

---

# Exclusions Report

---

<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Heather Codling
<b>Date Portfolio Member agreed report:</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
<b>Report Author:</b>	Roslyn Arthur and Crystal Elkabbas

---

## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of exclusions of Children and Young People (CYP) in West Berkshire and is intended to brief members on the implications for our cohorts. It is structured into two sections: Primary Data and Secondary Data.
- 1.2 The report presents exclusions data from 2020/21 onwards, benchmarked against national figures, statistical neighbours, and local comparators. It also provides context for the data, highlighting key strengths, current challenges, and our strategic response.
- 1.3 Additionally, the report identifies emerging concerns, captured under the heading ‘Risk of Future Exclusions’.

## 2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 It is recommended that the CYP Scrutiny Committee familiarise themselves with the data relating to exclusions.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee endorse the Strategic Response (as outlined in section 5.20) to support the reduction of exclusions and the promotion of inclusion.

## 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
<b>Financial:</b>	This report is for information only and does not in itself commit the Council to additional expenditure. However, the trends and capacity constraints highlighted (including increasing numbers of pupils at risk of exclusion, demand pressures on iCollege, and limited specialist SEN placement availability) may contribute to future cost pressures across the High Needs and alternative provision system if exclusion levels and complexity continue to rise. Any future proposals arising from the findings (for example, changes to

## Exclusions Report

	<p>commissioning arrangements, service capacity, or expanded preventative provision) would be subject to separate decision making and would require a full financial assessment and identification of funding sources.</p>
<b>Human Resource:</b>	<p>There are no direct Human Resource implications arising from this report, which is provided for information only. The activity described is delivered within existing staffing arrangements; however, the demand and capacity issues highlighted (including increasing numbers of pupils at risk of exclusion and pressures on iCollege and the Exclusions and Reintegration Team) may have workforce and workload implications should further actions be developed in response. Any future proposals affecting staffing levels, roles, training requirements, or service capacity would be subject to separate decision making and would be considered in consultation with HR and relevant stakeholders.</p>
<b>Legal:</b>	<p>This report is provided for information only and does not, of itself, give rise to additional legal implications. The local authority and schools must continue to act in accordance with the relevant statutory framework and guidance in relation to suspensions, exclusions and the provision of suitable education (including the Council's duties to secure appropriate alternative education for eligible pupils). If any future recommendations are brought forward in response to the issues highlighted (for example changes to alternative provision commissioning, service arrangements, or the Fair Access Protocol/SLA with iCollege), these would be subject to separate decision making and would be reviewed to ensure legal compliance.</p>
<b>Risk Management:</b>	<p>This report is for information only and does not introduce new risks in itself. However, the increased numbers of pupils at risk of exclusion and the capacity constraints described (including within iCollege and the Exclusions and Reintegration Team) highlight ongoing delivery risks for the Council and the wider system. In particular, sustained increases in exclusions, alongside limited alternative provision capacity, may increase the risk of the Council being unable to consistently meet its statutory requirements to secure suitable education for eligible children who are out of school (including provision under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996). There are also potential reputational, financial and safeguarding risks if pupils are not able to access appropriate full-time education in a timely way. Any future proposals arising from this report would be subject to separate decision making and would include an assessment of risks and mitigations.</p>

## Exclusions Report

<b>Property:</b>	There are no property implications associated with this report			
<b>Policy:</b>	This report is provided for information only and does not, of itself, require changes to existing Council policies. The work described sits within the Council's current policy framework for children and young people, including arrangements relating to inclusion, suspensions and exclusions, alternative provision and SEND. The findings may, however, inform future policy development (for example, refinements to local processes such as the Fair Access Protocol and related service arrangements with iCollege, and/or the Council's approach to commissioning and quality assurance of alternative provision). Any proposed policy changes arising from this report would be subject to separate decision making and the Council's usual governance, consultation and equality impact assessment processes.			
	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		x		This report does not propose a change to service delivery. However, the exclusion trends described, and the capacity constraints within alternative provision and wider SEND support, have the potential to affect educational outcomes and access to provision for children and young people. Equalities considerations will continue to be embedded through ongoing monitoring of exclusions and suspensions data, use of early intervention and reintegration support, and review of local processes (including Fair Access and alternative provision arrangements) to help ensure equitable access to suitable education and support.
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		Exclusions and access to alternative provision can disproportionately affect some groups with protected characteristics, particularly disabled pupils (including those with SEN and/or an EHCP) and, depending on local patterns, pupils from certain ethnic

