

Children not in school provision - Practice meeting - 23/6/23

- Help in the classroom - few agencies offer this, have the resources to support children in the short term and can be useful
- Resource problems - not enough support for children to remain in the classroom
- ECP - almost impossible to obtain - and when in place, still issues as nothing available
- School roll - full
- Virtual head - varied examples of being supportive or not making a difference
- Education teams - can be helpful
- Home learning - not always a suitable environment
- External venue / room - better - has improved children's focus rather than the family home
- Carers - and how they have been left to "tutor" children - creates difficulties and no break for carers
- Children with self care needs - not appropriate for tutors so additional support is required to meet this need - eg the carer being present
- Remote learning - some agencies offer teaching support - virtual, workbooks etc - hit and miss re the success of this for children
- Capacity for teachers - not available
- Acorn Digital learning - was mentioned as a good resource
- PEP - carers or the agency not getting an invite
- Parents evenings - either carers not invited - or some fail to attend - agencies deal with this
- Carers - feels like they are excluded - "treated differently"
- Managed transfers - this is a good example - prevents labels or exclusions for children
- Schools sign up to a consortium and one of the group takes the child on their roll
- Strain on children who travel distances to school - tired, complex needs, not appropriate
- Restraints in schools - discussed - some concerns re this and the plans around it
- Responsibilities for children - where the child lives - this can be very slow and lack of commitment to take responsibility - especially when had to move areas
- Virtual heads - always escalate to them
- Health provision - also discharged from this provision if move area - this can be very difficult, especially where children have significant health needs
- Holistic services - should be more emphasis on this
- Communication - needs to improve
- Finance commitment - very difficult to achieve
- Advocacy services, children's rights - should be approached - raising complaints
- Borders - discussion re "getting rid of" and provision being made for wherever the child lives
- Personal budgets - follow children and should be used for the child and not wider resources

- Transporting children - this continues to be a big issue - a lot of demands on the carers and cannot be sustained for carers but also for children and how it impacts on them
- Schools in special measures - discussion re this and how the LA have moved children from schools not fully achieving - and how this has impacted in a negative way for children who were settled, friendship groups and have a wider value than just a grade - the wider opportunities and welcoming approach of a school is equally important
- Impact of children out of school - increases instability in the fostering arrangements
- Vocational - need more recognition that some children do not do well in a classroom setting or exams - some lovely discussion re success of vocational opportunities for young teens - mechanics etc - out of the school environment and being very successful and engaging in this type of learning / work
- Colleges - seem to offer this - mention of forest schools, farming and various programmes for children 14 plus
- Functional skills - much better for some children
- Talk Ted - member mentioned an excellent discussion re vocational opportunities