

Exclusions, Elective Home Education & Managed Moves

NW ADCS – Survey

June 2017

Headlines - Exclusions

- 28% rise in the number of permanent exclusions (2014/15 to 2016/17 year to date)
 - Mixed picture across the region: some big rises (Bolton, Manchester, Liverpool, Bury, Lancashire), but others with declining or static numbers.
- Steady number of fixed period exclusions across the three year period (2014/15 to 2016/17 year to date)
 - Marked fall since 2015/16 (11%)
 - No consistent pattern across the region: some areas up by as much as 50%, others falling by 30%

Managed Moves & Elective Home Education

- Managed Moves not captured by 11 of 21 respondents
- 15% rise across those LAs who do collect, but inconsistent
 - rise principally driven by Liverpool and St Helens
- Numbers Electively Home Educated – risen by 36% since 2014/15
 - All but two local authorities reporting a marked rise (Liverpool and Blackpool)

Managed moves, EHE & Exclusions

- Clear sense that the data does not reflect the degree of flux and movement that is out there (90% agreed that the data does not fully reflect).
 - Role of free schools and academies
 - Growth in children with SEN moving out into EHE
 - Secondary schools reportedly instigating
 - Relationship to use of AP
 - Encouraged movement out to EHE by schools
 - at risk of exclusion, poor attendance etc.

Impact of new accountability framework

- Less agreement that this is a proven factor driving change (42% agree that it is having an impact), for those that did identify it
 - Concern re: progress 8 and the impact of outliers on results
 - Rising exclusions in KS4 (& unwillingness to reintegrate from yr 10)
 - Pressure on school funding and impact on pastoral systems
 - New persistent absence thresholds identified as another pressure
 - Progress 8 and AP compatibility

Unregistered Independent Schools

- Two thirds did not identify any concerns, of those with concerns, the following issues were identified
 - With no formal remit that requires the LA to be notified, often dependent on local networks to alert
 - Smaller provisions (awareness of) esp. those with faith aspects & willingness to engage
 - Understanding of Safeguarding responsibilities by those setting up such provision (Rochdale setting up an internal group to consider this issue).
 - Role of the DfE in notifying around applications to establish independent schools
 - Differing accountability frameworks for independent schools makes it hard to engage
 - Too often settings sit outside of registration criteria – do Ofsted need to make it clearer/stronger?
 - Need to work closely with the DfE and Ofsted to resolve issues; example of joint visit with HMI

Conclusions

- Permanent Exclusion rates – on the rise, with some commentary that secondary schools are the drivers
- Fixed Period Exclusions –
- Managed Moves – difficult to capture the size of the issue, as only half of LAs seek to gather the data.
- Elective Home Education – definitely increasing across the region & in nearly every LA.
- The rise in Permanent Exclusions and Elective Home Education raises issues about whether schools are externalising problems, either with or without parental agreement.
 - It is persuasive to conclude that the accountability framework is influencing this trend, but it is possibly too early to present this as a firm conclusion
- Possibly repeat this exercise next June
 - Addresses time-lag in the availability of exclusion data nationally
 - Builds a database that captures the key component facets of a changing system – Exclusions, Managed Moves, EHE
 - What else should we capture?
 - Numbers of children in alternative provision?
 - Numbers of children in special schools