

In-year Fair Access Protocol development project

- Led by Oxfordshire CC (Deborah Bell) and supported by Reading, Surrey, Southampton and Kent:
- Tasks undertaken included:
 - *Scrutiny of all available and shared regional IYFAP protocols to identify themes, similarities and differences*
 - *Interface with EHE development project*
 - *Survey of LAs to gauge appetite for a regional IYFAP to support pupil mobility barriers*
 - *Identification of agreed exemplars of best practice.*
 - *Identification of recommendations for ADs and DSCs to consider, adopt and seek support/lobby DfE*
 - *Professional discussion at the SESLIP CME Group to consider IYFAP voting arrangements*

IYFAP development project: exemplars of best practice

- EHE children where parents are seeking to return to a school – return should be to the original school. If this is not the preferred option of the parent, the original school is expected to broker a managed move to an alternative school
- Consistent Chair, as opposed to rotating Chairs, supports consistency of practice across localities within LAs and across the LA
- Independent Chair or LA Chair to ensure impartiality
- Early Help partners routinely involved as key attendees at all IYFAPs. Police attendance also encouraged to support identification of young people vulnerable to exploitation for priority and safe locality placement
- Transition from AP back to school requires the AP provider and the school to co-produce and deliver effective transition plans – child admitted to roll within 6 weeks following completion of AP supported integration plan
- No child or young person discussed at IYFAP leaves without an allocated school for admission, without an agreed start date and without a named person to discharge follow up checks to ensure the start in a timely fashion
- Consistent expectation that Year 11 pupils are placed in Year 11 – this drives down AP spend and meets the statutory entitlement of the young person

IYFAP development project: recommendations on areas to lobby the DfE (with a view towards the new admissions code)

- To fulfil their responsibility for the safeguarding of all children and young people, LAs should co-ordinate all admissions, which will also ensure consistency and transparency.
- LAs to be able to direct academies to admit children / young people to prevent dispute and delay.
- If the above is unachievable, significant improvement in the timeliness of ESFA intervention. Response times that mirror the timescales for LAs are suggested, for inclusion in the revised Admissions Code.
- LA oversight of appeals process for academy admissions. At the very least, knowledge of academy appeals process and the panellists (training received and by who and panellists credentials).
- Any offers to admit a year 11 pupil outside their chronological year group must be by exception, with evidence of a justifiable reason and consent of the parent. Also that the DfE clarifies that all schools must admit children into year 11 up until the last Friday in June each year.