

Exclusions- Report on Progress since 2012 Estyn Inspection

1.0 Background:

1.1 Monmouthshire works proactively with schools, families and young people to try and avoid the need for permanent exclusion. The Pupil Referral Service works to try and maintain young people in schools and on their roll to secure continuity of provision.

1.2 When using latest available national data, comparing rates of permanent exclusion with similar Local authorities Monmouthshire ranks second out of the five similar Local Authorities being second over the three year period 2011/12 to 2013/14. Monmouthshire only had 1 permanent exclusion in this period and in this instance the parent wanted to exercise their right of appeal.

1.3 When using latest available national data (Welsh Government Statistical Release- Permanent and fixed-term exclusions from schools- 29th Sept 2015) comparing rates of fixed term exclusion of 5 days exclusion or more, Monmouthshire has seen a significant reduction with rates per 1000 pupils falling from 1.4 days to negligible days lost per 1000 pupils. This results in Monmouthshire being ranked second out of the five similar Local Authorities over the three year period 2011/12 to 2013/14.

1.4 When using latest available national data comparing rates of fixed term exclusion of 5 days exclusion or less, Monmouthshire has seen a reduction with rates per 1000 pupils falling from 31.7 days to 29.5 days lost per 1000 pupils. Two of the three similar Local Authorities have seen rises in this period. This results in Monmouthshire being ranked fourth out of the five similar Local Authorities being only 3.1 days lost per 1000 pupils more than the third best performing Local Authority.

1.5 We have embedded our processes for setting individual fixed term exclusion caps with schools and provided support to schools through targeted intervention programmes provided by Youth Access staff via the Youth Progression Framework and the Pupil Referral Service (PRS). Fixed term exclusions are routinely monitored and reports run on a monthly basis.

2.0 Rates of exclusion in Monmouthshire

2.1 The following table outlines the fall since 11/12 of fixed term exclusion rates in Monmouthshire.

Fixed Term Exclusions/1000 pupils in Monmouthshire (2011/12 -2014/15)

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Total number of Primary Days lost to FTE	137	50.5	60	41
Total number of Secondary Days lost to FTE	636	481	277.5	371
Rate of Total Secondary FTE per 1000 pupils	81.5	63.6	37.2	50.3
Rate of Total primary FTE per 1000 pupils	13.7	5.1	5.9	4.1

2.2 To address levels of fixed term exclusion in Primary Schools a primary support provision working on an outreach basis and run by the Pupil Referral Services was established in Autumn 2012. The Pupil Referral Service has and continues to provide targeted intervention where pupils are at risk of repeated episodes of fixed term exclusion. The Pupil Referral Service has provided outreach support for schools and intervention for pupils and working in partnership where appropriate with the ALN team, to support pupils whilst long-term provision to meet identified need is secured.

2.3 The development of primary outreach support from the Pupil Referral Service in 2012 has had a significant impact upon the number of days lost to fixed term exclusion (it was 137 days in 2011/12). The number of days lost to FTE has fallen by 96 to 41. However there are still a small number of young people who continue to provide with challenging behaviour. Consequently although the overall number of days lost to FTE have fallen in the primary

phase a greater percentage of these are statemented pupils as there is currently no ALN specialist provision at key stage 2 within the Local Authority.

2.4 Schools have referred secondary pupils to the Pupil Referral Service if these pupils are at risk of permanent exclusion or multiple episodes of exclusion and this allied to the challenge provided by the Local Authority to Schools has resulted in Secondary fixed term exclusion rates falling from 636 days in 11/12 to 371 days in 2014/15. Rates did fall to 277.5 days in 2013/14 hence there was a rise in 2014/15 and this increase in secondary fixed term exclusion rates in 2015 is attributed to the restructuring of internal provisions and systems in 2 secondary schools whose rates of fixed term exclusion rose in 2014/15. Discussions have been held with both schools and one school has been supported by the Local Authority with the re-establishment of small group ALN provision.

3.0 Fixed Term Exclusions ALN Pupils 2011/12 – 2014/15 (Primary)

3.1 The following table outlines the fall since 11/12 of fixed term exclusion rates of ALN pupils in Monmouthshire.

Year	Number of Pupils with ALN subject to FTE	Days lost by pupils with ALN due to FTE	Total number of days lost in LA due to FTE	Percentage of days lost due to FTE attributed to statemented pupils
11/12	10	98.5	137	71.9%
12/13	9	30	50.5	59.4%
13/14	6	26.50	60	44.2%
14/15	6	27.5	41	67%

3.2 The analysis of FTE has enabled us to ascertain whether the Pupil Referral Service is working with the appropriate pupils in primary schools. The tracking of pupils has enabled us to measure the effectiveness of interventions provided by the Pupil Referral Service to ensure that we target resources appropriately and in a timely manner. It is evident that the number of pupils with ALN being excluded has reduced and the number of days lost by this cohort falling from 98.5% to 27.5%, a fall of 71 percentage points.

3.2 There was a permanent exclusion in the primary sector in 2014/15. The Local Authority had secured an appropriate specialist placement but parents insisted on a continuation of a mainstream provision.

3.3 The number of secondary pupils with ALN who were excluded has decreased since 11/12. The days lost by this cohort also decreased over this period.

