

Committee(s)	Dated:
Education Board Community and Children's Services	25 June 2015 10 July 2015
Subject: City of London Secondary Admissions Trends	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information

Summary

The purpose of this report is to

- Inform Members of admissions trends for City children applying for a maintained secondary school since September 2010
- Inform Members of the number of children who secure a place in one of their top 3 preferences of school
- Inform Members of the number City children who took up a place in one of the City's Secondary Academies

The City as a Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for its residents.

In terms of demand for primary school places, this is based on data from the 2011 Census, as well as the Department of Education projections, which this committee has previously received reports on, and the City has received funding from the Education Funding Agency, to expand the number of school places to meet the projected increase in demand.

In the case of demand for secondary places there is not an equivalent data source, with the numbers of City children applying for maintained secondary schools historically being significantly less than those applying primary school. Future demand for secondary school places therefore is based on past numbers of applications, which has been relatively consistent over a six year period.

With the maximum number of children applying for a maintained secondary school in any year over the last six years being 21, during which in that period all children receiving one of their top 3 choices of school, there is no evidence that the City needs to ensure additional secondary school places.

In order for the City to receive funding from the Education Funding Agency to open a secondary school, it would need to evidence a minimum demand for a two Form of Entry school (60 places). In order for a secondary school to be financial viable, and offer the range of subjects necessary, the demand the City would need to evidence would be for a four Form of Entry (120 places).

The City therefore cannot evidence sufficient demand to receive funding from the Education Funding Agency to open a secondary school, and with the substantial transportation links available within the City, children, almost without exception, receives a school place of their choice. In addition, the City through its family of three

academies secures 49 places for City children, all of which are high performing, achieving results above the London and national average.

Recommendations

- Members are asked to note the report

Main Report

Background

1. The City as a Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for its residents. In terms of demand for primary school places, this is based on data from the 2011 Census, as well as the Department of Education projections, which this committee has previously received reports on, and the City has received funding from the Education Funding Agency, to expand the number of school places to meet the projected increase in demand. In the case of demand for secondary places there is not an equivalent data source, with the numbers of City children applying for maintained secondary schools historically being significantly less than those applying primary school.

Current Position

2. Future demand for secondary school places is based on past numbers of applications, which has been relatively consistent over a six year period. The table below shows the number of applications, and take up of school places from September 2011

For children starting in September	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of applications received	18	20	22	16	22
Number of applications on offer day who received a top 3 school of their choice	15	18	21	15	18
Number of children who subsequently took up a school place	11	18	21	14	17
Number of applications who took up a top 3 school place	11	17	21	14	15
Number of applications who did not get a school of their top 3	0	1	0	0	2

3. The City also through its family of three secondary academies the City has 49 places each academy year secured for City children. The table below shows the take of places by City children from September 2011.

For children starting in September	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Take up of COL Academy places	4	3	6	4	1

4. Despite the number of places available to City families, and with all the academies being high performing and achieving results above the London and national average, the take of these places remains low. To help promote the academies to City children the corporation has recently commissioned a promotional video for each of the academies, a copy of which will be sent to children applying in the next academic year
5. In order for the City to receive funding from the Education Funding Agency to open a secondary school, it would need to evidence a minimum demand for a two Form of Entry school (60 places). In addition, in order for a secondary school to be financial viable, and offer the range of subjects necessary, the demand the City would need to evidence would be for a four Form of Entry (120 places). With the maximum number of applications received each being below 30, and a very high percentage of City families receiving a school place of their choice, there is insufficient demand for the City to approach the Education Funding Agency to open a school in the City.

Implications

6. There is a statutory duty on local authorities to ensure resident children have access to school places.

Conclusion

7. The City is meeting its statutory duty in ensuring there is sufficient access to secondary school places for City children and cannot evidence sufficient demand to receive funding from the Education Funding Agency to open a secondary school. The substantial transportation links available within the City for children ensures almost without exception a child receives a school place of their choice. In addition, the City through its family of three academies secures 49 places for City children, all of which are high performing, achieving results above the London and national average.

Appendices

- None

Gerald Mehrtens

Department of Community and Children's Services

020 7332 3660

gerald.mehrtens@cityoflondon.gov.uk