

Annex B: Extract from: Alternative Provision Statutory guidance for local authorities January 2013

Good Alternative Provision

Good alternative provision is that which appropriately meets the needs of pupils which required its use and enables them to achieve good educational attainment on par with their mainstream peers. All pupils must receive a good education, regardless of their circumstances or the settings in which they find themselves. Provision will differ from pupil to pupil, but there are some common elements that alternative provision should aim to achieve, including:

- good academic attainment on par with mainstream schools – particularly in English, maths and science (including IT) – with appropriate accreditation and qualifications;
- that the specific personal, social and academic needs of pupils are properly identified and met in order to help them to overcome any barriers to attainment;
- improved pupil motivation and self-confidence, attendance and engagement with education; and
- clearly defined objectives, including the next steps following the placement such as reintegration into mainstream education, further education, training or employment.

Commissioning good-quality alternative provision

Responsibility for the alternative provision used rests with the commissioner. The nature of the intervention, its objectives and the timeline to achieve these objectives should be agreed and clearly defined. Progress against these objectives should be frequently monitored, appropriate reviews should be built in and continuity into the next stage in the child's life should be considered. Where reintegration to the school is an objective, there should be agreement on how to assess when the pupil is ready to return and the school should provide an appropriate package of support to assist their reintegration. These objectives and plans should be agreed with providers, set out in writing and regularly monitored, including through frequent visits to the provider.

The monitoring process takes account of the requirements of the Alternative Provision Guidance which includes:

- Hours offered – part time timetables
- Attendance
- Academic and social progress and engagement
- Accreditations and qualifications being pursued
- Vulnerabilities and supporting services
- Exit plan