

KNOWSLEY COUNCIL
**ALTERNATIVE
PROVISION** (AP)
POLICY STATEMENT





CONTENTS



1. Introduction	4
2. Current Offer and Sufficiency Planning	5
3. Funding and Commissioning Arrangements	8
4. Quality Assurance and Review	9
5. Outreach and Behaviour Support	10
6. Policy Statement Review	12

1. INTRODUCTION



- 1.1. This document outlines the local authority's approach to fulfilling its Section 19 duty, ensuring that children who are unable to attend school due to health reasons, exclusion, or other factors have access to suitable alternative provision. It sets out the high-level strategic approach to placement sufficiency planning and funding arrangements, as well as defining the processes for placement, quality assurance, and reintegration. It also covers behaviour outreach work in Knowsley.
- 1.2. In accordance with the Council's duty to issue a local policy statement regarding s.19 duties, it specifically addresses arrangements for:
- The provision of education from the sixth day of a permanent exclusion, delivered at Meadow Park Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).
 - The provision for children with medical needs expected to be out of school for 15 days or more, provided by the Hospital and Home Education Service.

Key contacts:

- **Meadow Park, Pupil Referral Unit:**
 - o Email: meadowpark@knowsley.gov.uk
 - o Number: 0151 477 8100

- **Medical AP (Hospital & Home Tuition):**
 - o Email: hospitalandhometuitionservice@knowsley.gov.uk
 - o Number: 07384900837



2. CURRENT OFFER AND SUFFICIENCY PLANNING

2.1. AP Categories in Knowsley:

Knowsley Council commissions and/or arranges four broad types of AP to support students in different circumstances:

- 1) 12-week short stay provision for students to improve behaviour;
- 2) AP for those at high risk of exclusion;
- 3) provision from sixth day following permanent exclusion; and,
- 4) medical-related AP

2.2. Ensuring Sufficient and Suitable AP:

Knowsley Council assesses AP sufficiency through:

- Information from Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- SEND and AP 2023 to 2028 sufficiency plan.

AP Categories in Knowsley

Type of AP	Provider & Location	Entry/Admission Arrangements	Criteria for Placing	Key Considerations
12 Week Placement on STAR Programme	Meadow Park (PRU)	Referrals from 'home' school to Meadow Park	Knowsley resident or attends state-funded school in Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Pupils at risk of exclusion	Short-stay AP commissioned by home schools. Dual registration applies. Direction off site from home school may be in place. Up to 12-week programme
Behaviour-related AP	Meadow Park (PRU)	Referral from 'home' school to Council's Behaviour Panel	Knowsley resident or attends state-funded school in Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Pupils at risk of exclusion	High Needs Block funded places. Dual registration applies. Direction off site from home school may be in place. Up to 3 terms

AP Categories in Knowsley

Type of AP	Provider & Location	Entry/Admission Arrangements	Criteria for Placing	Key Considerations
Exclusion-related AP	Meadow Park (PRU)	Inclusion Service, Knowsley Council decide on admission following permanent exclusion	Knowsley resident Permanently excluded No alternative suitable provision available by sixth day following permanent exclusion	High Needs Block funded places. PRU provides Section 19 provision for permanently excluded pupils. Must be placed by sixth school day following permanent exclusion.
Medical-related AP	Hospital and Home Tuition (HHT) Service at George Howard Centre & Whiston Hospital	Referral (usually from 'home' school) to Council's HHT service, or child in-patient at Whiston Hospital	Knowsley resident (except for children at Whiston Hospital) Pupils unable to attend mainstream school due to medical needs Expected to be away from school for 15 days or more because of health needs	Provides Section 19 provision for pupils unable to attend for medical reasons. AP usually delivered on-site with close liaison with medical professionals; reintegration plans in place. Tuition delivered at the home or off site, where necessary.



3. FUNDING AND COMMISSIONING ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 Funding Arrangements

- Knowsley Council commissions AP through High Needs Block funding, only.
- Funding arrangements are reported annually to Schools Forum and via Council finance processes.

3.2 Commissioning Arrangements

- The Council prioritises use of its own Pupil Referral Unit and tuition service.
- The Council used a small amount of non-maintained and independent provision, as required.
- Unregistered AP providers are only used in exceptional circumstances.



4. QUALITY ASSURANCE AND REINTEGRATION

4.1 Quality Monitoring

All Council commissioned AP placements are subject to:

- At least half-termly reviews between commissioners and providers to track progress and arrange reintegration as appropriate.

Additionally, annual quality assurance process for PRU, overseen by Education Improvement Officer of the Council.

4.2 Reintegration and Transition Planning

- AP is a short-term intervention, wherever possible, with clear reintegration pathways.
- Personalised learning plans or similar are reviewed at least every 12 weeks.
- Schools must engage with AP providers on transition planning back to mainstream, in line with respective process for reintegration (e.g., dual placement, fair access panel, or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) placement change).



5. OUTREACH AND BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

5.1 Outreach Support for Schools

Knowsley provides behaviour outreach support to help mainstream schools manage pupils at risk of AP placement. Schools can access:

- Advice and training on managing behaviour
- Early intervention strategies to reduce exclusions
- Consultation support before directing pupils off-site

5.2 Contact for Outreach Services

For support, schools should contact:

- **Email:** accessandinclusion@knowsley.gov.uk





7. POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW

This policy is kept under review and issued on Knowsley's Local Offer.