LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT

TO

THE SCHOOLS ADJUDICATOR

FROM

London Borough of Bexley Local Authority

30 JUNE 2012

Report Cleared by (Name): Jane Richardson

(Title): Deputy Director (Strategic Planning and Regeneration

Date submitted: 29 June 2012

By (Name): Jenny Watson

(Title): Head of School Organisation and Development

Contact email address: jenny.watson@bexley.gov.uk

Telephone number: 020 3045 4173

www.education.gov.uk/schoolsadjudicator/

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 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.

For ease of reference the legislation is given below.

Legal References

“88P Reports by local authorities to adjudicator

(1) A local authority in England must make such reports to the adjudicator about such matters connected with relevant school admissions as may be required by the code for school admissions.

(2) In subsection (1) ‘relevant school admissions’, in relation to a local authority, means:

(a) the admission of pupils to relevant schools in the authority’s area;
(b) the admission of pupils in the authority’s area to other relevant schools;
(c) the entry to the sixth form of pupils who have been admitted to relevant schools in the authority’s area; and
(d) the entry to the sixth form of pupils in the authority’s area who have been admitted to other relevant schools.

(3) In this section, “relevant school” means--

(a) a maintained school,
(b) an Academy,
(c) a city technology college, or
(d) a city technology of the arts.”

“Section 88Q Reports under section 88P: provision of information

(1) A relevant person must, on request, provide a local authority in England with such information as the authority may reasonably require for the purpose of enabling the authority to fulfil their duties
(2) In subsection (1), “relevant person”, in relation to a local authority, means-

(a) an admission authority (other than the local authority) for a maintained school in the area of the local authority;
(b) 
(c) any member of an appeal panel constituted under section 94 by-

(i) the local authority, or
(ii) the governing body of a foundation or voluntary aided school in the area of the local authority;
(d) the proprietor of-

(i) an Academy,
(ii) a city technology college, or
(iii) a city college for the technology of the arts,
in the area of the local authority;

(e) any other local authority in England;
(f) other person as may be prescribed.”

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).

Admission Arrangements for Admissions in September 2012

Please provide details of how the admission arrangements for schools in your local authority serves the interests of the groups of children listed below. Please include details of any problems that have arisen while allocating places for admissions in September 2012. (the Code paragraph 3.23 a) refers)

| Looked after Children: | Looked After Children are first priority within admission arrangements for all schools. All Looked After Children were placed |

3 of 11
appropriately for admission in September 2012. Because of significant pressures on school places generally, it can take time to find suitable primary schools for family groups of LAC who move to new placements within the borough at very short notice.

**Previously looked after children** Giving priority to previously looked after children was not a requirement for admission arrangements for admissions in September 2012. However, if you have any evidence about the admission of such children please include details here:

**Children with disabilities**: Childrens’ disabilities are taken into account where appropriate when allocating school places, and there have been no difficulties in admitting such children this year.

**Children who have special educational needs**: Children with statements of special educational needs were all placed at the most appropriate school for admission in September 2012. although such places are under significant pressure and at capacity.

The number of children with non-statemented special needs moving into the borough is also increasing. Some admission authorities and schools have been reluctant to admit such children because they feel they are unable to meet the needs of additional children within already stretched resources and in classes that already contain a number of children with special needs. However so far places have been secured for all such applicants.

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of School</th>
<th>Number of schools that have not agreed Fair Access Protocol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Schools for pupils up to age 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Controlled</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Aided</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c) Please give your assessment of how well the Fair Access Protocol has worked in the academic year 2011/12 in placing children without a school place in schools in a timely manner. Include details of any specific problems that have been encountered in applying the protocol.

There is excellent co-operation between Heads at both secondary and primary panels. In particular, secondary Heads have agreed new FAP protocols this year for Year 10 and 11 children without school places, to avoid unnecessary delays during GCSE courses.

d) 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of School</th>
<th>Number of children admitted</th>
<th>Number of children refused admission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Schools for pupils up to age 11</td>
<td>Schools for pupils over age 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Controlled</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Aided</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
e) Please comment below on the extent to which schools have co-operated in the operation of the protocol.

Most secondary schools are represented at every FAP meeting, and the primary representatives attend regularly.

There have been a small number of appeals against FAP placements, but these have been resolved locally.

f) If children have not been placed in a school through the protocol, have you used the powers of direction to provide a place for a child?

Tick as appropriate:  Yes ☐  No ☐  N/A ☒

g) 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 an appeal to the Adjudicator?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of School</th>
<th>Number of children placed</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Schools for pupils up to age 11</td>
<td>Schools for pupils over age 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Controlled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Aided</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please add any other relevant information you wish to include in this section.

Co-ordination

Please assess the effectiveness of co-ordination of primary and secondary admissions for September 2012 in your local authority.

Primary: Very effective. All schools co-operate with the process and provide information within the required timescales.

Secondary: Very effective. All schools co-operate with the process and
Admission Appeals

Please provide details of the number of lodged and upheld parental appeals for admissions in September 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lodged</th>
<th>Upheld</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of appeals for pupils up to age 11.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of appeals for pupils over age 11.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date up to which this information applies.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note there will be an opportunity to update this data up until 31 August 2012 – the update form is attached as an appendix to this form and provided separately for you to return if you wish at the end of August.

Other Issues

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

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

If not yet published please provide details of when and where the report will be published: www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions or on request from the School Admissions Team tel 020 8303 7777 or email schooladmissions@bexley.gov.uk

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.

Oversubscription criteria that include allocation by lottery and that do not give priority to siblings, or twins within banding arrangements, are not popular with parents.
Schools that are their own admission authority, particularly new Academies, are increasingly reluctant to admit in year applicants with special needs, challenging behaviour or a poor attendance history. This can lead to delays in placing children in schools, and requires additional LA resources to negotiate places.

**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.

Please give the number of types of Schools in your local authority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of School</th>
<th>Number of Schools for pupils up to age 11</th>
<th>Number of Schools for pupils over age 11</th>
<th>Total number of Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Controlled</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Aided</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academy</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of Schools</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>76</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 [x]

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 specific plans, but issues will be resolved and challenged as they arise. The main impact is on the way that own admission authority schools deal with in year applications.

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 [x] No [ ]
If **YES**, has the local authority considered what might be done to overcome any difficulties:

There is no difficulty at the normal point of entry at Reception and Year 7, and generally no difficulty for primary in year applicants apart from a shortage of places in some areas and some year groups caused by significant inward migration. Delays can occur for in year applicants at secondary level because admission authorities are slow to make decisions or do not wish to admit children with additional needs or a challenging history.

The LA will be working closely with schools and admission authorities in the coming year to agree processes for dealing with in year applications when co-ordination ceases in September 2013, and to ensure that applications are processed within reasonable timescales. However it should be noted that demand is increasing ahead of all recognised demographic predictions, including those produced by the GLA.

Please email your completed report to: OSA.TEAM@OSA.GSI.GOV.UK
In the LA Report that was submitted by 30th June 2012 we confirmed that there would be an opportunity to update some of the data information. Below is the section of the June Report concerning appeals that you may wish to update. Please complete and return by 31 August 2012.

Admission Appeals

Please provide details of the number of lodged and upheld parental appeals for admissions in September 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lodged</th>
<th>Upheld</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of appeals for pupils up to age 11.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of appeals for pupils over age 11.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date up to which this information applies.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please email your completed report to:

OSA.TEAM@OSA.GSI.GOV.UK