

# Southend-on-Sea City Council

Executive Director (Children & Public Health): Michael Marks

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Our ref: AP PILOTS SEC  
Your ref: INCLUSION  
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Dear Colleagues,

## **Re: Termination of Secondary placements for Alternative Provision Pilots 1 and 2**

I am sorry to begin the new year with disappointing news. However, following significant challenges, Parallel Learning Trust (PLT) have informed us that they will no longer be delivering the Secondary element of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) for AP Pilot 1 and AP Pilot 2. If you accessed the Secondary PLT Pilot offer last term, you may be aware that it was already significantly reduced from the original commissioned model due to staffing issues. Secondary schools who had young people accessing the reduced offer have been notified of the changes in arrangements. PLT will continue to provide these schools with relevant advice, guidance, and outreach to support the young people transitioning back to their home school.

**However, commissioning arrangements with PLT for the Primary phase of Pilot 1 and Pilot 2 remain in place.**

**These arrangements are:**

**Pilot 1:** AP base to meet the emerging social and emotional needs of children presenting with anxiety, emotionally based school avoidance or trauma. With a fully supported reintegration back at mainstream (up to 1 term).

PLT will continue to operate Pilot 1 for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils. With the second phase of the pilot exploring how the model could be used for children in Reception. There continues to be 6 commissioned places for Primary Pilot 1.

The primary provision has relocated from Garon's Wellbeing Centre to a base within Sutton House Academy from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Referring schools and families have been informed of the changes to arrangements and were invited to an open evening in December 2023 to view the new base.

The first cohort of young people accessing Pilot 1 will return back to their home school after February 2024 half term. An outreach support plan will be provided by PLT to each young person and referring school.

Applications for the next cohort of new referrals will be considered at Inclusion Panel on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**Pilot 2:** AP base to meet the social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) needs for those children with longer term needs, falling under the remit of the Education Access Team (EAT) due to medical and mental health needs, and requiring an interim base to bridge the gap between EAT (tuition) and school. With a fully supported reintegration back at mainstream (up to 2 terms).

PLT will continue to operate Pilot 2 for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils. There continues to be 6 commissioned places for Primary Pilot 2.

The primary provision has relocated from Garon's Wellbeing Centre to a base within Sutton House Academy from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Referring schools and families have been informed of the changes to arrangements and were invited to an open evening in December 2023 to view the new base.

The first cohort of young people accessing Pilot 2 will return back to their home school after May 2024 half term, if not before (this provision is up to but for no longer than 2 terms). An outreach support plan will be provided by PLT to each young person and referring school.

Applications for the next cohort of new referrals will be considered at Inclusion Panel on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024. However, transition for the new referrals will not begin until the Summer term 2024, to align with the current cohort accessing the provision.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

**Sarah Greaves**

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