



## BRIEFING NOTE No.1

## SID FOCUS: THE REASONS WHY CHILDREN ARE IN AP

## The profile of AP students and their outcomes: referrals and attendance

## 1. Referring schools and reasons for referral

- 1.1 Table 1 shows the numbers of referrals from other pupil support services such as Admissions and different schools both in and out of Islington. The figures count those on roll and referrals together.

Table 1: Referral numbers, by school and other agencies, 2012 - 2016

Referring school or agency	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	TOTAL
<b>School</b>					
Central Foundation Boys' School	17	8	10	10	45
Chalcot	1				1
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson	9	14	16	6	45
Elthorne	1	1			2
Highbury Fields	6	3	1	3	13
Highbury Grove	22	18	18	15	73
Highgate Wood				1	1
Holloway	28	22	21	20	91
Islington Arts and Media	20	16	10	11	57
Maria Fidelis				1	1
Mount Carmel	13	8	13	8	42
New River College	7	8	13	11	39
Samuel Rhodes	1	1			2
St Mary Magdalene Academy	22	9	10	15	56
St Aloysius	14	14	19	11	58
<b>Other referrers</b>					
Admissions Service (LBI)	19	20	21	7	67
Securing Education Board	7	3		1	11
Special Educational Needs (LBI)	4	4			8
Children Missing Education Service (LBI)	5	4	3	3	15
Virtual School for Looked After Children				1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>628</b>

- 1.2 Every local authority must have a Fair Access Protocol, agreed with the majority of its schools to ensure that outside the normal admissions round, unplaced children are allocated a suitable school place quickly (Paragraph 3.9 School Admissions Code 2014).
- 1.3 Fair Access Protocols must describe how the local authority will use provision to ensure that the needs of pupils who are not ready for mainstream schooling are met (Paragraph 3.9 School Admissions Code 2014).
- 1.4 The local authority must ensure that no school, including those with available places, is asked to take a disproportionate number of children who have been excluded from other schools, or who have challenging behaviour (Paragraph 3.9 School Admissions Code 2014).
- 1.5 The Secondary Securing Education Board (SSEB) oversees the arrangements for, and makes decisions about, the placement of **unplaced** pupils admitted under **Islington's Fair Access Protocol**.
- 1.6 In line with the requirements of the School Admissions Code, the SSEB considers the circumstances of individual pupils on a case by case basis in terms of:
- what is best for them;
  - whether they are ready for mainstream schooling;
  - which mainstream school will best meet their needs; and
  - in cases where mainstream is not considered suitable, what education provision will be put in place.
- 1.7 The SSEB makes a two part decision based on the evidence available:
- Does the application meet the criteria for admission under Islington's Fair Access Protocol?
  - Which provision is the most appropriate to meet the pupil's needs (e.g. mainstream school, alternative provision or Pupil Referral Unit)?
- 1.8 The SSEB only allocate Alternative Provision as a last resort. The table below provides a breakdown of allocations to Alternative Provision over a 3 year period as at 26/01/16, with only two of the 72 pupils admitted under Islington's Fair Access Protocol, allocated a place at Alternative Provision.

**Table 2: Admissions to Alternative Provision via the Secondary Securing Education Board**

<b>Admissions to Alternative Provision via the Secondary Securing Education Board</b>				
	#	#	#	#
<b>Allocated education provision</b>	<b>COUNT 2013/14</b>	<b>COUNT 2014/15</b>	<b>COUNT 2015/16</b>	<b>3 YEAR COUNT</b>
<b>Alternative Provision</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Pupil Referral Units</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Schools</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>72</b>

- 1.9 Table 3 details the reasons for referrals over the last two academic years. It should be noted that the Alternative Provision team started to record referral reasons two years ago as part of the self-evaluation process.

**Table 3: Referral reasons, 2014 - 2016**

	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
Behaviour	84	57
Behaviour, low attendance	6	13
Behaviour, low attendance, student/parent request	1	8
Behaviour, student/parent request	8	7
Safeguarding issue (can't be at school)	2	
Low attendance	6	4
Low attendance, student/parent request	10	7
Mental health issues	4	4
Student/parent request	34	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>124</b>

- 1.10 Table 4 shows that most of the AP cohort live in Islington and neighbouring boroughs.

**Table 4: AP cohort, by local authority**

<b>Local authority</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
Islington	125	104
Hackney	14	6
Camden	6	6
Haringey	5	4
Barking and Dagenham	1	1
Enfield		1
Hertfordshire	1	
Tower Hamlets	1	1
Waltham Forest	1	
Westminster	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>124</b>

## 2. Attendance

- Many students that are referred to Alternative Provision are not meeting the government requirements of 95% attendance.
- Far too many students (40%) have an attendance percentage of less than 80%.
- Full time Access and Engagement Officer since June 2014 has helped to raise the attendance percentage in the 80-95% category.
- Within Alternative Provision, there is a culture of families knowing each other. Previously, the message within this group has been that there is no follow up on non-attendance. This is slowly starting to change and families are realising that warnings and fines will be issued and followed through.
- The Access and Engagement Officer carries out regular home visits and has built good relationships with families which is starting to have an impact on improving attendance.

