

Question: CQ11.01

Cabinet – 5 October 2021

Re: Agenda item 11 – Alternative Learning Provision (ALP) framework

Question submitted by: Councillor Tim Rippington

Under the Evidence base section of the paper put to Cabinet, point 3 states : “Bristol has historically been a higher user of Alternative Learning Provision than other local authorities including statistical neighbours. This framework seeks to promote greater inclusion in mainstream schools, and therefore reduce the numbers of pupils in long-term, full-time ALP.”

Many children who end up in ALP are there because mainstream schools were unable to meet their needs in the first place, and because we have historically not had enough places in Special Needs provision across the city. We now have a good plan in place to boost the number of Special Needs places in our City, so should this not also be mentioned as a way of reducing the numbers of pupils in ALP? I am concerned that any parent of a child currently in ALP provision might see the return to a mainstream setting as a highly damaging outcome for their child.