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**Report to:** Safer Sefton Together

**Date of Meeting:** 17 March 2022

**Subject: Summary Report Alternative Provision**

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Alternative Provision (AP) is “education outside school, arranged by local authorities or schools, for pupils who do not attend mainstream school for reasons such as exclusion, behaviour issues, school refusal, short- or long-term illness” (Alternative Provision Statutory guidance for local authorities, 2013).

Schools are responsible for commissioning their own alternative provision. If children in the school are looked after or supported by and Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) there is a requirement that schools will have the agreement of the Virtual School and the SEND team. The alternative provision will be monitored through the child’s SEND reviews and their personal education plans.

Sefton Council has a statutory duty to provide alternative provision where pupils have been permanently excluded, and for other pupils who because of illness or other reasons would not receive suitable education without such arrangements being made

Alternative Provision in Sefton is currently delivered through:

- Complementary Education Service
- JIGSAW Primary Pupil Referral Unit
- IMPACT Secondary Pupil Referral Unit

**Complementary Education Intervention – Children unable to attend school settings due to health including mental health related needs.**

Complementary Education works with Sefton schools in providing education for pupils of statutory school age who are too ill to attend. Examples include pupils who are physically ill or injured, are likely to be absent for more than 15 working days and have medical confirmation that they are unable to attend.

Children with mental health needs supported by Complementary Education have CAMHS oversight and input from a mental health practitioner. The hours of support offered reflects individual pupils’ levels of resilience and coping skills.

In some cases, pupils have experienced significant and debilitating levels of anxiety which will have impacted on their levels of social functioning, interaction and in some cases their own self-care. Anxiety for some of these pupils may also be related to patterns of self-harm, suicidal ideation or eating disorders.

For pupils where only limited hours of teaching input are appropriate, the Service ensures, through regular reviews with CAMHS practitioners and schools, that support is increased at a point when pupils’ health needs allow. Face to face teaching is also supplemented, where appropriate, by online learning and remote teaching and learning opportunities.

There are currently 70 children attending the provision. We are seeing an increase due to anxiety related conditions.

These pupils are referred to the Monitoring & Placement Group for a multi-agency response to the request for support.

### **JIGSAW Primary Pupil Referral Unit**

Jigsaw is an alternative provision within Sefton for pupils whose behaviour within a mainstream school has led to them being at increased risk of exclusion, or who have been permanently excluded. It is the intention to support and facilitate the successful reintegration of pupils into their host schools or transition to an appropriate, alternative provision.

JIGSAW places are agreed through a panel that includes Head Teachers, Educational Psychologist, Inclusion Consultant and the School Nursing Service.

There are currently 21 children on roll which is an increase.

### **IMPACT-Secondary Pupil Referral Unit**

The current model consists of two distinct provisions and staff work between the centres.

The Oakfield Assessment and Re-integration Centre (ARC) is based in Formby and is a short stay school for 11 – 14-year-old students. Students have a period of assessment and intensive support to help them re-engage in learning and bridge any gaps in their subject knowledge to help them successfully reintegrate into a mainstream school or alternative provision. There is a Nurture base at the ARC, small classes and high levels of pupil support.

IMPACT KS4 is a full-time provision which includes traditional GCSEs alongside a Personal Development Programme and work-based learning.

There are currently 80 Local Authority places and 21 pre-exclusion places.

There are a number of off-site interventions at IMPACT providing Alternative Provisions. The table below lists the alternative provisions.

Provision	URN	Address	Out of Borough	Hours	Number of pupils	Qualification
Everton Free School	138379	42 Spellow Lane L4 4DF	YES	9.00-2.30pm	2	GCSE Core subjects Duke of Edinburgh
CST		1 Forth St Bootle L20 8JJ	NO	9.30-2.00pm	9	Open Awards Level 1 Diploma – Advanced Construction Skills Open Awards Level 1 Diploma – Motor Vehicle Studies Open Awards Level 1 Diploma – Skills for further Learning and employment
Educ8		Elm Road Seaforth L21 3TG	NO	9.00-2.30pm	2	BTEC Level 1 Art & Design BTEC Level 1 Construction BTEC Level 1 Hospitality & Tourism On hold at present are: BTEC Level 1 Health & Social Care BTEC Level

