

Office of the
Schools
Adjudicator

LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT

TO

THE SCHOOLS ADJUDICATOR

FROM

London Borough of Sutton Local Authority

30 JUNE 2012

Report Cleared by (Name): Sharman Lawson

**(Title): Executive Head - Planning and
Commissioning (Assistant Director)**

Date submitted: 30th June, 2012.

By (Name): Peter Gasparelli

(Title): Head of Admissions

Contact email address: peter.gasparelli@sutton.gov.uk

Telephone number: 020 8770 6643

www.education.gov.uk/schoolsadjudicator/

Please email your completed report to: OSA.TEAM@OSA.GSI.GOV.UK

Introduction

1. Section 88P of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires Local Authorities to make an annual report to the adjudicator.
2. The School Admissions Code (the Code) at paragraph 6 sets out the requirements for reports by local authorities. Paragraph 3.23 specifies what must be included in the report to the adjudicator and makes provision for the local authority to include any other local issues.
3. The remit letter from the Secretary of State for Education to the Chief Schools Adjudicator also makes reference to additional matters on which he wishes to have a report included in the Chief Adjudicator's annual report. Rather than undertake a separate exercise in which information is sought from local authorities, you are asked to include any relevant information in your report to the adjudicator.

For ease of reference the legislation is given below.

Legal References

“88P Reports by local authorities to adjudicator

(1) A local authority in England must make such reports to the adjudicator about such matters connected with relevant school admissions as may be required by the code for school admissions.

(2) In subsection (1) ‘relevant school admissions’, in relation to a local authority, means:

- (a) the admission of pupils to relevant schools in the authority’s area;*
- (b) the admission of pupils in the authority’s area to other relevant schools;*
- (c) the entry to the sixth form of pupils who have been admitted to relevant schools in the authority’s area; and*
- (d) the entry to the sixth form of pupils in the authority’s area who have been admitted to other relevant schools.*

(3) In this section, “relevant school” means--

- (a) a maintained school,*
- (b) an Academy,*
- (c) a city technology college, or*
- (d) a city technology of the arts.”*

“Section 88Q Reports under section 88P: provision of information

(1) A relevant person must, on request, provide a local authority in England with such information as the authority may reasonably require for the purpose of enabling the authority to fulfil their duties

under section 88P.

(2) *In subsection (1), “relevant person”, in relation to a local authority, means-*

- (a) an admission authority (other than the local authority) for a maintained school in the area of the local authority;*
- (b) -----*
- (c) any member of an appeal panel constituted under section 94 by-*

- (i) the local authority, or*
- (ii) the governing body of a foundation or voluntary aided school in the area of the local authority;*
- (d) the proprietor of-*

- (i) an Academy,*
- (ii) a city technology college, or*
- (iii) a city college for the technology of the arts,*

in the area of the local authority;

- (e) any other local authority in England;*
- (f) other person as may be prescribed.”*

Completing the Template

This template is designed to be completed electronically - boxes will expand as necessary.

Throughout this report, please include middle deemed primary schools as for pupils up to age 11 and middle deemed secondary schools as for pupils over 11.

Where type of school is given, foundation covers foundation schools and foundation schools with a foundation (trust schools).

Admission Arrangements for Admissions in September 2012

Please provide details of how the admission arrangements for schools in your local authority serves the interests of the groups of children listed below. Please include details of any problems that have arisen while allocating places for admissions in September 2012. (the Code paragraph 3.23 a refers)

| |
|---|
| Looked after Children: Children who are looked after receive top priority for a place in all Sutton state funded primary and secondary schools. For 2012 |
|---|

entry, 7 children gained entry to Sutton secondary schools with this priority, and 7 children also received priority under these criteria for Sutton primary schools.

Previously looked after children Giving priority to previously looked after children was not a requirement for admission arrangements for admissions in September 2012. However, if you have any evidence about the admission of such children please include details here:

n/a

Children with disabilities: Many schools, but not all, provide for a social/medical criterion within their admission arrangements. For 2012 entry, 13 primary and 1 secondary pupils were allocated Merton schools under social/medical criteria.

Children who have special educational needs: The admission arrangements for Sutton schools state that pupils with a statement of special educational needs naming a Sutton school will be admitted. In practice, where these allocations are known or are considered likely in advance of the normal admissions round, places are effectively reserved and the overall number of places to offer at each school reduced accordingly. For 2012 entry, 7 primary places and 32 secondary places were reserved for children with statements of special education needs.

Fair Access Protocol

The Code at paragraph 3.9 requires each local authority to have a Fair Access Protocol agreed with the majority of schools in its area. Paragraph 3.11 of the Code requires that all admission authorities must participate in the Fair Access Protocol.

