

TITLE OF REPORT: Permanent Exclusions

REPORT OF: Caroline O'Neill, Strategic Director – Children, Adults and Families

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on permanent exclusions in Gateshead and to broadly outline the work that continues in relation to this in Gateshead Education Support to Schools Service.

Background

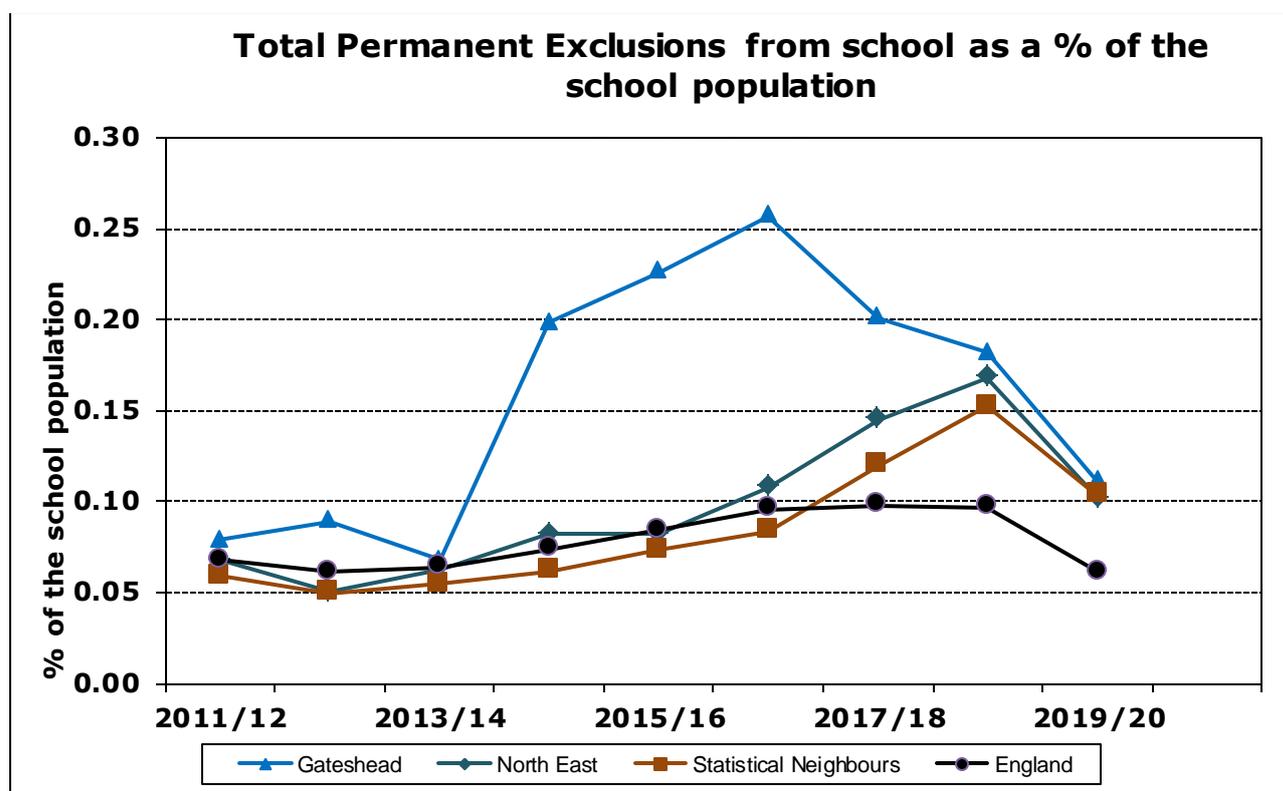
2. The consequences of being permanently excluded from school are extremely serious. The 2012 report by the Office of the Children's Commissioner on illegal exclusions '*Always someone else's problem*' states that unless high quality support is put into place for excluded children, their life chances are likely to be substantially affected in both the short and longer term. In the case of 'illegal' exclusions children are also less likely to receive the support they need in order to achieve to their abilities. There are also potential safeguarding issues, especially with older children whose parents may think they are in school so there is no adult looking after them. Therefore, as educators, there is a need following a permanent exclusion, to ensure that the child is given access to high quality appropriate educational provision and support from other services, if needed, to continue with and/or reengage with their education and learning.
3. Schools have the right to permanently exclude a pupil on disciplinary grounds. Pupils can be suspended for one or more periods (up to a maximum of 45 days in a single school year and if exceeded a pupil is automatically permanently excluded) or permanently. In exceptional cases, usually where further evidence has come to light, a suspension may be extended or converted to a permanent exclusion.
4. The DfE report statistical release July 2021 (Permanent Exclusions and Suspensions in England 2019 to 2020) states that, overall, both the number of suspensions and permanent exclusions and the rate of suspensions and permanent exclusions have decreased from 2018/2019 to 2019/2020.

