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Report Title Outcome of Secondary Transfer Process for admission in September 2012 and Equalities Impact

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1. Purpose of the report

The purpose of the report is to inform the Forum of the outcome of the secondary transfer process for Lewisham pupils in September 2011, with particular focus on the impact on minority groups. This report focuses on the numbers and proportions of children who participated in the secondary admissions scheme.

2. Policy Context

The Code of Practice on School Admissions charges the Forum with considering existing and proposed admission arrangements and assessing how well they serve the interests of local parents and children.

The Code also places a duty on the Local Authority to produce an annual report on admission arrangements in the area. This report covers

- The proportion of pupils remaining in the area for their secondary education including historical comparisons
- Number of preferences used – by number and percentage by ethnicity and locality
- Preferences offered – by number, percentage, locality, primary school and band
- Preference offered by Free School Meals.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Forum considers the issues raised in the following tables:

- 3.1.1 **Tables 1a and 1b** Number and percentage of pupils staying in Lewisham, by Band, Locality and primary school.
- 3.1.2 **Tables 2a and 2b** Number and percentage of pupils going out of Lewisham, by Band and Locality.
- 3.1.3 **Table 3** Number and percentage of pupils staying in Lewisham, by Band and Locality (historic data).
- 3.1.4 **Table 4** Number and percentage of pupils going out of Lewisham, by Band and Locality (trends by locality are provided since 2008, trends as a whole since 2001/2).
- 3.1.5 **Table 5** destinations of pupils living in Lewisham, by Locality of primary school and LA destination.

- 3.1.6 **Table 6** Number and percentages of preferences used, by ethnic group and locality of primary school.
- 3.1.7 **Table 7** Number and percentage of preferences used, by number used and Locality.
- 3.1.8 **Table 8** Number of acceptances in any independent school and out-borough secondary school, by LA, preference school and locality of primary school.
- 3.1.9 **Table 9** Number and percentage of pupils who were offered a preference, by preference and Locality.
- 3.1.10 **Table 10** Number and percentage of pupils living in Lewisham offered each preference, by Locality and band.
- 3.1.11 **Table 11** Number and percentage of pupils living in Lewisham who were offered a place in any school (i.e. any of their six preferences), by Locality ethnicity and band.
- 3.1.12 **Table 12** Number and percentage of first preference offers, by Locality, ethnicity and band.
- 3.1.13 **Table 13** Average home to school distance of preference offered, by ethnicity and locality.
- 3.1.14 **Table 14** Preference offered by Free School Meals.

4 Analysis

- 4.1 The proportion of pupils staying in Lewisham for their secondary placement (**table 1a**) varies in each planning Locality. In 2009 the previously used planning areas were replaced by localities and, due to the complexities of the system, it is not always possible to provide historical comparisons with previous years. The Localities are ;
 - Locality 1 – Forest Hill and Sydenham
 - Locality 2 – Lee Green
 - Locality 3 – Brockley, Lewisham and Telegraph Hill
 - Locality 4 – Catford, Bellingham and Grove Park
 - Locality 5 – Deptford and New Cross
 - Locality 6 – Downham.

The overall percentage was 77.8%. Locality C (Brockley) had the highest proportion of children remaining in the borough (90.9%) and Locality B (Blackheath and Lee) had the lowest percentage (53.7%). In terms of bands, 87.6% of band 3 children remain in Lewisham for their secondary education compared with 62.% of band 1A children. The former is significantly higher than 2011 (71.6%). At these primary schools (see table 1b), 100% of the children transferred to Lewisham secondaries: Lucas Vale, St Mary's CE and Prendergast Vale College. The lowest percentage was at St William of York (27.6%).

- 4.2 The percentage of children remaining in Lewisham for their secondary education has steadily increased from 2001/2 and now stands at its highest point at 77.8%. The number remaining in the borough was 1758 in 2012, reflecting a smaller cohort (2260) than the previous year.

