



**Children & Families  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
5<sup>th</sup> June 2007

**Report from the Director of  
Children & Families**

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**Exclusions From Brent Schools**

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides a historical summary of exclusions from Brent schools and the actions taken to reduce the number and rate of exclusions

**2.0 Recommendations**

The committee are asked to review the work to date and consider if there are any areas for further investigation.

**3.0 Detail**

**3.1 INTRODUCTION**

This report supplements and updates a report submitted to Performance and Finance Select Committee in November 2005.

Judgments relating to exclusions from the Council's maintained schools derive in the first instance from Best Value Performance Indicator 44 - the number of permanent exclusions per 1000 pupils per academic year from the Council's Maintained Schools.

Figures from Brent schools are collated and analysed annually and this report is therefore based upon Academic Year September 2005-July 2006. National comparators produced by the DfES are produced one academic year in arrears and therefore the most recent national statistics against which Brent's performance can be judged are for Academic Year 2004-05.

BVPI 44 takes account of permanent exclusions from Primary, Secondary and Special Schools, and includes both Brent resident and non-Brent resident pupils attending those schools, but **not** Brent resident pupils attending out-Borough schools.

According to BVPI 44 in 2004-05, Brent rated 26 out of 32 of the Inner and Outer London authorities (1.8 per 1000 pupils against an Average of 1.5). Comparative data must be treated with some caution however, as arrangements for pupils presenting challenging behaviour can vary between Authorities – an Authority showing a very low level of permanent exclusion, might, for example have a system whereby schools can refer challenging pupils to alternative provision **before** permanent exclusion.

### 3.2 TRENDS

Historically, the rate and number of permanent exclusions from Brent's **Primary Schools** has remained stable and low, varying over the past five years between four and eight pupils per year. In 2004-05 it was in line with the National average.

The number and rate of permanent exclusions from Brent's **Secondary Schools** peaked ten years ago, reduced substantially over the next five years, stabilised for three years and then rose progressively, in line with the national trend. This trend was halted in 2004-05, since when there has been a marginal decrease which appears to be continuing this year (2006-07).

#### ANNUAL NUMBER OF SECONDARY PERMANENT EXCLUSIONS (INCLUDING CAPITAL CITY ACADEMY)

95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06
108	87	79	63	40	42	41	53	61	79	76

The current secondary school total for 2006-07 (as at March 31<sup>st</sup>) is: 49

#### RATE OF PERMANENT EXCLUSION PER 1000 SECONDARY PUPILS

99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06
2.7	2.9	2.8	3.2	3.6	4.6	4.3

The National Average (2004-05) was: 3.1

The Inner and Outer London Average (2004-05) was: 3.3

### 3.3 COMMENTARY

- The Children and Families Department maintains detailed records of both permanent and fixed-term (temporary) exclusions. It is not possible to discern any particular trend to explain the general increase in secondary exclusions. The most frequent reasons for exclusion are persistent disruptive behaviour and pupil-on-pupil physical assault.
- The Exclusions Team, through its active involvement in all secondary schools is confident that all exclusions are accounted for and properly recorded.
- The rate of Appeal to Independent Appeal Panel has remained consistently stable (approximately 10 per year), with only 2 or 3 finding in favour of the pupil. This indicates that exclusion procedures are

being correctly followed and that parents generally perceive the process to be fair and transparent.

- Over the past ten years, in ten out of 14 secondary schools, the rate of permanent exclusion has, with minor fluctuations, remained consistent year by year. Four schools have regularly accounted for more than 30% of exclusions.
- These four schools are recognised as having particularly challenging pupil populations, which recent OFSTED inspections have noted. Successive inspection reports have also commented favourably on the systems these schools have in place for managing difficult behaviour, and have recognised the justifiable use of permanent exclusion as part of that process.

### **3.4 THE RESPONSE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT**

- The need to reduce exclusions, particularly among vulnerable groups, features in the **Children and Young Peoples Plan (Strategic Priority 5e)**.
- Effective systems are in place for the collection, collation and dissemination of exclusions data
- The remit of the Excluded Pupils Case Management Group on which two Secondary Headteachers sit, includes feeding back information and concerns around exclusions issues to the Secondary Headteachers Group and the Education Improvement Partnership
- An Exclusions Review Group was set up in 2005, to look at all aspects of exclusion and the greater coordination of exclusions prevention work in schools
- A half-day conference involving Secondary Headteachers, School Improvement Advisers, Exclusions Officers was held in February 2006, from which an Alternative Education Working Party was formed, and an audit of alternative provision carried out with the aim of improving alternative educational options at Key Stage 4 as a means of re-engaging disaffected pupil
- The Improving Outcomes working group is addressing the high proportion of permanent exclusions of pupils of African and African-Caribbean Heritage
- All Secondary schools receive support from Pre-exclusions Officers and specialist staff from the Key Stage 3 Pupil Referral Unit
- The highest excluding schools receive additional funding via Excellence in Cities and the Behaviour Improvement Programme to resource Learning Support Units and off-site centres for pupils on fixed-term exclusions.

### **3.5 PROVISION FOR EXCLUDED PUPILS**

- Since September 2002, Local Authorities have been required to provide full-time education for all permanently excluded pupils from day 15 of their permanent exclusion. The LA' s provision currently comprises:

**Key Stage 2 Pupil Referral Unit (Stonebridge School)** has a capacity for 10 primary age pupils, under the management of the Tuition Service. Pupils will be reintegrated into a new mainstream school or referred on to more specialist provision.

**Key Stage 3 PRU (Stag Lane)** has a capacity for 25 pupils. The LA has an agreement with Secondary schools that they will accept up to 3 re-integrated pupils in any one year, with support provided by PRU staff. In addition the PRU offers specialist advice to all secondary schools for preventative work, withdrawal, staff INSET etc

**Key Stage 4 PRU (Church Lane)** has a capacity for 50 pupils. Pupils excluded at the Key Stage 4 remain at the PRU until the completion of Year 11. They will have the opportunity to sit GCSE examinations. The PRU has been rated as "Outstanding" by OFSTED

**Additional KS4 Provision** The Authority also "buys in" places on a number of local alternative vocational projects for those who have been unable to make use of the above provisions.

- The JAR inspection (January 2006) identified a number of excluded pupils with complex needs or severely disrupted educational histories who were not receiving full-time education. As a response the Authority is in the process of setting up a further Key Stage3/4 PRU to meet this gap in provision. As the need was identified as a priority by the JAR, an interim Project catering for 20 pupils contracted out to an independent provider has been in operation since September 2006 and will continue in operation until the new PRU is completed (likely commissioning date September 2008).
- From September 2007, under new legislation, schools will be expected to provide full-time education for any pupil given a fixed-term exclusion of six days or more. The LA is currently in the process, in collaboration with Secondary schools, in developing and expanding the capacity of two exclusion centres which had previously been established under funding from the Behaviour Improvement Programme, to meet this additional requirement.

#### **4.0 Background Papers**

Brent Permanent Exclusions Statistics Academic Years 1998-2006

##### **Contact Officers**

Paul Roper  
Head of Alternative Education Services  
paul.roper@brent.gov.uk