

QUARTERLY SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING UPDATE

Committee name	Families, Health and Wellbeing Select Committee
Officer reporting	Sarah Phillips, Education
Papers with report	None
Ward	All

HEADLINES

The purpose of this report is to provide the Families, Health and Wellbeing Select Committee with an update on school places planning, including a summary of the Year 7 offers for September 2022. All resident pupils were offered a place. The pattern of movement around and beyond the Borough is shown.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee:

1. Note the update presented in this report.
2. Question officers about the update.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Primary rolls are still experiencing some movement, as across London. The January 2022 census analysis is not yet completed. The Reception and Junior National Offer Day is over Easter and will be reported later. The Pan-London computer has begun matching parent preferences received to the places available and it appears the majority of parents will be offered their top preference. Around half of primary schools continue to be full and many of the others have some empty places in classes, but a few face a greater decline in rolls and in the September 2022 intake. Officers have begun analysis and are prepared to support the schools and help mitigate the financial and educational challenges. More detail on this strategy to ensure all schools are successful, sustainable, and viable will be brought to the Committee.

Demand is still rising for specialist places for some pupils with EHCPs. Plans and delivery are underway to expand special schools and now a further programme of new places has been prepared as a key part of the Council's DSG Recovery Programme, and a bid for further capital has been submitted to the DfE.

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PERFORMANCE DATA

A broad range of relevant performance data and benchmarking is set out in this report.

RESIDENT BENEFIT

The report provides residents with information on the quality of education within the Borough.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. Whenever necessary legal advice is given in relation to specific issues as they arise to ensure that the Council always meets its legal obligations.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Secondary National Offer Day 1 March 2022

1. There had been a rise in the total number of applications – both from Hillingdon residents (including for places in other LA schools) and for places in Hillingdon schools (including from residents in neighbouring LAs.) This was against the overall London Trend, as 23 of 32 London LAs had a decline in applications.
2. Despite a record number of 3,659 secondary school applications, 94 per cent were offered one of their preferred places – a higher proportion than last year and 71 per cent of Hillingdon pupils received their first choice – an increase of 4 per cent when compared with 2021 admissions. This was also higher than the London average of 69.95 per cent. 89 per cent of applicants received one of their top three preference schools, an increase of 3 per cent on last year.
3. On National Offer Day 14 of the 18 secondary schools were full, including with 150 extra bulge places. More may fill as there are currently 120 late applicants being placed. Hillingdon admissions team process all Hillingdon residents applications and those from residents of other LAs applying for a place in Hillingdon. LAs share data as part of the Pan-London Admissions process.

On National Offer Day, 1 March 2022:

- 3,694 pupils had offers to Hillingdon Schools including 105 with EHCPs.
- A further 121 offers were made to those who had applied late, total to 3,815.
- 3,943 offers were made to Hillingdon residents to schools in and out of the borough.
- There is a net 'export' of 130 Hillingdon pupils to other LAs.
- We expect growth of 3% during the schools year from movements in.

Table 1 Year 7 2022 offers to Hillingdon schools and to Hillingdon Residents

18 Secondary Schools	NORMAL PAN	EXTRA PLACES added	Pan-London Computer Preference Offers	PLACES EMPTY AFTER COMPUTER MATCHES	FINAL NOD OFFERS	Final SEN / EHCP	TOTAL NOD incl. SEN	FREE PLACES NOD
TOTAL	3,707	150	3,356	336	3,589	105	3,694	163
LATE APPLICATIONS now in process					121			
TOTAL OFFERS including SEN and LATES by mid March							3,815	43
Number of Schools full			13 full after Pan-London		14			
Number of Year 7 offers to Residents								
Total in LBH schools							3,815	
minus residents from other LA							-390	
Add LBH residents gone to other LA schools							518	
TOTAL Offers to LBH residents:							3,943	
NOTES-								
1. A few individual pupil adjustments are continuing.								
2 # Guru Nanak is an all-through school. These numbers include the 60 on roll in Year 6 who have a Year 7 Place without applying for it.								
3. Only 5 schools had spaces after the computer matching ended, and 233 pupils were left with no match to their preferences, more than in previous years. They were made offers to place available that was closest.								
4. Some parents are now declining their NOD offers, so there will be movement of pupils around schools and other LAs for some months, but with restricted options in Hillingdon and other LAs. This could lead to rise in EHE, as in past years.								
5. Already, 14 schools have waiting lists (of up to 200 pupils) based on preferences that were not met on NOD, including pupils from other LAs. Each school prioritises pupils by their own admissions criteria and any places freed up are offered to the top of their list. Pupils can join more than one list. Late applicants can join waiting lists, and will be prioritised by the same criteria.								