Fixed Term Exclusions ALN Pupils 2011/12 – 2014/15 (Secondary)

Year	Number of Pupils with ALN subject to FTE	Days lost by pupils with ALN due to FTE	Total number of days lost in LA due to FTE	Percentage of days lost due to FTE attributed to statemented pupils
11/12	15	49.5	631	7.8%
12/13	7	42	481	8.7%
13/14	5	13	277.5	4.7%
14/15	14	41	371`	11.1%

3.4 The number of pupils being excluded who have a statement of ALN fell by 66.67% from 11/12 to 13/14 with a fall of 73% in the number of days lost. There was a rise in 14/15 due to a school choosing not to maintain small class provision but the numbers in 14/15 still show a fall when compared with 2011/12 with days 8 fewer days lost.

3.5 The increase in secondary pupils with ALN who were excluded in 2014/15 is attributed to the restructuring of internal provisions and systems in a secondary school allied to a small cohort of pupils in another secondary school. Discussions have been held with both schools and one school has been supported by the Local Authority with the re-establishment of small group ALN provision and exclusions are being closely monitored.

4.0 Fixed Term Exclusions for Pupils with Free School Meals

4.1. The days lost due to exclusion of primary pupils who are eligible for FSM has remained constant but there has been a rise in the days lost due to exclusion of secondary pupils eligible for FSM.

	12/13	13/14	14/15
Primary Days lost by Pupils with FSM	22	19.5	23
Total Primary Days lost	50.5	60	41
Percentage of Days lost by Pupils with FSM	43.7%	32.5%	56.1%
Secondary Days lost by Pupils with FSM	48.5	91.5	133.5
Total Secondary Days lost	481	277	371
Percentage of Days lost by Pupils with FSM	10.1%	33%	37.9%

4.2 Analysis of exclusions amongst primary pupils eligible for FSM show that days lost in the primary sector by this cohort of pupils has remained constant since 2012/13 with 23 days lost in 14/15 compared with 22 days lost in 12/13. Due to the reduction in overall days lost to fixed term exclusion in the primary sector, the percentage of days lost to pupils eligible for eFSM has increased from 43.6% in 2012/13 to 56.1% in 2014/15. Further analysis of this figure shows that a very small number of pupils had a significant impact amongst this figure. In 2012/13 one child lost 15 days FTE despite extensive outreach support from the Pupil Referral Service. In 2013/14 12 days were attributed to 2 pupils and specialist placements were secured. In 2014/15 8.5 days were attributed to 1 pupil and again a specialist placement was secured.

4.3 Analysis of exclusions amongst secondary pupils eligible for FSM (eFSM) show that days lost in the secondary sector have increased since 2012/13. The number of days lost to fixed term exclusion amongst this cohort has risen by 85 days from 48.5 days in 2012/13 to 133.5 days in 2014/15. The overall levels of fixed term exclusion have reduced from 481 days to 337.5 days over this period and this has resulted in the percentage of days being lost by eFSM pupils increasing from 10.1% to 36%. This situation will be closely monitored.

5.0 Exclusions from Other Vulnerable Groups

5.1 Exclusions amongst vulnerable groups are low; there have been no exclusion amongst Gypsy Traveller pupils.

5.2 Exclusions from Ethnic minority groups are low as outlined in the table below. The exclusions recorded in both 2012/13 and 2013/14 relate to individual pupils in a few schools and a particular incident in one specific area hence the rise in the 13/14 figure can be attributed to 1 pupil. Our analysis enabled us to effectively identify and target schools and families requiring support so that we could provide appropriate support in a timely way and reduce the number of FTEs for this group.

Table showing days lost to Fixed Term Exclusion by Ethnic Minority Pupils

Year	Number of Schools	Episodes of exclusion of ethnic minority pupils	Days FTE	Days lost per FTE	Percentage of total days lost due to FTE
12/13	2 mainstream 1 special	12 6	19 12	1.6 2	3.5% mainstream
13/14	1 mainstream 1 special	23 14	28.5 24	1.24 1.55	8.7% mainstream
14/15	1 mainstream 1 special	12 8	14 16	1.17 2	3.4% mainstream

5.3 The percentage of days lost by mainstream Ethnic Minority pupils fell slightly from 19 days lost in 2012/13 to 14 days lost in 2014/15. This represents a fall from 3.5% to 3.4% in the percentage of days lost. Given that there are approximately 2% ethnic minority pupils in our schools, the percentage of days lost indicates that minority ethnic pupils have high rates of fixed term exclusion than non-minority ethnic pupils, hence this data will be closely monitored.

5.4 The percentage of days lost to LAC pupils attending primary schools in Monmouthshire as a result of exclusion has fallen from 14.8% in 2012/13 to 0 in 2014/15. (7.5 days to 0 days). The percentage of days lost by LAC pupils attending secondary schools as a result of exclusion has fallen from 4.1% in 2012/13 to 1.9% in 2014/15 (19.5 days to 7 days).

Table showing days lost to Fixed Term Exclusion By LAC Pupils in Monmouthshire

	12/13	13/14	14/15
Primary Days lost LAC Pupils	7.5	8	0
Secondary Days lost by LAC Pupils	19.5	5	7

5.5 The improved monthly tracking and analysis has enabled the Local Authority to target and provide support and challenge for schools to enhance their capacity to include pupils from these vulnerable groups and the challenge will be to reduce the number of days lost to fixed term exclusion of pupils eligible for FSM and for those from Minority Ethnic Backgrounds.

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