

Autumn 2015 Progress Report on the Southwark Transfer Plan

Background

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.

	-1	2	5	9	11	12	13	14	Total
2014-15	1	86	96	124	134	63	57	37	598
2015-16	0	67	110	132	124				433
2016-17	0	38	99	100					237
2017-18	0	1		106					107
									1375

It also recognised the need to provide EHC needs assessments for up to 643 young people receiving support as the result of an LDA.

Context

Priorities for the first year 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 2015 (by May 2015)

In most cases this meant that young people in Year 11 and school sixth forms were the highest priorities for transfer in the first year. 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. Those with non-statutory EHC plans made prior to September 2014 also needed their plans issued as statutory EHCPs.

Over the year 2014-15 the Southwark Transfer Plan set an aspirational target to transfer 598 statements to EHCPs. Over this period, the capacity to re-assess need was poor due to difficulties recruiting staff able to provide high-quality re-assessments of need, particularly educational psychologists. Experienced locum educational psychologists were engaged to fill the gap as far as possible, along with a locum speech and language therapist.

Progress

A revised target of 350 transfers was set to reflect the projected capacity to complete over the academic year. Whilst this appears to leave a large shortfall, data cleansing and research revealed that the overall number Southwark needed to transfer was 508, a smaller number than previously thought, due to pupil mobility, LAC pupils becoming ordinarily resident/looked after elsewhere, and statements ceased by the LA.

Updated advice was commissioned where required for 385 students over the course of the year and 300 pieces of updated advice were completed by the end of the academic year. 127 students did not require updated advice to complete the EHC transfer, as 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.

In total 364 EHCPs were drafted and 305 finalised over the course of the year. Groups listed above were addressed first, and prioritised over those who would not change schools in the following year, such as Y2s at primary schools and Y9s in secondary schools.

Future Planning

Over the next academic year, it is hoped that improvements & greater clarity in processes over the course of the first year, increased staffing for teams supporting the co-production and mobilisation of school link educational psychologists to assist in providing updated advice for EHC transfers will lead to a increased numbers of pupils transferred to EHC plans over this academic year 2015-16.

The LA will continue over the next academic year to work 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.

The LA now intends 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