



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
27 SEPTEMBER 2005

ITEM 15

Cabinet Member for Children's and Education Services

Pupil Referral Unit - Performance Monitoring Report

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Derby City Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) was inspected in July 2004 and placed in the Ofsted category of Special Measures. An action plan was approved by Cabinet on 9 November 2004.
- 1.2 This report sets out the progress made against the five key issues for improvement as noted by Ofsted HMI during monitoring visits in January and May 2005.
Subject to any issues raised at the meeting, I support the following recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

2. To note the progress made by Derby City Pupil Referral Unit since the original Ofsted Inspection of July 2004.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. Unlike schools, the Council has direct responsibility for the governance and management of the PRU. A reduction in the number of schools in such a category is a priority within the Corporate Plan.



Pupil Referral Unit - Performance Monitoring Report

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 Derby's Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) was established in September 2000. It is a large and complex organisation, catering for pupils aged 5 – 16 years. Three broad groups of pupils are catered for:
 - pupils who have been excluded from mainstream schools
 - pupils who have been referred to the unit for additional support and guidance because there is a high likelihood that they will be excluded
 - pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties who are placed in the unit as an alternative to other provision.
- 1.2 At the time of the inspection in July 2004 there were 255 pupils on roll being taught on 11 sites across the city. The Ofsted inspection analysed statistical and documentary evidence, considered the views of learners and their carers, interviewed staff and conducted extensive lesson observations.
- 1.3 The overall evaluation of the inspection judged the unit to be ineffective and failing to provide an adequate standard of education. Ofsted therefore placed the provision in the Ofsted category of Special Measures. The full inspection report is available at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/132/132133.pdf>
- 1.4 The responsibility for meeting the needs of pupils who attend the PRU lies with the Council. The Council's Education Service is responsible for the preparation and implementation of the Ofsted Action Plan.
- 1.5 In November 2004 Cabinet approved the Post Inspection Action Plan that was also subsequently approved by Ofsted. The plan set out a time scale to remove the PRU from special measures by July 2006.
- 1.6 The current action plan is a 'live' document and has been subject to a number of changes in response to the progress made. The action plan is available at http://www.derby.gov.uk/EducationLearning/Publications_Policies_and_Guidance/Derby_City_Plans_and_Policies.htm
- 1.7 At the time of the inspection the PRU was part of the Special Educational Needs Support Service. This service has been restructured, establishing the PRU and Behaviour Support Service with a separate budget, leadership and management structure, supported by the establishment of a management panel.

1.8 The original inspection report identified five key issues for improvement. The PRU had HMI monitoring visits in January and May 2005. Progress on the key issues is noted in the table.

1.9	Key issue	HMI monitoring visit	
		January	May
	1 Length of taught day	reasonable	reasonable
	2 Leadership and management	limited	reasonable
	3 Quality of accommodation and number of sites	reasonable	reasonable
	4 Management and governance	good	good
	5 Pupil attainment	limited	reasonable

1.10 A copy of the most recent HMI monitoring report can be found at www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/manreports/2658.pdf

1.11 Further progress on the key issues has been underpinned by:

- a reduction in the number of sites excluded pupils are taught on, although suitable accommodation at KS4 remains a difficulty
- securing the Kingsmead site for the development of the new KS3 PRU
- a reduction in the number of permanently excluded pupils in the PRU from 255 at the time of the inspection to 146 pupils sole registered and 54 pupils having shared places as of September 2005
- a commitment from secondary head teachers to work collaboratively to reduce permanent exclusion from school
- a development of a number of collaborative processes with secondary schools including managed moves of pupils at risk of exclusion.
- the development of alternative provision for pupils at risk of exclusion in KS2

1.12 The PRU will receive a further three monitoring visits during this academic year 2005-6 with an expectation that the progress made will be further improved, and consolidated, so that the unit can be removed from Special Measures by July 2006.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2. The Council is obliged to prepare and submit an action plan when a school is deemed to require special measures. The plan must include the proposed timeline for the removal of the school from the Ofsted category.

**For more
information contact:**

Rita Silvester, 01332 716840, rita.silvester@derby.gov.uk

**Background
papers:**

Derby City PRU Inspection Report July 2004

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/132/132133.pdf>

Derby City PRU HMI Monitoring visit May 2005

www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/manreports/2658.pdf

Derby City PRU/LEA Action Plan

[http://www.derby.gov.uk/EducationLearning/Publications Policies and Guidance/Derby City Plans and Policies.htm](http://www.derby.gov.uk/EducationLearning/Publications_Policies_and_Guidance/Derby_City_Plans_and_Policies.htm)

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Implications

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. The implementation of the action plan will be funded from existing revenue and capital. Additional revenue funding of £210,000 was built into the 2005/06 budget to improve the Pupil Referral Unit's accommodation and resources, and to ensure that it can meet the statutory requirement to provide a full-time education for all excluded pupils. A new Key Stage Three building costing £2.3m is within the approved capital programme. The reduction of the number of bases used at Key Stage Four will require additional capital. This capital requirement has not yet been assessed and will need to be taken into account in prioritising the capital programme.

Legal

2. The Council has a statutory duty to:
assess and make appropriate provision for children and young people with special educational needs
provide suitable education for pupils who have been excluded from school.

Personnel

3. None.

Equalities impact

4. The Ofsted HMI monitoring visits and action plan will ensure that all pupils registered at the PRU will receive their full curriculum entitlement.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5. The action plan comes under the Council's priority of **Raising educational achievement** and meets the objective of **providing a stimulating and high quality learning environment**.