



ADVICE TO SCHOOLS WHEN CONSIDERING USING ALTERNATIVE PROVISION FOR INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS

Introduction:

The Secondary Partnerships in Leicestershire use a range of education and training providers (which in this county are generally described as “Alternative Provision”). Students who are referred to partnerships by schools for Tier 4 provision – often described as “programme management”, have individualised programmes set up and monitored by the partnerships. These usually combine a range of provision, commissioned from APs with a “home based” offer - aligned to the student’s individual needs.

The Partnerships have jointly developed a robust quality assurance process to ensure that the APs we use meet a comprehensive set of requirements to ensure the health and safety and safeguarding of all students. We have commissioned the Leicestershire Education Business Company (LEBC) to do the necessary pre-placement checks that we require. LEBC has expertise in this area arising from their longstanding work in facilitating education and business links, including work experience placements.

Schools placing students in Alternative Provision:

Some schools place students in APs without referring them to their local secondary partnership. This is often a result of a decision by the school that a short term or limited part time placement in an AP prevents further disengagement of an individual student and is therefore an effective contribution in facilitating good progress. **If you plan to do the partnerships advise the following:**

1. Use the Leicestershire Education Business Company (LEBC) service to ensure that every student placement has been thoroughly audited. There will be a charge for each placement but it ensures that you can be confident of the placement and will have access to all the documentation you need. Contact LEBC at <https://www.leics-ebc.org.uk/contact-us>.
2. Ensure that the provision you make is part of the SEND or Pastoral Support Plan for the student. The plan will show how the placement contributes to achieving the student’s outcomes and targets.
3. Let your local partnership know of any placements you are making. This is important in managing the groupings of young people in placements – often a key factor in ensuring that the placement works to best effect. Please email your local Coordinator – contact details at <https://www.leicsseips.org/about-us>. Co-ordinators may also be able to advise on the suitability of placements you are considering.
4. Ensure that a key staff member is regularly visiting the placement to monitor the student’s progress and the effectiveness of the provision.
5. Join in the local Partnership’s Quality Assurance arrangements.
 - a. Contact the Coordinator to find out how to become involved

- b. The Leicestershire SEIPS have a joint framework for the QA of APs which you can find at <https://www.leicsseips.org/ap-reports>.
 - c. Reports based on this framework are posted on the same page.
- 6. If you do your own reports of visits please consider sharing them with your partnership and the rest of the county through our web site.

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