## Exclusions Report

				backgrounds or other protected groups. The Council and partners will continue to consider protected characteristics through analysis of exclusion and suspension data and through the design and targeting of preventative, early help and reintegration activity, to identify and address any disproportionate impacts. Any future proposals arising from this report would be subject to an equality impact assessment and appropriate consultation.
<b>Environmental Impact:</b>		x		None
<b>Health Impact:</b>		x		None
<b>ICT Impact:</b>		x		None
<b>Digital Services Impact:</b>		X		None
<b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b>		X		This report supports delivery of the Council's strategic priorities by providing a clear evidence base on exclusion trends and system pressures, helping to focus improvement activity on inclusion and improving outcomes for children and young people. The issues highlighted (including rising numbers of pupils with SEND at risk of exclusion, capacity constraints in alternative provision and iCollege, and increasing complexity of need) relate directly to priorities around early intervention, safeguarding and support for vulnerable families, and reducing inequality. The report also links to the Council's statutory responsibilities to secure suitable education for eligible children who are out of school, and to longer-term financial sustainability by informing work to strengthen commissioning and quality assurance and reduce reliance on high-cost, reactive placements.
<b>Core Business:</b>		x		This report relates directly to the Council's core business in fulfilling its statutory responsibilities for children and

## Exclusions Report

				young people’s education, including duties associated with suspensions and permanent exclusions and securing suitable education for eligible children who are out of school (including provision under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996). The issues highlighted around rising exclusions, reduced timetables and capacity constraints in alternative provision (including iCollege) are relevant to the Council’s role in ensuring timely access to appropriate provision, oversight and quality assurance of alternative provision arrangements, and supporting the inclusion of children and young people with SEND in line with the Council’s wider statutory duties.
<b>Data Impact:</b>		x		None
<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>				

## 4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 Seven primary school exclusions were issued in 2024/25, a notable increase from two in 2021/22 and higher than national, local and statistical comparators.
- 4.2 Analysis of primary exclusions indicates that, with one exception, all pupils excluded since September 2021 have had SEN. No primary aged pupil with an EHCP has returned to mainstream primary provision following exclusion.
- 4.3 In the secondary phase, forty-seven exclusions were issued in 2024/25, a significant rise from fifteen in 2021/22, exceeding national, local, and statistical benchmarks. The number of excluded secondary pupils registered as K code (requiring support) or with EHCPs has increased since 2022/23.
- 4.4 Currently, 161 pupils are identified as at risk of exclusion, including 87 with SEN. Future risks primarily relate to iCollege’s capacity to provide full-time education for excluded pupils, particularly given rising SEN needs and the potential impact on preventative in-reach provision.

## 5 Supporting Information

### Background

#### Primary Permanent Exclusions

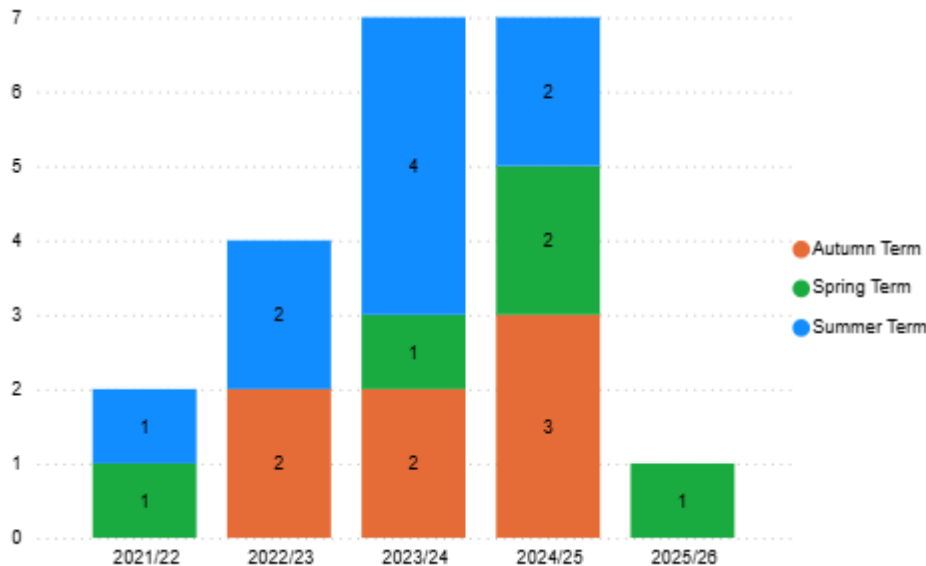
5.2 No primary exclusions were issued during the Autumn Term 2025. The Exclusions and Reintegration Team has provided extensive support to schools, guiding them to appropriate teams and agencies, including the Promoting Inclusive Practice Service (PIPS), to identify alternatives to exclusion. Available interventions include:

