



**Schools Forum**  
15<sup>th</sup> January 2014

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

For Consultation

**Review and Challenge of Central Budgets: 1.Out of school provision and provision in pupil growth**

**1 Summary and Report Structure**

**1.1** The Schools Forum requested a report on the expenditure on out of school pupil growth provision for 2012/13 and the budget for 2013/14. This includes provision for college places, EAL projects, additional secondary Year 10 and 11 classes, new primary classes, expansions and annexe provision which has been driven by significant demand for primary school places. The expenditure covers furniture, equipment and staffing costs.

**1.2** This report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 provides an introduction and background to the Out of School Service
- Section 3 describes the services and their activities
- Section 4 sets out expenditure including the 2012/13 and forecast 13/14 budget
- The view of the Schools Forum are sought.

**2 Introduction and Background**

**2.1** The out of school budget and service was established in 2006/7 in response to the shortage of school places, initially in the secondary phase. Due to high levels of inward migration many secondary pupils who moved into the area were out of school for unacceptable periods. Secondary schools were full in most year groups, with particular pressure on Years 7, 10 and 11. In response to the crisis and with the support and agreement of secondary Headteachers, a decision was made to engage an ex Brent secondary Headteacher to set up provision for secondary aged pupils without school places, and an assessment centre/fair access process to interview and assess new arrivals to determine the most appropriate provision for them.

**2.2** Local authorities (LA) have a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for children in their area. If the LA cannot offer a school place or alternative education placement it is open to Ombudsman complaints and legal challenge. In recent years the pressure on places has shifted from secondary to primary. There is some capacity in four Brent secondary schools in Years 7, 8 and 9. However, there continues to be pressure on places in Years 10 and 11 from high inward migration. The majority of Brent primary schools are operating at full capacity.

- 2.3 The LA has powers of direction and can instruct schools to take pupils over numbers in order to ensure pupils are not out of school. Recently the LA has had to utilise the Fair Access Protocol to place children over numbers in primary schools.
- 2.4 The pressure on school places is severe in the primary phase, and funding has been allocated to schools for taking additional pupils, bulge classes, expansions and new provision in satellites. Funding has also been provided for the period from September to March in the academic year where new pupils/classes have begun where the school is not funded for them through PLASC. Schools that have expanded at the request of the LA have been guaranteed funding for 30 pupils per class for a limited period to ensure they are not adversely affected by agreeing to expand. This funding has been set at differing rates dependent on the nature of the expansion/project. Where schools expand on the school site the guarantee is £3,300 per pupil and with the assumption of 30 pupils in a class. Where schools expand in an annexe or off site building then the guarantee is £3,600 per pupil. The guarantee is for one year and two terms. 7/12ths (September – March) for the first academic year, and full funding for the following financial year.
- 2.5 Pupils in projects, colleges and in other provision are counted and a submission is made to the DFE as part of the alternative education census and this submission generates the budget for this service. Below are the numbers of pupils claimed for since 2009 from the DFE which generates income to the overall DSG.

387 in 2009  
 318 in 2010  
 292 in 2011  
 323 in 2012  
 263 in 2013

### **3 Out of school service**

#### **3.1 This section describes the out of school service and activities**

- 3.1.1 Fair access and choice advice interviews for secondary aged out of schools pupils are held approximately every six weeks. Anything between 60 and 100 children are seen at each assessment centre. New arrivals are interviewed and assessed and a potential destination identified. A significant number of pupils who come through the assessment centre process are 'Hard to Place'. Many pupils arrive in Brent not speaking any English; some have significant special needs. Others have moved to the area and where schools are full have not been able to secure admission. The interviews are carried out by qualified teachers, under the supervision of the Headteacher consultant. Teachers who staff the assessment centres are paid a daily rate for the days they work.
- 3.1.2 Pupils with little or no English may be identified for one of the two ESOL projects at Greenway at Claremont High School, or the CLC at QPCS. There were 35 places at each provision, and these are 'roll on roll off' places. It is planned to increase the number of places at the Greenway Project for the 2013/14 academic year to a maximum of 50 places. An EAL project at Ashley Gardens ended in August 2013, to reduce costs, and consolidate provision. As there is now capacity in secondary schools in Years 7 and 8 and limited capacity in year 9 only Year 10 and 11 pupils are placed in the projects. These are usually a mix of new arrivals from overseas, and pupils who move to Brent from other parts of the UK and London. Pupils attend the two EAL projects for a limited time, which could be one, two or three terms – and are then moved on to schools. Moving pupils on is a resource intensive activity. A

connexions service is provided to young people in the projects to enable them to access further education.

