

Principles of a Hard to Place Protocol

On 18 November 2004 the Secretary of State announced a package of proposals on school behaviour including the expectation that Admissions Forums will agree protocols for fairer sharing out of “hard to place” pupils. (Reference LEA/0316/2004 Guidance on Hard to Place Pupils, the numbers below refer to the appropriate paragraph in this document)

Then main points of the Guidance are listed below:

- the Government expects every local Admission Forum will agree a protocol for sharing hard to place pupils and that these protocols will be agreed with schools and be in place for the school year starting September 2005 at the latest. (3)
If this is not agreed on a voluntary basis it may be imposed (17)
- the protocol is aimed at secondary schools in the first instance(3)
- no school should be required to admit an unreasonable number of previously excluded pupils and the protocol should state the maximum an individual school will be asked to admit in any year (7)
- the protocol should include looked after children and pupils excluded from other schools, *it could also agree to include other vulnerable groups* (9)
- the protocol will include the role of the Pupil Referral Unit (12)
- the protocol should cover all schools, including voluntary aided and academies, any CTC which does not become an Academy will be strongly encouraged by DfES to play a full part in sharing pupils (13)
- the protocol would include setting up a placement panel including LA and other agency members, heads and governors (15)
- if the school refuses to admit the LEA can direct or refer to DfES (18)
- the protocol should include funding arrangements, this would include age weighted pupil unit (AWPU) and dowry allocation (20)
- the protocol should also state what additional support the LEA might offer such as transport or behaviour/multi agency team support (23)

The LEA seeks the support of the Admissions Forum to the development of a Hard to Place Protocol with our secondary schools.