- Six-week turnaround programmes delivered by iCollege (PRU)
- Extended 10–12 week interventions where appropriate
- Bespoke school-based support, which may involve targeted staff training, actionable recommendations following observations, and timetable adaptations to better support individual pupils

5.3 While primary exclusions have decreased since September 2025, there are ongoing concerns:

- An increase in pupils on reduced timetables, limiting access to full-time education
- A rise in the use of school-commissioned alternative provision, including placements with providers that are not Ofsted-registered schools

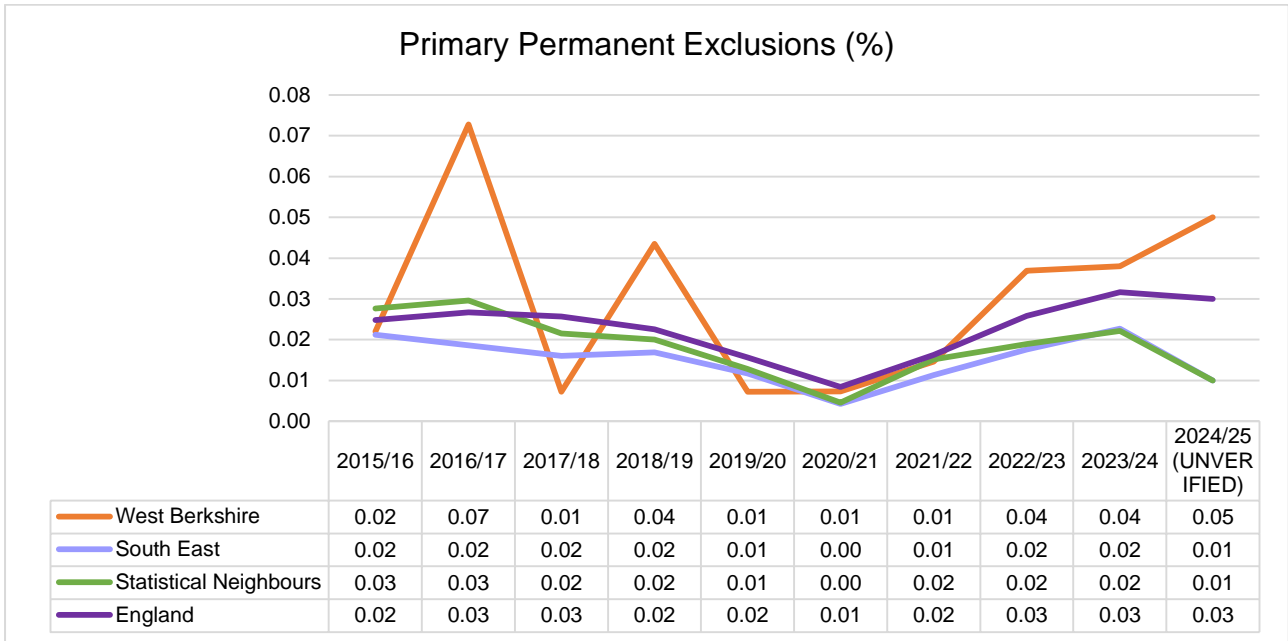
#### Primary Exclusions:



5.3 The most recent verified data indicates that primary exclusions in West Berkshire exceed those of national, local, and statistical comparators.

