

## **READING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**15 OCTOBER 2025**

#### **QUESTION 1**

Peter Evans to ask the Chair of the Committee:

#### **SEND Placements in Reading**

Can the Council explain how it came to place, or allow the placement of, vulnerable children - including my son - in an unregistered alternative provision, which was being run by an individual who, at the time, was charged with crimes, under investigation by SOCA for serious criminal activity, and has since been convicted ?

What safeguarding checks, if any, were conducted prior to such a placement ?

Is the Council still using this placement? And what steps has the Council taken since to review other similar placements and ensure that no other children are currently at risk ?

#### **REPLY by the Chair of the Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee**

I invite Councillor Eden, the Lead Councillor for Education and Public Health to make the response on my behalf.

#### **REPLY by Councillor Eden, Lead Councillor for Education and Public Health:**

#### **Supplementary response published on 9 January 2026**

This matter is being investigated with the provider at present. No safeguarding incidents for any child have been identified as a result of the failure to notify the local authority in this instance.

Local authorities use a variety of strategies and different providers to fulfil their education responsibilities, including the provision of suitable education for young people otherwise than at school – commonly known as Alternative Provision. Alternative provision (AP) is defined as education outside of school arranged by LAs or schools. It can range from pupil referral units and further education colleges to voluntary, charitable, or private sector projects. Some APs also may not have a physical site, such as tuition agencies.

Alternative Provision is not regulated by Ofsted. In Reading we have in place a mechanism for reviewing and monitoring Alternative Provision to ensure it is delivering the education needed for Reading children. Reading completes due diligence checks before placing children with an Alternative Provision. Checks include requesting confirmation of safeguarding policies and procedures; safer recruitment policies and procedures; confirmation that all staff are DBS

checked. We also undertake monitoring checks to review compliance with required policies and procedures, including safer recruitment practices, and quality of education.

To help reduce the risks of such an incident in future, a review of commissioning and information sharing processes is being undertaken and additional checks will be sought from providers under a new Quality Assurance framework.

***This response is supplementary to the written version published at ACE Committee on 15 October 2025 as it contained inaccurate information. This supplementary response acknowledges that the alternative provision was commissioned by Brighter Futures for Children, on behalf of Reading Borough Council, and not the school. Further, the Council retract the initial inaccurate statement that the provider did not notify Reading of a criminal investigation being in progress at the time the placement was made. This was not the case and the reasons for this information not being immediately available are part of the review and complaint investigation. The Council apologises for these errors.***