

Committee: **Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services**

Date: **14 March 2008**

Title of Report: **Update report on developments regarding behaviour support**

By: **Director of Children's Services**

Purpose of Report: **To update the Committee on the developments in the Reintegration and Secondary Behaviour Support Services since the reorganisation of provision in April 2007.**

Recommendation:

The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the developments in the service and review the progress of the new arrangements

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 Following extensive consultation with stakeholders during Autumn 2006, all of the services supporting exclusions, reintegration and behaviour support to secondary schools were brought into centralised management within Area Integrated Children's Services. This involved the creation of two new services. Firstly, Reintegration Services, which supports young people, schools and families through the exclusion processes and in developing and monitoring alternative provision for excluded pupils; secondly, the Secondary Behaviour Support Service, which supports schools and young people to respond to challenging behaviour and maintain placements in mainstream schools. A structure chart for these services is attached as Appendix A.

2.2 Through the reorganisation the Children's Services Department was able to expand the staffing across these services so as to provide a more comprehensive service to schools, young people and parents. The Reintegration Services have expanded the offer of provision, post exclusion, both in terms of increasing the levels of support provided to schools and in increasing the number of placements for pupils in Key Stage 4 with local voluntary and private providers and Further Education colleges.

2.3 Since becoming centrally managed in April 2007, the Secondary Behaviour Support Service (SBSS) has worked with 168 individual pupils. These include a number (20) of Year 6/7 transition pupils, who were identified by the Primary Behaviour Support Service for possible intervention, but have only required monitoring. In total, 24 schools have been supported with only three schools (Robertsbridge Community College, Uplands Community College and Beacon Community College) not making any referrals. There is a slightly higher number of referrals in the west of the county. This is almost certainly due to the presence of the Excellence Cluster in the East. To achieve some parity for caseloads, one of the Behaviour Support Professionals based in the east spends two days in schools in the west of the county.

2.4 In addition, Behaviour Support staff have run small group courses for pupils, for example on social skills and anger management.

2.5 Currently, SBSS is working with schools to improve the behaviour of around 100 young people. These cases are being held by 6 full time staff (4 full time Behaviour Support Professionals and 2 Behaviour Support Assistants) equally divided between east and west. There is evidence that the number of referrals is increasing and this is almost certainly due to the success of the service. The number of pupils supported in each school varies significantly – from 2 pupils to 21 pupils.

2.6 Reintegration Services have supported 101 young people since April 2007 across primary and secondary schools. Of these, 46 will have received intensive input from dedicated practitioners in supporting a transition of educational placement. Following on from the review in 2007, all pupils subject to managed transfers or permanent exclusions will receive 1:1 support from a Reintegration Mentor, who will also work with families and schools to conduct assessments of need and draw up plans for reintegration.

2.7 Since the establishment of these two services, it has become clear that there is significant overlap in the operational approach of staff within each team. Under the current arrangements, young people who receive behaviour support prior to exclusion, and are then subsequently permanently excluded from school, will pass between the two teams as there is currently a divide in responsibility. In recognition of the overlap in work and the need to create less disruption for children and their families, the Children's Services Department has recently consulted on merging the two teams with an operational split geographically. This will create a Reintegration and Secondary Behaviour Support Service in the west and a similar team in the east, with close links between the two so as to ensure parity in delivery across the county.

2.8 In addition to the reorganisation of the Reintegration and Secondary Behaviour Support Services, the Children's Services Department is currently undertaking a review of the Primary Behaviour Support Service, Pupil Retention Grant and Pupil Referral Units. The outcome of these reviews will be used to determine longer term provision for excluded pupils and those at risk of exclusion across the county. The Department will be able to report back to Scrutiny Committee on the progress of these reviews once the outcomes have been determined.

3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

3.1 Overall, significant progress has been made in the development of the Reintegration and Behaviour Support Services since April 2007. These teams are now fully integrated within Area Integrated Children's Services and links with other teams are producing more positive outcomes for young people, families and schools.

3.2 There are still significant changes ahead for support services and the Children's Services Department will be working to ensure that the outcome of the current reviews is taken forward with minimum disruption. Once complete, a full appraisal of the impact of the changes to this provision will be possible in the Spring 2009.

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Report to Lead Members, 5 September 2006 – "Outcome of the review of the behaviour support service and proposals for change from April 2007"

Appendix A

