

# ITEM 8

## Minute Extract

### Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board 29 March 2021

#### 38/20 Education Otherwise than at School (EOTAS)

The Board considered a presentation prepared and presented by the Director for Learning, Inclusion and Skills. The Board noted that the item was requested by the Chair of the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Review Board.

The officer explained that this was an introductory presentation to give the Board an opportunity to provide a steer as to a possible direction of travel. The Board were informed that EOTAS was for when a child, or young person, was unable to attend a mainstream or special school, for when a child has to attend a hospital medical school, or for when a child or young person was being educated at home through tuition, but it was not the same as elective home education where parents take their child out of the education system.

The officer explained that to use Schools, Hospitals and Medical Education a child might have complex mental health needs, they may be school refusers and not responding to school life, or they may need high levels of therapeutic support; these children may never return to school.

The Derby City Council hospital medical school runs alongside the PRU and Kingsmead special school, and Derby City Council was currently looking at reviewing how it works; looking at the curriculum, how many children are there and what the growing needs are.

An EOTAS package can be designed so that, when a young person has special needs and an EHCP, it is possible to create a package of education using tuition remote learning, additional courses, and experiences to meet the needs of the child or young person. This can be done in co-production with parents and the young person. The High Needs funding can be used to pay for the package, and the child will not be on role at the school unless a blended education was designed.

There was a need to look at the best interests for the child; this can be right through to Post 16 and up to 25 years of age and not just in statutory education. The Board were informed there was no specific policy or approach at the moment. However, one could be developed within the new SEND strategy; it can be co-produced with parent groups to give a city-wide understanding, data can be collected to establish the numbers of children who are educated other than at school. Parents and families can give feedback, outcomes can be determined so it can be

seen if it was a success and if it can lead to a young person living their best life.

The Board considered the report and presentation and put forward the following recommendation.

**The Board resolved to recommend to Cabinet that Council co-produces an Education Otherwise than at School (EOTAS) offer for Derby with parent carers and children and young people to ensure that Derby City Council are meeting their statutory duties to produce an offer that Derby can be proud of.**