

**TITLE** *In-year admissions survey for RSA research commissioned by the LGA*

**FOR CONSIDERATION BY** Admissions Forum on 13 February 2013

**REPORT PREPARED BY** Sue Riddick

**SUMMARY**

The Local Government Association (LGA) is inviting responses to a survey they are undertaking on in-year admissions issues from local authority admissions officers and admissions forum members. It incorporates a section on the role of School Admissions Forums.

The deadline to respond is 15 February 2013.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Forum considers the survey and indicates whether it wishes to respond on its own behalf or advise of any views it wishes to express as part of the local authority response.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

The survey is responding to changes in the School Admissions Code (February 2012) where the requirement to co-ordinate in-year admissions and to have a School Admissions Forum was removed.

The RSA has been commissioned by the LGA to carry out research on in-year admissions. There is concern that in-year admissions may be growing and affecting the education of vulnerable children in particular. The duty to provide education remains squarely with the local authority but the practicalities are too often proving difficult. The research, the first for several years to examine in-year admissions across England, will lead to the publication of a report. This will include recommendations for policy and practice, at national, local and school levels.

**List of Background Papers****School Admissions Code**

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**Understanding in-year admissions: A survey of in-year admissions issues for local authority admissions officers and admissions forum members**

This survey is part of the first major project for several years to understand changes to in-year admissions across England. It has been commissioned by the Local Government Association (LGA), and should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. We are grateful for your help in supporting this research. A report of findings will be emailed to all survey respondents who wish to receive one.

**About you**

1. What is your role?

2. In what capacity are you responding to this survey? (Please tick ONE box)

- On behalf of a local authority
- On behalf of an admissions forum
- As an individual
- Other (please specify)

**About your local authority/admissions forum**

3. Please state...

the name of your local authority (LA) and the area that it covers:

the number of schools your LA covers:

4. Is the admissions forum still operational?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

5. If yes, please give more information about current role of the forum, and future plans.

### Admissions in general

6. How would you describe your LA/admission forum's influence over the admissions policies and practices of... (please indicate on scale)

schools in general?

very strong

strong

fair

weak

very weak

don't know

academies which are their own admission authority?

very strong

strong

fair

weak

very weak

don't know

other schools who are own admission authority schools?

very strong

strong

fair

weak

very weak

don't know

7. How many own admission authority schools use the LA to manage their admissions in your area?

8. What are the differences (if any) between the administration of in-year admissions and admissions in general? (continued overleaf)

9. What number of admissions occurred in your LA in the following periods?

2009-10

2010-11

2011-12

### In-year admissions

10. How many in-year admissions took place in your LA in the following periods?

2009-10

2010-11

2011-12

11. What percentage of in-year admissions related to primary and secondary phases during the period 2011-12?

% Primary

% Secondary

12. Which groups do you think are overrepresented in the figures for in-year admissions, and how do you anticipate this changing in the future? (e.g. children with SEN, excluded children, LAC, children with English as an additional language (EAL), British born children moving house, children from a particular gender, ethnicity, or year group) (continued overleaf)

13. What is your approach to managing in-year admissions on behalf of schools in your area?

14. What challenges (if any) are you facing in relation to managing in-year admissions?

15. Who are your key stakeholders (e.g. Housing department or PRUs), how are they involved in the admissions process, and what is your approach to working with them?

16. What challenges (if any) are you facing in relation to your key stakeholders?

### Effect of changes to in-year admissions

17. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about the transfer of in-year admissions responsibilities to individual admissions authorities? (please indicate on scale provided)

This change will make it easier for in-year admissions to be managed fairly.

strongly agree

agree

disagree

strongly disagree

don't know

Vulnerable children will spend less time waiting to find a school.

strongly agree

agree

disagree

strongly disagree

don't know

Placements for other children will also be sped up.

strongly agree

agree

disagree

strongly disagree

don't know

My LA/admissions forum feels positive about this change.

strongly agree

agree

disagree

strongly disagree

don't know

18. Please highlight any other effects you anticipate for particular groups, including: children with SEN, excluded children, boys and girls, ethnic minorities, children in different key stages, LAC, children with EAL and British born children moving house.

### Encouraging best practice

19. Can you give any examples of schools, or clusters of schools, who deal with in year admissions effectively and fairly, with positive outcomes?

20. Can you give examples of poor practice in your area, without naming schools?

## Other issues

21. What is your/your LA or admissions forum's overall view about the end of the statutory role of admissions forums?

very positive

positive

indifferent

concerned

very concerned

don't know

22. What action (if any) would you like to see taken to address this?

23. What is your/your LA or admissions forum's view about the growth of own admission authority schools?

very positive

positive

indifferent

concerned

very concerned

don't know

24. What action (if any) would you like to see taken to address this?

25. What is your/your LA or admissions forum's view about the numbers of in-year admissions?

very positive

positive

indifferent

concerned

very concerned

don't know

26. What action (if any) would you like to see taken to address this?



27. Please let us know any other in-year admission related issues for you/your LA or admissions forum, your overall view about these issues, and that action (if any) you would like to see taken to address it.

28. Please let us know any other comments, observations or policy proposals you may have.

End of survey. Thank you!

I am happy to be contacted by the project researcher for a short telephone interview.

yes

no

I would like to receive a copy of the final report.

yes

no

I would like to receive the RSA's fortnightly Action and Research Centre newsletter.

yes

no

Name

Title

Phone number

Email address

Please return this survey to RSA Education, Action and Research Centre,  
8 John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6EZ by Friday 15 February 2013