- 4.3 The pattern reflects our usual experience that pupils in higher bands are more 'mobile' than pupils in lower bands, i.e. they are more likely to apply for selective schools, schools in other LAs or independent schools. Retaining pupils in higher bands remains a strategic priority for Lewisham.
- 4.4 **Tables 5A to 5F** give a breakdown of the authorities which pupils transferred to from Lewisham primary schools in each locality. Again this shows a varying pattern across the borough. In Locality 2, Lee Green, the lowest proportion of children, 53.7%, remain in the borough for their secondary education though this is higher than in 2011 (46.29%). 33.9% of children in this area transfer to Greenwich schools.
- 4.5 **Table 6** shows the number of preferences used by pupils in each locality, by their ethnicity. The overall picture (table 6G – All Localities) is that the largest single group of pupils (30.7%) used all six preferences, up from 26.8% the previous year. The next largest group (19.1%) used three preferences and 10.5% of pupils used only one preference. Advice is given to parents that they should name as many preferences as possible, in order that there is a greater chance of them being offered a school they would like..
- 4.6 In terms of ethnicity, black pupils were much more likely to use six preferences than white pupils (36.6% compared with 21.1%), as well as being much less likely to use only one preference (6.1% compared with 15.4%). A significant number of Asian pupils (49.7%) also used six preferences.
- 4.7 **Table 7** shows the number of preferences used by pupils in each primary school.
- 4.8 **Table 8** gives details of the schools to which Lewisham pupils transferred. Apart from those in Lewisham, the most significant schools in this list were:
Bromley: Harris Academy Bromley 43 pupils and The Ravensbourne School 23 pupils.
Greenwich: St Ursula's 38, and Thomas Tallis 35. The number going to Eltham Hill halved.
Southwark: Harris Boys Academy East Dulwich 22 and Kingsdale Academy 37.
Bexley: Townley Grammar 22.
- The largest group of pupils went to schools in Bromley 154 (157 in 2011/12) followed by Greenwich 116 (129) and Southwark 101 (125)
- 4.9 Information on the number and percentage of pupils who were offered one of their preferences appears in **tables 9A-B**. The information is provided by locality and primary school.

- 4.10 **Tables 10A and 10B** give a summary of which preference pupils were offered in each band in each locality. The overall picture (**table 10C**) suggests that pupils in band 2a (70.7%) and 2b (also 70.7%) are the most likely to be offered their first preference, and pupils in band 1a and band 3 (56.7% and 53.9% respectively) the least likely. This is a shift from the previous year's position, when band 3 pupils were the most likely to be offered their first preference (71.1%). It is likely that applications by band 1a pupils are particularly focused on certain very popular schools including grammar schools where the likelihood of them being offered their first preference is greatly reduced. However, band 1a pupils are the most likely (at 91.8%) to be offered one of their six preferences. Unbanded pupils are least likely (85.7%).
- 4.11 **Tables 11A to 11I** give details, by locality, of the rate at which pupils in each ethnic group were offered one of their six preferences. Table 11I shows the overall picture which is that 94.7% of white pupils were offered one of their preferences, compared with 95.2% of black pupils, 95.2% of Asian pupils and 93.9% of Mixed Race children
- 4.12 **Tables 12A to 12H** give details, by locality, of the rate at which pupils in each ethnic group were offered their first preference. Table 12I shows the overall picture which is that black pupils remain less likely than white pupils to be offered their first preference (60.7% compared with 73.4%).
- 4.13 **Table 13** shows the average distance that children travel to their offered school by locality and ethnicity. This information was requested after a decision at a previous Forum to test a series of hypotheses in relation to the different outcomes for white and black pupils. One hypothesis was that black pupils applied for first preference schools further from their homes than white pupils did. If it were true, this might help explain why black pupils were less likely to be offered their first preference. From the data available (**table 13A**), it appears that black pupils travel greater distances than most other children (average distance 2016 metres compared with 1866 metres for white pupils to the school they have been offered.)
- 4.14 **Table 14**, shows the outcomes for pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals. This is again related to our equality research. The data shows that overall, pupils eligible for Free School Meals are more likely to be offered one of their six preferences than those who are not eligible for Free School Meals (**table 14A**). Of the children attending a Lewisham school and where the free school meal data is available 96.4% of children eligible for free school meals were offered one of their preferences of school. They were also more likely to be offered their first preference (71.6% compared to 65.6%). The data appears to show that the admission arrangements are not having a detrimental effect on this group.

8. Legal implications

These are contained in the report.

9. Equalities implications

Admissions policies must conform with legislation relating to race, gender and disability and must not discriminate. The current Schools Admission Code of Practice emphasises equality issues, such as the provision of accessible information for parents, and the adoption of fair and transparent admissions policies. Other equalities implications are contained in the report.

10. Financial implications

There are no specific implications arising from the report.

11. Environmental implications

There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

If you have any questions on this paper, please contact Linda Fuller, School Admissions and Appeals Team, 3rd Floor, Laurence House, SE6 4RU (telephone 0208 314 6212, email Linda.fuller@lewisham.gov.uk).