- Nationally the proportion of children and young people being excluded is decreasing. Although it should be noted that both in Secondary and Primary schools the number of permanent exclusions in autumn term 2019/2020 rose in comparison to the same period in autumn term 2018/2019.

Information

- Table 1** highlights the % of the school population permanently excluded in Gateshead. Gateshead has seen a significant downward trend in permanent exclusions and is in line with the north-east region and our statistical neighbours.

Table 1



- Gateshead has 10 secondary schools; 9 secondary school Academies (1 of which has converted from a City Technology College) and another is a new Academy (XP) opened in academic year 2021/2022. Two Secondary schools are Roman Catholic Academies and one secondary school is maintained. It also has 1 alternative provision (AP) Academy for key stage 3 and key stage 4 pupils and 1 secondary SEMH (social, emotional and mental health) special school.
- Table 2** shows the number of upheld secondary permanent exclusions in Gateshead by school since 2016/2017 academic year to the end of the 2020/2021 academic year. Historically, there was a significant rise in secondary permanent exclusions in 2016/17. Data shows that from 2016/2017

until the end of academic year 2020/2021 there is a fluctuating number of permanent exclusions but, overall, a downward trend.

Table 2

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Thorp Academy	7	2	2	1	1
Emmanuel College (City Technical College)	1	3	5	2	4
Heworth Academy	8	6	10	2	7
Joseph Swan	11	6	12		
Grace College (Academy)				6	7
Kingsmeadow	7	7	5	6	7
Lord Lawson Academy	9	8	11	7	6
Cardinal Hume Academy (Previously Edmund Campion)	8	6	5	3	5
St Thomas More Academy	4	4	4	2	1
Thomas Hepburn	14	6	3	0	
Whickham Academy	8	8	6	6	3
Furrowfield	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
River Tyne Academy (Previously PRU)	1	1	2	Nil	Nil
Out of Area (OOA)	2	0	4	3	1
Total	80	57	69	38	42

Table 3 shows that permanent exclusions by term since 2016/2017 academic year until 2020/2021 academic year. Historically autumn term has the largest number of permanent exclusions issued in Gateshead. This reflects the national trend.

