



Office of
the Schools
Adjudicator

LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT
TO
THE SCHOOLS ADJUDICATOR
FROM
Tameside Local Authority

30 JUNE 2013

Report Cleared by: Cllr Gerald P Cooney
(Title): Executive Member for Lifelong Learning

Date submitted: 21 June 2013

By (Name): Catherine Moseley
(Title): Head of School Support and Access to Learning

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Please email your completed report to: OSA.TEAM@OSA.GSI.GOV.UK

Introduction

1. Section 88P of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires Local Authorities to make an annual report to the adjudicator.
2. The School Admissions Code (the Code) at paragraph 6 sets out the requirements for reports by local authorities. Paragraph 3.23 specifies what must be included as a minimum in the report to the adjudicator and makes provision for the local authority to include any other local issues.
3. The remit letter from the Secretary of State for Education to the Chief Schools Adjudicator also makes reference to additional matters on which he wishes to have a report included in the Chief Adjudicator's annual report. Rather than undertake a separate exercise in which information is sought from local authorities, you are asked to include any relevant information in your report to the adjudicator.

Completing the Template

This template is designed to be completed electronically - boxes will expand as necessary.

Throughout this report, please include middle deemed primary schools as for pupils up to age 11 and middle deemed secondary schools as for pupils over 11.

Where type of school is given; foundation covers foundation schools and foundation schools with a foundation (trust schools). Academy covers all types of Academy schools (Academies, Free Schools, University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools).

Local Authority school numbers

Please give the total number of schools by type within your local authority as at 30 June 2013.

Type of School	Number of schools		
	Number of Schools for pupils up to age 11	Number of Schools for pupils over age 11	Total number of Schools
Community	41	6	47
Voluntary Controlled	10	0	10
Voluntary Aided	21	3	24
Foundation	0	0	0
Academy	2	6	8
Total	74	15	89

Admission Arrangements for Admissions in September 2013

Please provide details of how the admission arrangements for schools in your local authority serve the interests of the groups of children listed below. Please include details of any problems that have arisen for these children while allocating places for admissions in September 2013 [the Code paragraph 3.23 a) refers].

Looked after children: Looked after Children are the top oversubscription criteria for all schools in the borough and there has been no issue with any Looked after child being allocated a place in Tameside.

Previously looked after children: Previously Looked after Children is now also the top oversubscription criteria for all schools in the borough and there has been no issue with any Previously Looked after child being allocated a place in Tameside.

Children with disabilities: The majority of all admission authorities in the borough include an exceptional medical and social need oversubscription criteria under which children with disabilities can be considered.

Children who have special educational needs

- i) Have a statement of special needs that names a school:

All schools in Tameside ensure that children with statements of special education needs are admitted before the oversubscription criteria are applied.

- ii) Have special needs, but do not have a statement:

The majority of all admission authorities in the borough include an exceptional medical and social need oversubscription criteria under which children with disabilities can be considered.

Fair Access Protocol

The Code at paragraph 3.9 requires each local authority to have a Fair Access Protocol agreed with the majority of schools in its area. Paragraph 3.11 of the Code requires that all admission authorities must participate in the Fair Access Protocol.

- a) Please confirm that your local authority has a Fair Access Protocol that has been agreed with the majority of schools in your area.

Tick as appropriate: Yes No

If **NO**, please explain:

- b) Although a majority of schools, and perhaps all, will have agreed the Fair Access Protocol, some may not have done so; please state how many schools have not agreed the Fair Access Protocol.

Type of School	Number of schools that have not agreed Fair Access Protocol	
	Schools for pupils up to age 11	Schools for pupils over age 11
Community	0	0
Voluntary Controlled	0	0
Voluntary Aided	0	0
Foundation	0	0
Academy	0	0
Total	0	0

- c) Where schools did not agree the Fair Access Protocol; please say why they did not agree.

n/a

- d) Have you reviewed your Fair Access Protocol since the School Admissions Code 2012 was introduced?

