
SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS 2007-08

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update members of the scrutiny as regards fixed term and permanent exclusions within Darlington for the academic year of September 2007 to July 2008.
2. To highlight progress in reducing exclusions and identify how this has been achieved.

Summary

3. Exclusions, both fixed and permanent have dropped significantly during the last academic year. Schools have made significant improvements through the use of inclusion units, internal exclusion and isolation, implementing managed moves, individual student support and teacher coaching from the behaviour support team. They have worked closely in partnership with the Local Authority to implement positive alternatives to exclusion when appropriate.
4. The total number of permanent exclusions have fallen from 47 (06/07) to 23 (Appendix A). In secondary there have been 11 from LA maintained schools and 10 from Eastbourne C of E Academy. Primary schools had permanent 2 exclusions.
5. There has also been great improvement in both the number of days lost to fixed term exclusion and the number of individual students excluded. The number of days lost has dropped from 5101.5 to 2285 in secondary and to 209 from 297 in primary schools. The percentage of the pupil population excluded has also fallen from 10.84% to 5.91% in LA maintained secondary schools and from 30.25% to 16.49% at Eastbourne C of E Academy (Appendix A).

Recommendation(s)

6. It is recommended that Members note the content of this report.

Murray Rose,
Director of Children's Services

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report

Pamela Sayer: Extension 348600

S17 Crime and Disorder	Reduction in school absence could have a positive impact on the reduction of crime and disorder
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Health and Well Being	Individual young people could show improvements to their health and well being by attending their school on a regular basis
Sustainability	Not applicable
Diversity	Not applicable
Wards Affected	All Wards
Groups Affected	Children and Young People, Schools and the Community
Budget and Policy Framework	Not applicable
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report contributes to the Aspiring Darlington theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

7. The introduction of the 6th day rule, requiring schools to provide full time education from the 6th day of exclusion has led to a reduction in the number of fixed term exclusions over 6 days. Where fixed term exclusions have exceeded 6 days schools have supported one another through the partnership agreements.
8. 65.22% of all permanent exclusions in 07/08 were for pupils in years 9 and 10. In many cases this was the result of an extended period of escalating disruptive behaviour by students and can not be attributed to a single incident. It also demonstrates that as academic pressure on struggling students rises they often resort to poor behaviour as a defence. Identifying and monitoring students whose ongoing poor behaviour puts them at high risk of permanent exclusion and implementing appropriate behaviour support and respite programmes will aim to reduce these figures through earlier intervention. A higher number of exclusions in year 7 may be attributed to students struggling to successfully transfer into the secondary phase and highlights a need for increased support for those already demonstrating cause for concern during year 5 and 6 (This will be addressed by the commencement of the Turnaround provision in January 2009). Fixed term exclusions follow similar patterns of frequency (Appendix B).
9. The frequency of Permanent exclusions has dropped as the year had progressed with over 50% occurring in the Autumn term (Appendix C). This tailing off may be linked to the improved cooperation between Schools and the Local Authority, managed moves, access to alternative provisions and schools investing in strategies to reduce exclusion and increase support to higher risk students as the year has progressed.
10. The number of fixed term exclusions for pupils at some stage of SEN has dropped from 336 to 222. This demonstrates greater efforts to provide appropriate provision and support student's specific needs. The greatest reduction is within the 'School Action' stage i.e. those identified as requiring and receiving extra support. This demonstrates the effectiveness of many of the interventions being used to help these students (Appendix D).
11. Fixed term exclusions occur for many reasons. Over 50% in 2007/8 are attributed to 'Challenging Behaviour'. Thankfully figures relating to carrying offensive weapons, racism and drug related issues remain low despite national increases in such incidents.
12. Reasons for permanent exclusion generally are linked to challenging behaviour, often involving aggression, violence and verbal intimidation and abuse toward both staff and

other students. The majority of these cases result in permanent exclusion following an extended period of such behaviour which has escalated, despite schools having put numerous strategies in place. Increased earlier intervention including involvement from other agencies and alternatives such as managed moves, respite from the PRU and behaviour support will seek to reduce these figures further. The result being that permanent exclusion becomes a last resort. There have been few cases where permanent exclusion results from a single incident.