- 3.1.3 Courses at the College of North West London have been purchased to meet the needs of Year 10 and 11 pupils who are able to take part in a reduced offer of GCSEs where schools are full in Years 10 and 11 and where pupils arrive after the start of the academic year. The service has built close working links with the college and there is oversight of the provision by an ex Deputy Headteacher on a half termly basis. The visit includes sitting in on lessons and speaking to staff and pupils collectively and individually.
- 3.1.4 On occasion individual courses have been purchased for young people for whom a school place cannot be found, and for whom an ESOL project is not suitable.
- 3.1.5 With liaison with Brent Secondary Headteachers, additional courses have been set up in schools to provide specific courses for new arrivals, for example a Year 11 offer or a reduced GCSE offer. Newman Catholic College have provided a mixed gender Year 11 course for this 2013/14 academic year. Queens Park Community School continue to provide a GCSE offer.
- 3.1.6 A key feature of the provision is its flexibility in responding to demands. Children with differing experiences arrive in Brent seeking a school place. All courses set up are of a timed duration, if they are not successful or are no longer required then it's no longer purchased.
- 3.1.7 The outcome of these activities is that additional school and education placements are provided for pupils who otherwise would be out of school, and the council would be in breach of its statutory duty. Additional benefits of the provision is in making sure that young people are well prepared once they do get a school place and that the receiving school has the information they need to support the young person. Staff running the assessment centres are very aware of safeguarding issues, and many referrals to social care have been made as a result of information collated at the assessment centres.
- 3.1.8 There is an Assessment Centre co coordinator post responsible for the administration of running the assessment centres and maintaining contact with schools and parents. This post is graded at SO1. 30% of the System and Policy Managers role is to support the assessment centre process, make payments and keep records of expenditure, deal with parents, manage complaints and enquiries and liaise with schools. This post is graded at PO4. The Head of Pupil and Parent Services is the overall manager and budget holder for this function.
- 3.1.9 Over the last 3 years the shortage of primary places has increased and a number of additional classes have been created. Several schools have expanded, and the classes and some start up costs have been funded from this budget. Additional classes in other year groups of high demand have also been set up. In 2012 Reception classes were provided in Children's Centres which have been funded from the out of school budget. Payments to schools for taking additional children in year have also been paid from this budget. The council also worked with Ealing council under the umbrella of the West London Alliance (WLA) to jointly expand Vicars Green School which is located in Ealing, but borders Brent with more than 50% of Brent children on roll. This school services the Alperton area where there is significant new housing and place demand from Brent residents.

## 4 Budget

### 4.1 Out of school children actual expenditure for 2012 and forecast for 2013

Description	2012 Financial Year Expenditure	2013 Forecast Expenditure
	Amount	Amount
Head Teacher Consultant for CAFAI	£67,350.00	£65,000.00
Other Teaching staff for CAFAI	£66,550.00	£70,000.00
2 Teaching Staff for Secondary Project at Ashley Gardens	£0.00	£35,700.00
Assessment Centre Coordinator ( 1 FTE)	£13,000.00	£37,000.00
Systems and Policy Manager (30%)	£18,000.00	£18,000.00
Management cover for expansion at Mitchell Brook Primary school		£25,000.00
Management cover for expansion at Fryent Primary School		£25,000.00
Management cover for expansion at Barham Primary School		£25,000.00
Premises Cost - Electricity, Gas (Ashley Gardens)		£4,200.00
Misc Supplies and Services - Printing/Scanning/Photocopying/ FSM payments/IT phone network/ consumables		£20,000.00
Anansi Nursery		£189,000.00
Brentfield Primary School - Furniture claim		£5,200.00
Braintcroft Primary School	£95,868.00	
Chalkhill Primary	£12,479.00	
College Green Nursery	£114,077.00	
Curzon Crescent	£80,000.00	
Fawood Children Centre		£22,000.00
Granville Children Centre	£42,864.00	
Leopold Primary - Gwenneth Rickus Building		£949,000.00
Mount Stewart Infant Primary	£57,750.00	
Newfield Primary School - Furniture claim		£5,200.00
Oakington Manor - Building work - expansion of the additional resourced provision (ARP)		£62,000.00
Park Lane Primary	£1,658.00	
Preston Manor	£450,392.00	£25,000.00
Preston Park Primary	£115,500.00	£198,000.00
St Robert Southwell	£48,734.00	
Stonebridge Annexe	£378,000.00	£648,000.00
Strathcona		£189,000.00
Uxendon Manor - Additional pupils		£5,200.00
Wembley High School	£115,500.00	£115,500.00
Vicars Green	£30,000.00	£30,000.00
CLC Project at Queens Park Community school	£80,400.00	£121,000.00

Newman Catholic College - Year 11 Course		£55,000.00
Greenway Project - Claremont High	£167,000.00	£191,000.00
College of North West London/ Ealing Hammersmith and West London College	£152,817.00	£160,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,107,939.00</b>	<b>£3,295,000.00</b>

4.2 Through the support of schools the council has been able to provide additional places. The following are examples of expansions and projects over the last two years.