- Most Hillingdon school pupils live within two miles of their school, but some choose to travel for faith or other reasons to schools including to other LAs. There is more movement around the schools in the north than in the south, partly as half the schools are close to the borough boundary.
- The movements in and out of pupil 'home areas' are greatest in the north of the borough -18% of Year 7 starters in September 2022 in the north are pupils from other LAs, and 20% of Year 7 residents living in the north are going to schools out of the borough.

Table 2 Year 7 2022 offers and schools by North or south of the A40 or out of Borough

School in area...	Resident in area...			Total	% coming in
	North of A40	South of A40	Out of Borough		
North of A40	905	431	295	1,631	18.1%
South of A40	21	1,786	94	1,901	4.9%
Out of Borough	236	283		519	10.6%
Total	1,162	2,500	389	4,051	14.2%
<i>% going out</i>	20.3%	11.3%		12.8%	

- These proportions roughly reflect the overall secondary total rolls in all year groups, though there are greater variations between individual schools. Imports and exports vary annually, reflecting the relative popularity of schools in and outside Hillingdon. The numbers and margins of change then impacts on other schools and adds to the creation of pockets of empty places or pressure for

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more school places – and to the need to have a margin of places for the whole year reflecting new housing and movers in and the difficulty in predicting success in applying to faith and selective schools.

7. The total roll, all years in all Hillingdon secondary schools in October 2021 showed:

- 90% of pupils in schools in the south live in the south.
- Only 52% of pupils in schools in the north live in the north – individual schools serve different catchments with 25% of pupils from the south and 23% from other LAs - due to schools' location close to borough boundaries and the only footbridge over the A40. The impacts include limiting places available for those living in the centre of the north and a higher proportion of pupils in the north than the south seeking and taking places in schools outside the LA.
- 69% of pupils who live outside of Hillingdon come into a school in the north.
- The proposed new free school, Bishop Arden, is needed to ensure all residents living in the north secure a school place and to help all residents do given the fluctuations from year to year in demand for individual schools and overall.

8. The table below on Residents and total pupils in and out of the 6 neighbouring LAs and beyond, highlights there are constant shifts between years. More pupils from Hillingdon gained places in Slough and Hertfordshire schools than in 2022 despite warnings it could be fewer. This shows nobody can predict the exact outcome of all the different pupil movements, reinforcing the need for a margin of spaces to cope with demand.

Table 3 Hillingdon Year 7 Residents & pupils import in & export out on National Offer Day

Pupils Resident:	2022			2021			2020			2019			2018			2017			Pupils Resident:
	Import	Export	Total	Import	Export	Total	Import	Export	Total	Import	Export	Total	Import	Export	Total	Import	Export	Total	
Hillingdon Resident Applications:			3,662			3,608	Residents Apps:		3713	Resident Apps:		3,663	Resident Apps:		3,476	Resident Apps:		3,408	Hillingdon
Ealing	150	79	71	146	73	73	171	80	91	178	71	+ 107	222	63	+ 159	260	57	+ 203	Ealing
Harrow	166	71	95	195	75	120	177	67	110	179	52	+ 127	192	48	+ 144	170	35	+ 135	Harrow
Hounslow	8	63	-55	12	83	-71	10	96	-86	9	100	- 91	15	92	- 77	18	83	- 65	Hounslow
Slough	3	140	-137	1	115	-114	4	141	-137	1	164	- 163	2	137	- 135	6	151	- 145	Slough
Bucks	18	9	9	18	23	-5	15	14	1	16	24	- 8	16	5	+ 11	15	52	- 37	Bucks
Herts	38	108	-70	32	95	-63	41	83	-42	52	79	- 27	48	65	- 17	61	49	+ 12	Herts
Other London	5	36	-31	3	33	-30	8	32	-24	6	38	- 32	19	45	- 26	8	53	- 45	Other London
Other UK	1	13	-12	1	8	-7	3	12	-9	2	13	- 11	12	53	- 41	5	78	- 73	Other UK
Total	389	519	- 130	408	505	- 97	429	525	- 96	443	541	- 98	526	508	+ 18	543	558	- 15	
Import / Export	10.62%	14.17%	-3.55%	11.62%	14.38%	-2.76%	11.86%	14.51%	-2.65%	12.43%	15.18%	-2.75%	15.05%	14.54%	0.52%	16.00%	16.45%	-0.44%	
	Offers to LBH Sch:	3,532		Offers to LBH Sch:	3,511		Offers to LBH Sch:	3,617		Offers to LBH Sch:	3,565		Offers to LBH Sch:	3,494		Offers to LBH Sch:	3,393		
							Y7 Jan Census:	3,751		Y7 Jan Census:	3,701		Y7 Jan Census:	3,426		Y7 Jan Census:	3,413		

Special Education Needs

9. As reported last quarter, to meet the growing demand for special school places, a programme of capital works to expand and create new special schools and units in the Borough is being progressed, now linked to the DSG Safety Valve

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Recovery Programme being agreed with the DfE and a new capital bid.

