

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 25 OCTOBER 2010

REPORT ON: LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS - THE ELMS SECURE UNIT - 2007-2010

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 628-2010

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report informs the Education Committee of the destinations of young people who had been detained in the Elms Secure Unit, South Road, Dundee between 2007 and 2010.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee notes the information given.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 At a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 18th August 2010 to scrutinise the joint HMle and Care Commission inspection report into the Elms, the Director of Education was remitted to report to the Education Committee on the outcomes for young people who have been accommodated within The Elms Secure Unit.

4.2 Children's Hearings have the power to set conditions restricting movement if a young person meets the criteria for secure accommodation, as set out under section 70 (10) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. These criteria are that:

- having previously absconded, the child is likely to abscond unless kept in secure accommodation, and, if he or she absconds, it is likely that his or her physical, mental or moral welfare will be at risk; or
- the child is likely to injure himself, herself, or some other person unless he or she is kept in such accommodation.

4.3 The Elms Secure Unit is located off South Road and houses a maximum of four young people on a short-term, secure, residential and educational support basis. The maximum length of stay, set by licence, for any young person secured in The Elms is three months.

4.4 The building is managed by the Social Work Department. The educational service is provided by Education Department staff overseen by a dedicated Principal Teacher under the management of the Head of Offsite Education.

4.5 Onward destinations for young people accommodated within the secure unit at The Elms over the three-year period from 2007-2010 are as shown overleaf. It should be noted that this information does not include details of young persons secured under short-term detention certificates or those who have been accommodated outwith school term times.

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Totals
Mainstream provision within Dundee	3	1	1	5
Offsite provision within Dundee	4	6	8	18
Mainstream provision outwith Dundee	1	2	0	3
College	2	0	1	3
Employment	0	1	0	1
Residential school	4	3	1	8
Secure accommodation	0	1	0	1
Not known	1	0	0	1
Total	15	14	11	40

4.6 Thus, 57.5% of the young people who entered The Elms secure unit over the past three years have returned to Dundee City Council educational provision while 22.5% have gone on to secure or residential provision outwith the city. The trend shows that it is increasingly likely that a young person will leave The Elms to benefit from the ongoing support available within our Offsite Education Service: 26.7% did so in 2007-08, rising to 72.7% in session 2009-10.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of sustainability, strategic environmental assessment, anti-poverty, equality impact assessment and risk management. As this is a retrospective report, there are no issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Director of Finance and Director of Social Work have all been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

JIM COLLINS
Director of Education

5th October 2010

JC/MM