						1 Hair & Beauty It is possible to achieve an Award or Certificate or Diploma within each subject
Engage & Change		58 Coronation Rd, Crosby, Liverpool L23 5RQ	NO	9.30-2.30pm	23	BTEC Level 1 & 2 Sport & Active Leisure AQA Unit Award Scheme AQA Technical Awards Sports Leaders UK programmes. Asdan Short Courses
Pro Vision		Our House, 15 Heathcote Road, Liverpool,	YES	9.00-1.30pm	2	Social and Emotional development programmes alongside Open Awards Functional skills in Maths and English, AQA Cookery AQA Music
Motiv8		Gordon Youth Centre Brecon Avenue L30 1RQ	NO	9.00-2.00pm	2	BTEC Level 1 in Sport & Active Leisure BTEC Level 2 in Leadership Through Sport Active IQ Entry Level 3 in Fitness and Physical Activity Active IQ Level 1 in Fitness and Physical Activity Sports Leaders Level 1 Sports Leaders Level 2 Edexcel Entry Level 3 Maths, English and ICT Edexcel Functional Skills Level 1 Maths and English
Pathways		13 Scarisbrick New Road Southport PR8 6PU	NO	9.00-2.30pm	4	Open Awards Skills for Further Learning and Employment Level 1 Award, Certificate, Extended Certificate, Diploma in the following areas: Art & Design Business Childcare Construction Hair and Beauty Health and Social Care Hospitality and Catering Mechanics Retail

						Travel and Tourism NCFE Level 1/ 2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness NCFE Level 1/ 2 Technical Award in Nutrition and Health
Prudentia	147665	GAP Centre Bowden Road Garston Liverpool L19 1QP		9.00- 1.30pm	5	KS4 Functional Skills English Pearson - Edexcel E1, E2, E3, L1, L2 Functional Skills Maths Pearson - Edexcel E1, E2, E3, L1, L2 BTEC Work Skills Pearson - Edexcel Award, Certificate, Extended Certificate BTEC Sport Pearson - Edexcel Award, Certificate, Extended Certificate KS3 Functional Skills English Pearson - Edexcel E1, E2, E3, L1 Functional Skills Maths Pearson - Edexcel E1, E2, E3, L1 BTEC Work Skills Pearson - Edexcel Award, Certificate BTEC Sport Pearson - Edexcel Award, Certificate
Rydal		Unit 3 32 Bankfield Street Bootle L20 8EH	NO	9.00- 2.30pm	5	Functional Skills English E1, E2, E3, L1, L2 Functional Skills Maths E1, E2, E3, L1, L2 Princes Trust Achieve Programme, Award - 2 units completed Certificate - 6 units completed Diploma - 12/13 units completed

There are service level agreements in place for all of the above provisions. In addition to this where a LA/ school places a pupil with an alternative provision provider, the LA/ school continues to be responsible for the safeguarding of that pupil and should be satisfied that the provider meets the needs of the pupil. Both the LA and schools in Sefton have obtained written confirmation from the alternative provider that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on individuals working at the establishment, i.e., those checks that the school would otherwise

perform in respect of its own staff. This practice is outlined in the Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance.

Only a small number of the alternative provisions in Sefton are registered. An alternative provider should be registered as an independent school if it meets the criteria for registration (that it provides full-time education to five or more full-time pupils of compulsory school age, or one such pupil who is looked-after or has an Education, Health and Care Plan).

It is an offence to operate an unregistered independent school, and anyone who does so is liable on summary conviction to a fine and/or imprisonment.

Sefton have recently surveyed secondary school about the use of alternative provision and there is a significant reduction in using unregistered alternative provision to place children.

Sefton is currently reviewing the alternative provision offer for schools aligned with the restructure that has taken place at the secondary pupil referral unit. There is a significant rise in permanent exclusions from schools which indicates Sefton need to review the pre-exclusion offer for pupils.

In addition to the review of the pre-exclusion provision our assessment is that not enough of the current providers are registered as schools. Conversations have taken place with providers to encourage them to seek registration where appropriate. This message has been underlined by increased enforcement activity by Ofsted.

Sefton are currently in the process of developing a behaviour strategy aligned with the Education Excellence Strategy. This will be completed in consultation with schools, other services, children, and parents. In addition to this there is a review of the Complementary Education Service given the rise in numbers of children presenting as too anxious to go to school.

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