and Hospital educated
- Trends Over Time - Analysis of recent trends and increasing demand for Alternative Provision
- Safeguarding in AP - Safeguarding expectations and arrangements across different types of providers
- Outcomes for Pupils Accessing AP - Expected improvements in attendance, engagement, behaviour and attainment
- Returning to School - Processes and support available to help pupils reintegrate into mainstream education
- Registration of AP - Registration requirements and legal responsibilities for providers
- Stockton-on-Tees AP Framework - Overview of the borough's quality-assured commissioning framework and approved providers
- Providers on our Framework 26-27 - Summary of the range of education, tuition and specialist support providers available

- Quality Assurance of AP including Non-School AP - Monitoring, review and quality assurance arrangements to ensure provider standards are maintained.

Key issues highlighted and discussed were as follows:

- Members asked how safeguarding concerns arising within Alternative Provision would be reported and whether issues would be raised directly with the local authority or managed solely by the provider. Officers explained that providers were required to have up-to-date safeguarding referral processes and were expected to make referrals in the same way as schools. Where the local authority commissioned the placement, providers were also expected to notify the Council of any safeguarding disclosures or concerns at the same time as making a referral.

  Quality assurance reviews covered safeguarding arrangements in detail, including referral pathways, awareness of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), arrangements for transporting pupils, procedures when pupils fail to attend, staff safeguarding responsibilities and safeguarding training. Training expectations included contextual safeguarding, Prevent and FGM awareness.

- The AP network had been operating since February 2025, with participation from between 10 and 40 schools. The network had enabled schools to share experiences, engage with professionals and contribute to the development of a local good practice guide for Alternative Provision. Going forward, the AP network provided the opportunity to bring all AP providers together to share best practice, particularly around safeguarding, and to encourage learning between providers to improve the quality and consistency of provision.

More information would be presented to the next Select Committee meeting on the key lines of enquiry focusing on parent and pupil voice. Visits to a range of provision would also be arranged for Committee Member ahead of the next meeting.

AGREED that the information be noted.

CYP/39/26 Select Committee Work Programme

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.

Chair: .....

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Alternative Provision Review

Children and Young People Select Committee

11th November 2026

Claire Tiffany, Service Lead Alternative Provision- SEND & AP Service

What are the reasons why children and young people attend Alternative Provision in Stockton and who is more likely to access AP?



1. **Suspension and permanent exclusion** Pupils who breach school behaviour policies



2. **Challenging behaviour** Pupils who are struggling to meet school expectations for behaviour and/or learning



3. No school roll Pupils may have recently moved into Stockton with an EHCP, or returning from EHE



4. Increased anxiety and emotional barriers to education Pupils who are finding it increasingly difficult to attend regularly



5. Section 19 education – Pupils who cannot attend because of illness, exclusion or otherwise



6. Home and Hospital – Pupils who are too unwell to attend school over time

Tier 1 – Support for schools

Definition - Support for pupils at risk of requiring an alternative provision package to remain in their local home school and get the right support they need at the right time

1. Social, Emotional Mental Health Support Service – accessed through multi agency panel or through traded service
2. Trauma informed approach advocated – guidance co produced with Virtual School
3. CPD Offer – SEND/ SEMH – Free and costed CPD on offer
4. Pupil Inclusion Forum – Free to attend and held half termly for all schools
5. SENCO Briefing – Held termly for all schools
6. Inclusive Education Framework – co produced with agencies and schools and services and parents
7. EBSA guidance – Developed in collaboration with services, schools, agencies and parents
8. EBSA Horizons – Free for any school with Stockton children, all services and all families until 2028
9. Alternative Provision Network – Held half termly for all schools
10. HLTA Support – Outreach support agreed at the weekly multiagency panel
11. PDC Programme Key Stage ½ - Schools supported by KS1/2 PDC schools

Pupils returning to school from AP

Pathways

1. Home and hospital – 6 weekly reviews until medical advice states that the pupil is well enough to attend school. Transition is planned with the home school.
2. Day 6 PDC provision- 12 week pathway with review meetings every 4 weeks. Transition to the next school is planned and the pupil may be supported by EP, HLTA or other service. Most placements ranged between 3 and 20 weeks during 25-26.
3. COMPASS- transitions are planned between COMPASS staff and the home school and is personalised for each pupil. Short term placements ranged between 6-12 weeks in 25-26. Pathway 4 placements ranged between 12 weeks to 1 year in 25-26. Nearly all Y11 pupils secured college or apprenticeships in 25-26
4. Section 19 – Pupils access section 19 education for a range of purposes. In 25-26 most placements were either concluded within 6 weeks or lasted longer than 1 term depending on pupils circumstances. Any pupil deemed to require transition support is offered this once a school placement is secured.