10. The DSG Recovery Programme is a key strategic priority for the Local Authority. It will be underpinned by sufficient resource and capability to ensure timely and successful delivery.

The purpose of the Recovery Programme is:

- To reduce the in-year deficit in 2021/22 as far as possible.
- To eliminate the in-year deficit completely by 2024/25, and no later than 2025/26.
- To put mainstream inclusion and high quality SEND services at the heart of education in Hillingdon.

11. This will improve mainstream inclusion, reduce total costs of special placements, add more specialist places in the borough and embed financial sustainability.

The delivery of this Programme must be achieved without compromising the ability of the Local Authority to deliver its statutory responsibilities to children and young people.

12. It will be enabled by a strategy which emphasises:

- Robust and direct links between project activities and realistic benefits.
- Improved understanding and analysis of data to guide towards specific challenges and issues.
- A multidisciplinary team and approach which takes collective responsibility for delivering the programme objectives.
- Clear, purposeful, and progressive management of stakeholders.

13. Importantly, there remains high-level oversight and collaboration from senior leaders within Hillingdon in the shaping and development of the programme. Lead officers from the Education Directorate have been aligned with the progression of the Programme and are committed to its objectives as well as holding accountability for projects within the programme. Additional resource has also been approved to support delivery around key capabilities. Rigorous programme management and a clear governance structure will be integral to the fulfilment of the programme with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

Bid for more capital for more SEN places

14. Extra specialist places are needed in Hillingdon to meet the rising demand and gaps in need and to minimise use of independent provision and long travel for residents. The aim is to secure more places within the next few years and maximise the use of local education spaces. Following discussion with schools and trusts, new projects were selected that can be delivered in partnership with schools and academies that have significant surplus places and also commitment to inclusion and expertise in managing change. The primary schools have agreed in principle and further discussions on details are underway.

15. Other schools have some vacant spaces but have not reduced their Published Admissions Number (PAN), so it is still technically available so cannot be adapted for specialist use. Most do not have the number of empty rooms required for successful, sustainable SEN provision. However, further discussions will continue with schools as the programme progresses, and new solutions in new schools, or new requirements may emerge.

The summary of the new capital bid and proposed projects is on the next, final page.

Proposals to expand Specialist Provision linked to Safety Valve Process and bid to DfE for extra Capital Grant (c22m and a new Free School)