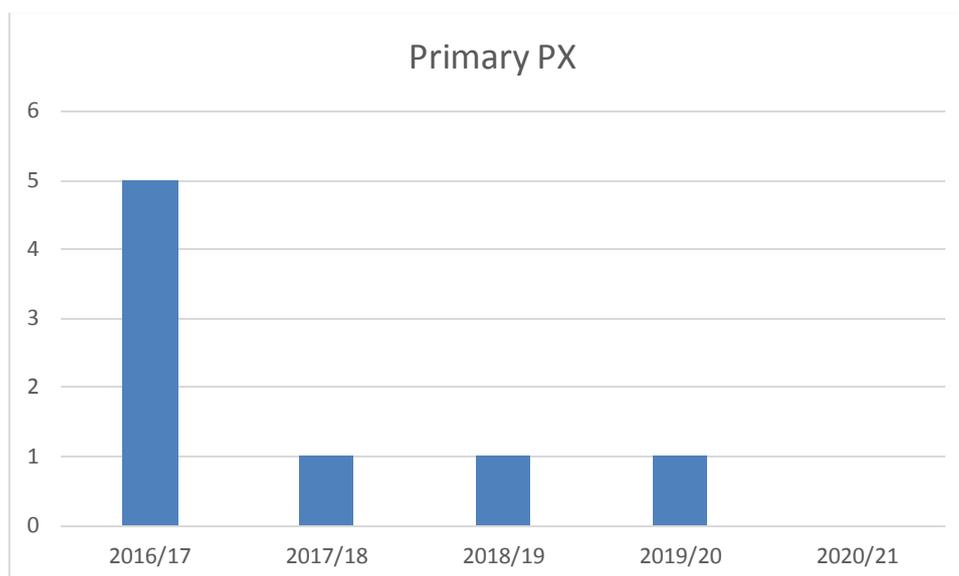
Table 3

Academic Year	Permanent Exclusions (Total)	Permanent Exclusion (Secondary/Primary)	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
2016/17	85	80/5	34	19	32
2017/18	58	57/1	29	15	14
2018/19	70	69/1	36	21	13
2019/20	38	37/1	25	13	0
2020/21	42	42/0	19	8	15

9. Gateshead has 68 primary schools. 15 of these schools are Academy schools, 3 infant and 3 junior schools and 1 nursery. Gateshead also has one primary special school for pupils identified with SEMH (social, emotional and mental health).

10. **Table 4** shows a breakdown of primary permanent exclusions since the 2016/2017 academic year to 2020/2021 academic year.

Table 4



Reasons for permanent exclusions

11. **Table 5** shows a breakdown of permanent exclusions by reason in 2020/2021 academic year. The highest number of permanent exclusions being issued were due to persistent disruptive behaviour. This is in line with national trend.

Table 5

Reason	Number
Physical assault (pupil)	3
Physical assault (adult)	1
Verbal abuse (pupil)	0
Verbal abuse (adult)	0
Bullying	0
Racist incident	0
Sexual misconduct	1
Drug/alcohol	2
Damage	0
Theft	0
Persistent disruptive behaviour	27
Inappropriate use of social media	1
Other	6 (knife) 1 (alarm)

Exclusions by characteristics

12. Boys represent the highest number of permanent exclusions in Gateshead in 2020/2021 academic year. Boys are one and a half times more likely to be permanently excluded than girls in Gateshead.

Action Plan

13. Permanent exclusions continue to remain a focus in Gateshead. See updated Education Support to Schools action plan (**Appendix 1**).

Recommendations

14. OSC are asked to:

- Receive this report for information and discussion.

Appendix 1

Permanent Exclusions Action Plan 2021/2022

Action	Lead	Completion Date	Milestones	Progress	RAG
<p>1. Examine options to better support young people fragile to permanent exclusion via commissioned places at River Tyne Academy.</p>	<p>Julie McDowell</p>	<p>July 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit current provision offer • Explore options that River Tyne could provide to support young people fragile to permanent exclusion. 	<p>JMc has met with RTA and discussed commissioned agreement and identified gaps in commissioned offer.</p> <p>Education Exclusion Panel have met to discuss how further support can be offered to young people who may be fragile to permanent exclusion and mechanisms for that support. This has been agreed at Education Inclusion Panel and Fair Access.</p> <p>Secondary Fair</p>	<p style="background-color: yellow;"> </p>

				Access protocols have been strengthened with regards to managed moves under the behaviour category.	
2. Development of additional good quality Alternative Provision capacity in Gateshead.	Julie McDowell	July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise with Gateshead Secondary Leaders Group. • Explore funding implications, organisational structure and operating costs • Explore premises-if needed • Seek political approval/support 	<p>JMc identified x3 potential AP providers. All presented to Gateshead Secondary Leaders Group.</p> <p>JMc discussed potential premises for AP providers with ZS.</p> <p>JMc is now part of the Gateshead Secondary Leaders sub-committee on behaviour.</p>	