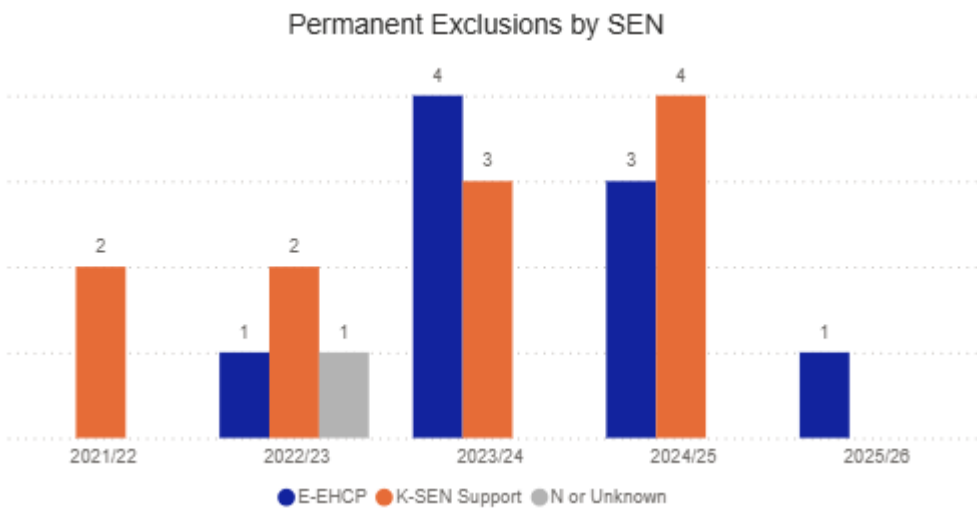
**Exclusions Report**

**Comparative Exclusions Data:**



**Primary SEN Permanent Exclusion Data**

5.4 Analysis of primary school data indicates that, with one exception, all primary exclusions since September 2021 have been issued to pupils with SEN. Emergency Annual Reviews are conducted either prior to, or immediately following, an exclusion for a pupil with an EHCP in a mainstream school. These reviews consider possible alternatives to the exclusion and ensure that EHCP requirements are fulfilled. Where an exclusion proceeds, education is provided from day six by iCollege, which may deliver a bespoke package, including commissioning external alternative provision to meet the pupil’s needs. In 2024/25, all seven primary exclusions involved pupils with an EHCP either in place or in progress, and none have returned to mainstream provision.



## Exclusions Report

### Risk of Future Primary Exclusions

5.5 The Exclusions and Reintegration Team actively monitors pupils who have been highlighted by schools at risk of permanent exclusion. The current cohort is significantly higher than previous years, comprising:

- 31 pupils at risk of permanent exclusion with SEN;
- Of these 19 have an EHCP, 7 are in process of applying for an EHCP and 5 are K code;
- 10 pupils at risk of permanent exclusion are supported by a social worker.

5.6 Inspiration@icollege serves as the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) for primary-aged pupils, providing full-time education and a six-week preventative intervention for those at risk of permanent exclusion. The PRU has a capacity of 12 pupils and is currently operating at full capacity, which may constrain our ability to prevent future permanent exclusions.

5.7 Ongoing shortages of Primary Specialist SEN schools are limiting our capacity to secure appropriate specialist placements for pupils with SEN who are struggling in mainstream settings.

### Secondary Exclusions

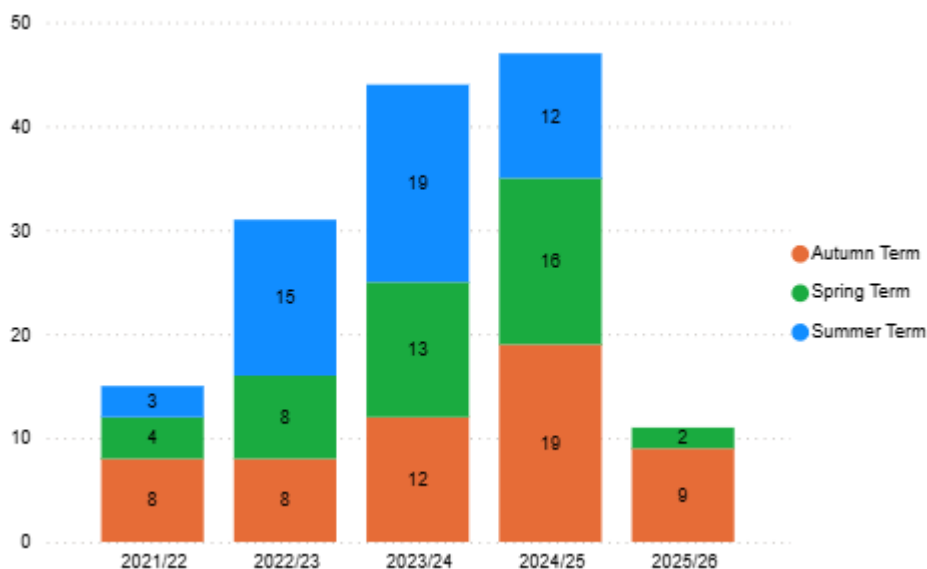
5.8 Forty-seven secondary exclusions were recorded in 2024/25, representing a substantial increase from fifteen in 2021/22.