Sarah Phillips 17.03.22

	Provider	Project type - expansion, suitability, accessibility	Provider Type	Phase	Type of SEND need	Ofsted Rating	Number on roll (October 2021)	Number of additional places to be created	Post-delivery capacity (total places)	Comments	
1	Meadow High School (MLD)	Expansion by adaptations and small extension to create new 2nd site, and demolish/rebuild on main site. Complete to open 1st site 2023 and fully in Sept 2024	Community Special School	Secondary	Moderate Learning Difficulty	Good	255	80	330	Potential loss of places as obsolete temporary buildings must be removed but are full of pupils with no space for decant on site, with plan to halt new placements for 4 years & remove a hut a year. Need more places not less, so propose to open a second site of Meadow by adapting empty Boarding Block at Harefield Academy for all Pathway 1 pupils, then rebuild on Meadow site - requiring building 2 blocks of 90 (so GIFA based on 180) to gain net 73-90 pupils, dependent on class sizes due to exact mix of needs. In principle agreement from both Chairs of Governors & DfE. Members have agreed to progress at risk before new grant agreed. Consultant Architects appointed to take forward feasibility and progress. Formal consultations on changes to both sites will be complex. Dependent on agreeing lease/reversion with The Harefield Academy Trust, Sport England, planning permissions, formal Consultation on change to Meadow and final Cabinet agreement by end of 2022 - early 2023 in order for final opening in 2024.	
2	Eden Trust: Grangewood Primary & Moorcroft Secondary Special Schools.	Temporary SLD Unit at Pinkwell School for extra Grangewood Reception stay to Y1 and Moorcroft Year 7 into Y8. Open Sept 2022.	Academy Special	Grangewood Primary	Specific Learning Difficulty	Good	128	16	134	Agreed in principle by LA, both Trusts and DfE after years of discussions. New Unit as Satellite of Grangewood & Moorcroft schools to take in new R & Y7 pupils ahead of Pinn River & GUV delayed opening in 2024. Located in Pinkwell school-Elliott Trust, who are adapting at their risk. Formal Consultation positive, Business case submitted by Eden with LA letter of support. Await final DfE approval. Will submit revised plan in 2023 with proposed arrangements for the Unit from 2024 and consider scope to expand - see Project 9.	
				Moorcroft Secondary		Outstanding	120	24	141		
3	Primary Academy	New Unit ASD to open Sept 2023	Academy Primary	Primary	Specific Learning Difficulty	Good	893	24		Creating first primary Designated Unit for ASD in the largest primary school in Hillingdon within large MAT committed to inclusion. It has sufficient surplus space as reducing from 5FE to 4FE with large external spaces. It has successfully opened a new school and SRP and has leaders with special school experience. Scheme requires partial demolition and adaptations to separate modular buildings.	
4	Primary School (North)	Specialist Nursery Assessment Base. Adaptions to remodel Primary school from 3FE to 2FE and create Unit. Open Sept 2023	Community Primary School		Autistic Spectrum Disorder	Good	337	16		This will be the first LA specialist assessment provision to assess and support children aged 3+ with additional needs but no obvious single need. School has space as built for 3FE now at 2FE. Commitment from Head and Chair of governors. New post of Specialist lead for the Centre.	
5	Primary School (North)	New Primary ASD SRP integrated into school - working alongside the Nursery Assessment Centre. Open Sept 2023.	Community Primary School		Autistic Spectrum Disorder	Good	337	12	12	The new SRP in the school will be appropriate to enable some of the pupils assessed in the Specialist Nursery Assessment Centre to progress into the school.	
6	Primary School (South)	New Primary ASD SRP. Adaptions to remodel Primary school from 3FE to 2FE and create Unit.	Academy Primary		Autistic Spectrum Disorder	Good	452	12		School is committed to inclusion. Built for 3FE now reducing to 2FE so has surplus spaces. Commitment from Head/CEO and Trust.	
7	Orchard Hill Special FE College Independent post-19 (Brookfield Adult Education Centre)	Lease Council site to Independent School, agree contract for more places, lower cost. Open Sept 2022.	Independent Special College multi-site		Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty	Outstanding (2019)	73	30	30	Orchard Hill College (Independent special) must leave its leased site in Hillingdon, so LA risks losing most/all places from Sept 2022. 52 of 73 total students are Hillingdon residents, no other post-19 provision in Hillingdon. Propose to lease Council building to College that was designed for Adult Education who plan to move to the Civic Centre. The College is linked to MAT running other schools in Hillingdon - OHCAT. They would pay rent for the site and be responsible for upkeep, and guarantee more places at lower unit cost. Agreements and adaptations being progressed to ensure students in both institutions start on new sites Sept 2022.	
8	New Special Free School Bid		Site to be confirmed		Autistic Spectrum Disorder		0	180	180	This new commission is for an 180 place school for pupils aged 4-19 with ASD and ranges of cognitive and communication needs. This will meet the continuing demand for specialist places after all the commissioned free schools and provision set out in this bid is full. The LA must build in flexibility into new provision to meet fluctuating demand in different age groups and specific needs from year to year. No site is identified but there is some potential on existing primary school sites and interest from existing Trusts to deliver.	
9	Pinkwell School	Agree permanent status beyond 2024 of the temporary unit used by Eden Trust 2022-24.	Academy		Severe Learning Difficulty	RI	590	na		This Unit in a surplus building at Pinkwell primary school (Elliott Trust) is agreed to be run by Eden Trust September 2022-24, funded by previous HNCA Grant. Elliot and LA aim to gain new agreement from DfE to run Unit of Pinkwell from 2024 but this requires new proposal to DfE in 2023 - only possible if Pinkwell has secured Ofsted Good in 2022 or early 2023. If Pinkwell not Good, the LA, DfE and Trusts will agree the Unit continues to be run by Eden after Pinn River opens (possibly primary only). If Pinn River delayed beyond 2024, the pupils continue in the Unit under Eden. There may be potential to expand the Unit size with more capital.	
								214	and 180 in the Free School = 394		
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<p>Note : Primary schools agreed in principle with further discussions to confirm with governors and then name them.</p>											