



Not for Publication: Appendix 1 and 2
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Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 17 January 2008

Subject: David Young Community Academy

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Background

A report produced by Education Leeds detailing the contribution being made by the David Young Community Academy (DYCA) to Children Services in Leeds was considered at the meeting of Scrutiny Board on the 8TH November. The request for this was prompted by a wish for members to better understand the issues raised by the emerging mixed economy of school provision, and how these can be addressed in the context of the children's services.

Following a range of questions the meeting resolved to receive additional information including;

- From Education Leeds
 - a summary of the reasons for each permanent exclusion and the current placement of permanently excluded students,
 - the involvement of the relevant extended schools coordinator with the Academy,
- and from DYCA
 - an opportunity to explore the Academy's role in a little more depth with the Academy Principal, in particular on the choice of academic or vocational route; the relationship with neighbouring schools around issues such as the school year; and the support available to parents
 - figures for staff turnover with contextual data that added value to the raw statistics.

The information below provides information on the current provision being made for young people excluded from DYCA (Appendix 1), the support provided to parents (Appendix 2), and the involvement of Education Leeds with the Academy's extended services developments.

The information contained in Appendix 1 and 2 is exempt because it could reveal the identity of an individual.

1 Exclusions at David Young Community Academy

1.1 General Involvement

1.1.1 Prior to opening in September 2006 two senior managers of Education Leeds, the Team Leader and Exclusions Manager for Integrated Children's Services, visited the David Young City Academy (DYCA) to see the building, meet the staff, outline roles and responsibilities and to offer support and guidance. This activity led to the attendance of a representative from the DYCA at a team meeting held by the Pupil Planning Team. This gave a further opportunity to build relationships and share ideas around joint working practice.

1.2 Permanent Exclusions (See Appendix 1)

1.2.1 Where a pupil is permanently excluded, schools, including academies, must inform their Local Authority (LA) within one school day. The Pupil Planning Team (Education Leeds) have agreed a process for this with the DYCA. The DYCA notifies the LA Exclusion Manager of all permanent exclusions by email within one school day. Each pupil and their family is then allocated a reinclusion worker from the Pupil Planning Team and are also referred to the Parent Partnership Service who can offer arms length advice and support.

1.2.2 When hearing the case for permanent exclusion, unlike the governing body of a maintained school, the governing body of an academy are not expected to seek the advice of an LA officer during the hearing. Nevertheless, the Pupil Planning Team have agreed a process with the DYCA to share information around decisions taken by the academy governors in respect of permanent exclusions.

1.2.3 Following confirmation of a permanent exclusion in a maintained school, LAs must make arrangements for an Independent Appeal Panel to hear any appeal lodged by parents or carers. In the case of an Academy, the governing body are responsible for convening the panel and arranging suitable training for appeal panel members and clerks. Unlike an independent appeal convened by the LA, the panel convened by an academy are not expected to seek the advice an LA officer. DYCA has not set up its own independent appeals panel – they buy this service as and when needed from the LA. To date only one such panel has been required.

1.2.4 Throughout the process outlined above the DYCA have access to the Education Leeds 'Exclusion Team' via the exclusions telephone advice line and they regularly use this service. This team have agreed a named 'Exclusion Contact' within the DYCA with whom a regular audit of permanent exclusion data is conducted in order to ensure that no child falls through the net. The Education Leeds Exclusion Manager ensures that the DYCA Exclusion Contact is informed of any changes to legislation and procedure.

1.3 Fixed Period Exclusions

1.3.1 Academies are not required to release fixed period exclusion data directly to their LA. This data must however be reported directly to the DCSF. Notwithstanding this, the DYCA are currently working with Education Leeds to agree a method to capture their fixed period exclusion data.

2 Parent Support Advisor (see appendix 2)

- 2.1 The Parent Support Advisor (PSA) at David Young Academy has been in post since January 2007. The current data collection timeframe means that the current data held by the PSA project is accurate for input between January and July 2007 and further data collection will take place in January 2008.
- 2.2 Between January and July, the PSA supported the parents/carers of 42 young people attending the David Young Community Academy through work including one-to-one support, family work, work with parents and children, family support training and signposting. Reasons for requests for such support were varied and comprised attendance/ punctuality (11 cases), behavioural difficulties (29 cases), child protection concerns (1 case) and support with friendships/self esteem (1 case).
- 2.3 Of the children and young people whose parents/carers received support, one had been Permanently Excluded from another school prior to PSA involvement and one was Permanently Excluded from DYCA during PSA involvement. 22 children and young people whose parents/carers received support had a fixed term exclusion prior to PSA support, with 15 young people receiving a fixed term exclusion during PSA involvement.

3 Involvement of Education Leeds Extended Schools Co-ordinator with DYCA

- 3.1 Seacroft Manston extended schools cluster operates through the long established family of schools which has been the main vehicle for development of the Extended Services agenda in this area. DYCA, represented usually by the Principal or Vice-principal, hosts and attends meetings of the family of schools. DYCA has therefore been able to play a full part in the development of extended services through schools.
- 3.2 The Seacroft/Manston Extended Services Cluster is subdivided into three neighbourhood groupings of primary schools with the three secondary schools standing outside of this arrangement. The multi-agency support team (MAST) in the area is engaged in each of these sub-divisions providing a range of restorative provision for children and young people who require it. This is supplemented by the excellent arrangements with the local children's centres that enable the schools to deliver on the full extended services offer.
- 3.3 Funding has been used to employ 3 neighbourhood workers (who started in October 07) to focus particularly on the development of activities for young people, universal support for parents and community access. This is linked to the Youth Service provision in the area. The DYCA will benefit from the support of one of these workers if they wish although the initial focus has been on providing additional capacity to the primaries.
- 3.4 Each neighbourhood has its own local multi-agency partnership group but the overall steer for the work is provided through a strategic multi-agency group called the **Seacroft Manston Children & Young Peoples' Services Group**. This group meets for the second time on Monday 26 November and DYCA was represented at the first meeting by Inclusion Manager, Alan Bolton