

# Update on PRU Progress Report

## C&YP Overview & Scrutiny Panel

24 February 2011



### 1. Service Developments

- Following the last inspection, the PRU Service has been restructured and from September 2010 the Key Stage 2/3 and Key Stage 4 provisions have merged to form the Alternative Complementary Education (ACE) Service, under a new management team. The Headteacher, Mrs S Gillett and Deputy, Mr C Humphries, were recruited externally following a national recruitment campaign and the management team has been reconfigured.
- The four Key Stages are housed in separate bases and each base has a Head of Key Stage who are part of the Senior Management Team.
- A new Management Committee has been established (see report on ACE Governance)

### 2. Improvements to Date

#### 2a. Attendance of pupils - improved

- Overall attendance has increased by 25% across the service.

#### 2b. Staff sickness – improved

- Staff sickness absence has decreased by 98% on the last academic year.

#### 2c. Improved curriculum offer to pupils

- Existing relationships with external providers have been improved and the vocational offer has been extended to include new providers (eg the Donkey Sanctuary).
- Twilight sessions are offered for pupils to assist with GCSE work.
- Core subjects and vocational subjects are offered to Key Stage 4 pupils and a hairdressing training salon has been established at Palace Court.
- The service has registered as a City and Guilds Assessor.
- A motor cycle mechanics workshop has been established.
- The offer to students includes ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) and COPE (Certificate of Personal Effectiveness) awards, catering courses and mentoring to avoid NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).
- Taster days at college/university and Connexions clinics are available to secondary age pupils.
- Pupils have assisted in the design of the ACE website which will go live in March 2011.
- Wider academic offer to include vocational qualification and pathways (mechanics, construction, art and child development).

#### 2d. Increased Community Engagement

- The service is much more active in community projects and students were actively involved in the recent Anti-Bullying Week performing a dance/rap routine, which students themselves had written, in Drakes Circus.
- Pupils have worked in the following community projects:

- Shekinah Mission – pupils attend a range of outreach projects to support and engage within the community.
- Won first prize ‘Plymouth in Pictures’ by KS3.
- Community project with local primary school; dance display, building outside benches, community garden by KS3
- The service has worked with charities including Help for Heroes and is participating in the British Council Partnership and the Prince’s Trust Project for Bretonside Park.

**2e. More flexible working in partnership with schools and other agencies**

- Strong relationships have been established with partners in the Youth Offending Service and the Child Health Service.
- Relationships with partners in mainstream schools have been further strengthened by a more flexible approach and a new offer of packages designed around the needs of individual pupils. Increased capacity for early intervention to schools – since September 2010 the service has worked with more than a dozen schools in successfully halting the decision to exclude pupils by offering early intervention.
- Six week respite and reintegration packages are offered to schools with ACE staff working in partnership with mainstream colleagues to ensure successful reintegration.
- A rewards scheme has been established and, in partnership with other schools, students are taking part in sports competitions.
- Formation of KSI nurture and intervention programme.
- Greater use of the CAF (Common Assessment Framework).

**2f. Increased focus on emotional wellbeing**

- Baseline assessment and an emotional resilience assessment are carried out on all pupils entering the service and every child has weekly, timetabled emotional literacy lessons.
- Activities provide opportunities for growth eg participation in the ECO Schools award, Forest Rangers and outdoor learning including diving, sailing and co-steering.
- Therapeutic interventions such as drama and art therapy are available.
- Embed TAMHS (Targeted Mental Health in Schools) project as cross service provision.

**2g. Improved pupil tracking systems**

- Implemented new administration ‘information passport’ system for referral of pupils’ provision across Plymouth City Council.
- Implemented web-based assessment monitoring system.

**3. Improvements for the Future**

- Continued improvement in attendance
- Improved attainment – vocational and academic
- Increased engagement in post-16 education and reduced NEETS.
- Increased reintegration into mainstream education
- Subject to Cabinet approval on 22 February 2011 - successful incorporation of Hospital School into the ACE Service.