

Autumn 2016 Progress Report on the Southwark Transfer Plan

Context

The Southwark Transfer Plan (September 2014) laid out the plan to transfer 1375 statements of SEN to EHCP between September 2014 and the end of March 2018.

After a period of data cleansing with adjustments made for factors such as pupils moving out-borough or statements being ceased, the total number of statements due to be transferred was identified as 1285.

The LA revised plan was to complete transfers as follows between September 2014 and the end of March 2018:

	Total
2014-15	305
2015-16	534
2016-17	339
2017-18	107
	1285

Priorities for the academic year 2015/16 were for the LA to

- complete any transfers for young people who receive high needs support as a result of an LDA and those who request an EHC assessment
- complete transfers for young people moving into FE or training from school in September 2016 as well as young people in Years 11 and 9 (by March 2016)
- complete transfers for children in Year 5 and then Year 2 (by August 2016)

As per the first year of transfer (2014/15) the highest priorities for EHCP transfer this year 2015/16 in most cases were young people in Year 11 and school sixth forms. Other groups that were a focus included those transitioning between phases of schooling or type of school, those leaving custody and those moving in from another LA.

Challenges remain regarding the recruitment of suitably qualified staff able to provide high-quality re-assessments of need, particularly educational psychologists. This has been addressed by commissioning experienced locum educational psychologists and locum speech and language therapists to provide updated professional advice for EHCP transfer.

Progress

A target of 534 finalised EHCPs was set for this academic year, based on the LAs revised plan for transfers outlined above. Further analysis of the priority cohorts revealed a lower number requiring transfer to EHCP due to such factors as pupils moving out-borough or young people entering higher education without the need for an EHCP.

Updated professional advice was commissioned where required¹ for 398 students over the course of the year and 354 pieces of updated advice were completed by the end of the year. This was achieved due to the active contribution of school link educational psychologists in providing advice, as well as a small core group of experienced locum educational psychologists and locum speech and language therapists familiar with the transfer process through their work with the LA over the past year or more.

In total 357 EHCPs were finalised over the course of the year (01.09.15 to 31.08.16) and there were a further 27 EHCPs issued in draft and due to be finalised shortly. Groups listed above were addressed first, and prioritised over those who would not change schools in the following year, such as Y2s at primary.

Future Planning

Currently the LA has a further 623 statements to transfer to EHCPs over the course of the remaining transfer period. Periodic data cleansing will continue over the next academic year to identify and reflect variations in number of transfers required. It is anticipated that factors affecting the overall number of transfers needed, such as pupil mobility and the situation for some Looked After Children, will continue to be relevant during the transfer period.

Over the next academic year 2016/17 the LA has set an aspirational target of 432 transfers to be completed. The LA now intends to complete transfers as follows between September 2014 and the end of March 2018:

	Total
2014-15	305
2015-16	357
2016-17	432
2017-18	191
	1285

Children and young people with EHCPs written on an earlier format will have their plans transferred onto the new version at transition points (e.g. Year 2, 5, 11 or 14 where relevant). EHCPs will be reviewed and updated by schools onto the relevant EHCP format as part of the annual review cycle.

¹ students did not require updated advice to complete the EHC transfer, where the advice available was deemed sufficient and relevant where recent (within the previous two years) and where there had been no substantial changes, and this was agreed by parents, school and the professionals involved.