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**REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE BEHAVIOUR WORK-STREAM
(SEND STRATEGY)**

Report of the Director of Children's Services

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Forum on the progress of the Behaviour work-stream and to identify future priorities.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The behaviour work-stream was tasked to develop a Behaviour Strategy which can support the delivery of effective outcomes for children in Hertfordshire.
- 2.2 This strategy will aim to create a consistent continuum of entitlement across Hertfordshire which can support those children and young people with significant and complex behavioural needs. Early intervention and inclusion will be strengthened and fewer children will be excluded or will require high-cost specialist provision.
- 2.3 The strategy will aim to ensure that each DSPL Area has effective behaviour support and alternative provision in place across all phases. This provision will be equitably and transparently funded and will be planned and commissioned by local schools working in partnership.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Forum is asked to note and comment on the work of the Behaviour work-stream. Views are particularly sought on:
- i) funding formulae to be used;
 - ii) whether funding should be distributed on an area or an institution basis;

- iii) whether sufficient resources are allocated to behaviour;
- iv) implementation of a new commissioning model whereby schools, rather than the local authority, hold the funding for behaviour and AP and directly commission provision;
- v) how accountabilities for such issues as the provision of Day 6 education might be strengthened;
- vi) how outcomes/impact might be more effectively measured and monitored.

4. Background

4.1 Behaviour support has developed over the past ten years in a variety of ways across Hertfordshire. Whilst there is evidence of much good practice leading to effective outcomes provision has developed unevenly and a clear entitlement pathway and a consistent and equitable continuum of support which all schools and children can quickly and easily access is lacking.

4.2 The need to develop a new behaviour strategy has been made more urgent by the significant increase in the level of permanent exclusions which has occurred over the past four years in Hertfordshire, particularly in the primary phase:

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Total</u>
2012-13	4	19	23
2013-14	6	30	36
2014-15	16	22	38
2015-16	34	44	78*

*This figure of 78 includes 23 cases in progress.

4.4 The steep and rapid rise in the rate of permanent exclusion is a cause for concern as the cohort of permanently excluded children includes some of the most vulnerable children in Hertfordshire – those subject to safeguarding concerns, those with special educational needs/disabilities, those involved in the criminal justice system and so on.

4.5 The increase in the rate of permanent exclusion has placed very significant pressures on Hertfordshire's Alternative Provision (AP) providers, especially at the primary phase and in particular in relation to the timely provision of Day 6 education.

4.6 Alongside of, and integral to the development of the behaviour strategy, are a number of local behaviour reviews, including: the secondary behaviour pilots, involving schools in three areas (Welwyn and Hatfield, Dacorum and South-West Herts) developing new commissioning models; a number of primary behaviour reviews are also taking place (in Stevenage, St Albans, and Dacorum). Other areas have meanwhile either already reshaped or are in

process of reshaping their provision (primary provision in South-West Herts, secondary provision in Stevenage/North Herts).

5. The Behaviour work-stream

- 5.1 To date the behaviour works-stream has developed a Behaviour Strategy document which is essentially a set of aspirations and principles which can inform and underpin all future behaviour developments in Hertfordshire.
- 5.2 The work-stream has also developed a tiered approach to behaviour management which is being promoted and disseminated across Hertfordshire. This tiered approach comprises:
 - Tier 1: Behaviour Management in Schools.
 - Tier 2: Outreach
 - Tier 3: Intensified Outreach.
 - Tier 4: In-reach
 - Tier 5: Change of Provision.
- 5.1 The work-stream is also considering how best to take forward the proposals concerning behaviour and Alternative Provision outlined in the government's recent White Paper. The most significant changes proposed in this White Paper are:
 - i) transferring responsibility for the budgets from which AP is funded from the local authority to schools so that schools can act as commissioners of AP;
 - ii) ensuring that schools retain responsibility for the educational outcomes of pupils in AP (including those who have been permanently excluded).
- 5.2 In the coming months the work-stream will ensure that all schools (and school partnerships) and current providers (ESCS and PSBs) are made fully aware of the likely implications of these proposals and of the opportunities which they might create. Work will also be undertaken to identify future roles, responsibilities and accountabilities (albeit that further clarification on some key issues is awaited from the government).
- 5.3 The commissioning model detailed in the White Paper, and already piloted in three areas, will be developed and rolled out across Hertfordshire in the next twelve months.
- 5.4 The work-stream will also carry out a comprehensive review of existing funding arrangements in order to ensure equity, transparency and accountability. The key issues to be addressed include:

- i) identifying the overall total financial resource which is currently allocated to behaviour support;
- ii) agreeing a formula for the distribution of this resource (which recognises current demographics and social deprivation factors),
- iii) agreeing a mechanism for allocating this resource (including the issue of whether allocation should be by area or by institution or a combination of both).

Proposals will be taken to the High Needs sub-group and brought to Forum in December and this piece of work will be completed by 31 March 2017.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 There is a clear consensus that consistent implementation of the behaviour strategy is currently an issue of the utmost importance across Hertfordshire. The work of the behaviour works-stream acquires an added urgency.
- 6.2 Future behaviour/AP developments will result in the creation of entirely new models of delivery based on schools commissioning the behaviour support/AP which they consider will most effectively meet their needs. The behaviour work-stream will proactively deliver this work programme