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Alternative Provision Review

Children and Young People Select Committee

11th November 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

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

Pupil Voice

Positive experiences in AP reported by pupils include:

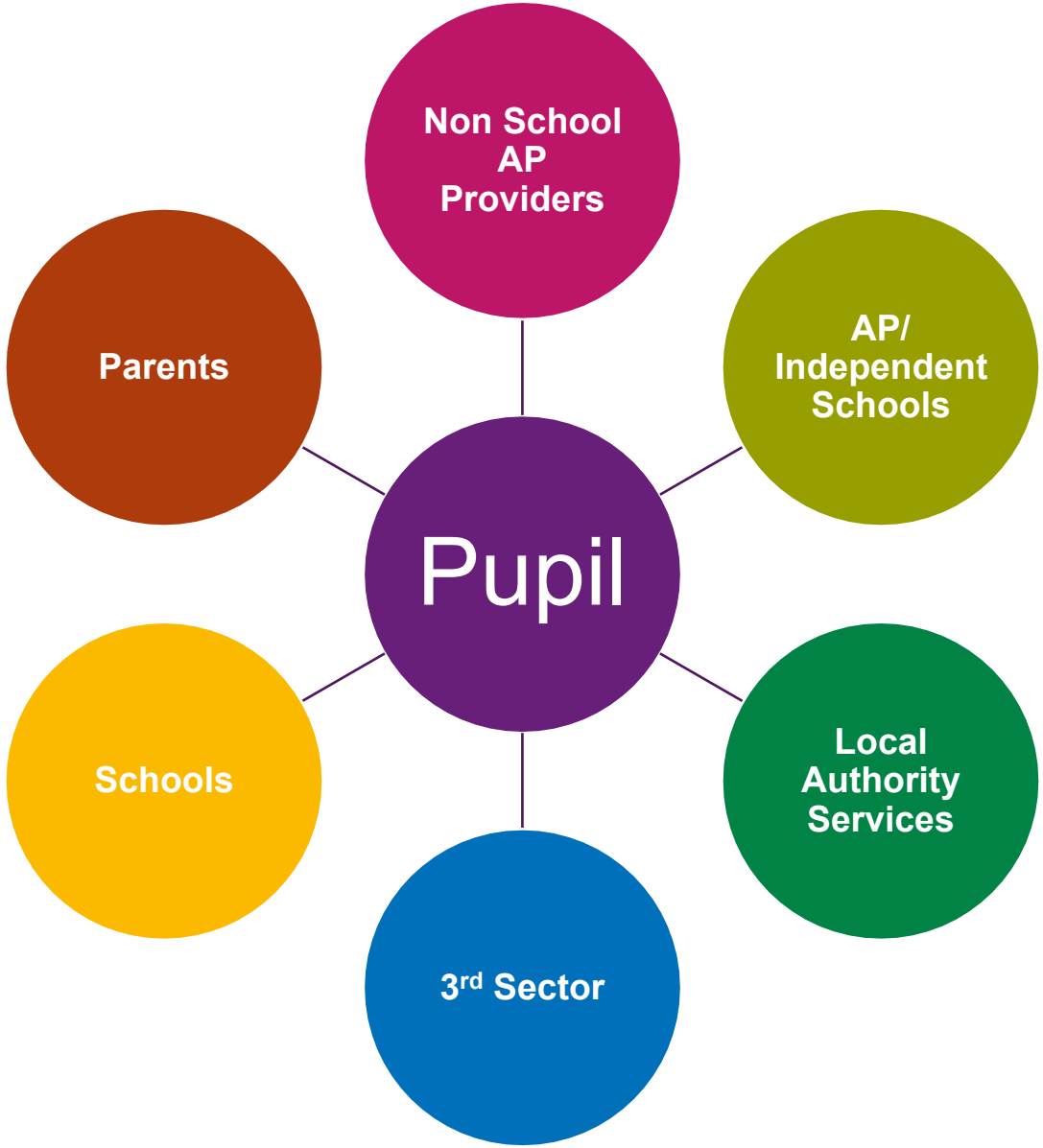
- Smaller classes
- Quieter environment
- Get to learn and make progress
- More relaxed
- Staff are supportive
- Feeling seen
- More enrichment activities

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

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?