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Ref Fair Access

**REPORT TO LEEDS ADMISSION FORUM's
Challenging and Vulnerable Children's Sub Committee
Update on Fair Access**

Date 22nd June 2010

Venue: Civic Hall

Time: 4.00pm

Update by the Admissions Team on Fair Access Panels

The Secondary school snapshot shows that to date there has been a 4% increase in the volume of cases considered by the Panels across the City, compared to the end of year totals for the last academic year. There has also been a 9% increase in placements indicating that more children are being offered a school place by Panel, without the need for appeal as well as more schools accepting children wishing to transfer school.

Schools are also developing stronger relationships with schools outside of their own Wedges. This is enabling them to provide managed moves for children who would benefit from a 'fresh start' in a new school, for many reasons including for example in response to bullying.

The recruitment of a Fair Access Officer to lead on Primary Fair Access is resulting in an increase in the number of cases being resolved without a Panel.

So far this academic year there has been one direction from the Local Authority, this is in line with one direction last year although it is a different school involved.

Overall the data shows that the majority of requests for East and South schools are from children who do not have accessible educational provision and therefore require a school offer from the Panel however in the North East and North West many of the applications are for a change of school and many of those cases have suitable, accessible educational provision available to them.

The Academies, Foundation schools and Aided schools are all participating and playing their part in the admission of Fair Access Children.

The School Adjudicators report is in the process of being written and will report on the number of children placed in each school through the protocols as well as the single direction. It also allows the Local Authority to feedback any issues experienced with the placement of children.

Recommendations

The Sub-committee is asked to note the report and to receive the annual statistical update in October 2010 which will include placement of primary school children.