

Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

Wednesday 7 July 2021

2.00 pm Luttrell and Wyndham Rooms,
County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY



SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA

To: The Members of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

Please now find enclosed a copy of the presentation given at the meeting for the following agenda item: -

Item 8	School Exclusions – update Presentation from Dr R Hart, Assistant Director Inclusion (Pages 3 - 10)
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Democratic Service Team, County Hall, Taunton

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School Exclusions - Update

Dr Rob Hart: Assistant Director - Inclusion



Background

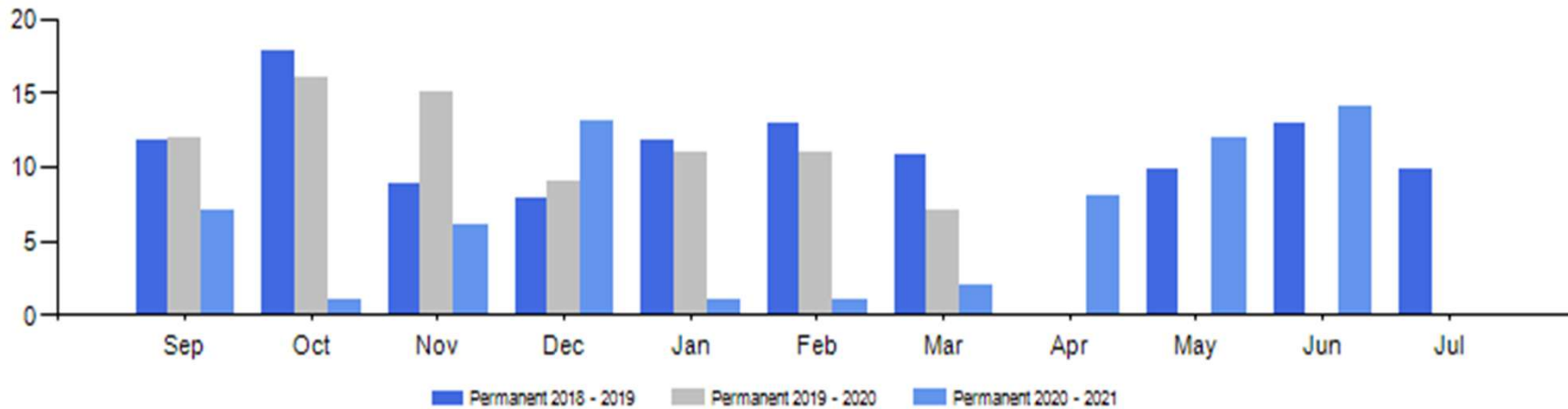
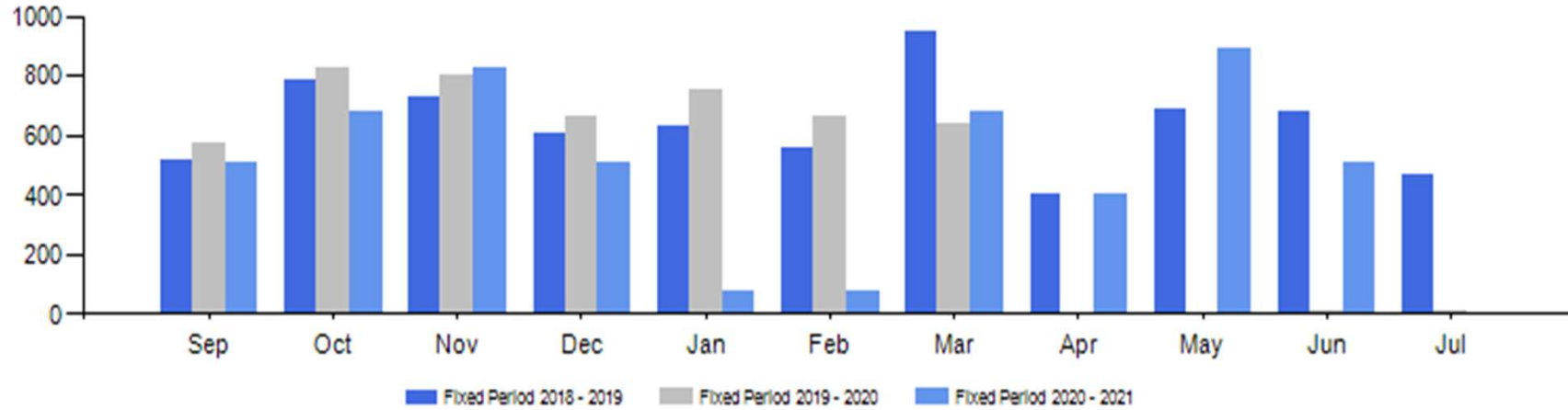
- Historic high rates of exclusion
- May 2020 – Exclusions Report – 10 recommendations:
 - Working together
 - Code of responsibilities and rights
 - Early help support
 - Specialist support
 - Support for SENCos
 - Appropriate alternative curriculum/provision offer
 - Training
 - Support for reintegration
 - EHC plans
 - Learning from good practice
- Sept 2020 – Cabinet endorses recommendations

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What has happened over the last year?



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Impact of the pandemic:

- Reduced exclusions during autumn and spring term, but returning to pre-COVID levels
- Changes to practices in schools have sometimes been beneficial
- Increased prevalence of poor mental health
- Support services – more remote working
- Increase in elective home education in at start of school year
- Disruption to education and attendance



What has happened over the past year?

Written statement of action

- Improved performance of EHC needs assessments – but not a magic bullet!
- Inclusive schools strands, including:
 - School-led inclusion enquiry – better understanding of challenges and good practice
 - Area-based partnership working
 - Strengthening SEND in schools through Whole Education programme
 - Review of Early Help offer



The way forward

- Focus on engagement rather than exclusion – children missing out on education
- Focus on vulnerable learners – extending the role of virtual school
- Focus on locality inclusion partnerships – joined up approach to identifying and supporting vulnerable learners
- Accountability for funding and graduated response
- Focus on working together creatively to find better solutions





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