

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM

REPORT ON THE FAIR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY FAIR ACCESS AND INCLUSION PANELS (FAIP) AND THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF DARLEY CENTRE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update Schools Forum on the progress of the primary and secondary FAIP
- 1.2 To update Schools Forum on the proposed closure of the Key Stage 3 Darley Centre Pupil Referral Unit

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 FAIP

Both the primary and secondary FAIP are regularly well attended by schools and continue to build on their strengths. Secondary panel consists of representation from senior staff members within each secondary school. Secondary FAIP is generally held as near to fortnightly as possible dependent on school holidays. Primary FAIP has a steering group of key senior school staff with an option for any primary school to attend each FAIP should they so wish. Primary FAIP have moved from half termly to monthly in order to ensure schools have regular opportunity to submit referrals for provision. Both panels have additional representation from the police, SEND, Behaviour Teams, ASET, YOS where necessary. The FAIPs have an independent chair. Through consultation with headteachers, secondary schools now have responsibility for seeking their own alternative provision for individual pupils where required, although requests for placements at Darley Centre and Coritani continue to be heard via the FAIP. Managed moves have

reduced in recent months, however continue to be sought school to school without the need for FAIP. Primary FAIP hears referrals for Coritani Key Stage 2 provision and the Key Stage 1 Nest at Scunthorpe C of E. Students usually attend full time in each provision for a minimum of 2 terms dependent on need and progress. Both provisions support students with SEMH and Coritani holds a number of places for children with an EHCP who may need a more specialised longer term placement. Primary FAIP has developed a drop in for schools to access support and advice from other headteachers alongside the Behaviour Team at each panel. As of the 14th May there remains less than 40 students in secondary alternative provision for which the LA holds responsibility. In primary there are currently 3 in The Nest and Coritani key stage 2 has 3 students with an EHCP, one without and potential new students to be heard at the next panel meeting.

A revised system for monitoring alternative provision has been developed and trialled in recent weeks which includes provisions undertaking and rag rating their own SEF, uploading all documents and policies and providing opportunity for a full day visit by a monitoring officer, culminating in a comprehensive rag rated report against the SEF and the five areas of Ofsted regardless of whether they are Ofsted registered or not.

1. Leadership and Management
2. Safeguarding/ Health and Safety
3. Outcomes for Learners
4. Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare
5. Teaching, Learning & Assessment

Schools have the opportunity to log into the system where all information on alternative provision is held in one place.

Darley Centre

Through the North Lincolnshire One Family Approach (OFA), our shared ambition is for children to remain in their families, in their schools and their communities. For this reason, working in partnership with Headteachers and Principals, there has been a significant drive on inclusion – to see a reduction in both permanent and fixed term exclusions, to support changes to the market-place and commissioning arrangements for alternative learning provision (ALP) and to increase the use of managed transfer to other mainstream provision where this would be beneficial to individual young people. This continued focus upon inclusion and vulnerable groups, such as those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - through the Headteacher / Principal partnership work and through the key priorities of the Integrated Children's Trust Board (ICT) has resulted in the following:

- reducing numbers of permanent and fixed term exclusions at secondary phase (3- year trend data)
- a reduction in the overall use of ALP (from approximately 160 LA commissioned places to under 40)
- a

reduction in the overall school directly-commissioned ALP places • an increase in the use of managed transfer to other mainstream provision • an overall reduction in the use of the Darley Centre. Within recent years there has also been a focus upon supporting secondary phase schools and academies to make best use of their accommodation for the benefit of young people of mainstream ability with social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) and also with needs such as autism / ADHD – supporting the development of smaller nurturing environments. National SEND Capital allocation has been used for this purpose with two provisions already in place and another in progress. Another competition exercise for SEND Capital funding has recently been launched to support the development of further inclusion projects within mainstream secondary provision. Further discussions are taking place with primary Headteachers to establish what other provision and support might be required into the future. As a result of these positive changes discussions have taken place about future commissioning arrangements and intentions. Following initial consultation with the Headteachers / Principals' Chairs' Group and, specifically on the basis of reduced need and in the context of what is described above, the Council has launched a consultation with the proposal to close the Darley Centre with effect from the end of July 2021. This has been presented to the Darley Centre governing body (17th May) and the Darley Centre remaining substantive staff of four (18th May). The consultation formally started from Tuesday 25th May 2021 (with union colleagues present). There will further opportunity to discuss this at the Secondary Matters meeting on 7th July.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 There are no specific options at this stage as this is primarily an information / update paper, although noted that there is currently a consultation underway on the future of the Darley Centre.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Ensuring efficient use of High Needs resources (ALP and SEND Capital) – supporting improved outcomes for our children and young people.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There may be financial implications due to the potential closure of the Darley Centre in particular redundancy payments for the remaining substantive staff (4).

5.2 SEND capital funding will be allocated as per the outcome of the bidding process on the 18th June 2021.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 Awaiting outcome on the consultation on the potential closure of the Darley Centre.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Headteachers / Principals / LA to continue to work together to implement and embed area-wide solutions (as outlined).
- 8.2 Further develop local inclusion opportunities (SEND Capital Funding).
- 8.3 Headteachers / Principals consider the consultation on the proposed closure of the Darley Centre.

HEAD OF SERVICE – ACCESS AND INCLUSION (DEPUTY
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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: none.