



Scrutiny Committee
26 November 2008

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

For Action/Information

Wards Affected: ALL

Primary and Secondary School Places Update

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the matters relating to the sufficiency of primary and secondary school places, the numbers of children currently without a school place and the measures taken to provide suitable education provision for children out of school.
- 1.2 It also provides an update on progress towards delivering a new all age range school, Ark Academy, Brent's second academy.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the actual (September 2008 and forecast September 2009) and projected (to January 2018) increase in pupil numbers at primary level and the proposed plans for increasing capacity.
- 2.2 Members are also asked to note the actual and projected increase in pupil numbers (to January 2018) at secondary level and the proposed plans for increasing capacity.

3.0 Detail

Background

- 3.1 Detailed reports on school places were considered by the Executive in November 2006 and January 2007. A report was presented to Scrutiny in December 2007. The January 2007 report from the Director of Children and Families 'School Places – Follow up Review of Sites and Pupil Number Forecasts' confirmed the need for a

- 3.2 minimum of 7 Forms of Entry (FE) additional primary and 16FE additional secondary school places by 2018. This is based on a tight planning margin of 5% (this margin is a surplus capacity to allow for parental choice and sudden increases in pupil numbers) – The Audit Commission acknowledge that some margin of capacity is necessary to allow parents choice, given that there will be volatility in preferences from one year to the next. The additional FE required is calculated on the lower level housing capacity. If a higher level capacity of housing is built there will be a higher demand on school places.
- 3.3 The report to Scrutiny in December 2007, set out for Members of the Scrutiny Committee the methods for forecast demand for school places; it confirmed that as at September 2007, 28 pupils of primary age and 51 secondary age children were out of school. This compares with 85 primary pupils (32 in Year R) and 144 secondary pupils (26 in Year 7) in October 2008.
- 3.4 The report set out measures for addressing the out of school pupils and confirmed proposals for expanding provision.

Forecasting demand – A Summary

- 3.4 The Council uses a combination of local knowledge and pupil projections from the Greater London Authority (GLA) which are derived from the Brent annual pupil census, population projections, housing development data, live births, migration data and past trends. Planning school places is a complex process particularly in London with the considerable cross border flows and regeneration activity. The system is under continuous review and increasing dialogue is in place with the PCT, the Planning Department, the GLA and neighbouring boroughs.
- 3.6 The tables below show the variance between forecast numbers and actual numbers on roll for 2008 since 2003 for Year R and Year 7. Year R and Year 7 are the key year groups as well as total figures for primary and secondary numbers. The actual number on roll in Year R in January 2008 was 3227 and for Year 7 was 2774. The table shows the further away the projected year is the less accurate the forecasts are. Projections closer to the year in questions are fed with local information and more up to date pupil numbers.

Reception	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Projected for 2008	3564	3432	3364	3273	3192	-
Actual for Jan 2008	3227	3227	3227	3227	3227	3227
Variance	+337	+205	+137	+46	-35	
Percentage variance	+9.46%	+5.97%	+4.07%	+1.41%	-1.09%	

Year 7	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Projected for 2008	2616	2665	2694	2805	2769	-
Actual for Jan 2008	2774	2774	2774	2774	2774	2774
Variance	-158	-109	-80	+31	-5	

Changes in cross border movements

- 3.7 Brent is a net exporter of secondary pupils (in 2008, 3,662 pupils travelled out of the borough whilst 3,206 travelled in), but more Brent children are choosing to attend school in Brent. In 2008 77% of secondary aged pupils resident in Brent attended maintained schools within the Authority; this is an increase from 73% since 2006. In the primary phase, the usual pattern is for children to attend the nearest school to home. Cross border movement mainly occurs when the child lives close to the Brent borders, or parents have chosen a specific school in another borough e.g. a faith school.

Member Level Strategy Board

- 3.8 Scrutiny (December 07) was informed that a Member level strategy group had met to steer work on the development of additional school places for future years. This group has primary and secondary Headteacher representatives and is chaired by the Lead Member for Children and Families. The group has been meeting and feedback from those meetings continue to inform work on planning school places in the Authority.

