

**Schools Forum –
Behaviour Support Service 4th October 2016**

Recommendations

1. That Schools Forum are requested to note the positive impact of changes to the Entrust Primary Behaviour Support Service during Academic Year 2015-16.

Report produced on behalf of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities

PART A

Why is it coming here – what decision is required?

2. Voting Forum Members have agreed that the current Behaviour Support model should remain for 2016 – 17. However, the Forum has requested that members be provided with a detailed report detailing the impact of changes made to the Behaviour Support Service within Entrust over the last twelve months

Reasons for the recommendations:

3. The purpose of this report is to inform the Schools Forum of the impact of changes to the Behaviour Support Service to help inform the de-delegation vote for the 2017-2018 financial year.

PART B

Background

4. The Behaviour Support Service for Primary Schools was a centrally retained service until 2012/2013, when it became a de-delegated service under Exception 1 of the Funding Reform requirements. The maintained primary schools have since voted annually to agree that the service should be provided centrally. The service is managed by Entrust Education Services, Staffordshire County Council's joint venture partner.
5. The Primary Behaviour Support Service is available to Primary Academies at a cost and can be purchased case by case or as a combined package of Behaviour Support and Inclusion Officer support.

Context

6. From September 2015, schools have been asked to send their referrals for Primary behaviour support to a central inbox, senis@entrust-ed.co.uk so that referrals can be considered systematically and that caseworkers can be allocated based on the nature of the concern and specialist knowledge of the practitioner as well as geographical location.

7. The number of Primary Behaviour Support active cases has risen in 2015-16.

Academic Year	Behaviour Support Active cases in maintained schools
2012-2013	416
2013-2014	444
2014-2015	362
2015-2016	382

8. The number of Primary Permanent exclusions notified to Entrust in Staffordshire has maintained a steady rate of 0.06 % which is above the national average of 0.02%

9. 94% of the children referred to the Primary Behaviour Support Team were not permanently excluded within the school year.

10. Staffordshire schools requested support from the Primary Behaviour Support in most cases as they sought to avoid exclusions. Academy Schools can purchase this support from Entrust.

	Primary Academy	Primary Maintained	2015-16 Total
Total Number of Primary Permanent Exclusion notifications	9	26 (5 rescinded with support of Inclusion Officer)	35
Number of excluded pupils supported by Primary Behaviour Support	5	18	23

11. Primary Focus Group

A focus group of approximately 25 representatives of Staffordshire Primary Schools, Special schools and Pupil Referral Units was established in February 2015. Representatives identified several factors they felt were contributing to an increase in challenging behaviour in schools as demonstrated by an increase in the rate of Primary permanent exclusions. These factors included

- A lack of appropriate alternative provision for Primary aged pupils

- the need for closer working between schools in Districts in the same way that Secondary Schools have District Inclusion Partnerships,
- the need for therapeutic services to support children with complex needs
- the need for additional support for schools to effectively implement a graduated response for pupils with challenging behaviour.

Commissioners within SCC are supporting a variety of initiatives in response to these concerns and the Primary Behaviour Support has been enhanced with specialists who can provide a high level of expertise and intervention – these include a Child Psychologist and Drama therapist.

The new model of behaviour support intervention is providing detailed evidence of need to support schools in their graduated response as part of the EHC process

12. The number of referrals to the Primary Behaviour Support Service from both Maintained and Academy Schools has increased in 2015-16. This additional uptake reflects the confidence of schools that the Primary Behaviour Support service can provide effective intervention in response to a higher number of pupils demonstrating challenging behaviour. Regular questionnaires are sent to all maintained Staffordshire schools in order to evaluate the support provided via the Entrust Special Educational Needs and Inclusion Service. These questionnaires were issued in December 2015 and April 2016. Comments regarding the Primary Behaviour Support Team included were very positive and frequently mention how valuable and professional the support provided was.

13. Features of the service in 2015-16 include:

- A more efficient referral system ensuring support is put in place more quickly
- A wider range of expert staff within the team who provide advice and support that is valued by schools
- Advice which frequently improves the behaviour of children. This is highlighted by the fact that 94% of the children referred to the team from Primary Schools were not permanently excluded within the school year.
- The option to allow cases to be closed and then quickly re - opened should the pupil's behaviour deteriorate
- Support for the school through attendance at multi -agency professionals' meetings around complex cases.
- Support and evidence to ensure that schools can demonstrate that they have effectively used a graduated response for pupils with social emotional or behavioural difficulties should they decide to apply for an EHCP needs assessment or AEN funding.

- Closer working relationships between behaviour support staff and District Inclusion Officers which helps to provide earlier intervention which reduces the risk of permanent exclusion. This extends further to involve other agencies such as the Minority Ethnic Achievement Service as appropriate.
- Allocation of Primary Behaviour Support for pupils who are admitted to a school under Staffordshire's Fair Access Protocol.

Report produced by SCC Commissioner

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