

## **HOME AND HOSPITAL TEACHING SERVICE (HHTS) – May 10**

**Purpose of the HHTS.** To provide education for pupils who are not in Darlington schools for a variety of medical and other reasons. We also have a responsibility for pupils in the Memorial hospital from Darlington and other authorities. The pupils fall into five main groups catering for pupils from Reception to Year 11. The figures below are as at May 10 unless otherwise stated and can vary enormously.

**1. Anxious School Refusers (ASR).** These pupils are referred via the Pupil Placement Panel with the involvement of CAMHS, school counsellors, educational psychologists, etc. (5 pupils.)

**2. Medical referrals.** These pupils are referred directly from schools or on discharge from hospital. They are often tutored at home by our staff, but some pupils are taught in groups at Morton Park with a view to easing the transition back into school. (6 pupils.)

**3. Others including pupils who may be charged with a sexual offence.** Pupils for whom we cannot find another suitable place. (2 pupils in Jul 10.)

**4. Teenage pregnancies.** This is the most difficult group to engage with. Pupils who fall pregnant and are already good attenders often have no need of HHTS. Those who have stopped attending school often don't want to attend HHTS either. (0 pupils currently, but there were 8 in one recent school year.)

**5. Children in hospital.** Pupils who spend time in a hospital are often tutored and the bill comes to Darlington. Medical treatment occurs in the most suitable hospital, wherever that might be. We will always check with schools to make sure that they are our pupils and that they were absent when the hospital says they were. The annual cost often runs into tens of thousands of pounds. Since autumn 2009 we have provided tuition for four mornings (five from Sep 10) a week in the memorial for Darlington, Durham and North Yorkshire pupils. (Hundreds of pupils!)

**Provision and staffing.** One teacher, 4 Teaching Assistants (TAs – two are part-time) and two days of administrative support based at Morton Park. We have specialists in English, mathematics and science. One of the TAs is employed primarily to support reintegration and one to work in the hospital. Pupils who spend a long time with HHTS regularly exceed predictions in examinations. The staff are supplemented by supply teachers for home tutoring, when necessary. Staff also make visits to children who have chosen to educate their children through Elective Home Education (EHE).

*Nigel Pell-Ilderton*