



Child and Family Support Forum

Special Meeting: Education Other Than At School

Notes from a meeting held on Wednesday 22nd April 2009 at Zion Arts Centre

Purpose of the meeting

To discuss the commissioning process for Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) provision in Manchester.

Joint event organised by the Child and Family Support Forum (CFSF), Voluntary Youth Manchester (VYM) and the Learning Skills and Employment Network (LSEN) in response to publication of Government's two main documents on this topic: "Back on Track" which is a statement of their vision for EOTAS provision and the guidance issued to Local Authorities on how local provision should be commissioned.

Presentation: "Back on Track" in Manchester

Anne Jones, Strategic Lead for Education other than at school, Manchester City Council

Anne presented "*Back on Track*" in Manchester – summary of presentations by herself and others used at previous event. Most of the content is available in PowerPoint summaries below:



Back on Track in Manchester.ppt



Donna Mair.ppt



Ian Rush.ppt

Other notes given below:

- Anne Jones' role includes responsibility for the education of all children not in mainstream schools including those educated at home.
- There is no expectation for EOTAS provision to create a school like environment
- The Steer report published previous week is informing the Government drive

Summary of Pippa Jackson's presentation:

- No. of young people in EOTAS is equivalent to 132 high schools (132 x 900)
- In Manchester there are 1500 young people spending more than 40 days with alternative providers
- Back on Track applies to providers commissioned by schools; Pupil Referral Units (PRU) for those permanently excluded are dealt with separately (Helen McAndrew)
- From Sept 09 all schools are required to collaborate in partnerships regarding behaviour and attendance – PRU and alternative providers
- Manchester is using 3 geographical groupings, roughly equating (but not exactly) to NW/NE districts, CE/CW districts and S/Wyth districts

Select list:

- o Alternative providers to be registered on Select List (although schools might choose to have own providers too). Expecting there to be about 100 providers.
- o Initial emphasis on safeguarding
- o OFSTED may choose to do spot checks on alternative providers
- o Contact Anne Jones to register and raise queries

Some queries were raised

- difficulty of registering as an independent school and meeting criteria
- ensuring child's development is supported as a priority rather than having structure and measuring

Discussion

Anne Jones left the meeting at this point.

- New providers – existing organisations offering limited EOTAS provision
- OFSTED – there *may* be an inspection
- Registering – what support is there?
- What does 'financial viability' mean?
- Need to identify a 'lead agency' for VCS
- Potential for a VCS hub
- Develop self assessment procedures for the VCS
- Have information sharing about what EOTAS being provided by VCS
- Put forward an Action Plan
- Set standards for lead agency
- Challenge the definition of 'education'
- Services can input their details onto www.onecentralplace.org Manchester website for information about VCS organisations

Next steps

- Mike Wild (MACC) is meeting Donna Mair to discuss commissioning development
- Representatives from CFSF, VYM and LSEN will meet to discuss how to take issues from this meeting forward and will feedback/call a further meeting.