- a) Please confirm that your local authority has a Fair Access Protocol that has been agreed with the majority of schools in your area.

Tick as appropriate: Yes No

If **NO**, please explain: Sutton's secondary school protocol has been revised during 2011/12 to take into account statutory changes in the 2012 School Admissions Code. These changes are currently going through an agreement process with schools, however, all schools are currently participating and none have indicated any objection to the revised protocol during a consultative phase.

A primary PRU provision is being established in Sutton for September 2012, and a primary protocol has been agreed with primary schools to be applied to the small numbers of children who attend this provision and who do not return to their originating school.

b) Although a majority of schools, and perhaps all, will have agreed the Fair Access Protocol, some may not have done so, please state how many schools have not agreed the Fair Access Protocol.

| Type of School | Number of schools that have not agreed Fair Access Protocol | |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| | Schools for pupils up to age 11 | Schools for pupils over age 11 |
| Community | n/a | 0 |
| Voluntary Controlled | n/a | 0 |
| Voluntary Aided | n/a | 0 |
| Foundation | n/a | 0 |
| Academy | n/a | 0 |

c) Please give your assessment of how well the Fair Access Protocol has worked in the academic year 2011/12 in placing children without a school place in schools in a timely manner. Include details of any specific problems that have been encountered in applying the protocol.

We are identifying a higher number of children who are considered unsuitable for mainstream school and numbers attending the PRU provision are increasing.

More young people with complex needs are moving into the area and being considered through our vulnerable pupils panel.

d) How many children have been admitted to each type of school in the area under the protocol? How many children have been refused admission to a school?

| Type of School | Number of children admitted | | Number of children refused admission | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Schools for pupils up to age 11 | Schools for pupils over age 11 | Schools for pupils up to age 11 | Schools for pupils over age 11 |
| Community | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Voluntary Controlled | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Voluntary Aided | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Foundation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Academy | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 |

e) Please comment below on the extent to which schools have co-operated in the operation of the protocol.

Sutton's Protocol operates on a rota type basis, where the next school on a list takes the next pupil unless it is unable to do so (e.g. the child has been excluded from the school, it is a non-matching single sex school, other exceptional reason put forward by the school etc.). Placements are made and agreed through a regular vulnerable pupil panel system which consists of all secondary schools (including PRUs), Admissions, SEN and Inclusion staff. the panel considers referrals to PRU and Medical placements, as well as those being reintegrated from these and other unplaced vulnerable children.

f) If children have not been placed in a school through the protocol, have you used the powers of direction to provide a place for a child?

Tick as appropriate: Yes No N/A

g) If **YES**, how many children have been placed and in which type of school as a result of a direction, including a direction via the Secretary of State or after an appeal to the Adjudicator?

| Type of School | Number of children placed | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Schools for pupils up to age 11 | Schools for pupils over age 11 |
| Community | n/a | n/a |
| Voluntary Controlled | n/a | n/a |
| Voluntary Aided | n/a | n/a |
| Foundation | n/a | n/a |
| Academy | n/a | n/a |

Please add any other relevant information you wish to include in this section.

Co-ordination

Please assess the effectiveness of co-ordination of primary and secondary admissions for September 2012 in your local authority.

Primary: Primary and Secondary school admissions are co-ordinated through Sutton's Pan-London Co-ordinated Admission Scheme by which the Local Authority receives applications as a home authority and coordinates outcomes both within Sutton and across London and the surrounding counties to ensure that, on the offer day, no child living within Sutton receives more than one offer of a school place. Coordination continues within the schemes beyond offer date to ensure a fair admissions system, the availability of places is efficiently managed, and all unplaced pupils can be effectively monitored.

There were 2524 resident applications this year, an increase of 164 compared to 2011. Planned permanent and temporary expansion has taken place to ensure sufficient school places are available this year.

71% applied online (% in 2011). Of the 2524 resident applicants, 2231 named a Sutton school as their first preference. In total, there were 2350 first preferences for Sutton schools.

On offer day, 2025 Sutton residents (80.23%) received a first preference offer (78.43% in 2011). 2285 (90.53%) received a top three preference offer (88.94% in 2011). 2348 (93.03%) received a preference school offer (92.8% in 2011). 121 (4.79%) received an alternative offer (4.79% in 2011). 55 (2.18%) did not receive an offer at that stage, as there were no vacancies within a reasonable travel distance (57 (2.42%) in 2011).

Since offer day, additional places have been made available in two further schools and further offers have been issued. At the time of writing this report, 9 children were yet to receive an offer.

Secondary: There were 2073 resident applications this year, a decrease of 39 compared to 2011. Wallington High School for Girls provided an additional 30 places this year, Glenthorne 27 places and Greenshaw an additional 10.