Tick as appropriate: Yes No

- e) If YES, please briefly outline the process for the review and include any significant changes that have been made to your protocol.

The Primary and the Secondary Protocols have both been reviewed since the 2012 Code was introduced.

Although the Primary protocol has always included the list of children to be included in Fair Access Protocols as stated in paragraph 3.15 of the Code, the list has been extended to include other locally agreed criteria.

The Secondary Protocol remains largely unchanged as it already has a range of locally agreed criteria and was deemed to be fit for purpose and in compliance with the 2012 Admissions Code.

The process for review includes consultation with all Heads and proposed changes are brought to the respective Pupil Placement Panels to be agreed. The Panels are chaired by Head Teachers and facilitated by the Local Authority.

f) If NO, do you plan to do so in 2013/14?

Tick as appropriate: Yes No

If **NO** explain why:

g) Please give your assessment of how well your Fair Access Protocol has worked in the academic year 2012/13 in placing children without a school place in schools in a timely manner. Include details of i) any specific problems that have been encountered in applying the protocol; ii) examples of particularly effective collaboration and working.

General Assessment:

Placing pupils under the High School Protocol is relatively easy and is therefore a quick process. As part of the Primary Protocol Review this process has now been adopted by the Primary Sector. The process has been running for a couple of months and is working very well.

i) Any specific problems.

None.

ii) Examples of particularly effective collaboration and working.

The process works because the Head Teachers always have the opportunity to become involved in the placing of pupils. For example, in the secondary sector, all 15 Head Teachers are members of the Pupil Placement Panel (PPP). The Chair of the PPP is a Head teacher and is extremely committed to the ethos behind Fair Access. The Pupil Placement Panel meets every half term to place pupils. During the time between the Panel meetings the Fair Access Officer places the pupils in accordance with the procedure outlined in the protocol. There is also the opportunity to address identified issues through the annual review of the Protocols.

h) How many children have been admitted to each type of school in the area under the protocol? How many children have been refused admission to a school

i)

Type of School	Number of children admitted		Number of children refused admission	
	Schools for pupils up to age 11	Schools for pupils over age 11	Schools for pupils up to age 11	Schools for pupils over age 11
Community	19	39	0	0
Voluntary Controlled	0	0	0	0
Voluntary Aided	7	14	0	0
Foundation	0	0	0	0
Academy	2	24	0	0
Total	28	77	0	0

j) If children have not been placed successfully in a school through the protocol, have you used the direction process to provide a place for a child?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes

No

N/A

k) If YES, how many children have been placed and in which type of school as a result of a direction, including a direction via the Secretary of State or after a referral to the Adjudicator?

Type of School	Number of children placed	
	Schools for pupils up to age 11	Schools for pupils over age 11
Community		
Voluntary Controlled		
Voluntary Aided		
Foundation		
Academy		
Total		

l) Please add any other relevant information you wish to include in this section concerning Fair Access Protocols, for example, have you used the guidance issued by the Department for Education in November 2012 and has it proved useful?

Links to the guidance has been disseminated to all High Schools and a copy is also available at the Primary PPP for reference.

Co-ordination of admissions

A) During the normal admissions round:

Please assess the effectiveness of co-ordination of primary and secondary admissions for September 2013 in your local authority highlighting any particular

strengths in the process and any problems.

Primary: The coordination of admissions works very effectively within our Authority and with admission authorities in other local authority areas. It also give us the opportunity to validate the rankings. All deadlines for admissions in September 2012 and 2013 were met and every pupil resident in the borough applying for a place was allocated a place.

Secondary: The coordination of admissions works very effectively within our own authority and with other admission authorities in other local authority areas. All deadlines for admissions in September 2012 and 2013 were met and every pupil resident in the borough applying for a place was allocated a place.

B) In-year admissions:

- a) How many requests for in-year admissions have been received since 1 September 2012?

Number of in-year admissions	
For pupils up to age 11	For pupils over age 11
2335	509

- b) Please comment on the effectiveness of in-year admission arrangements in your local authority.