Increases in pupil numbers

- 3.9 Primary pupil (age 4-10) numbers have increased significantly over the past few years:

20468 in Jan 2002
20523 in Jan 2004 - an increase of 55 in two years
20882 in Jan 2006 - an increase of 359 in two years
20959 in Jan 2007 – an increase of 77 in one year
21304 in Jan 2008 – an increase of 345 in one year
21648 in Jan 2009 – a projected increase of 344

- 3.10 Secondary pupil numbers (11-19) have also increased significantly over the past few years:

14562 in Jan 2002
16782 in Jan 2004- an increase of 2220 (including JFS relocation from Camden 2002)
17387 in Jan 2006- an increase of 605 in two years
17615 in Jan 2007- an increase of 228 in one year alone
17875 in Jan 2008 – an increase of 260 in one year
18074 in Jan 2009 – a projected increase of 199

- 3.11 This overall increase in pupils has reduced surplus capacity in both the primary and secondary sector. Cardinal Hinsley Roman Catholic Boys High School is the only secondary school with surplus capacity in all the statutory year groups. However, pupil numbers have been rising slightly and there has been an increase of 24 pupils at Cardinal Hinsley High School between January 08 and October 08. The October 08 census shows there are 476 pupils attending Cardinal Hinsley in the statutory year groups 7 – 11 and 42 pupils attending the sixth form. There are 274 vacancies in the statutory year groups in Cardinal Hinsley Roman Catholic Boys High School. The census shows too that there are 52 vacancies in John Kelly Boys School in year 7. All other year groups are full.

- 3.12 From September 2008 Preston Manor High school has increased its admission number by 34 places to 250 in year 7. Claremont High School has also increased its admission number by 28 places to 252. Both these schools have been expanded

under the Popular and Successful Schools policy with support from the Authority. Both of these schools are full.

- 3.13 The numbers on roll in secondary schools in statutory year groups 7-11 have risen from 13,998 in January 2007 to 14,154 in January 2008 (an increase of 156 pupils) and the October 2008 count shows a further increase to 14222 (an increase of 68).

Incoming pupils January – November 2008

- 3.14 The number of pupils both secondary and primary age presenting to Brent seeking a school place in January to October 08 is 1206, this is in line with new arrival numbers for the last two years.

Primary places as of November 2008

- 3.15 There are 3,397 (3,210 as at November 07) places in Reception classes across community, VA and foundation schools. The October 08 count shows that the additional reception capacity provided in the Wembley area in the Ark Academy, Wembley Primary School, Preston Park, Park Lane and Stonebridge has had a positive effect in alleviating the pressure on places for Year R in the Wembley Central, Wembley Park and Preston Areas. There are a small number of vacancies in reception classes in the above schools which is required to accommodate in-year arrivals to the borough.
- 3.16 The October 08 count shows that most reception classes in the remainder of Brent are full. There are a small number of vacancies in two schools in the south of the borough, 13 at a faith school and 10 at a community school. Again these places are needed to accommodate in year arrivals. There are a number of Year R vacancies in Kingsbury Green Primary School.
- 3.17 Year 1 places are also full across the borough which is the carry forward from last year's full reception classes.
- 3.18 There is still considerable pressure on places in Sudbury, Wembley and Alperton. The primary schools in these localities are full with significant waiting lists. Newly arrived children living in these localities have to travel to secure a school place.
- 3.19 Available capacity in the primary sector is reducing. There are, however, still places in year groups other than Reception across the borough. The least capacity is in central and west Brent, particularly Wembley Central, Sudbury and Alperton, where the majority of primary schools are full. There is some capacity in the south of Brent, but this too is reducing.
- 3.20 There are currently 34 reception aged pupils without a place, 18 girls and 16 boys. All of these have presented to the Council after 1st September 08. There are currently 47 other primary aged children without a school place, making a total of 81 children out of school.

