

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
9th November 2009

SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS 2008/09

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update members of the scrutiny committee with regard to fixed term and permanent exclusions within Darlington for the academic year of September 2008 to July 2009.

Summary

2. In the last academic year, 2008-2009, there was a rise in permanent exclusions to 32. This is 8 more than in the previous year. Of these exclusions 24 were from Local Authority maintained schools and 8 from Eastbourne Church of England Academy. Although there has been an increase in permanent exclusions in the last year, the overall trend is downwards. There have been no permanent exclusions from the primary schools. (Appendix A)
3. The number of fixed term exclusions in secondary schools has again reduced, falling from 875 in 2007-2008 to 734 in 2008-2009, a 16.1% reduction on the previous year. It is of particular note that Eastbourne C of E Academy has reduced fixed term exclusions from 283 in 2007-2008 down to 82 for 2008-2009 (Appendix A)
4. The number of days lost through fixed term exclusion in secondary schools has fallen from 2,285 to 1,940.
5. In the primary phase there have been further reductions in both fixed term exclusions and days lost. Fixed term exclusions fell to 60 in 2008 -2009 from 88 in 2007 – 2008 (Appendix A) and days lost from 209 to 141.

Recommendation(s)

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

Murray Rose,
Director of Children's Services

Background Papers

DCSF, Improving behaviour and attendance: guidance on exclusion from schools and pupil referral units, September 2008.

author : Simon Honeywell

Extension 243822

S17 Crime and Disorder	Reduction in school absence could have a positive impact on the reduction of crime and disorder
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
Efficiency	Not applicable
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report contributes to the early Intervention and Preventative Working Work Strand in the Aspiring Darlington theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

7. The total number of secondary students who were excluded for a fixed term has fallen to 356 in 2008-09 from 408 the previous year (Appendix B). Schools have been increasingly using alternative sanctions such as internal exclusion and detentions before resorting to fixed term exclusion. Internal exclusion is a more effective deterrent and also ensures students do not miss coursework and are not unsupervised.
8. Further co-operation and involvement between the Local Authority and Schools has led to 10 successful managed moves between schools as a positive alternative for students at risk of, or facing permanent exclusion. In these cases schools have given students the opportunity of a fresh start in a new environment. Close collaboration between schools, families, students and the Local Authority has created positive outcomes for these pupils.
9. The provision of 6th day education for students who have been permanently excluded has been successfully implemented in Darlington. This has been provided primarily by the Pupil Referral Unit. Many Local Authorities have been unable to meet this requirement.
10. The 'Turnaround' provision for primary students has impacted on fixed and permanent exclusions with reductions in both. Turnaround is a new nurture provision for Darlington which opened in January 2009. Children remain on their school roll and attend either morning or afternoon sessions 4 days a week for 3 terms. Parents attend each Wednesday to work with their children and follow a Family SEAL intervention programme. Schools, Turnaround, families and children work in liaison for the best outcomes for the children and their families.
11. The majority of permanent exclusions come after an extended period of disruptive and challenging behaviour. This year only 3 students were excluded primarily for a 'one off'

incident as identified by DCSF guidance as grounds for exclusion. This year 1 exclusion was referred to an Independent Appeal Panel; the governor's decision was upheld.

12. 47% of all permanent exclusions were in Year 9. This differs from previous years in that Year 10 also shared a high percentage, whereas this year saw 24 excluded from KS3 and 8 from KS4. This may indicate alternative provision has been being utilised in KS4 and helped to reduce exclusions in years 10 and 11. In KS3 there are fewer opportunities for schools to provide an alternative curriculum.
13. The rate of permanent exclusions increased as the year progressed, (Appendix C), this can be attributed to schools persisting longer with students and ensuring a wide range of strategies were exhausted before finally resorting to permanent exclusion.
14. The number of fixed term excluded secondary school students with an active stage of Special Educational Need has fallen from 222 down to 207 (Appendix D), demonstrating that the measures being put in place for extra support have been effective. A drop in those excluded at the school action stage show that school's own internal interventions are having a positive impact.

Outcome of Consultation

15. Not applicable
-

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		
	2008 /09	2007 /08	2006 /07	2008 /09	2007 /08	2006 /07	2008 /09	2007 /08	2006 /07	2008 /09	2007 /08	2006 /07	2008 /09	2007 /08	2006 /07
Branksome	1	0	8	74	42	138	127.5	97	550	48	28	66	7.65%	4.09%	8.99%
Carmel	0	0	0	9	11	11	28	34	77	6	9	10	0.65%	1.00%	1.11%
Eastbourne	-	-	9	-	-	573	-	-	1956.5	-	-	187	-	-	30.25%
Houghton	12	5	12	227	232	358	432.5	512	869.5	73	122	134	8.15%	13.66%	15%
Hummersknott	8	3	11	110	161	282	253.5	305	716	63	85	125	5.19%	6.97%	10.21%
Hurworth	1	2	3	183	103	209	670	226	726.5	91	57	103	13.91%	8.74%	15.65%
Longfield	1	1	4	49	43	66	136.5	127	206	33	32	40	3.65%	3.50%	4.41%
Phoenix Centre	1														
Total	24	11	47	652	592	1637	1648	1301	5101.5	314	333	665	6.53%	6.33%	12.23%

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		
	2008 /09	2007 /08	2006 /07	2008 /09	2007 /08	2006 /07	2008 /09	2007 /08	2006 /07	2008 /09	2007 /08	2006 /07	2008 /09	2007 /08	2006 /07
Eastbourne C of E Academy	8	10	-	82	283	-	292	984	-	42	95	-	7.70%	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		
	2008 /09	2007 /08	2006 /07	2008 /09	2007 /08	2006 /07	2008 /09	2007 /08	2006 /07	2008 /09	2007 /08	2006 /07	2008 /09	2007 /08	2006 /07
Primary Total	0	2	0	60	88	152	141	209	297	37	46	69	0.46%	0.86%	0.87%

Students with Fixed Term Exclusions by Year Group 2008 – 2009
(Appendix B)

Year Group	Primary	Branksome	Carmel	Eastbourne	Houghton	Hummersknot	Hurworth	Longfield	Students with Fixed Term Exclusions 07 -08
1									
2									
3	3								3
4	4								4
5	12								12
6	18								18
7		6	0	2	2	2	11	4	27
8		15	1	11	6	8	22	3	66
9		10	0	13	27	15	20	12	97
10		9	1	8	28	27	21	8	102
11		8	4	8	10	11	17	6	64
Secondary Total	37	48	6	42	73	63	91	33	393

Permanent Exclusions by Month (Appendix C)

Autumn Term				Spring Term			Summer Term			
Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July
0	1	2	3	1	3	8	7	3	4	0

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

SEN Stage	Code	2008 / 09	07/08	06/07
No SEN Provision	N	149	186	371
School Action	A	86	104	169
School Action Plus	P	102	103	133
Statement of SEN	S	19	15	34
SEN Pupil	A+P+S	207	222	336
Total		356	408	707