

Local First Inclusion

Norfolk Vision for Alternative Provision in Secondary Schools

For consultation with schools, settings, parents and carers
and young people



For the purpose of this vision we have agreed the following definition:

Alternative provision is the education made available for young people who cannot attend school because of exclusion, behavioural issues or illness, including mental health needs.



Introduction

Most young people in Norfolk thrive by attending their local mainstream secondary school. Many young people have additional needs such as speaking English as an additional language (EAL) but they are well supported through a whole school ethos and approach which enables them to flourish and achieve well alongside their peers.

However, a small number of young people experience difficulties with accessing mainstream provision during challenging moments in their lives. When their needs increase, either due to challenging behaviours, illness or wider health needs, targeted and specialist intervention in high quality alternative provision can provide the support they need.

I now want to take the opportunity, as Director within Children's Services for the delivery of the Local First Inclusion Programme, to share our vision for developing alternative provision in Norfolk.

Across the Local First Inclusion programme we have secured a combined investment between the DfE and Norfolk County Council of over £100million revenue and further capital investment. Within this, there is a specific ambition to develop more high quality alternative provision with clear pathways for young people in their local communities.

We know that alternative provision has the potential to transform a young person's life chances and this vision is shared with you so that we can work together to achieve stronger outcomes for young people who require support through high quality outreach and placements. It builds upon the vision and strategies that we have already agreed through the Children and Young People's Strategic Alliance (CYPSA) for SEND and within our co-produced Norfolk Area SEND Strategy, which provide the foundation for the Local First Inclusion programme.

There will be opportunities for you to work with us on this vision and contribute to this work throughout the length of the programme, and we will be launching a Norfolk Alternative Provision Stakeholder group to support our ongoing engagement and consultation.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this work, please contact us at alternativeprovision@norfolk.gov.uk.

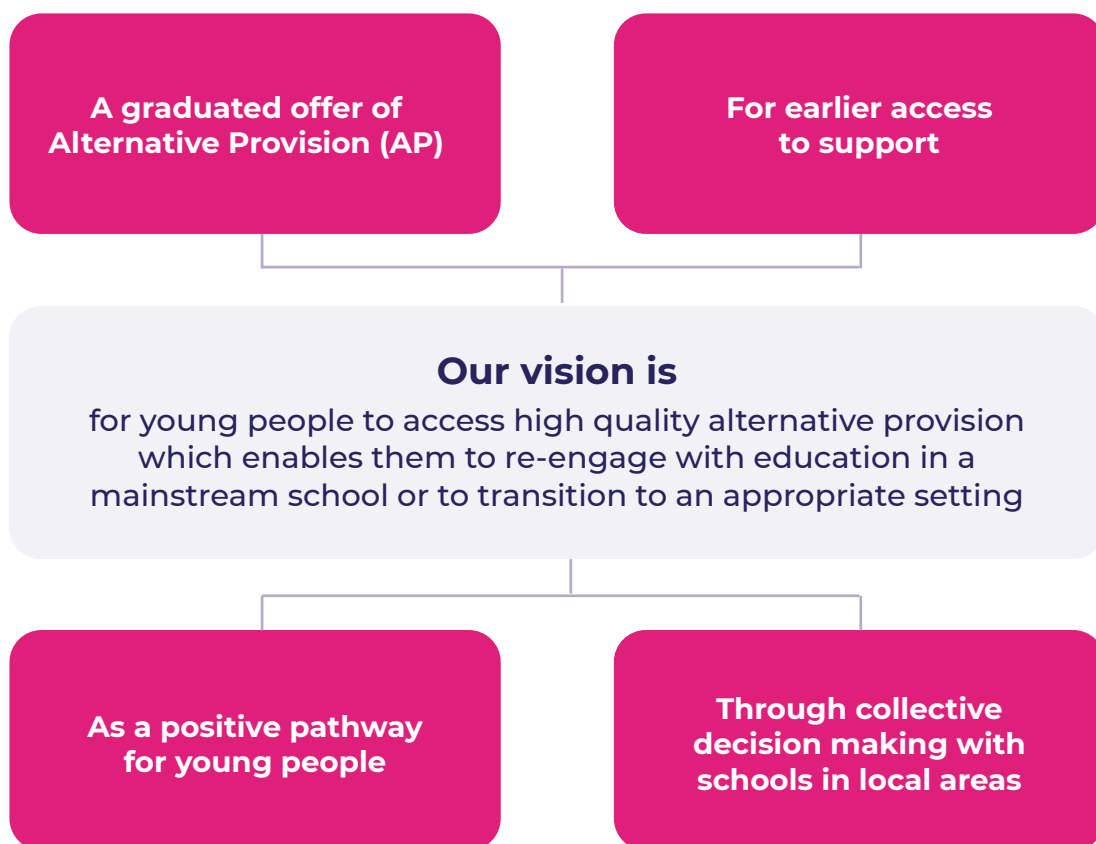
I look forward to working with you on this shared programme of work.