13. The appointment of two Specialist Behaviour Support Teaching Assistants assigned specifically to secondary schools has greatly increased the amount of specialist 1:1 student support available to schools for the coming academic year.
14. We have a newly appointed Inclusion Officer, with the role of working closely with schools, monitoring exclusions, identifying and supporting high risk students, providing a single contact regarding exclusion, support and the engagement of families, sharing good practice, working with schools and the PRU to find alternatives to exclusion, facilitating and negotiating managed moves when appropriate, attending governors exclusion meetings and giving governors training on exclusion. This role will build on the work already carried out by various individuals within the Local Authority and continue to develop close working with schools to further reduce exclusion and increase positive alternatives and outcomes for students.

Outcome of Consultation

15. No consultation was required in the preparation of this report
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2007/08 Permanent and Fixed Term Exclusions (Appendix A)

School	Number of Permanent Exclusions			Number of Fixed Term Exclusion Events			Number of Days lost through Fixed Term Exclusions			Number of Pupils with Fixed Term Exclusions			% of Pupil Population with Fixed Term Exclusions		
	2007 /08	2006 /07	2005 /06	2007 /08	2006 /07	2005 /06	2007 /08	2006 /07	2005 /06	2007 /08	2006 /07	2005 /06	2007 /08	2006 /07	2005 /06
Branksome	0	8	2	42	138	161	97	550	438	28	66	73	4.09%	8.99%	9.55%
Carmel	0	0	0	11	11	20	34	77	222	9	10	16	1.00%	1.11%	1.78%
Eastbourne	-	9	19	-	573	557	-	1956.5	2620	-	187	205	-	30.25%	27.59%
Haughton	5	12	3	232	358	139	512	869.5	487	122	134	84	13.66%	15%	9.35%
Hummersknott	3	11	7	161	282	245	305	716	676.5	85	125	84	6.97%	10.21%	6.85%
Hurworth	2	3	6	65	209	198	226	726.5	854	47	103	94	7.21%	15.65%	14.57%
Longfield	1	4	7	43	66	193	127	206	638.5	32	40	87	3.50%	4.41%	9.6%
Total	11	47	44	554	1637	1513	1301	5101.5	5936	323	665	643	5.91%	10.84%	10.58%

School	Number of Permanent Exclusions			Number of Fixed Term Exclusion Events			Number of Days lost through Fixed Term Exclusions			Number of Pupils with Fixed Term Exclusions			% of Pupil Population with Fixed Term Exclusions		
	2007 /08	2006 /07	2005 /06	2007 /08	2006 /07	2005 /06	2007 /08	2006 /07	2005 /06	2007 /08	2006 /07	2005 /06	2007 /08	2006 /07	2005 /06
Eastbourne C of E Academy	10	-	-	283	-	-	984	-	-	95	-	-	16.49%	-	-

School	Number of Permanent Exclusions			Number of Fixed Term Exclusion Events			Number of Days lost through Fixed Term Exclusions			Number of Pupils with Fixed Term Exclusions			% of Pupil Population with Fixed Term Exclusions		
	2007 /08	2006 /07	2005 /06	2007 /08	2006 /07	2005 /06	2007 /08	2006 /07	2005 /06	2007 /08	2006 /07	2005 /06	2007 /08	2006 /07	2005 /06
Primary Total	2	0	2	86	152	164	209	297	406.5	46	69	76	0.84%	0.87%	0.94%

Fixed Term Exclusions by Year Group 2007 – 2008 (Appendix B)

Year Group	Primary	Branksome	Carmel	Eastbourne	Haughton	Hummersknot	Hurworth	Longfield	Fixed Term Exclusions 07 -08
1									
2	3								3
3	4								4
4	10								10
5	12								12
6	22								22
7		4	0	13	18	3	7	3	48
8		7	0	18	33	18	5	8	89
9		5	1	19	26	20	8	10	89
10		5	7	19	25	25	19	4	104
11		7	1	36	20	19	8	7	98
Total		28	9	105	122	85	47	32	479

Permanent Exclusions by Month (Appendix C)

Autumn Term				Spring Term			Summer Term			
Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July
1	1	5	5	2	3	2	0	1	1	2

SEN Stages of Fixed Term excluded students, Secondary Schools (Appendix D)

SEN Stage	Code	07/08	06/07
No SEN Provision	N	186	371
School Action	A	104	169
School Action Plus	P	103	133
Statement of SEN	S	15	34
SEN Pupil	A+P+S	222	336
Total		408	707