The coordination of in year admissions works very effectively

- c) From September 2013 in-year admission arrangements do not have to be co-ordinated by the local authority. Have you discussed with the own admission authority schools in your area the option of continuing to co-ordinate in-year admissions?

Tick as appropriate: Yes No

- d) Will the local authority continue to co-ordinate in-year admissions for all schools in your area?

Tick as appropriate: Yes No

- e) If NO, how many own admission authority schools have elected to manage their own in-year admissions?

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Admission Appeals

a) Please provide details about the number of appeals lodged for admissions in September 2013.

	Number of Appeals					
	Lodged	Settled	Withdrawn	Heard	Upheld	Not Upheld
Pupils up to age 11	168	14	3	151 scheduled	-	-
Pupils age 11-16	126	16	7	103	28	75
Pupils over age 16	0	0	0	0	0	0
Date up to which this information applies	18/6/13	18/6/13	18/6/13	18/6/13	18/6/13	18/6/13

Please note there will be an opportunity to update this data up until 31 August 2013 - the update form is attached as an appendix so that you can return separately if you wish at the end of August.

b) Please add any comments about the appeals process in your area.

The appeals process is coordinated by Democratic Services which is an independent dept from school admissions.
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Other Issues

Paragraph 3.23 of the Code requires each local authority to publish a copy of its report locally by 30 June.

a) Please indicate where or how a copy of the report can be obtained by a member of the public:

Tick as appropriate: Local authority website Hard copy Other

If other please state: The report will be published on the School Admissions webpage http://www.tameside.gov.uk/schools/admissions
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If not published by 30 June please provide details of when and where the report will be published: The report will be published at the end of June 2013 on <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/schools/admissions>

b) Paragraph 3.2 says “local authorities **must** refer an objection to the Schools Adjudicator if they are of the view or suspect that the admission arrangements that have been determined by other admission authorities are unlawful”. Please describe the process that the local authority uses to assess whether the admission arrangements of own authority schools comply with the Code.

We write out to all other admission authorities annually to ask if they wish us to consult on their behalf, the policies are checked and collated and published on the website as part of the consultation process. Each policy is checked to confirm that it does comply with the code and comments are offered to each, to advise on any suggested changes to ensure compliance.

c) If any arrangements were thought not to be compliant, what action has the local authority taken to ensure own admission authority schools have admission arrangements that comply with the Code?

As above, no other issues as other admission authorities have been supportive of advice where comments have been offered to ensure compliance with the code.

d) Are there any secondary schools in your area that give priority for attending named feeder primary schools?

Tick as appropriate: Yes No

e) If YES, are you satisfied that attendance at the named primary school(s) does not introduce what is in effect a pre-condition for gaining a place at the secondary school?

Tick as appropriate: Yes No

Please comment if appropriate:

Local Authority Issues

Please provide details of any other issues that you would like to raise and comment on that are not already covered in this report.

n/a

Remit Letter from the Secretary of State for Education to the Chief Adjudicator

The Secretary of State has asked that the Chief Adjudicator's annual report includes an assessment of the impact in local areas of having more own admission authorities and any implications for parental choice.

Does the local authority carry out any investigations into the impact for parents of having many or most or all schools in an area that are their own admission authority?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes

No

If **YES**, what was the outcome of the investigation:

If **NO**, are there any plans to monitor the impact for parents of having an increasing number of own admission authority schools:

No plans to formally measure the impact as most academies in the borough currently use the same oversubscription criteria as community and voluntary controlled schools.

If the admission arrangements of individual schools are all considered to be lawful, is there any difficulty for parents in securing a place at a local school?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes

No

If **YES**, has the local authority considered what might be done to overcome any difficulties:

Alongside all authorities in England, Tameside is experiencing a population increase which is resulting in parents having difficulty in securing a place at their preferred school in some areas of the borough. Tameside has been proactive in managing this situation for several years and has increased the number of places available to meet predicted demand across the borough and no child is without an allocated place for September 2013. Based on population forecasts, the borough will need to implement an additional 5% of primary places year on year for the next few years.

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