

Alternative Provision Review

Children and Young People Select Committee
15th July 2026

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What is Alternative Provision?

“Education arranged by local authorities for children of compulsory school age who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, would not otherwise receive suitable education; alternative provision can also be used by schools for children on a suspension (fixed period exclusion); and for children being directed by schools to offsite provision to receive education intended to improve their behaviour.
(DFE, Feb 2025)

AP across Stockton - A Tiered Approach

1

Supporting pupils to remain in their local school.

Delivering an increased core offer of support for all schools.

Trauma informed approach promoted

AP team in place.

AP Networks

AP guidance (draft)

COMPASS pathway 1

2

Short term placements and then returning to the home school

Increased provision for Day 6 provision

KS1/2 programme of support

AP Framework (29 +) providers

Quality assurance of provisions

AP Education Plans

Supported transition back into schools

COMPASS pathways 2-3

3

Short/longer term placements and then moving to a new school or Post 16 provision

Increased provision for Day 6 provision

AP Framework

Quality assurance of provisions

AP Education Plans

Supported transition back to new placements

COMPASS provision pathway 4.

Non School Alternative Provision (AP)

There are many Non School Alternative Provisions (NSAP's) that schools and the Local Authority can access to support Stockton children. They are able to support pupils from KS1 to post 16. They can provide this in different ways including:

- Face to face education in a venue
- Tuition in different venues that are appropriate to the pupil including their home on occasion
- Online education both live and recorded
- Therapeutic support for neurodiverse pupils
- Outdoor and physical activities

Stockton on Tees AP Framework

2021-2023 – First Framework published with a number of providers on. This was used as a school directory for schools to commission providers from an agreed framework. This Framework lasted for 2 years and had 29 providers on the framework at the start.

2023-2033- A new framework was agreed. It is open for 10 years and has the ability to add new providers if they meet the criteria at regular intervals. Between 2023 and 2025 there were 12 providers on the framework. Following successful applications in summer 2025 there are now 29 providers on the framework.

31 new applications have recently been made and are in the process of being moderated with a view to being approved to be accepted onto the framework from September 2026

To be approved on the framework providers must meet a set of criteria and go through a moderation process completed by a number of LA Officers. Once approved all providers will have an annual quality assurance visit. Providers may request to leave the framework, or Stockton council can end the agreement if they feel the provider no longer meets the criteria set.

Quality Assurance of AP including Non School AP

- An annual visit takes place to quality assure alternative provision.
- LA officers who also have qualified teacher status complete the quality assurance of provisions
- Quality assurance involves a visit either face to face or online (if an online provider)
- Providers must also provide documents and a range of up to date policies, e.g safeguarding certificates, insurance, policies, first aid etc.
- Until recently the QA visit focused on 64 different measures
- Following the publication of the new DFE voluntary standards guidance we have reviewed the QA document. It is now organised into the 4 recommended areas for assurance: **Health and Safety, Quality of education, Safeguarding and Welfare and Admissions, Guidance and Support**
- Whilst some providers have been given further advice to add even further improvements to their provision, only 1 provider (not on the framework) has not achieved a satisfactory quality assurance judgement within the last year.

AP Networks

- Networks happen each half term and attendees include schools, Local Authority Officers, AP providers, parents, health and 3rd sector representatives.
- Networks provide national updates and legislation , share good practice and facilitate co production of guidance for stakeholders in Stockton
- Attendees have the opportunity to meet AP providers on the Stockton framework face to face to find out more about their offers
- A network marketplace event saw 14 AP providers attend for a day to meet with schools and talk about what they can offer schools. Feedback was positive from the event from both AP providers and school staff and LA officers. This event will be replicated in the Autumn term 2026-27
- Quality assurance information is shared with attendees where appropriate