#### **4.3.1 2012/13 Academic Year**

Three primary schools expanded from September 2012, Barham,(1FE) Mitchell Brook (1FE) and Fryent Primary School (2FE) St Robert Southwell admitted 15 reception pupils as a 'bulge' group, Chalkhill and Mount Stewart Infants also admitted 'bulge' classes of 30 reception children. Preston Park Primary School Annexe admitted 60 reception children in the building previously used as a library.

#### **4.3.2 Preston Manor**

Generally when schools expand, the expansion is incremental with additional places taken up year on year. Preston Manor School which opened its primary phase in 2011 agreed to provide two additional Year 2 classes ahead of time in April 2012.

#### **4.3.3 Wembley High School**

Two reception classes were provided by Wembley High School for the 2012 academic year. The school provided the building, funding was only provided for the pupil's from this budget.

#### **4.3.4 Stonebridge Annexe**

The Headteacher and Governing Body of Stonebridge Primary school agreed to manage a six class provision in what was previously an adult day centre. This began for the 2012/13 academic year and provided 180 places across Reception and Years 1, 2, and 3.

#### **4.4 2013/14 academic year**

##### **4.4.1 Leopold/GRB**

The Headteacher and Governing Body of Leopold Primary School agreed to manage a 15 class provision at the Gwenneth Rickus Building (GRB). Major building works and refurbishment have taken place to prepare the building. Places for 60 reception children were provided from September 2013, and a further 60 reception places have been allocated for January 2014. Further places will be offered in a range of classes later this month as the building work is completed.

##### **4.4.2 Anansi Nursery**

The Headteacher and Governing Body of College Green Nursery School agreed to manage a three class provision offering 90 reception places at Anansi Nursery in Longstone Avenue, NW10. The nursery required a complete refurbishment but will be available to admit children in February 2014.

#### 4.4.3 Management Capacity for Expansions

When schools expand there is increased management pressure on schools, as the Headteacher and other senior leaders are involved in the scoping, planning and monitoring of the programme. In acknowledgement of the additional management capacity required schools that have expanded since 2012 have been allocated a one off payment of £25k in recognition of the increased demand.

#### 4.4.4 Impact of increasing numbers

- a. GLA projections and local experience indicate a continued rise in the school population through to 2020. Primary numbers are expected to grow to 29,484 by 2020 an increase of 5,000 pupils, with the number of secondary pupils (excluding 6<sup>th</sup> forms) projected to grow by 3,000 to 18,147. Three Free Schools are opening in Brent in September 2014 providing an additional 360 Year 7 places. There is already spare capacity in Year 7. Adding the free school places to the existing capacity suggests the demand for Year 7 secondary places will not outstrip supply until 2018/19.
- b. There is a serious shortfall of school places in the primary sector across all year groups. To be able to offer a school place to all pupils who are currently out of school, and to make provision for the demand for reception and other primary places the budget has had to increase substantially. Council premises at Douglas Avenue are being refurbished to prepare for Year 5 and 6 pupils, and other expansions are coming on stream for 2014. Even so there will be a requirement for additional reception places for September 2014 and for September 2015. The number of applications received and pupil mobility will be closely monitored and scrutinised to ensure that there is not over provision by the Council.

### 5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The majority of the budget is passed back to secondary and primary schools to fund additional places. The budget is also used to provide bespoke courses at the College of North West London. The growth in pupil numbers and the requirement to rapidly expand school places will require more funding to be available in future years.
- 5.2 The setting up of the assessment centre procedure for secondary aged new arrivals was seen as an interim measure to see the authority through a peak in applications until secondary school expansions removed the need for them. This has not been the case, as the number of new arrivals has not reduced, but increasing capacity in Years 7, 8 and 9 has meant that most new arrivals go into schools. The ESOL projects now provide for Year 10 and 11 pupils only. However, the reorganisation of the Alternative Education service provides an opportunity to improve further how new arrivals in these year groups are managed.

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