Primary pupils out of school

Year	Total pupils	Female	Male
Reception	34	18	16
1	18	8	10
2	8	4	4
3	7	4	3
4	3	0	3
5	4	2	2
6	7	2	5
Total	81	38	43

Increasing Primary Provision in the Short Term

- 3.21 Four schools - Preston Park, Stonebridge Primary, Sudbury Primary and Park Lane provided additional Reception places for September 2007 through an agreed interim expansion. Gladstone Park Primary school agreed to admit 90 children instead of 83, from September 2007.
- 3.22 In September 2008 the Ark Academy opened with 2 Reception classes, Wembley Primary School opened as a new build 4FE school taking an additional 1FE from the previous academic year. Sudbury Primary and Stonebridge expanded formally by 1FE each and Preston Park and Park Lane accepted an additional 26 pupils each on a temporary basis only in Reception.
- 3.23 Population projections suggest that an additional 2.3FE reception classes will be required for September 2009.

Increasing Primary Provision in the Medium to Long Term

- 3.24 Primary places for the delivery of a new 2FE school (with a nursery) in the North East of the Borough (Kingsbury/Colindale) at Oriental City in 2011/12 need to be reviewed given the current economic climate.
- 3.25 Under PCP there are plans to expand, amalgamate, remodel, refurbish and rebuild other primary schools in order to create additional capacity and raise standards. The extent to which these will be able to meet the projected demand will be kept under review.

Update on Ark Academy

- 3.26 The Council brought forward plans to open the Year R classes at the Academy, providing an extra 60 Year R places with effect from 30 September 2008. The accommodation has been provided by using good quality system build classrooms.
- 3.27 The DCSF and Ark conferred on the opening of the Secondary School – Year 7 - in temporary accommodation and given the risk associated on the programme and costs they decided to ask the LA to consider opening the school in September 2010 in the permanent building. 180 Year 7 places will be made available at the Academy with effect from September 2010.
- 3.28 A planning application was submitted on 17 October 2008 for the main permanent building. It is anticipated that the application will be determined at the Planning Committee meeting of 14 January 2009. The plans may be viewed at www.brent.gov.uk/planning/nsf (application number 08/2842).

Admissions Criteria

- 3.29 The Local Authority has a duty under section 13A of the Education Act to ensure fair access to educational opportunity. There is considerable demand from parents living in the south of the borough for places in north Brent schools. Under current admission arrangements pupils who live in the south of the borough are likely to be less successful in securing a place in a north Brent school, as many schools use distance as one of the criteria. Officers are reviewing how admission arrangements might be reviewed and changed to increase access to popular schools for all Brent children regardless of where they live.

11+ Transfer September 2008

- 3.30 2880 applications were received for 11+ transfer for September 2008, all pupil seeking a place were successful in securing one.

Secondary Places as of November 2008

- 3.31 Currently 121 secondary aged pupils are without a school place. These pupils have been invited to attend assessment centres. The length of time pupils are without a school place is monitored and reported against the department's vital signs.

Secondary pupils out of school

Year	Total pupils	Female	Male
7	17	8	9
8	17	5	12
9	26	13	13
10	33	14	19
11	28	18	10
Total	121	58	63

Assessment centres

- 3.32 All secondary aged new arrivals are invited to attend assessment centres where their needs are assessed and the most suitable provision identified. This process began in November 2005 and since then 38 assessment centres have been held. Assessment centres are scheduled at least every six weeks and more often when the number of new arrivals demands.

Projects

- 3.33 To meet the demand for education provision for new arrivals some secondary aged pupils are being educated in special projects hosted by schools and the College of North West London. The table overleaf shows the number of places and the latest information we have on the uptake.

Project	Location	Number of places	Number on roll
City Learning Centre	Queens Park Community School	35	21
Brent Project	John Kelly Girls	37	25
Greenway Project	Claremont High School	35	28

Kingsbury Reduced GCSE	Kingsbury High School	20	12
Wembley Course	Wembley High School	11	5
Year 11 Course	College of North West London	15	3
QPCS Reduced GCSE	Queens Park	20	14
Copland Key Stage 3	Copland Community School	26	24
Ashley Gardens	Preston Manor	18	10

11+ transfer 2009

- 3.34 The closing date for applications for 11+ transfer for September 2009 was 24th October. To date 2841 applications have been received and more are expected – to date there have been 187 late applications. 2880 applications were received last year for September 2008 admission, and 2812 applications were received for 2007 admission. The number of applications will continue to be closely monitored.
- 3.35 Parents continue to express concern at the tightness of school capacity across the Borough with parents from the south expressing strong views about the need to ensure the availability of quality school places locally, and to increase access to places in north borough schools for pupils living in the south. This feedback has been obtained from the Parent's Forum, from open meetings held with parents at schools in the south of the borough and through the provision of the Choice Advice service.

