

# MANAGED MOVES FROM CROYDON SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Part One of the final report of the Task and Finish Group

# Managed Move and Fair Access Panel

- A managed move is described on the website of the *Child Law advice* website as “a voluntary agreement between schools, parents/carers and a pupil, for that pupil to change school or educational programme under controlled circumstances”
- The Council’s Fair Access Panel (FAP) is the mechanism through which most secondary phase managed moves are brokered. Since 2013, its main purpose has been to support secondary schools to prevent the need for permanent exclusion. Before a case can come before FAP, the child’s parent must provide consent, and the child’s headteacher must declare in writing that they would otherwise permanently exclude the child

# What's the fuss about?

- The use of managed moves is an issue for almost all local authorities, and one which is the focus of increasing national attention
- A managed move is a route which takes many children from mainstream placement to alternative provision
- There is a lack of transparency about the process which has concealed it from the scrutiny which it requires
- A focus on permanent exclusion statistics without a corresponding focus on managed moves leads to incomplete knowledge and understanding of summary pupil removals from schools

## Number of children presented by mainstream schools to FAP

- 10 meetings are scheduled. In 2019-20 the final four meetings were cancelled owing to lockdown
- There was a considerable increase in the number presented in 2019-20 over the corresponding six meetings in 2018-19, and a considerable increase in the number of children moving from mainstream to alternative provision
- An upward trend of this kind is one of which the Sub Committee should be aware, and putting questions to officers about

# Characteristics of children undergoing managed moves

- In 2019-20, 120 of the 193 children presented to the Fair Access Panel were identified as having special educational needs or disabilities, but not EHCPs
- In 2018-19, 73% of the children presented by mainstream schools were boys, a figure which reduced to 55% in 2019-20
- The ethnic data for the children presented by mainstream schools shows a similar over-representation for some ethnic groups as the permanent exclusion statistics

# Managed Moves to Mainstream Schools

- The majority of managed moves are from one mainstream school to another
- The TFG received compelling evidence which suggests that a proportion of managed moves are not set up in the best way to succeed
- We have no longitudinal information about the success of these managed moves
- As some managed moves are brokered on a personal headteacher to headteacher basis without outcome being communicated to the local authority we do not even know about all the managed moves which take place

# Interviews with stakeholders

- Colleagues on the Sub Committee are invited to read and consider carefully the analysis of evidence given by stakeholders about managed moves which is set out and discussed in Section 9 of the report
- Much of this is cogent professional evidence and indicative that a rolling out of best practice might lead to improved outcomes for children undertaking a managed move to a new school

# Recommendation One

- That the Scrutiny and Overview Children and Young People Sub Committee seek from the Director of Education an annual report on Exclusions and Managed Moves, such report to be presented at an Autumn meeting and separate from the Standards report, the report to include the following areas at least in relation to managed moves:
- The number of managed moves agreed by the Fair Access Panel in the preceding academic year, including the provision of data as to the following characteristics of the children concerned: age, gender, free school meal eligibility, national curriculum year, SEND provision, ethnic group and level of deprivation - these are the characteristics which must be reported in respect of permanent exclusion



# Recommendation One

- the number of managed moves from a mainstream school to a PRU or other alternative provision
- the number of managed moves from a mainstream school to another mainstream school
- the number of managed moves which broke down during the 12 weeks probationary period
- an analysis of the reasons for the breakdown during the probationary period and information about the subsequent pathways of the children concerned
- the number of children reintegrated from alternative provision into mainstream, broken down into the number reintegrated who immediately prior to admission to AP had undergone permanent exclusion and the number reintegrated who immediately prior to admission to AP had undergone a managed move
- in respect of managed moves to mainstream schools the number from each presenting school, and the number to each receiving school
- such information as the local authority may possess about the number of managed moves not passing through the FAP process, including the characteristics set out in the first bullet point above
- the chart of givers and takers (that is, for each school, the number of children each school successfully presents to FAP, and the number each school accepts)
- the destinations of children who have been permanently excluded

# Recommendations Two, Three and Four

- The Director prepares a paper on managed moves for the consideration of key stakeholders in FAP which sets out factors perceived to conduce to both good and bad outcomes, and including some objective case studies.
- The Director instigates an independent evaluation of how participants perceive the collegiality of the managed moves process, and what might be done to enhance it.
- The Director requests headteachers who are invited to the FAP to include information about the number of managed moves to and from their school in their termly report to their governing body, such as data to include all managed moves whether brokered through the FAP or in some other way.

# Recommendations Five And Six

- The Governor Supports Team briefs secondary school governors on managed moves and provides guidance as to how they might scrutinise the issue.
- The Director requests that the headteachers notify the Local Authority of a managed move they have arranged other than through FAP, such notification to be provided by the headteacher of the presenting school immediately after a starting date for the move has been agreed by all relevant parties.

# Recommendations Seven and Eight

- There should be statutory or at least non-statutory guidance to school admissions authorities on the subject of managed moves.
- There should be consideration of whether paragraph 3.16 of the statutory guidance for school admission authorities should be extended to refer to managed moves so that (the suggested inserted words are highlighted) the relevant part reads as follows: “no school should be asked to take a disproportionate number of children who have been permanently excluded from other schools, who display challenging behaviour, who are placed via the Protocol, **or who have been admitted as the result of a managed move.**”

# Recommendations Nine and Ten

- The secondary school inspection framework should encompass managed moves.
- Consideration should be given in the HMCI's Annual Report to the provision of an overview of how schools are using managed moves.