



PRIMARY SEMH PROVISION



Current context

- An increasing number of primary aged children are presenting with significantly challenging behaviour in mainstream schools.
- At present Bolton only have short stay provisions for this cohort of children, namely Primary Youth Challenge, The Forward Centre and the Nurture Group at COG.
- The absence of long term SEMH provision in Bolton means that when children have attended such provisions for 2-4 terms a decision needs to be made as to whether these children are able to return to a mainstream school or whether a long term special school placement out of borough is required.
- The number of primary aged children presenting with SEMH placed in out of borough special schools has increased significantly (from 22 to 66) over the last 3 years.



Proposed strategy

Long term SEMH provision for Y5 & Y6 children with significant and severe SEMH needs who are highly likely to require specialist provision in the long term	
Long term SEMH provision at a SEMH RP with opportunities for integration into mainstream	Multi-agency support team
Full time assessment places (including Day 6 provision for permanently excluded pupils).	Currently provided by BIT at the FC
Part time placements (to prevent permanent exclusion)	Currently provided by BIT at YC
Key Stage 1 Nurture Group provision (preventative work)	Multi-agency support team
School based provision/SEN Support	Currently provided by BSS and other providers



Multi agency support team

- As a result of visiting a range of other SEMH provisions, both specialist and resourced provisions, it is clear that in order for the provision to be as effective as possible, a multi-agency team working across the provisions (including the ASD Resourced Provisions) is essential. This team would provide specialist diagnostic and therapeutic advice and support. It is envisaged that this team would consist of:
 - Occupational Therapist (ideally trained in sensory integration)
 - Speech and Language Therapist
 - HLTA therapist(s)
 - Educational Psychologist
 - Play therapist
 - Counsellor (to work with staff, family, children)
 - Parenting support/Who's in Charge programme/Incredible Years



Proactive and preventative KS1 provision

- This would consist of 3 EY/KS1 nurture group provisions, each accommodating 6 children and placed to meet geographical need.
- Research indicates that more than 80% of children are ready to return to their mainstream classes after less than three school terms in a nurture group. There is also a wide range of academic research/Ofsted reports that promote the use of nurture groups as an intervention.



Long stay/KS2 SEMH RP

- This would consist of three long stay SEMH Resourced Provisions across Bolton, one per geographical area, i.e. one for the North, South and West.
- It is proposed that these resourced provisions would be set up in the same way as the ASD resourced provisions, i.e. based in a mainstream school with the school taking responsibility for the staffing and running of the provision, supported by the LA.
- These provisions would be targeted at those children, usually with an EHCP and in Y2-Y4, who would struggle to access a mainstream environment/curriculum on a full time basis but who, over time and with the right support and intervention, may be able to increase their ability to manage within a mainstream environment.



Long Stay Year 5 and 6 provision

- Establishing long stay specialist provision in Bolton for children in Year 5 and 6 to reduce the number of children presenting with SEMH being placed in out of borough special schools.
- This provision would be for those children who are considered highly likely to require specialist provision at secondary and who are likely to struggle to manage any integration within mainstream.



Consultation

- An extended consultation took place in Autumn term with primary schools and other partners
- There was strong support for the approach being taken
- The programme was agreed at Committee earlier in 2019