

Responses from PBS to Consultation

Concerns around the implementation timeframe (Sept 23) and the implications of this

There is a determination and imperative to support the school system and children within it to access stronger provision for children with SEMH needs and associated behaviours. Feasibility of the timescales has been considered. There is a commitment to ensuring suitable transition from one operating model to another.

Concerns that the Islands only in-reach centre will be closed and travel to the mainland will be required.

There will be a centre located on the Isle of Wight, which will operate as a two day per week, short term intervention for children working on a bespoke curriculum which focuses on their needs. There will be no need to travel to the mainland. It is proposed that the centre be located as centrally as possible.

The children placed in the ILC are not emotionally equipped to cope within a mainstream school, particularly around the safety aspect.

PBS staff will work with and support the children in the ILC and their home schools to ensure all strategies and provision are in place to meet their individual needs effectively. The current provision at ILC should only be a short-term intervention. For the few children who require specialist placement, arrangements are being made to secure those placements.

Mainstream Schools cannot cope with behavioural needs.

PBS will support mainstream schools by developing an understanding of behaviours and provide strategies to manage these. Part of the intention of this operating model is to help mainstream schools build capacity within, thus being better equipped to successfully meet the needs of their children within their local community.

The proposal will lead to unsuitable support and increased number of exclusions for children.

PBS provides preventative work to reduce exclusions through a blend of operational and strategic support. PBS works in an early intervention capacity with the aim of reducing exclusions. In Hampshire, PBS has reduced exclusions in several areas by developing a whole school approach, supporting inclusive classrooms and working intensively with unproductive behaviours.

The number of primary permanent exclusions in Hampshire is very low and lower than the number for the Island, proportionately.

PBS has good working relationships with schools. This year, 97% of schools surveyed rated the service overall as 'Excellent' or 'Good'. Here is one quote from a Headteacher from this year's survey:

"The quality of training and support that we received this year has been fantastic. The staff have been fair, realistic, and positive when dealing with staff and children in my school. The PBS staff have been professional throughout."

Concerns raised around the lack of detail on how the PBS model will operate on the Island, where it will be located and how many children it will accommodate.

PBS has a dedicated team of practitioners who are committed to securing positive outcomes for referred children, fielding a wealth of experience, knowledge, and skills. The new Isle of Wight team will join a strong service with a proven track record in securing improvements at school and child level.

PBS work predominantly as an outreach service to mainstream primary schools, with the facility of in reach provision at a centre, when a child needs short-term support away from their usual educational setting. The referral-based support service would be accessed through the centre.

In reach placements will be considered if the need is such following outreach within the mainstream school. The centre should be able to accommodate up to 28 children per week in reach, working on a two-day model. The site is yet to be clarified.

Concerns raised around the transition period for the children currently on role at the ILC and for children in mainstream requiring outreach support.

PBS staff will be operating on the Island as early as possible to support the transition for children from their short-term intervention at ILC back into their mainstream setting full time.

How will the lack of therapeutic services on the Island be addressed as part of this process to ensure schools have access to quality support during the three days the children will be in school.

PBS will be employing a therapist within its team as well as support from other staff members for the three days the inreach children will be accessing school. The model is predicated on a commitment to building capacity to meet needs, including through therapeutic approaches, across Island schools thus reducing the need for dependency on other specific therapeutic services.