

Alternative Provision Review – Questionnaire

In January 2019, via Shropshire Schools Forum, officers set up a Task & Finish Group to undertake a review of high needs spending in line with current SEND policy. The membership of the group has included representation from beyond Schools Forum, in particular the Central Policy Group. As with most other local authorities in England, Shropshire is experiencing significant challenges in meeting the increasing demands on the annual High Needs Block funding allocated for services for children and young people with SEND, as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

One of the key initial areas of focus for the group has been alternative provision (AP). Shropshire Council currently commissions AP via the Tuition, Medical & Behaviour Support Service (TMBSS) to provide:

- 6th day provision following permanent exclusion
- assessment placements for children with an EHCP
- provision for children unable to attend school due to a medical condition, and
- preventative support.

The Council currently commissions 146 places at TMBSS per year. All commissioned places are funded via the High Needs Block and Council budget, including place funding, top-up and transport. Access to this service is via referral to the Special School Placement Panel. Schools can also directly commission and fund a place at TMBSS to deliver preventative support. It is important to note that this intervention is not a statutory responsibility of the Council.

Alternative provision has been a recent focus nationally. In October 2018 the Department for Education published a market analysis of AP, which highlights the range of models that are being applied across English local authorities.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alternative-provision-market-analysis>

The models range from authorities providing no AP based provision for preventative support, through to authorities commissioning and fully funding or partially funding AP places. Other models include the provision of centralised outreach support or facilitating school to school support commissioned through specialist schools/academies or a combination of approaches.

The current Shropshire primary phase model at Harlescott Education Centre, Grove Hub and Meadows Hub operates as follows:

Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils access a 50/50 shared placement via the Specialist School Placement Panel. Students are allocated either a morning place or an afternoon place in TMBSS, spending the remainder of the week in their mainstream school. The placement is from Monday to Friday and students are dual registered between TMBSS and their mainstream school. An Educational Review is organised by TMBSS at the end of the initial assessment period at approximately 16 weeks. At this stage a vast majority of students will receive a reintegration programme gradually returning to mainstream school. Some students require additional assessment and support and the involvement of other professionals to access appropriate provision. Throughout the placement close liaison between all professionals is actively encouraged to share good practice and expertise. The average time students spend in a TMBSS is one academic year, slightly longer at Key Stage 1 due to develop needs at this age.

The current Shropshire secondary phase model operates as follows:

Key Stage 3-4 students access a full time Monday to Friday placement at TMBSS via Specialist School Placement Panel. Students are placed at either a medical or SEMH centre depending on need. It is envisaged that Key Stage 3 students will at some stage return to their mainstream setting, however, there is currently no set timescale for this. TMBSS support the local authority in assessing individual needs and submit an EHCP application for students who require additional long-term specialist support. Those students who access TMBSS due to a permanent exclusion will have their case reviewed initially at Specialist Placement Panel, followed by presentation at Fair Access Panel (if appropriate) and a new mainstream school is identified and a transition agreed.

A simple questionnaire has been produced on behalf of the Task & Finish Group in respect of AP, which is being circulated to all mainstream and special schools in Shropshire. This is designed to inform further discussions within the group ahead of a formal consultation in the Autumn term on a range of options - including the status quo - for how AP is funded and delivered in Shropshire. A range of options are presented for consideration and comment, but will be subject to much greater scrutiny and assessment by the Task & Finish Group, Central Policy Group and Schools Forum.

The intention of the review is to ensure that we continue to provide the most effective alternative provision arrangements in Shropshire, that are right for our children and young people and best meets their needs. Therefore, your support and cooperation in completing and returning this questionnaire by the closing date of **Friday 19 July 2019** would be much appreciated.

Questionnaire

Name of school/setting	
Name of person completing form	
Role in school	
Contact email address	
Date form completed	

Please scan and return the completed form to senteam@shropshire.gov.uk , by no later than **Friday 19 July 2019**.

- Over the last 3 financial years, has your school used TMBSS for behaviour intervention that has been funded by the local authority and, if so, how many pupils have been referred and how many have been offered places?

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
a) Yes, no or don't know			
b) Number of pupils referred			
c) Number of pupils offered places			

- If you have answered yes to Question 1 please indicate how successful - in general - this intervention was for the pupil(s) accessing this provision?
Range: 1 = highly successful to 5 = of very little value [please circle one number]

1	2	3	4	5
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- Please provide the reasons for your response to Question 2.

4. Would you be prepared to pay a contribution toward the cost of the provision?

Yes

☐

No

☐

5. Please provide the reasons for your response to Question 4.

Primary school option

Retain the 50/50 shared placement but restrict to 3 terms, with pupils attending for Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will be used for TMBSS staff to go into schools to offer outreach support.

6. What is your initial reaction to this option? *[please tick one box]*

Very positive	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Very negative
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7. Please provide the reasons for your response to Question 6.

Secondary school options

Model 1: Full day support on four days a week, day five used for staff to go into mainstream schools and offer advice and outreach support. This model would require another SEMH centre to cater for increased demand, potentially in the Market Drayton area.

Model 2: Move to a shared placement model similar to the primary phase. Monday to Thursday students are allocated either a morning or afternoon session the remainder of the day will be supported in their mainstream school. Friday will be used to offer advice and outreach support.

Model 3: Students are allocated a full day at TMBSS on Monday and Tuesday or Wednesday and Thursday. If a student attended TMBSS on Monday and Tuesday they would be supported for the remainder of the week in their mainstream school. If a student was supported on a Wednesday and Thursday at TMBSS they would be supported for the remainder of the week in their mainstream school. Places would be restricted to three terms and then return to their mainstream school. Friday would be used for TMBSS staff to offer advice and outreach support.

8. What is your initial reaction to each of these options? *[please tick one box]*

Model 1

Very positive	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Very negative
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Model 2

Very positive	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Very negative
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Model 3

Very positive	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Very negative
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9. Please provide the reasons for your response to Question 8.

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10. How do you feel about the development of an outreach support service? *[please tick one box]*

Very positive	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Very negative
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11. Please summarise the reasons for your view regarding the development of an outreach service.

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12. Do you currently directly commission any other alternative provision independently of the local authority?

Yes

No

13. If you answered Yes to Question 12 please provide details on where this was commissioned from and your reasons for doing so.

14. Please use this space to outline any other options that you think should be considered as part of the review into AP in Shropshire.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.