

Alternative Provision Recommissioning Timeline

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Alternative Provision Recommissioning

- The project plan in the following slides suggests an approach to the recommissioning of Bury's Alternative Provision. Recognising governance and procurement will require a significant lead in time, this plan recommends activity to commence **immediately (May 2026)** with a strategic needs assessment, ready for substantive engagement with council colleagues, providers, and children and young people and their families.
- This plan takes a **rapid codesign approach**, namely through a fortnightly working group convening diverse council colleagues (across Children's Services, commissioning, finance, and procurement) who will discuss the service design, drawing in the outcomes, provider, and benchmarking engagement. Resource depending, child and parent / carer representatives could participate directly in the working group to maintain an ongoing lived experience voice in the design process.
- The plan also includes suggested KLOEs to structure the service scoping and strategic needs assessment, the service design and procurement approach.

Key Activities		MAY 26	JUN 26	JUL 26	AUG 26	SEP 26	OCT 26	NOV 26	DEC 26	JAN 27	FEB 27	MAR 27
Early consultation, Initial Scope / Needs Analysis	Draft Strategic needs assessment, provider mapping, benchmarking, early consultation surveys PIN notice, internal stakeholder engagement	█			Contract extension initiated							
Draft Specification and service design	Draft service specification, outcomes/KPIs, financial modelling, working groups, procurement strategy, legal input, draft EqlA		█									
Preliminary Market Engagement	Completed by procurement: Provider consultation, stakeholder engagement, service user input, feedback refinement			█								
Final specification and Tender docs	Final spec, pricing model, evaluation criteria, ITT pack, TUPE considerations, governance approvals to publish, final EIA				█							
Tender Publication Open Period	Tender published, clarification questions, bidder engagement, submission period					█						
Evaluation, Moderation & Due Diligence	Compliance checks, scoring, moderation panels, clarifications, financial checks, risk assessment							█				
Approvals Contract Award	Governance approvals, intention to award, standstill period, contract award notice								█			
Mobilisation & Transition	Mobilisation planning, system setup, performance frameworks, contract management setup									█		Go-Live

	MAY -26	JUN-26	JUL-26	AUG-26
Strategic Needs Assessment	Draft completed by mid-May			
Cabinet Report	Completed by end of May			
Consultation: Survey will be reviewed (AP and EOTAS Strategy Group 21st May) and any comments welcomed before distribution at the start of June. Ellie and Nick will be completing in person forums to facilitate surveys in schools.	Pre-engagement will be live for two weeks (start of June). In this period the needs assessment will be edited and finalised	Surveys will go live at the start of June for a two-week period		
Draft Service Specification		Following extensive engagement, a service specification will be drafted and distributed for comments towards end of July		
Formal Market Engagement Provider forums Parent/carer engagement Working group Model testing			Completed in partnership with procurement. Will encapsulate an online forum and surveys.	
Final specification ready for tender				Final Specification will be written and ready for tender end of August to mid-September

★ DATES ARE SUGGESTIONS AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Initial Suggested KLOEs

Strategic Vision and Alignment

Bury's Alternative Provision Strategy, Alternative Provision reforms, and the wider SEND reforms: explore how does this support early intervention, prevention and family resilience. Measure the impact of the reforms and shape provision to ensure full compliance of regulatory / legal requirements and the financial impact.

How does the vision align with Bury's SEND Sufficiency Strategy, behaviour and attendance priorities.

Demand, Utilisation and Need

What does current and historic demand for Alternative Provision look like, and how is Alternative Provision being utilised (placements, duration, type of provision)?

Which cohorts of children and young people are accessing Alternative Provision (age, SEND profile, level/type of need, exclusion status, demographics)?

What trends, pressures, and projections are emerging (e.g. SEMH, mental health, neurodiversity, repeat placements, exclusion avoidance)?

Effectiveness, Quality and Outcomes

What elements of the current Alternative Provision system are working well, and where are the key challenges or gaps?

What does current performance and quality assurance information tell us about educational outcomes, attendance, reintegration, and wellbeing?

To what extent does Alternative Provision support positive transitions, including reintegration into mainstream settings or progression to post-16 pathways?

Market Position, Benchmarking and Best Practice

How have other local authorities structured and commissioned Alternative Provision, and what are the costs, models, and best-practice approaches that could inform local development?

What does the local and regional Alternative Provision market look like, including maintained, academy, independent, and specialist providers?

What risks and opportunities does the market present in terms of capacity, quality, sufficiency, and sustainability?

Financial Context and Sustainability

What is the financial envelope available for Alternative Provision, and how is spend distributed across different types of provision?

How well does current Alternative Provision spend represent value for money in relation to outcomes, demand pressures, and preventative impact?

What are the implications for future investment, recommissioning, or system redesign?

Alternative Provision Commissioning Timeline Summary

1. Purpose This summary provides an overview of the proposed timeline, for the recommissioning of Alternative Provision. It outlines the key phases, activities, and milestones required to design, procure, and implement a improved Alternative Provision model.

The early stages of the recommissioning programme will commence in May 2026 and follows a structured, phased approach to ensure robust service design, governance, and procurement compliance.

2. Key Phases and Activities

Phase 1: Needs Assessment and Early Engagement (May – June 2026)

Strategic needs assessment, provider mapping, stakeholder engagement, consultation activity, and Cabinet reporting.

Phase 2: Service Design and Draft Specification (June – July 2026)

Development of service specification, KPIs, financial modelling, and Equality Impact Assessment.

Phase 3: Pre-Market Engagement and Model Refinement (July – August 2026)

Provider engagement, stakeholder feedback, and service model refinement.

Phase 4: Final Specification and Procurement Preparation (August – September 2026)

Final specification, pricing model, evaluation criteria, governance approvals.

Phase 5: Procurement Process

Tender publication, bidder engagement, evaluation, and due diligence.

Phase 6: Approval and Contract Award

Governance approvals, standstill, and contract award.

Phase 7: Mobilisation and Transition

Mobilisation planning, system setup, contract management arrangements.

Phase 8: Service Go-Live and Early Support

Service commencement and performance monitoring.

Key Milestones: *June 2026: Draft Needs assessment completed and Cabinet report submitted for consideration and seek approval

*July 2026: Consultation completed *July 2026: Draft specification issued *August–September 2026: Final specification ready for tender

