Briefing
Exclusions Peer Review
11 and 12 March 2020

Introduction
Peer reviews are an established tool for understanding our strengths and areas for improvement. The review will also provide valuable opportunities for support and learning from best practice.

This peer review process has been developed by a working group of LAs to address a key question for all Local Authorities who are facing the similar challenge of rising numbers of permanent exclusions. The agreed overarching question for the reviews has been:

What are the current challenges facing the LA and schools in tackling rising numbers of exclusions and what are the possible solutions beginning to emerge?

Peer Review Team
- Mike O’Brien, Head of Specialist Education Service, Essex County Council (lead peer)
- Steve Porter, Manager of the Alternative Learning and Progression Service, Luton Borough Council
- Stuart Mason, Exclusions Lead, Norfolk County Council
- Andy Tovell, Inclusion Challenge Partner, Norfolk County Council (shadow peer)
- Sally Rundell, peer review manager

The peer review process will seek to:
- Review the current context, policies and strategies and their impact
- Engage with representative stakeholders to canvas their perceptions of the current approaches, the reasons for increasing exclusions and potential future solutions
- Discuss with the LA the emerging responses from stakeholders
- Work collaboratively in the feedback session on identifying potential future solutions

The onsite programme will include a number of focus groups and interviews. The proposed focus groups are:
- BAIP Leads
- Primary Heads
- Secondary / Special Heads
- Parent/Carer Forum
- School Governors
- Medical needs, Mental Health, Children Missing Education, and Home Education
- SEND District Team
- Education Inclusion Officers
- Childrens Social Care Managers
- Improvement Advice and Guidance

The reviewers will focus on the following, key questions during these sessions:

How well do all stakeholders engage with the inclusion agenda including excluded pupils?
What are the reasons for increasing numbers of exclusions/managed moves/part time timetables?

What do you think are the reasons for the rising numbers of excluded pupils?

What is the support for re-entry to school following exclusion?

How well is partnership working across agencies impacting on preventing exclusions?

What does success look like for children and young people who are at risk or have been permanently excluded?

How effectively are parents and students listened to in the context of preventing exclusions and for continued quality provision?

What form of behaviour support is available?

What do you think are the potential solutions for the future?

The interviews on the second day of the peer review will follow up on findings from the focus groups and will be with LA Officers and Lead members.

Findings
At the end of the programme, the peer review team will feedback their headline findings. A final report will be sent within 2-4 weeks after the review.

Contact Information
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