



# **Integrated Alternative Provision Strategy - Update**

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## What is Alternative Provision and where are we in Hackney

### *A statutory system wide and moral responsibility*

- 1) A group of providers/schools delivering education for excluded children and children missing education
- 2) A multi-site service of collaborative providers integrated with schools with children and families - Team around the child
- 3) An Inclusion driver - Intensive care; Hub and spokes
- 4) Centres of excellence, research and training hubs operating as a key part of an inclusive education, health and social care community

# Why change : Context, Challenges, opportunities

## National picture

- New legislation and research in relation to the purpose and expectations of alternative provision as part of the system
- Policy changes due to overwhelming evidence regarding the need for more options and different approaches
- Suspensions for **physical assault, threatening behaviour and verbal abuse** increasing exponentially.
- But -The most common reason and a worrying additional trend for temporary suspension is **persistent disruptive behaviour**. Increased 2021-23 by 20%
- **Profound impact on families, systems, Headteachers, teachers**, system wide staff teams - impacting retention and the health and wellbeing of education staff.
- Spiralling mental health issues SEND -and the need for new ideas, strategies locally and nationally

## The Hackney picture

- A clear appetite for a revised AP hub and spoke service locally: led by the LA -utilising current opportunities and good quality providers within the local area
- **High level of permanent exclusions and EHCPs** compared to similar Local Authorities
- With a **limited number of flexible, affordable clear options** currently open to families. Children and schools
- A costly commissioning strategy with an over use of independent providers.
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- Clear potential for a revised AP policy and commissioning strategy which builds upon local expertise across the education and voluntary sectors
- An appetite and need for a revised quality framework for AP which captures expectations and the latest related to good practice models



## 7 Fast facts - what headteachers, families and young people are saying (1)

1. Schools, parents and agencies require **more accessible and affordable support/provision** for children and families who may otherwise be pushed out of the education system
2. Expectations clarified by **new legislation** in the form of a SEND AP national improvement plan and a revised LA SEND AP OFSTED framework - We need to utilise this vehicle to harness improvement cohesion and change. (OFSTED - due in Hackney early 2024)
3. An exponentially growing number of children in schools and alternative provision have complex and or diagnosed **SEND** (81%- 95%). AP has to be more flexible, agile and sophisticated. (Responsible Inclusion)
4. Across the UK, the main areas of SEND identified in Alternative Provision includes complex **SEMH** (social and emotional mental health) and/or **Autism** (communication and interaction needs). This pattern is reflected in Hackney.



## **7 Fast facts - what headteachers, families and young people are saying (2)**

5. A significant rise in the number of **children missing education** (CME) in mainstream and/or requiring alternative provision. A continued rise in the number of children in Hackney with emotionally based school avoidance and requiring alternative provision schooling.
6. Only 4% of excluded children attending PRUs/AP achieve a GCSE in both English and Maths. This compares to 64% (2022) in Mainstream secondary schools. **Local and national appetite for AP/PRU service transformation and redesign.**
7. There is the opportunity to integrate the latest teacher training/research via a new alternative provision tool kit into our schools to ease inclusion and enable social inclusion during challenging times. (Children's mental health hub funding).

# Alternative Provision Strategy - Principles and ideas

## VISION

All children have access to high quality, suitable full time education that supports them to reach their full potential

## GOAL

A cohesive & graduated AP system

## VALUE

'Inclusion First'

*Estates Strategy*

*SEND Strategy*

*Education 2030 Strategy*

*Inclusion Charter*

*Delivering Better Value*

**Improved quality, performance and value for money**

**Revised policy and effective governance**

**Enabling systems, data and communications**

Redesigned AP Commissioning Framework and funding model

A redesigned AP "Hub and Spoke" service

Remodelled Fair Access Panel & AP Panel

Redesigned AP Quality Assurance and Performance Framework

AP Directory/Ladder of Interventions

Clear AP dataset

Revised Service Level Agreements

AP/SEND pathways (tier 1 - 3)

AP consultative forum for parents/carers and young people

Remodelled High Needs AP funding & distribution

Clear leadership & oversight over AP & its commissioning

Extended Local Offer Website

**An integrated 3 tiered system**

**Working for every child**

*Reduced dependency on permanent exclusion*

# Draft timelines for implementation

**Oct - Dec 2023**  
Internal governance

**Dec - April 2024**  
Wider engagement  
events & workshops

**Pre- April 2024**  
Strategy & Funding  
Model Consultation

**May - Sept 2024**  
Implementation  
Phase 1

**September 2024**  
Implementation  
Phase 2

## Governance

- Fortnightly Working Group established
- Weekly review meetings with AD SEND & Head of Safeguarding
- Monthly check ins with Director of Education & AD School Improvement
- SEND AP partnership group now reconfigured into Inclusion partnership (Oct 23)

## Consultation

- Working with Parent & Carer System Lead (**Oct 23**)
- Behaviour & Wellbeing Group (**Oct 23**)
- SLT (**Nov 23**)
- Primary Headteacher briefing (**Nov 23**)
- Secondary Headteacher briefings (**Nov 23 & Jan 24**)
- Scrutiny Commission (**Nov 23**)
- Health & Social Care
- Strategy Workshops (**Jan - March 24**)