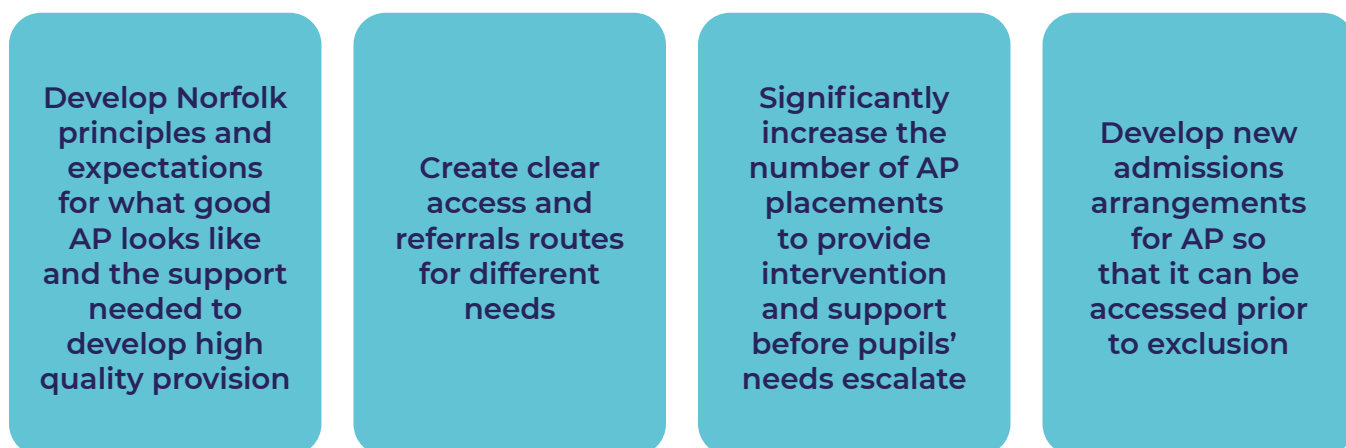
Sarah Jones

Director Partnerships,
Inclusion and Practice

Norfolk Vision for Alternative Provision (AP)



To achieve this, we will work with Norfolk academy trusts and school leaders to



Basis for Alternative Provision in Norfolk

The development of Alternative Provision (AP) in Norfolk will be aligned to our vision and the principles set out in the DfE SEND and AP Improvement Plan as linked below:

The DfE Model for Alternative Provision

Tier 1

Targeted support in mainstream schools

Specialist early interventions and support to help at-risk pupils stay in mainstream schools.

Tier 2

Time-limited placements

Short term placements in alternative provision to assess and address pupils' needs, with the expectation of return to their mainstream school.

Tier 3

Transitional placements

Placements in alternative provision schools for pupils who need support or move on to a new mainstream school or sustained post-16 destination.

Investment in targeted support, interventions and placements prior to exclusion will move the emphasis 'upstream', improving outcomes for pupils and, where appropriate, away from long term placements away from mainstream schools

Proposed Norfolk Alternative Provision

By working with trusts, schools and partners we will develop the following levels of provision:

Targeted support in mainstream schools

We will:

- provide a universal offer of training, guidance and support to help schools to meet the needs of pupils with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs.
- support schools to develop their own offer of provision which promotes the inclusion of pupils with SEMH needs.
- enable quicker access to bespoke advice and support for young people who require intervention before their needs escalate.

Time-limited placements

We will:

- work with schools to create and make available local alternative provision to provide time-limited placements for pupils who require more specialist assessment, support and intervention prior to reintegration to mainstream school.
- work with schools to create the right pathways for pupils with different SEMH needs.

Transitional placements

We will:

- work with schools to create the right pathways for pupils with different SEMH needs with key stage appropriate models of provision.

The Norfolk Context

Flourish

Through the Children and Young People Strategic Alliance we have a shared ambition that Norfolk is a place where all children and young people can flourish. Each letter of FLOURISH reflects an aspect of children and young people's lives that they have told us is important to them. More information about Flourish and the Flourishing in Norfolk strategy can be found at www.norfolk.gov.uk/flourish



We want Norfolk to be a county where every child can **flourish**:

- f**amily and friends
Children and young people are safe, connected and supported through positive relationships and networks
- l**earning
Children and young people are achieving their full potential and developing skills which prepare them for life
- o**ppportunity
Children and young people develop as well-rounded individuals through access to a wide range of opportunities which nurture their interests and talents
- u**nderstood
Children and young people feel listened to, understood and part of decision-making processes
- r**esilience
Children and young people have the confidence and skills to make their own decisions and take on life's challenges
- i**ndividual
Children and young people are respected as individuals, confident in their own identity and appreciate and value their own and others' uniqueness
- s**afe and secure
Children and young people are supported to understand risk and make safe decisions by the actions that adults and children and young people themselves take to keep them safe and secure
- h**ealthy
Children and young people have the support, knowledge and opportunity to lead their happiest and healthiest lives

The Flourishing in Norfolk strategy has been developed through the Children and Young People's Strategic Alliance and outlines four priority areas that are particularly important, based on what children, young people and families and the information we have about them has told us.

There are four priorities:

- Strengthening our shared focus and approach on Prevention and Early Help
- Working together to support children and young people's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing
- Improving support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Addressing gaps in learning following the pandemic.

These priorities all share an ambitious vision to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Local First Inclusion

Local First Inclusion is Norfolk County Council's six-year programme to improve provision and outcomes for children and young people with SEND or who attend alternative provision.

The programme has a workstream dedicated to avoiding the incidence of preventable exclusion by developing alternative provision in the secondary phase. The programme has an emphasis on developing provision which will enable children and young people to access support at an earlier point to prevent their needs from escalating, as well as developing appropriate onward pathways when more specialist provision may be required.

The programme is underpinned by the following key principles:

1. Promoting inclusion so that children and young people's needs can be met in schools and settings as close as possible to their homes and communities
2. Supporting schools and settings to identify and address needs
3. Providing graduated and collaborative services to meet children and young people's needs as early as possible
4. Ensuring services provide evidence-based and effective support to children and young people, their families, and schools and settings
5. Listening to and incorporating the views of children and young people to improve our planning, provision and services
6. Working in partnership with parents and carers.



Norfolk County Council