On offer day there were 17 applicants with no offer of a school place. At the time of writing this report, all applicants, including those who applied after the closing date, have received an offer.

73.85% applied online (55.6% in 2011). Of the 2073 resident applicants, 1830 named a Sutton school as their first preference. In total, there were 3374 first preferences for Sutton schools.

On offer day, 1501 Sutton residents (72.41%) received a first preference offer (67.9% in 2011). 1938 (93.49%) received a top three preference offer (90.4% in 2011). 2009 (96.91%) received a preference school offer (96.2% in 2011).

47 (2.27%) received an alternative offer (3% in 2011). 17 (0.82%) did not receive an offer at that stage, as there were no vacancies within a reasonable travel distance (17 (0.8%) in 2011).

Since offer day, further offers have been issued and, at the time of writing this report, all applicants, including those who applied after the closing date, have received an offer.

Admission Appeals

Please provide details of the number of lodged and upheld parental appeals for admissions in September 2012.

| | Lodged | Upheld |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Number of appeals for pupils up to age 11. | 86 | 0 |
| Number of appeals for pupils over age 11. | 178 | 10 |
| Date up to which this information applies. | 25 June 2012 | 25 June 2012 |

Please note there will be an opportunity to update this data up until 31 August 2012 – the update form is attached as an appendix to this form and provided separately for you to return if you wish at the end of August.

Other Issues

Paragraph 3.23 of the Code requires each local authority to publish a copy of its report locally.

Please indicate where or how a copy of the report can be obtained by a member of the public: Available on the LB Sutton website.

If not yet published please provide details of when and where the report will be published: n/a

Local Authority Issues

Please provide details of any other issues that you would like to raise and comment on that are not already covered in this report.

The Authority is concerned about meeting future need for school places if the current growth continues in Sutton. We have been expanding year on year and so it will be difficult to maintain this programme given both geographical and financial constraints. The Council is waiting to hear from the DfE with regard to basic need funding for the secondary sector growth for which we are currently planning.

Remit Letter from the Secretary of State for Education to the Chief Adjudicator

The Secretary of State has asked that the Chief Adjudicator’s annual report includes an assessment of the impact in local areas of having more own admission authorities and any implications for parental choice.

Please give the number of types of Schools in your local authority.

| Type of School | Number of schools | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------|
| | Number of Schools for pupils up to age 11 | Number of Schools for pupils over age 11 | Total number of Schools |
| Community | 28 | 1 | 29 |
| Voluntary Controlled | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Voluntary Aided | 9 | 2 | 11 |
| Foundation | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Academy | 2 | 11 | 13 |
| Total number of Schools | 41 | 14 | 55 |

Does the local authority carry out any investigations into the impact for parents of having many or most or all schools in an area that are their own admission authority?

Tick as appropriate: Yes No

If **YES**, what was the outcome of the investigation: n/a

If **NO**, are there any plans to monitor the impact for parents of having an increasing number of own admission authority schools:
 The Borough is planning for the increase of primary aged pupils to impact upon secondary schools. As currently the LA is the admission authority for only one secondary school, discussions have commenced with schools around how expansion and admission arrangements may work to provide for Sutton residents.

If the admission arrangements of individual schools are all considered to be lawful, is there any difficulty for parents in securing a place at a local school?

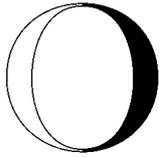
Tick as appropriate: Yes No

If **YES**, has the local authority considered what might be done to overcome any difficulties:

The unprecedented demand for Reception places continues to provide its challenges. We have not yet considered steps outside of increased admission numbers, but may need to consider strategies such as the use of admission priority areas to ensure expansion serves particular areas of need.

In-year admissions are difficult in KS1, particularly where there are families with several children to be placed; we occasionally use exceptions to class size, and have not found a need to offer assistance with travel at this stage. However, this problem will become more acute as pupil growth moves through the primary sector .

Please email your completed report to: OSA.TEAM@OSA.GSI.GOV.UK



Office of the
Schools
Adjudicator

LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT – Data update 31 August 2012

Local Authority

Report Cleared by (Name):

Date submitted:

By (Name):

Contact email address:

Telephone number:

In the LA Report that was submitted by 30th June 2012 we confirmed that there would be an opportunity to update some of the data information. Below is the section of the June Report concerning appeals that you may wish to update. Please complete and return by 31 August 2012.

Admission Appeals

Please provide details of the number of lodged and upheld parental appeals for admissions in September 2012.

| | Lodged | Upheld |
|--|--------|--------|
| Number of appeals for pupils up to age 11. | | |
| Number of appeals for pupils over age 11. | | |
| Date up to which this information applies. | | |

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