

# Practice guide

## SEND & Alternative Provision

### Alternative Provision – 3 Tier Model and Quality Assurance, Manchester

#### Background, purpose, and rationale

In Manchester, we have developed a steering group *Manchester Inclusive Alternative Provision Strategy (MIAPS)* for both alternative provision and schools. Our rationale is founded on principles of inclusion:

- Ensuring all settings are compliant with all relevant legislation and statutory standards.
- Ensuring that all young people in all settings are safe and visible.
- Ensuring that all young people have access to high-quality provision and education.
- Enabling Alternative Provision (AP) settings to sit as a community asset to support collaborative, continuous improvement.
- Secure lasting relationships with all stakeholders and support self-improvement through robust quality processes.

We approached oversight of AP settings by creating a Manchester City Council framework of Approved Alternative Provision Providers. We produced a Manchester guide for schools using alternative provision and developed a quality assurance framework and protocol, which has informed national guidance.

Commissioning of an AP Quality Assurance professional ensured completion quality assurance visits and generation of reports. Alongside this, funding of the IRIS Adapt system enabled schools and provider to support oversight of young people in AP settings.

#### What we did to improve children's outcomes and experiences

Our strategic actions implemented across the 3 Tier Model included:

##### Tier One

- Aligned and enhanced tiered Outreach offer across Primary and Secondary services.
- Legacy of [SAFE \(support, attend, fulfil, exceed\) Taskforce Programme](#) as mentoring model and extends into primaries as Transition Support.
- Secondary Ordinarily Available Provision (linked to Inclusion Strategy)
- Guidance for internal alternative within mainstream.
- Strategic use of Educational Psychologist and Group Consultations.
- Cross-phase Inclusion Leadership Working Group and consultation with school leaders.

##### Tier Two

- Promoted shared understanding of Manchester AP across all partnerships through the MIAPS Steering Group.

- Local pilot to capture outcomes of AP placements as time-limited interventions.
- Development of MIAPS to support part-time, time-limited offers and improve quality of AP.
- Developed system better suited to track movement of young people in AP including use of IRIS Adapt.
- Supported and trained schools to be quality commissioners via MIAPS opportunities.

#### Tier Three

- Development of AP Quality Assurance protocol and process
- AP Guidance documents for commissioning schools
- Outreach support for Transition out of AP (reintegration offer)
- Protocol and procedural development to support reintegration to mainstream.
- Clear post-16 routes and quality of support and provision.

#### What was the impact?

Our high-level outcomes from each tier of the model are emerging as follows to demonstrate the impact on children and young people's experiences

#### Tier One

- Reduction in Permanent Exclusions
- Stabilisation of attendance

#### Tier Two

- Growing AP framework and network of providers
- Increased oversight of schools' use of alternative provision

#### Tier Three

- 50% increase in reintegration to mainstream settings
- Improved quality in targeted AP settings based on case studies and inspection feedback

#### Resources

[Manchester Alternative Provision Protocol and Self-Evaluation Document](#)

[Manchester Alternative Provision Guidance for Schools](#)

#### Find out more

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