5.9 Changes in school leadership, the establishment of new Multi-Academy Trusts, and a limited range of viable alternatives to exclusions have all contributed to the exclusion figures observed in 2023/24 and 2024/25.

5.10 The Exclusions and Reintegration Team (ERT) has provided extensive support to schools, signposting appropriate teams and agencies to assist pupils. Interventions have included six-week preventative programmes delivered by iCollege or temporary placements at alternative schools. Collaborative approaches between schools have increased, with institutions supporting one another to provide short-term behaviour interventions for individual pupils.

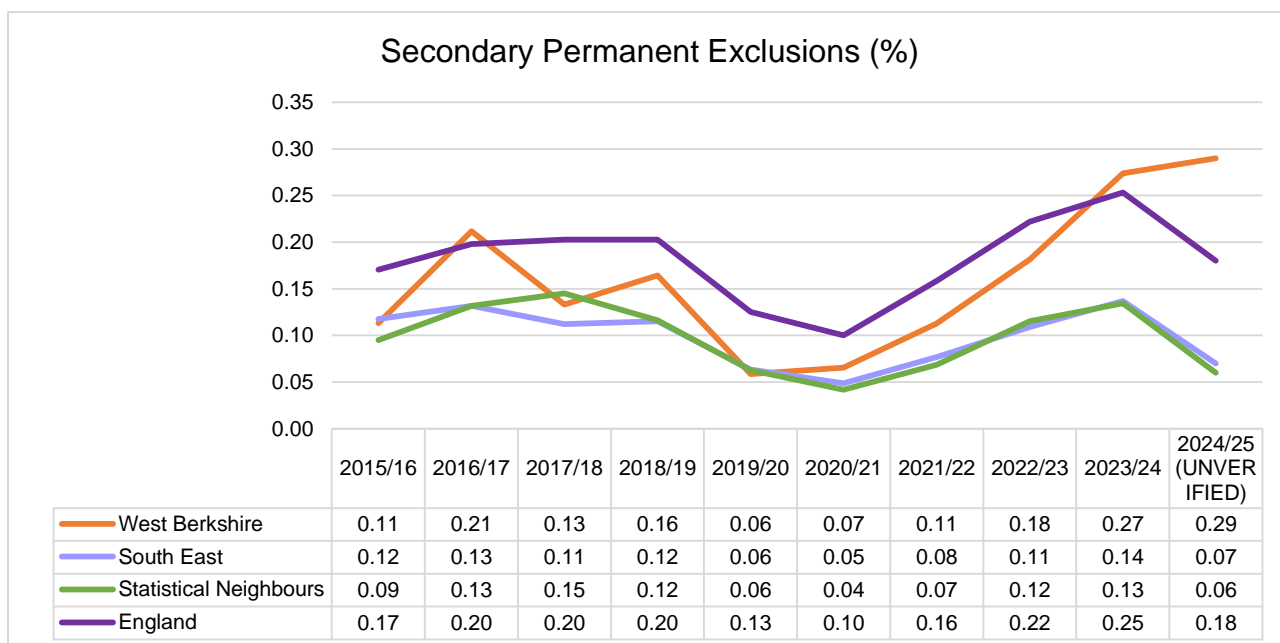
## Exclusions Report

### Secondary Exclusions:



5.11 The most recent verified data indicates that secondary exclusions in West Berkshire exceed those of national, local, and statistical comparators.

