

Autumn 2017 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:

	<i>Total</i>
2014-15	305
2015-16	357
2016-17	432
2017-18	191
	1285

Priorities for the academic year 2016/17 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 2017 as well as young people in Years 11 and 9 (by March 2017)
- complete transfers for children in Year 5 and then Year 2 (by August 2017)

As per the first year of transfer (2014/15) the highest priorities for EHCP transfer this year 2016/17 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 432 finalised EHCPs was set for this academic year, based on the LAs revised plan for transfers outlined above.

In total 348 EHCPs were finalised over the course of the year (01.09.16 to 31.08.17) and a further 17 EHCPs have been issued in draft and are 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.

Summary of progress re EHCP transfers 2016/17:

	Statements of Special Educational Needs	Education Health Care Plans*	Total
Sep-16	645	1162	1807
Oct-16	603	1236	1839
Nov-16	585	1268	1853
Dec-16	563	1310	1873
Jan-17	546	1340	1886
Feb-17	512	1387	1899
Mar-17	476	1447	1923
Apr-17	444	1489	1933
May-17	395	1557	1952
Jun-17	385	1587	1972
Jul-17	337	1651	1988
Aug-17	297	1696	1993

** includes EHCPs arising from new EHC needs assessments and transfers from statements*

Future Planning

As for the academic year 2016/17, 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.

Currently the LA has a further 297 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.