

## Project information sheet

For parents of pupils in schools participating in the Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce (APST) evaluation

### Purpose of this document

This document is designed for parents of pupils at AP settings that are taking part in the APST programme. It provides some information about the evaluation of the Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce (APST).

### What is the APST project?

The Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforces Project is a new pilot funded by the Department for Education (DfE). Participating alternative provision (AP) settings will embed teams of specialists (e.g. mental health workers, speech and language therapists, family support workers) in their schools. The schools have been chosen because they are in serious violence hotspots.

The APST program enables the creation/expansion of networks of specialist practitioners within 21 APs situated in serious violence hotspots. The initiative is built on the understanding that by having localised teams of specialists (such as mental health workers, speech and language therapists and family support workers) embedded within AP settings pupil outcomes (including reducing serious violence) will improve.

The Department of Education will pilot this approach over two academic years, starting delivery in autumn 2021. The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) are working with the DfE to fund an evaluation of the APST.

### Who is involved in the evaluation?

RAND Europe (a not-for-profit research institute), the University of Westminster, and FFT Education Datalab (a non-profit company specialising in education research) have been commissioned by the Youth Endowment Fund to evaluate Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce (APST).

### What is the evaluation going to do?

The evaluation team will explore:

- The impact that the APST intervention has on a number of pupil outcomes (the 'impact' evaluation)
- How the APST intervention is implemented and the experiences of those involved in it (the 'process' evaluation)
- The costs of running the APST intervention (the 'cost' evaluation).

This document will tell you more about the impact evaluation as this is what your child's data will be used for.

### How will my child be involved?

The aim of the APST is to improve educational and lifetime outcomes for pupils in AP settings and to reduce serious violence. The evaluation team will look at whether and how the APST achieves this goal. We will do this by looking at the outcomes of pupils in APST settings compared to those in similar AP settings who are not part of the APST programme.

We will look at various outcomes of pupils: including attendance, post-16 destinations, educational attainment, socio-emotional wellbeing and the reduction of serious violence. We will analyse the data to compare the outcomes for those in the AP settings using APST and those in AP settings **not** using APST to see if there is a difference.

We will find out about these outcomes through gathering some of your child's data from the AP setting and using data held by the government.

You can find out more about how we will collect, use and safely store your child's data from the accompanying privacy notice.

### Does my child need to take part?

No. It is voluntary to take part in the SDQ and the SRDS data collection. If you or your child prefers that they do not take part, please complete the attached withdrawal form. If your child has not yet completed the tests, this means that they will not do so. If your child has already completed the tests, this will mean that the RAND Europe team deletes their data and does not use it in the evaluation.

Before the SDQ and SRDS data is collected, the teacher will explain the project to your child and that this is voluntary. If your child does not want to take part when asked by the teacher to complete the SDQ and SRDS data collection, then they do not have to. The teacher will explain this to your child as well.

### What's the YEF archive?

The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) is a fund established by the children's charity Impetus that holds an endowment from the Home Office. The YEF is funding this evaluation.

The YEF aim to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence, by finding out 'what works' and putting this knowledge into practice. The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) is a fund established by the children's charity Impetus that holds an endowment from the Home Office. The YEF is funding this evaluation. The YEF aim to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence, by finding out 'what works' and putting this knowledge into practice.

As part of their work, the YEF hold a data archive. At the end of the project, they will become 'controllers' of the data collected throughout the project. It will be securely transferred into their archive. You can find more information about the YEF archive on the YEF's website: <https://res.cloudinary.com/yef/images/v1625734531/cdn/YEF-Data-Guidance-Participants/YEF-Data-Guidance-Participants.pdf>

Before the data goes into the YEF archive, the Department for Education will take out names and other personal details like addresses. This means that no one who looks at the information in the YEF archive will know who it relates to. In the future, people can ask to use the YEF archive to do more studies to find out whether this project has helped young people. Only researchers who are approved by the YEF will be able to look at the archive. The police can't use the information in the YEF archive.

More information about how this relates to your data can be found in the accompanying privacy notice.

### **Any questions?**

If you have any questions, please contact the RAND Europe team and the principal investigator (Dr Emma Disley) at [APSTevaluation@randeurope.org](mailto:APSTevaluation@randeurope.org).