

To: Headteachers with primary aged children

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS

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Your Ref.

Please ask for: Bev Petch

Our Ref. BP/kes

Date: 1 May 2018

Dear Colleague

Consultation with Headteachers about primary pupil referral unit (PRU) provision

The Local Authority is proposing to organise and locate Auckland Education Centre (Primary PRU) across a number of Hubs. The rationale for change has always been predicated on this being the right thing to do for children following the findings from the comprehensive review of alternative provision (AP) in Solihull. Children would be able to retain closer links to their home school and its community. There may be potential for the number of Hubs to grow over time as the alternative provision landscape and commissioning arrangements change in Solihull.

It has also subsequently become clear that, with increasingly significant pressure on the High Needs Block, the current level of place funding is unsustainable. Auckland is funded on the basis of 30 places. Numbers of pupils attending Auckland have declined over time, making the provision increasingly expensive per head. The provision currently costs £750 000 per annum. It is anticipated that Hubs, providing high quality provision for a total of 20 children, could be delivered for approximately £300 000.

The Hubs would:

- Be operated, led and managed by Auckland staff as part of the AP Service and governed through management committee arrangements;
- Be attached to host primary schools that could provide additional support to enable the children to develop the skills that they need to manage mainstream school;
- Continue to support children to make rapid social, emotional and educational progress;
- Continue to offer short-term intervention placements, working very closely with the child's home school and their family. Children would remain dual registered with Auckland and with their home school who would retain responsibility for the child;

- Continue to provide full-time provision from the 6th day for the small number of permanently excluded children, in accordance with the statutory responsibilities incumbent on local authorities;
- Continue to have appropriate access arrangements to ensure that the right children are placed in the provision;
- Achieve high quality outcomes for children and value for money for the taxpayer.

We would value your responses to the attached questions to help us to shape the provision within Hubs. Please respond to Bev Petch by **5 pm on Monday 21st May 2018.**

Email: bpetch@solihull.gov.uk or Bev Petch, Head of Alternative Provision, Learning and Skills, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull B91 3QB.

Yours sincerely



Head of Alternative Provision
Learning and Skills