

## Bristol Schools Forum

### Inclusion Hub – 2024 onwards

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
<b>Time of meeting:</b>	17.00 - 19.00
<b>Venue:</b>	Online
<b>Officer Presenting Report</b>	Reena Bhogal-Welsh

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To provide further detail regarding the operation of the Inclusion Hub, to include sustainability and how the £440k will be spent.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1. From the School's Forum meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November, it was proposed that:

£440k is currently unallocated from the Belonging with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) programme. It is proposed that this funding is used to cover the start-up costs of an Inclusion Hub, focused on early intervention, for the period of December 2023 and March 2024. The specific aim of this programme is to support schools in:

1. Ensuring that the Ordinarily Available Provision is in place
2. Supporting the schools to implement a child focused graduated response to need
3. Providing support, advice, and resource ***in school*** to ensure that the child can flourish in their mainstream setting.
4. Allowing easy, early access to BCC support so that needs are addressed in a focused and timely manner. This will allow both primary and secondary schools to address emerging SEND needs and put in place supportive measures that will reduce the need for crisis response later in the child's school career.

The Inclusion Hub would be delivered by BCC's Alternative Learning Provision (ALP) team and initially offered to schools in Bristol for free in 2023/24 using this funding source. The intention is to move towards a more sustainable, contribution-based model from 2024/25 onwards. Proposals regarding the nature of contributions will be discussed and PHAB, and BIFAP (Bristol Inclusion and Fair Access Panel) steering group and presented at BASHP/PHAB for approval. It is intended that BCC and Bristol schools will work together in a comparable way to Bristol Inclusion Panel to joint fund the commissioned 'in school' resource. The initial BIP arrangement was for schools to contribute 50% of the cost of ALP, but details will be available through consultation for 2024-25. These proposals have been widely shared through BIFAP, PHAB, BASHP, Headteacher briefing and with the SEND team. All schools were asked to contribute to the nature of support that would be welcomed with 27 primary and 17 secondary schools responding to the anonymous consultation. The tiered approach and the resource detailed in table 3.6 were designed based on these responses and the Safeguarding review of BIP.

- Tier 1 – School Based – support to ensure that the school is demonstrating a fully graduated response.
- Tier 2 – Triage and Treat – provision and support to ensure that any extra support is targeted and effective.
- Tier 3 – Turnaround Provision – Short term placements off-site to address specific identified needs.
- Tier 4 – Long term Provision – A more thorough investigation into the needs of a child in an AP (Alternative Provision) setting.

### **3. The ALP Hub 2016-23 & The Inclusion Hub 2024 onwards**

- 3.1. The ALP Hub has previously focused, through Bristol Inclusion Panel (BIP) on the provision of support for children 'at risk of' or more commonly 'at the point of' permanent exclusion. The outcome of this model has been a significant rise in the use of full-time ALP placements through BIP for children who had reached the point of permanent exclusion. BIP moved a considerable number of children out of their mainstream setting into various other provisions, removing the parent and family right to reply, as would have been available through permanent exclusion. In 2021-22, 218 children were moved through this route. It is considered that this focus on, and support for, the movement of children out of their mainstream setting is both costly and not in the best interest of children and families.
- 3.2. The focus of the Inclusion Hub will be in providing early support, advice and intervention for schools and families through the 4-tier system that will promote children remaining in their mainstream schools.
- 3.3. The Inclusion Hub Team will comprise of:
  - 3.3.1. Headteacher Inclusion Hub (Currently fixed term – Sept 2024)
  - 3.3.2. Commissioning and Inclusion Manager (Currently Full-time permanent)
  - 3.3.3. Commissioning and Inclusion Officers x 3 (Currently 2 permanent and 1 fixed term April 2025)
  - 3.3.4. Placement Officer Part-time provision (Fixed term April 2025)
  - 3.3.5. Administrative & Data Support 1.4 FTE (provided through Business Support Team)
- 3.4. The operating model for the Inclusion Hub will be brought in line with other BCC models to allow for an individual officer to work with schools in the North, East Central, and South of the city. The current model has two officers: one officer for primary schools and one for secondary schools. In developing a locality model, officers will continue their relationship at Key Stage transfers, and become integral to the local offer in that area. The 3<sup>rd</sup> officer has been recruited and will start work in January 2024. The placement officer is also a new appointment who will start work in February 2024, and will be responsible for the quality assurance of individual child placements at part-time provision from the AP commissioning framework.
- 3.5. The routes through which support will be available are:
  - 3.5.1. The team are always available for telephone, video or email advice and support.
  - 3.5.2. Daily drop-in sessions to advise and interrogate graduated response and use of Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) in line with Tier 1. All schools can access these sessions. The locality model will increase the availability of access to Inclusion Hub support.
  - 3.5.3. Weekly surgeries for both primary and secondary schools. These multi-professional surgeries consider referrals from all schools and will consider early intervention support for children. Decisions regarding provision at tiers 2-4 will be taken at surgery.

3.6. The Inclusion Hub is currently operating the drop-in and surgery processes, but are proposing that the support for schools from December 2023 – March 2024 would impact 219 children and include:

<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Term 2 Cost</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Term 3/4 Cost</b>	<b>FY 2023/24</b>	<b>Children</b>
Bristol Autism Team • Enhanced Casework	12	£14,934	24	£29,868	£48,802	36
Education Psychology • Surgery • School support • Supervision for schools	24	£18,315	48	£36,630	£54,945	72
In-School Support • Mentoring • Learning recovery	10	£70,940	20	£141,880	£212,820	30
Mentoring programs Lot 3 • Mentoring AP Framework	15	£9,750	30	£19,500	£29,250	45
Outreach from ALP • In-school mentoring • Academic support	12	£48,000	24	£96,000	£144,000	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>£161,939</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>£323,878</b>	<b>£485,817</b>	<b>219</b>

3.7. The model will be sustainable by:

- 3.7.1. The reduction in the use of full-time ALP places through BIP will fund the support for schools and children in full. A reduction of 20 places in full-time ALP will provide funding for over 400 early intervention programs. In future therefore, the ALP (Inclusion) Hub will work within current budgets.
- 3.7.2. The reduction in use of full-time ALP places will provide opportunities for strategic use of ALP in addressing the sufficiency challenges for children with an EHCP (Educational Health Care Plan).
- 3.7.3. The BIP steering group are considering the contributions that schools currently make for permanently excluding children, which has supported the placement of children in recent years. It is envisaged that a similar process will be implemented to access support from the Inclusion Hub. These contributions will enhance the offer and allow us to work with even more schools, families, and children.