### Secondary Comparative Exclusions Data:

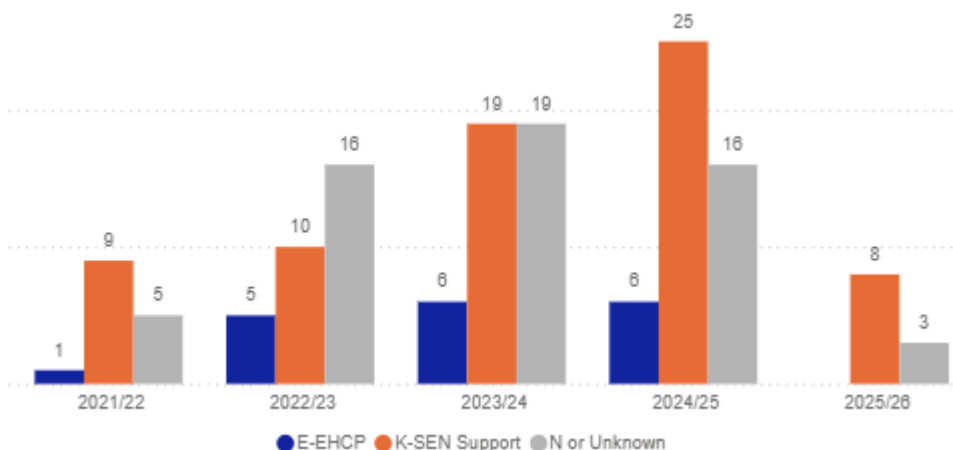


### SEN Exclusion Data

5.12 The number of excluded secondary pupils registered as K-code (requiring support) has shown a steady upward trend, while exclusions for pupils with an EHCP have remained relatively stable. In 2021/22, 67% of excluded pupils had SEN. This proportion decreased in 2022/23 but has gradually risen over the subsequent three years, returning to the same level observed in 2021/22.

## Exclusions Report

### Secondary SEN Exclusions:



### Risk of Future Secondary Exclusions

5.13 The Exclusions and Reintegration Team meets termly with Secondary Senior Leadership Teams to monitor pupils at risk of permanent exclusion. Across West Berkshire, there are currently:

- 130 pupils identified as at risk of permanent exclusion;
- 33 pupils flagged as imminent cases;
- 71 pupils with SEN at risk of permanent exclusion, including 21 with an EHCP.

5.14 Integration@icollege, the Pupil Referral Unit for secondary-aged pupils, provides full-time education and a six-week preventative intervention for those at risk of permanent exclusion. The unit is currently operating at full capacity, which limits our ability to prevent future exclusions and constrains our statutory responsibility to provide education following an exclusion.

5.15 There remains a shortage of Secondary Specialist SEN schools, affecting the Council's capacity to place pupils with complex SEN needs who struggle in mainstream settings. In response, and in line with recent DfE White Paper guidance, work is planned to expand the Capital Programme for Inclusion Bases.

### Context and Key System Factors Influencing Exclusion Rates

5.16 As below:

- Growth in the number of pupils with SEMH EHCPs;
- Insufficient specialist provision across the local area;
- Capacity constraints within iCollege;
- Reduced capacity within the Exclusions and Reintegration Team (ERT);
- Shortage of specialist placements for pupils with EHCPs;
- Limited availability of mental health support services;
- Significant gaps in external mental health provision, including prolonged waiting times for assessment and diagnosis;

## Exclusions Report

- Rising numbers of pupils being referred to Children's Services;
- Increasing prevalence of families presenting with multiple and complex needs;
- Due to national pressure on EP recruitment, there is limited capacity.

The following strengths have been highlighted when addressing exclusions:

- Exclusions and Reintegration Team (ERT) have strong relationships with our school Headteachers and leadership teams which supports with a high support/high challenge approach. School Headteachers reach out to the Authority to work together to find alternative solutions to exclusions;
- ERT facilitate the Secondary Pastoral Collaborative Networking, where best practice of inclusion, culture and ethos and new guidance are shared;
- Strong operational relationships between iCollege and the LA have been developed;
- iCollege provides all statutory Section 19 education for pupils excluded from a mainstream school;
- Secondary schools value Pupils at Risk meetings with the LA, enabling collaboration to find ways to engage and support pupils at risk of exclusion;
- Schools actively participate in the Fair Access Protocol (FAP) process and work to successfully reintegrate pupils who have previously been Permanently Excluded from other schools.

