



**Schools Forum
10 December 2014**

**Report from the Strategic Director of
Children and Young People**

For decision

Review and challenge of central DSG budgets: Additional funding for growth in pupil numbers

1 Recommendation

- 1.1 The School Forum is asked to agree pupil growth funding for additional classes and places needed for 2015/16 at the current years projected expenditure of £4,275,200.

2 Summary and Report Structure

- 2.1 This report sets out the expenditure on accommodating pupil growth for 2014, detailing the additional places provided in 2014/15. This includes provision at colleges, EAL projects, additional secondary Year 10 and 11 classes, new primary classes, expansions and annexe provision which has been driven by demand for primary school places.

- 2.2 This report is structured as follows:

- Section 3 provides an introduction and background to the service that supports the delivery of additional places
- Section 4 describes the services and activities
- Section 5 sets out the 2014/15 budget and anticipates the requirement for 15/16.
- Section 6 impact of increasing numbers
- Section 7 conclusions and decisions

3 Introduction and Background

- 3.1 Part of the role of the admissions service responds to the demand for school places driven primarily by inward migration, and overall growth in the pupil population. Originally the service supported secondary aged new arrivals to Brent. This was from 2005/6 onwards when the pressure on school places was focussed on secondary places, at a time that Brent secondary schools were full in all year groups. A process for assessing the needs of new arrivals through Choice Advice and Fair Access Interviews was introduced. Many of the new arrivals had very little English, and some had no experience of school. To meet their needs English as an Additional Language (EAL) projects in Claremont High School and Queens Park Community School were set up in 2006.

- 3.2 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. Currently across Brent secondary schools there is sufficient capacity in Years 7 (319 vacancies) 8 (299 vacancies) and 9 (255 vacancies) but this capacity is mainly within three Brent secondary schools. The others are full with waiting lists in all year groups. There continues to be pressure on places in Years 10 and 11 from high inward migration.
- 3.3 The pressure on school places remains severe in the primary phase. The majority of Brent primary schools are operating at full capacity. 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 the school census.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 Pupils in projects, colleges and in other provision are counted under the alternative education census.

4 Activities of the service

- 4.1 This section describes the service and activities undertaken.
- 4.2 The ex Secondary Headteacher of QPCS managed the Choice Advice and Fair Access Interviews (CAFAl) since their inception in 2005 but retired in September 2014. Claremont High School agreed to take over managing the CAFAl process from 1 July 2014. The Assistant Head at Claremont has taken over the role of running the CAFAl's, identifying destinations for pupils and liaising with schools.
- 4.3 CAFAl's for secondary aged out of schools pupils are now held more regularly ensuring children are in school as quickly as possible. As at 24 November the number of secondary aged children without a school place are as follows;
- | | |
|---------|---|
| Year 7 | 9 |
| Year 8 | 1 |
| Year 9 | 0 |
| Year 10 | 7 |
| Year 11 | 6 |
- 4.4 Since August 2014 over 400 children have been seen at the CAFAls. 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 and assessments are carried out by qualified teachers under the management of the Assistant Head of Claremont High School.

- 4.5 Pupils with little or no English may be identified for one of the two EAL projects at Greenway at Claremont High School, or QPCS. Previously there were 35 places at each provision, and these are 'roll on roll off' places. There is an increase in the number of places at the Greenway Project for the 2014/15 academic year to a maximum of 50 places.
- 4.6 As there is now capacity in secondary schools in Years 7, 8 and 9, only Year 10 and 11 pupils are placed in 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. In many cases pupils have arrived from overseas to another borough, but then move to Brent. Pupils attend the two EAL projects for a limited time, which could be one, two or more unusually three terms – and are then moved on to schools. Moving pupils on is a resource intensive activity. Year 11 pupils who arrive after Christmas normally stay in the projects until the end of the academic year. Careers Advice from Connexions is provided to young people in the projects to enable them to access further education.
- 4.7 On occasion individual courses have been purchased for young people for whom a school place cannot be found, or for whom an EAL project is not suitable. This can be at the College of North West London or other college offering an appropriate course.
- 4.8 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 2014/15 academic year. Queens Park Community School continue to provide a reduced GCSE offer.
- 4.9 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 not successful or are no longer required they are no longer purchased. A Year 11 course at the college of North West London had been funded for the last four years but for reasons of quality has not been continued with for the 2014/15 academic year.
- 4.10 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 Choice Advice and Fair Access Interviews are very aware of safeguarding issues, and many referrals to social care have been made as a result of information collated at the interviews.
- 4.11 There is an Assessment Centre Co-ordinator post fully funded from this budget, responsible for the administration of running the assessment centres, inviting families to the CAFAI, maintaining contact with schools and parents, and ensuring system data and pupil records are accurate, tracking the pupils until they are admitted to school. This post is graded at SO1.
- 4.12 The Systems and Policy Manager and the Assessment Centre Co-ordinator posts are the only council posts funded from this budget. Thirty per cent of the System and Policy Managers role is funded by this budget, which 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.

- 4.13 Over the last three years a number of additional primary classes have been opened. 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.

