

SUPPORTING EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATION FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN

WITNESS SUBMISSION

Name: Laurie Cornwell

Role: Executive Headteacher

Organisation: The Skills Hub and Young People's Academy

SUMMARY OF THE ROLE OF YOUR SERVICE OR ORGANISATION

The Skills Hub is an alternative provision provider that caters for students that cannot attend mainstream school for a variety of reasons; predominantly this may be due to permanent exclusion, risk of permanent exclusion or medical barriers.

The Young People's Academy is a special school for secondary aged students who have Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties.

Both settings are holistic in their approach and wish to ensure that students leave with a set of results that demonstrate the best of their abilities, are able to sustain relationships, maintain households and hold down a job.

Both settings have unusually high numbers of FSM and LAC students.

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED

In both settings, NEET figures are extremely low or virtually none existent. Students are provided with a wide range of access to internal and external services that support them as well as their families.

COMMENTS ON PROVISION OF SERVICES E.G ANYTHING THAT YOU THINK COULD BE IMPROVED OR DONE DIFFERENTLY ETC.

Due to National bench marking statistics, the achievements of these students are often overlooked as the emphasis is on GCSE attainment figures and not necessarily on the attainment and progress figures that are pertinent to them and their achievements.

As both the schools are small, there are times where they do not meet the same criteria that mainstream school do for additional support. Of course, this can also be beneficial for other funding streams that focus specifically on smaller schools and these types of settings.

Concerns around meeting thresholds for social services and CAHMS support is on-going and has not been significantly addressed for a number of years.