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Commissioning and Monitoring of AP

Type of Alternative Provision/Provider	Commissioning arrangements	Monitoring Activities
Pupils who are too unwell to attend school	2 x centrally employed teachers	Appraisals, attendance tracking, lesson observation, work scrutiny
Day 6 after permanent exclusion – Registered schools	Service level agreements, specifications, spot purchasing if required	OFSTED judgements, QA visits, Education Plans with lead adult identified, Tracking of Y11 outcomes, PDC monthly review process,
Non- School AP providers (Day 6, Section 19, EOTAS)	Robust system of tender to become approved provider Purchase support through the AP framework	Annual QA visits, Review of policies, weekly attendance gathering, 1st day contact, Education Plans, SEN Reviews, monthly meetings with providers, work scrutiny, QA of tuition records, monthly welfare check information
COMPASS Pilot	Tender process and agreed through commissioning	QA visit, fortnightly meetings to review progress, termly reports, Tracking of Y11 outcomes

Average costings for AP – 25/26 (academic year)

NB. Mobility of number of pupils change daily and this can affect costings.

All costs are to meet the council's statutory duties .

Alternative Provision	Costs
Home & Hospital	Cost of 2 teachers per year
KS1/KS2 permanent exclusion	£16,887 per pupil place per year £18,887 per specialist places (limited numbers)
KS3 permanent exclusion	Between £16,921 and £25K per place per year £40k per specialist places (limited number)
KS4 permanent exclusion	Between £23779 and £25K per place per year
Non School AP provision	Average £46 per hour tuition £127 per place per day *NB. Places can range from approximately £80 a day to £250 a day depending on need and requirements*
COMPASS (pilot)	On average £10.5K per pupil per year

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Local provision sufficiency

Type of AP provision	Current capacity	Barriers to sufficiency	Steps to address barriers
Home & Hospital	2 teachers	Higher numbers may reduce capacity	COMPASS provision to meet needs of pupils with anxiety Extra tuition hours purchased if required
KS1/2 Day 6	6 mainstream places 5 specialist places	Increasing permanent exclusions puts pressure on placements. Complex needs of PEX pupils requires intensive support	Further developed the PDC programme Tier 1 support Increased staffing with teaching assistants to meet the need. Specialist places available
KS3 Day 6	5 mainstream places 15 AP places 6 Specialist places	High numbers of exclusions puts pressure on the number of placements Schools who may have low OFSTED gradings	Further commissioning of places from other providers Support for non school AP providers to achieve registration Use of AP framework Widened
KS4 Day 6	85 places	High numbers of exclusions puts pressure on the number of placements Schools who may have low OFSTED gradings	Tender for new providers to have agreed commissioned places Support offered to providers with low OFSTED gradings

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Local Provision Sufficiency

Type of AP provision	Current capacity	Barriers to sufficiency	Steps to address barriers
COMPASS (pilot)	4 pathways of support- flexible numbers	Rising numbers of referrals Increased numbers on pathway 4 result in reduced capacity at earlier pathways	EBSA training for all staff, schools and families EBSA guidance New 4 pathway provision tender
EOTAS/ Section 19	Needs led	Increased numbers lead to increased costs Providers with high costs can be overlooked Geographical location of provision	As above AP Framework AP network

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Pupil Voice

Positive experiences in AP reported by pupils include:

- Smaller classes
- Quieter environment
- Get to learn and make progress
- More relaxed
- Staff are supportive
- Feeling seen
- More enrichment activities

