

Alternative Provision Review

Children and Young People Select Committee
14th October 2026

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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

Trends over time

Reasons	25-26	Trends over time
Suspension and Exclusion	119 notifications of permanent exclusion	Increase in both over past 3 years
Illness	38	Increase since the pandemic
Section 19	57	Increase in requests but not all meet the threshold
Challenging behaviour (school commissioned)	87	Increase in notifications
Anxiety – COMPASS support	45	Significant increase since the pandemic

SAFEGUARDING in AP

Framework Providers – Policy, Practice and Quality Assurance : attendance, staff training, DBS, SCR, safer recruitment, contextual safeguarding, emotional well being, staff induction, pupil induction, education plan

LA commissioned AP – QA visits, Ofsted reports, safeguarding policies and practice, pupil voice, parent voice, education plan

School commissioned AP- Updates on legislation for AP Provision, sharing of QA information, if necessary, education plan.

Outcomes for pupils accessing AP

Outcomes should be agreed at the outset of any alternative educational arrangements.

These may be some or all of the following :

- Increased attendance
- Increased engagement in educational activities
- Qualifications
- Reduction in negative behaviours (conduct, emotional, learning social)
- Academic progress

Returning to school

	Supporting pupils back into mainstream
COMPASS	COMPASS transition/ visits / graduated response/ pupil centred plans
DAY 6	Fair Access/ In year transfer/ HLTA, EP or Service support for transition/ Longer term placements
SCHOOL COMMISSIONED	School led transition
SECTION 19	School identified/ multi agency discussions at SENDMAP/ support offered if required

Registration of AP

1. **Non School AP** – this is sometimes called “unregistered”. The DFE prefers the term Non-School AP. Pupils cannot go on the roll of these provisions.
2. **Registered AP** – These can be registered as independent schools or AP schools. Pupils can go on roll of these schools
3. **DFE online registered provision** – online providers that have DFE accreditation as an education provider.

Rules that require AP providers to register as a school

- If a provider delivers full-time education (generally accepted as 18 hours or more) to five or more pupils **they must** by law register as a school.
- If a provider delivers full-time education (generally accepted as 18 hours or more) to 1 pupil who either has an EHCP or is a CIOC **they must** by law register as a school.
- Any failure to register if a provider hits the above thresholds would result in the provision being an illegal school and the owner could face criminal charges.

Stockton on Tees AP Framework

- Stockton-on-Tees AP framework enables providers to move through an application process and to demonstrate they can meet a threshold of quality and safeguarding that we expect.
- The framework is dated 2023 to 2033 and as of September 2026 there are 53 providers accepted onto our framework.
- Providers must also provide documents and a range of up to date policies, e.g safeguarding certificates, insurance, policies, first aid etc.
- The framework is used to commission providers to support the local authority to fulfil its statutory duties in providing education for pupils because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, who would not otherwise receive suitable education
- Our Framework providers will also be included in the offers of support for pupils identified through the Young Futures Panel

Providers on our Framework 26-27

53 providers – 23 new ones from September 2026



Online education
providers



Sport



Tutoring at a
venue owned by
the AP provider



Tuition in the
community/home



Creative Arts

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.
- 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 were 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 2 years.

Any Questions?