5 Budget

5.1 Out of school children projected expenditure for 2014/15

The outturn for 2013/14 was £3,077,058 within the £3,295,000 projection. The budget allocation for 2014/15 is £3,757,512.00 and the projection is £4,275,200

2014 Financial Year Expenditure

Description	Amount
Management of CAFAI	£65,000
Other Teaching staff for CAFAI	£70,000.00
Byron Court at Ashley Gardens	£126,000.00
Assessment Centre Coordinator (1 FTE)	£37,000.00
Systems and Policy Manager (30%)	£18,000.00
Premises Cost - Electricity, Gas (Business Rates for Annexes)	£55,000
Misc Supplies and Services - Printing/Scanning/Photocopying/ FSM payments/IT phone network/ consumables	£20,000.00
Alperton Community School	£24,100.00
Anansi Nursery (College Green Nursery)	£327,000.00
Academus /Alternative Education	£57,200.00
Harlesden Primary School	£140,500.00
Ex Church Lane PRU	£189,000.00
Furness Primary	£57,750.00
Leopold Primary - Gwenneth Rickus Building	£1,368,000.00
Mount Stewart Infant Primary	£18,142.00
Preston Park Primary	£82,750.00
St Josephs Catholic Primary School	£82,750.00
Stonebridge Annexe	£212,400.00
Strathcona Roe Green	£759,978.00
Uxendon Manor - Additional pupils	£58,222.00
Vicars Green	£30,000.00
CLC Project at Queens Park Community school April 2014 to March 2015	£167,772.00
Year 10 and 11 children at Queens Park Community school April 2014 to August 2014	£106,615.00
Newman Catholic College - Year 11 Course April 2014 to August 2014	£78,000.00
Newman Catholic College - Year 11 Course September 2014 to March 2015	£222,115.00
Greenway Project 1 - Claremont High April 2014 to August 2014	£69,584.00
Greenway Project 1 - Claremont High September 2014 to August 2015	£167,000.00
Greenway Project 2 - Claremont High September 2014 to August 2015	£71,572.00
College of North West London	£70,000.00
Wykeham Primary School	£57,750.00
TOTAL	£4,101,978.00

5.2 Through the support of schools the council has been able to provide additional places. The following are examples of expansions and projects for 2014.

5.3 Three primary schools expanded from September 2014.

St Joseph's RC Primary School	1FE	
Preston Park Primary School		1FE
Harlesden Primary School	2FE	

5.4 The following schools provided bulge reception classes for September 2014

Wykeham Primary School	(30 places)	
Uxendon Primary School	(30 places)	
Furness Primary School	(30 places)	
Ashley Gardens	(60 places)	under the management of Byron Court.

5.5 The following schools provided bulge classes in other year groups for September 2014

Byron Court Year 2	30 places
Barham Primary Year 3	30 places

5.6 Wembley High School

In September 2014 Wembley High School admitted 30 reception pupils in advance of their expansion in 2015. In addition Wembley has provided 60 places for children who are now in Year 2.

5.7 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. The majority of places at this annexe are now filled.

5.8 Leopold/GRB

The Headteacher and Governing Body of Leopold Primary School agreed to manage a provision at the Gwenneth Rickus Building (GRB) at Brentfield Road. For the 2014/15 academic year there are 11 classes available on this site, and the school will admit 60 reception pupils on the GRB site next year in addition to the 60 places at the main Hawkeshead Road site.

5.9 Anansi Nursery

The Headteacher and Governing Body of College Green Nursery School agreed to manage a three class provision offering 90 places at Anansi Nursery in Longstone Avenue, NW10.

5.10 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.

6.0 Impact of increasing numbers

- 6.1 GLA projections and local experience indicate a continued rise in the school population through to 2020.
- 6.2 Three Secondary Free Schools were planned to open in Brent in September 2014 providing an additional 360 Year 7 places, but only one opened providing 120 places. The remaining two are expected to open in September 2015. 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.
- 6.3 School expansions, bulge classes and annexes have meant that the numbers of children without a school place have reduced dramatically, however there is still pressure on places and particular areas of Brent have very few vacancies. There is particular pressure on Years 5 and 6. The churn, or the number of children who join and leave schools in the primary year groups is higher for younger children, fewer children leave primary school in years 5 and 6 than in Reception and Year 1. Alperton, Wembley, Neasden and Queensbury are areas which have seen an increase in housing development with consequent pressure on schools in those areas. The numbers without a school place in primary year groups are as follows:

Reception	46
Year 1	18
Year 2	13
Year 3	7
Year 4	9
Year 5	40
Year 6	45

None of the reception children are of statutory school age.

- 6.4 To be able to offer a school place to all pupils who need one in all primary year groups and in years 10 and 11, the budget has had to increase substantially. There will be a requirement for additional reception places for September 2015. The number of applications received, pupil mobility and census data will be closely monitored and scrutinised to ensure that there is not over provision by the Council.

7 Conclusions and decisions

- 7.1 The majority of the budget is passed to secondary and primary schools to fund additional places. The budget is also used to provide a GCSE course at the College of North West London and one off individual courses for pupils at the College of North West London and a handful of other colleges. The growth in pupil numbers and the requirement to rapidly expand school places will require funding to be available in future years.
- 7.2 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, and their needs are often complex. Increasing capacity in Years 7, 8 and 9 has meant that most new arrivals in these year groups go into schools. As the spare capacity in schools will feed through to Year 10 next year and Year 11 the year after, the School Forum may decide not to agree funding for EAL projects and college courses in future years, with the expectation that all children would be admitted directly to schools.

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