5.17 The following challenges have been highlighted when addressing exclusions:

- A sustained increase in permanent exclusions, with a total of 54 issued and upheld in 2024/25 (excluding those rescinded by schools or not upheld by Governors);
- Rates of both suspensions and permanent exclusions across West Berkshire schools, at both primary and secondary levels, in 2023/24 exceed those of the South East statistical neighbours, and national benchmarks;
- Data from Pupils at Risk meetings indicates that 161 pupils across the authority are currently identified as being at risk of exclusion.
- Capacity of the ERT service;
- Capacity at iCollege (PRU) to offer preventative out-reach support to support schools avoid exclusions;
- Capacity at iCollege to fulfil Section 19 statutory duty to provide full time education to excluded pupils, especially as the number of exclusions increases at any one time and therefore pupils are being delivered education on reduced hours;
- In the primary phase, there is an increase in EHCP applications, alongside a rise in exclusions involving pupils with EHCPs and growing demand for specialist placements.

## Strategic Response

5.18 As below:

- West Berkshire is currently in discussion with iCollege to finalise the draft Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the provision of alternative education for children and young people who are either at risk of permanent exclusion or have already received a permanent exclusion. These discussions aim to ensure that the SLA clearly defines the scope,

## Exclusions Report

responsibilities, and quality standards of support, providing a robust framework to meet the educational needs of pupils while supporting their reintegration where appropriate.

- The revised Fair Access Protocol, which governs the reintegration of previously excluded pupils into mainstream schools, has been agreed by schools and is due to commence in February 2026.
- West Berkshire is finalising a draft Service Level Agreement with iCollege to secure high-quality alternative education for pupils at risk of, or subject to, permanent exclusion.
- A dedicated Manager for Children with a Social Worker within the Virtual School was appointed 18 months ago.

## Proposals

5.19 This report has been submitted following a request from the committee, for information only.

## 6 Other options considered

Report is for information only.

## 7 Conclusion

- 7.1 The trend in Primary Exclusions (PEX) indicates a continued increase, with rates over the past two years significantly exceeding those of the Southeast and our statistical neighbours.
- 7.2 The number of pupils identified to the Local Authority as being at risk of exclusion has increased, with a particular concern regarding the proportion of primary pupils with SEN.
- 7.3 Schools receive timely and robust support and challenge from the team, supported by strong partnership working between schools, iCollege (PRU), and the Local Authority.
- 7.4 Schools continue to work collaboratively with the Local Authority and remain open to exploring alternatives to exclusion, resulting in a significant number of at-risk pupils achieving alternative outcomes and avoiding exclusion.
- 7.5 The ability to sustain this level of support, and to fully meet statutory duties, is increasingly challenged by capacity constraints within the team and across wider support services.

## 8 Appendices

### Secondary Exclusion Data

School	PEX		
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<b>Denefield 5404</b>	4	6	5
<b>John O'Gaunt 4001</b>	4		1
<b>Kennet 4042</b>	1	5	6
<b>Little Heath 4052</b>	1	9	9
<b>Park House 4038</b>	8	9	6
<b>St Bartholomew's 5402</b>	3	4	6
<b>The Downs 5406</b>			
<b>The Willink 4031</b>		1	1
<b>Theale Green 4002</b>	6	6	8
<b>Trinity 4055</b>	3	4	6
Brookfields 7028			
The Castle 7007	1		
Newbury College* 8001			
iCollege* 1111			
<b>Total secondary</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>48</b>

## Exclusions Report

---

### Background Papers:

None

---

### Subject to Call-In:

Yes:  No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position:

Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months

Item is Urgent Key Decision

Report is to note only

**Wards affected:** All wards

### Officer details:

Name: Ashley Milum  
Job Title: Service Director, Education and SEND  
Tel No: 01635 519806  
E-mail: ashley.milum1@westberks.gov.uk

### Document Control

Document Ref:		Date Created:	
Version:		Date Modified:	
Author:			
Owning Service			

### Change History

Version	Date	Description	Change ID
1			
2			