

**EDUCATION OTHER THAN AT SCHOOL (EOTAS)**

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**SUMMARY REPORT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Scrutiny about Darlington's EOTAS (Education Other Than At School) services at the request of the Chair.

**Summary**

2. EOTAS in Darlington is made up of four parts:
  - a. The Phoenix Centre. A Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) for pupils who have been permanently excluded, or are in danger of exclusion.
  - b. The Bridge. A PRU for pupils who would benefit from alternative provision with a focus on vocational opportunities.
  - c. The Home and Hospital Teaching Service (HHTS). Although a part of the Bridge for accountability purposes the HHTS works in an autonomous way with Children and Young People who have severe medical problems.
  - d. Elective Home Education. Darlington has an average of over 100 pupils whose parents have elected to educate them at home.

**Recommendation(s)**

3. It is recommended that:-
  - (a) Scrutiny to note the contents of this report.

**Murray Rose,**  
**Director of Children's Services**

**Background Papers**

Ofsted monitoring letter for the Phoenix Centre  
The Bridge Ofsted report of 21-22 Jun 10  
PowerPoint about EHE for the Children's Trust on 16 Jul 10  
Report on The Bridge for the 14-19 partnership  
Report on the HHTS for the 14-19 partnership

S17 Crime and Disorder	Children in education whither at school or else where are less likely to commit crime
Health and Well Being	There are no implications for health and well being
Sustainability	There are no implications for sustainability
Diversity	All groups of children and young people are included
Wards Affected	All wards are affected
Groups Affected	Children and young people
Budget and Policy Framework	There are no implications for the budget and policy framework
Efficiency	There are no efficiency implications
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This links to the Aspiring theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy as children and young people are receiving education which will equip them for their future

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

4. The Phoenix Centre is based on the site of the old Rise Carr Primary School. The Phoenix Centre is currently in special measures for the second time having been re-inspected in Jan 10 with a first monitoring visit in Jun 10. The monitoring visit deemed progress as inadequate, although the second monitoring visit is recommended for the end of the next possible window around Christmas. This judgement reflected HMI's desire to break the cycle of improvement followed by decline. The position with the headteacher at the time of the inspection has been resolved and the Senior Management Team will be reduced to two from three with immediate effect. The PRU budget has been re-profiled since January 2010 so making appropriate budget savings. See attached Ofsted monitoring letter for more information.
5. The Bridge is based in an unsuitable building at McMullen House on the corner of Yarm Road and Hundens Lane. The Bridge caters for pupils from a wide range of backgrounds with varied needs and was established as a PRU in Jan 09. Pupils who attend on a full or part-time basis have often become disengaged from formal education and some may have been permanently excluded or are in danger of exclusion. The Bridge also works with EHE travellers and other EHE pupils to try and re-engage them through vocational provision coupled with literacy and numeracy. Ofsted judged provision at The Bridge in Jun 10 to be satisfactory and improving. See Ofsted report attached and more detail on the report provided for the 14-19 Partnership.
6. The HHTS is based at Morton Park and on the children's ward in the Memorial Hospital. The service educates Young People with a huge variety of medical and psychological problems. Pupils are referred with issues as diverse as cancer, anxious school refusal or awaiting sentence for a sexual offence. During the inspection of The Bridge referred to above the HHTS was also inspected. The inspection team referred to their work as at least good. Parental evaluations of the Service are almost always very favourable. See attached Ofsted report and more detail on the report provided for the 14-19 Partnership.
7. Darlington has disproportionately large numbers of EHE pupils with an average of over 100 during the last three years. See attached PowerPoint provided for the Children's Trust in Jul 10 for more detail.

### Outcome of Consultation

8. No consultation was undertaken as the requested report was for information purposes.