Increasing secondary provision

- 3.36 Pupil data shows that an additional minimum 16FE (based on a 5% planning margin) is needed by 2017/18 in the secondary sector. Based on current knowledge of the main variables such as birth rate trends, migration trends and housing estimates, all information at present points to an increasing demand for secondary school places. Brent is seeking early entry into the Building Schools for the Future Programme which is a government initiative to release capital to authorities to help them rebuild their secondary schools to 21st century standards.
- 3.37 The Strategy Board was informed that the Council was re-submitting its Expression of Interest for BSF - due in by 30 November 2008.

Steps to be taken in the longer term to increase school capacity

- 3.38 The following developments and proposals continue to be at the centre of the officers' plans for expanding provision in the secondary sector:

Preston Manor +1FE (completed)
 Claremont +1FE (completed)
 Ark Academy +6FE (planned)
 Alperton +1FE (proposed)
 Copland High +1FE to +2FE (proposed)
 Wembley High +1FE (proposed)
 John Kelly Boys +1FE (proposed)
 John Kelly Girls +1FE (proposed)
 Queen's Park +2FE (proposed)

3.39 Due to the significant increase in secondary pupil numbers officers are in discussions with the DCSF with a view to bringing forward part of the BSF funding to increase capacity more urgently.

4.1 Financial Implications

4.1 The Capital Programme for 2008/09 to 2011/12 was considered as part of the decisions required when full Council set the 2008/09 budget on 3 March 2008. This budget contains £23.702m aimed at expanding school places across 2008/09 through to 2011/12. This can only make a contribution towards the urgent capital needs. The analysis in the November 2006 Executive report was clear that further resources would need to be identified to build additional school capacity to meet projected demand by 2014. This allocation includes the PCP allocation of £11.688m in 2009/10 and 2010/11

4.2 The Executive agreed in November 2007 to release £500K from the existing Children and Families Capital Investment Plan to fund full feasibility studies, as part of an overall business case, to produce a delivery plan for the expansion of school places across the Borough to meet the projected shortfall. This plan was also to be used to support the Council's case to DfES for additional capital resources through its various funding streams – Basic Need, Primary Capital Programme and BSF being three examples.

4.3 The revenue costs of the special projects are being met from the overall grant for funding schools called the Dedicated Schools Grant. This annual Grant is mainly determined by the number of pupils being educated by Brent Council as determined during the preceding January. By ensuring that this count is as accurate as possible the grant should increase to reflect growing pupil numbers.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 Section 14 of the 1996 Act requires the authority to secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available for their area. The schools available for an area shall not be regarded as sufficient for the purposes of the Act unless they are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education.

Background Papers

- i London Borough of Brent: A Review of Primary and Secondary Roll Projection (January 2007) Executive Summary - Dr Ian McCallum
- ii Executive report 13 November 2006 – A Strategy for the Development of Primary and Secondary Schools – Options for Delivering Additional School Places
- iii Have your say. A good school place for every child in Brent report on the consultation (2008)
- iv. Scrutiny Report: Primary and Secondary Schools Update (11 December 2007)
- iii Minutes of the Strategy Board (Draft for October 2008)

Contact Officers

John Christie
Director of Children and Families
John.christie@brent.gov.uk
Tele: 0208 937 3130

Nitin Parshotam
Head of Asset Management
Children and Families
Nitin.parshotam@brent.gov.uk
Tele: 020 8937 3160

Judith Joseph
Principal School Organisation Officer
Asset Management Service
Children and Families
Judith.joseph@brent.gov.uk
Tele: 020 8937 3187