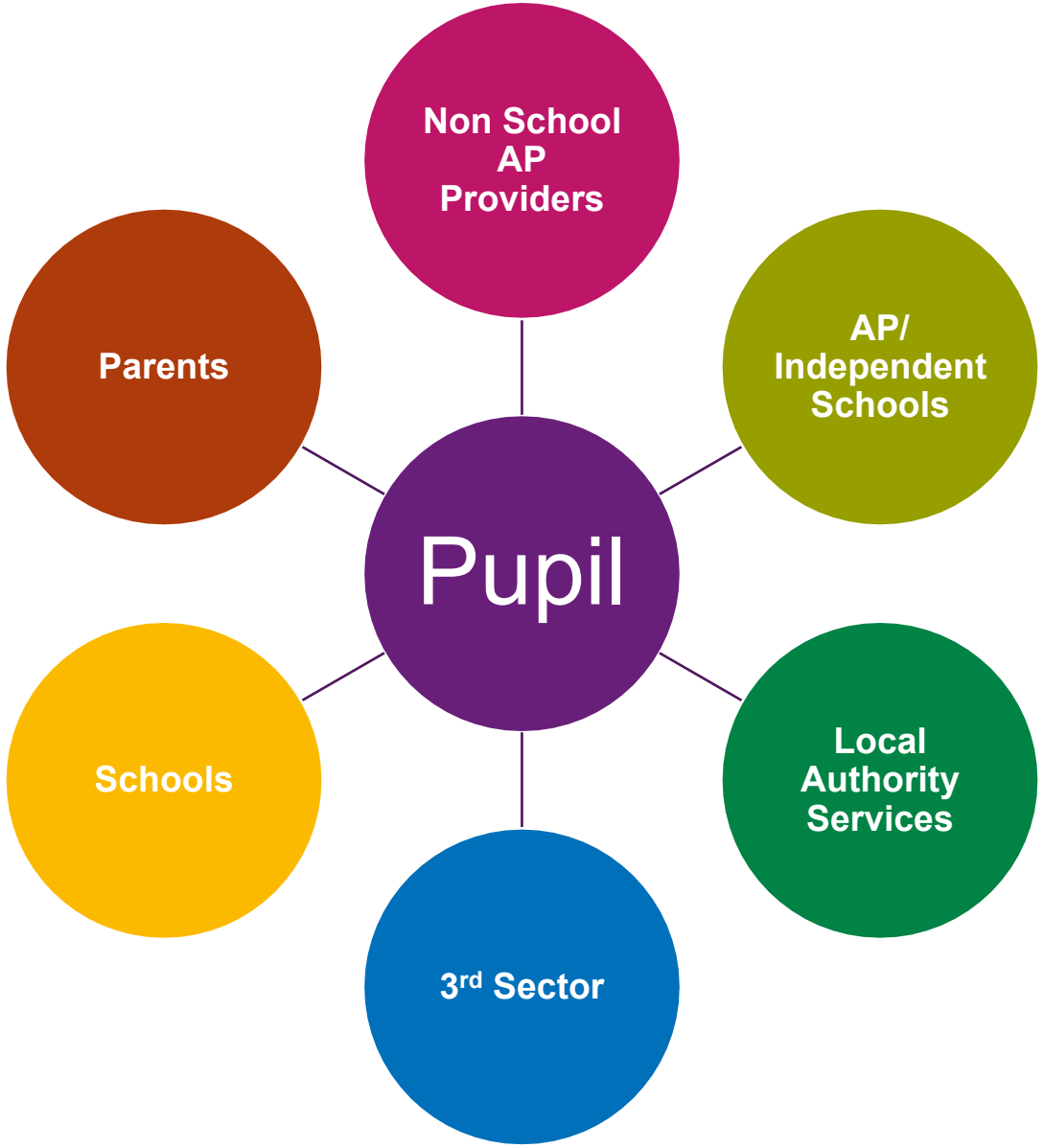
Things CYP find hard about accessing AP include:-

- Losing relationships with friends
- Feeling rejected
- Not having a full choice of subjects
- Not being given a choice
- Travel arrangements
- Having learning disrupted by other pupils
- Feeling isolated

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KEY PARTNERS

- Networks – Schools/ AP providers
- Stockton AP Guidance
- Quality Assurance
- Regional Networks
- AP Framework
- Dedicated AP Service for advice and consultation
- Collaboration and Co production of systems and policies and AP guidance



Any Questions?

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Agenda Item 7

Children and Young People Select Committee
Work Programme – 2026-2027

Date	Item	Attending
15 April 2026 Formal Session Informal Session	Overview and Performance Meeting Review of Children Not in School – Evidence – Summary of Evidence	Cllr Clare Besford Louise Hollick Lynn Stoneley Jane Smith Elisha Dyball Vanessa Housley
13 May 2026	Review of Children Not in School – Evidence – Final Report Presentation SEND White Paper	Elisha Dyball Vanessa Housley Elisha Dyball
17 June 2026	CANCELLED	
15 July 2026	Monitoring – Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment The Annual Children's Services Complaints Report 2025/26 Scrutiny Review of Additionally Resourced SEND Provision – Final Report Scrutiny Review of Alternative Provision for Children and Young People – Scope and Project Plan	Vanessa Housley Craig Taylor (Rec 16) Kellie Wigley/ Ellen Guest (Rec 4) Majella McCarthy/ Gemma Jackson/ Lisa Williams Elisha Dyball Claire Tiffany
16 September 2026	Review of Children Not in School – Action Plan Overview and Performance Report Monitoring – Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment	Elisha Dyball Sharon Stevens Vanessa Housley Cllr Clare Besford Majella McCarthy Vanessa Housley Amit Law (Rec 12)
14 October 2026	Scrutiny Review of Alternative Provision for Children and Young People – Evidence Monitoring – Scrutiny Review of Contextual Safeguarding Monitoring – Scrutiny Review of Narrowing	Claire Tiffany Darran Hope Vanessa Housley

	the Gap in Educational Attainment Monitoring – Holidays are Fun	Mandie Rowlands (Recs 11 and 15) Mandie Rowlands
11 November 2026	Scrutiny Review of Alternative Provision for Children and Young People – Evidence	Claire Tiffany
16 December 2026 Informal Session	Scrutiny Review of Alternative Provision for Children and Young People – Summary of Evidence and Draft Recommendations	Claire Tiffany
13 January 2027	Scrutiny Review of Alternative Provision for Children and Young People – Final Report Monitoring – Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment – Summary and Impact Report	Claire Tiffany Vanessa Housley Judy Trainer
10 February 2027	TBC	

Items to be scheduled each year

Children and Young People Overview and Performance Reports – Bi-annual

Progress Updates
Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment – Ongoing
Children Not in School - TBC