**Table 5: Attendance, by academic years 2014-15 and 2015-16**

Academic Year	Month	Number of students	Attendance rate				Awaiting placement
			0-49%	50-79%	80-94%	95%-100%	
2014-15	Oct-14	129	14.5%	22.9%	26.7%	29.5%	9.2%
	Nov-14	134	17.1%	32.0%	23.8%	21.6%	5.2%
	Feb-15	145	22.7%	24.1%	27.5%	22.0%	3.4%
	Mar-15	151	24.5%	28.2%	30.4%	16.5%	3.9%
	Apr-15	152	24.3%	28.2%	31.5%	12.5%	3.5%
2015-16	Sep-15	106	12.2%	28.3%	18.8%	31.1%	9.4%
	Oct-15	107	17.7%	26.1%	33.6%	15.1%	6.5%
	Nov-15	108	21.2%	25.0%	32.4%	17.5%	2.7%
	Dec-15	115	23.4%	20.0%	36.5%	16.5%	3.5%
	Jan-16	123	18.6%	26.8%	34.1%	13.8%	6.5%

## Case Studies

### 1. Child A (JB)

JB was a student at Holloway Secondary School; by the end of academic year 2014-2015 JB had achieved an overall attendance of 92.06%. JB was referred to Alternative Provision mainly for disruptive behaviour, inadequate classwork, homework and general defiance to teaching staff. There were incidents of verbal abuse towards staff and pupils. JB was also displaying aggressive behaviour towards others which brought in to question whether JB had become gang associated outside of school. Even though JB had a positive attendance rate he was not making progress in a number of subjects and lack of engagement or willingness to participate was having a negative impact on JB's potential to succeed in mainstream school.

Different measures were put in place by the school such as:

- JB behaviour was monitored, with weekly meetings with the pastoral team to develop strategies to improve JB's negative behaviours
- Informal mentoring sessions
- Tutor report cards

- Time out in the seclusion space where JB was supported with behaviour and life choices
- Referrals made to TYS & IFIT who are currently working with family. However the engagement with the family has been very poor and limited

After the school had exhausted all options of support it was decided that JB would benefit from a new start on Alternative Provision hoping that this move would have a positive effect on JB's learning process.

In September 2015 JB enrolled at the Building Craft College, by mid-September JB's attendance rate was 71.4% however there were increasing concerns around JB being associated with local gangs as JB was current on a 9 month YRO for possession of a knife which he received in the summer holidays.

Actions taken by Access and Engagement Officer:

- Attendance concern letters sent home
- Unannounced home visits completed on several occasions but no response
- Professional meetings attended at Provision but JB has failed to attend all of these
- One to one session with JB
- Post 16 Progression Advisor asked to help, she has met with JB but he has refused to engage
- Court warning letter sent
- TAF meeting attended JB still refusing to attend

At present JB's attendance rate is 25.2%

## **2. Child B (MF)**

MF was a student at Mount Carmel School for Girls from Year 7. Halfway through Year 9 MF stopped attending school despite EWS action taken against mum and support put in place by the school to help increase the attendance. By the end of Year 10 MF had attendance rate of 16.4% and had completely stopped attending school. This decision seemed to be supported by her mum. There were no issues with MF's behaviour in school, just her poor attendance rate. There were some concerns with behaviour outside school and it was questioned whether MF was involved with gangs within the housing estate where she lived.

MF lived with her mum and a younger niece and nephew who were under a child protection plan for neglect.

As MF was now a school refuser, a referral to Alternative Provision was made. MF was accepted onto a Childcare course at City and Islington College. However although MF had picked the course she decided that this was not an area she was interested in. Attendance to this course was very poor and at the end of Year 10 MF had only achieved 38.2% attendance.

Actions taken by Access and Engagement Officer:

- Attendance concern letter sent
- Office invite sent – family did not attend on a number of occasions
- Unannounced home visit met with family

- Court warning letter sent as attendance did not improve
- From February 2015 – May 2015 met with mum and MF several times attendance discussed trust built up
- June 2015 invited to Options Evening picked BSix Sixth Form College
- June 2015 accompanied MF to her interview
- July 2015 MF attended some taster sessions at BSix
- September 2015 MF started Hair and Beauty course at Bsix
- Currently MF has a 90% attendance rate

In order to encourage the positive attendance to continue the Alternative Provision team has sent certificates and rewards to MF.

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