

AP Commissioning Strategy -Schools Forum 12th October 2023

Introduction

Following on from the publication of the SEND and AP Green Paper, the Governments subsequent Improvement Plan and also the amendments to the local area inspection framework, Torbay Council are currently in the process of developing an AP Commissioning Strategy.

To support this work, an AP Steering Group has been established which is attended by a wide range of partners to ensure that what is developed meets the needs of the local area. Attendees include representation from SEND, social care, health and education and AP setting colleagues. The parent carer forum is also involved, and work is taking place with the young person panel to ensure their voice and views are embedded.

The Steering Group are currently assessing the current AP picture within Torbay, to enable us to plan for the completion of the strategy and forward plan. They are also looking at processes and approaches outside of Torbay to consider best practice and possible options moving forward.

A stakeholder feedback survey is due to be circulated next week, which has been developed with the support of the Group – there are separate surveys for APs, mainstream/special schools and other professionals. This is to ensure that we gather as much information about the use and experience of AP to enable us to consider the best way forward.

Initial feedback is already highlighting the need to carry out sufficiency analysis in the use and demand for AP, and also the vital requirement to ensure that all commissioners using AP are not unintentionally creating a number of unlawful schools by the increased use of unregulated AP.

Requests for School Forum

1. To be part of the development of the AP Commissioning Strategy by supporting the request for information from all commissioners of AP.
2. Once the Strategy has been drafted, to consider the suggestions and recommendations which arise from the AP Steering Group, which may have the potential for financial options and decisions to improve the access, use and quality of the AP sector within Torbay.

Recommendation and Decision

To support the work of the AP Steering Group and the development of the AP Commissioning Strategy.

Laura Greenland

Strategic Commissioning Officer – SEND and Education, Children's Services