

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	25 November 2008
Subject:	Special Educational Needs
Responsible Officer:	Heather Clements, Director of Schools and Children's Development
Portfolio Holder:	Councillors Christine Bednell and Anjana Patel Portfolio Holders for Children's Services & Schools and Children's Development
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out information requested by the committee on: (1) the numbers of children with special needs statements; (2) the numbers of children at school action plus; (3) the number of requests for statutory special needs assessments; and, (4) the use of the advisory service for parents.

Recommendations:

The committee is requested to note and make comments on the report and the information provided.

Reason: (For recommendation)

Not applicable.

Section 2 – Report

Background

A group made up of members of the former lifelong learning scrutiny sub-committee carried out a review in this area in 2002-03 that reported to the committee in April 2003.

1 **The numbers of children with special needs statements:** The review referred to above concluded that whilst the distribution of special needs statements across mainstream schools was not even, the spread was not unreasonable and significant variations were in the main accounted for by the additional resourcing for meeting specialist needs in particular schools. A report submitted to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 13 February 2007 provided information for the period January 2002 until January 2006.

Appendix 1 shows the number of special needs statements (S) for mainstream schools in Harrow and the percentage (% NOR S) this represents of the number of pupils on roll taken from the Schools Census for the period January 2007 until January 2008 that is the latest date this information is available currently. There are expected variations both within and between schools over this period; as a general rule those schools with the highest numbers and proportion of special needs statements are the additionally resourced schools.

The overall percentage of Harrow pupils with special needs statements attending all types of primary schools in January 2007 is 1.7% compared to an average for England of 1.5%. For secondary age pupils the overall percentage is 2.7% that is significantly higher than the average for England of 2.1%.

The authority performs highly in producing special needs statements within the statutory timescale and best value performance indicator data for 2007-08 is as follows:

- BVPI 43a: the percentage of all statements prepared within 18 weeks excluding those involving other agencies – 98.7%;
- BVPI 43b: the percentage of all statements prepared within 18 weeks including those involving other agencies – 97.4%.

This has now been replaced by National Indicator 103 Special Education Needs - statements issued within 26 weeks. The performance data for 2008-09 is as follows: quarter 1 100%; quarter 2 96.8%.

2 **The numbers of children at school action plus:** Appendix 2 shows the number of children at School Action Plus (P) for mainstream schools in Harrow and the percentage (% NOR P) this represents of the number of pupils on roll taken from the Schools Census for the period January 2007 until January 2008 that is the latest date this information is available currently. Again there are expected variations both within and between schools over this period, reflecting the different needs of children and young people.

The overall percentage of pupils at School Action Plus in Harrow schools in January 2007 is 5.8% that is extremely close to the average for England of 5.9%. In secondary schools the overall average in Harrow of 6.5% is significantly higher than the average for England of 5.1%.

3 The number of requests for statutory special needs assessments:

The local authority received 200 requests for statutory special needs assessment in the period September 2006 - September 2007 and 175 were agreed. In the period from September 2007 - September 2008 the local authority received 196 requests for statutory special needs assessment and 138 were agreed. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of early years requests and for a large proportion of the requests that were not agreed, it was considered further intervention at Early Years Action Plus was appropriate and statutory assessment not necessary.

The decision to make a statutory special needs assessment is made in the light of all the circumstances of each individual case by the SEN Assessment and Review Panel, comprising local authority officers together with headteachers, special needs co-ordinators and other professionals such as paediatric therapists. This process is regarded as good practice and helps to support consistent and transparent decision-making by the local authority.

4 The use of the advisory service for parents: In the academic year 2007-08, Harrow Parent Partnership Service supported the parents and/or carers of 311 children and young people with special educational needs in the age range 0-19 years, in both Harrow and out-borough schools. The local authority has a service level agreement with the London SEN Mediation Service in order to meet its statutory requirement to offer independent disagreement arrangements to help prevent or resolve disagreements between parents, whose children have special educational needs, and the local authority or the school.

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Performance Issues

Not applicable

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

This is not required owing to the information nature of the report.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Roger Rickman, Head of Service, Special Needs Services. Telephone 020 8966 6334, e-mail roger.rickman@harrow.gov.uk.

Background Papers:

Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee, Review of the distribution of SEN statements in mainstream schools, 8 April 2003.

The distribution of SEN statements in Harrow's mainstream schools, Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 12 January 2005.

The distribution of SEN statements in Harrow's mainstream schools, Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 4 April 2006.

The distribution of SEN statements in Harrow's mainstream schools, Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 13 February 2007.

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	YES / NO
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES / NO

Appendix 1

Name	2007		2008	
	S	% of NOR S	S	% of NOR S
Newton Farm F & M	3	1.0%	5	1.8%
Whitefriars F & M	4	0.9%	10	2.2%
Roxeth F & M	5	1.1%	8	1.8%
Marlborough F & M	7	1.5%	5	1.1%
Grimsdyke F & M	1	0.2%	3	0.7%
Little Stanmore F & M	3	1.2%	3	1.1%
Belmont Middle	1	0.4%	0	0.0%
Cannon Lane Middle	4	1.2%	6	1.7%
Cedars Middle	15	5.0%		
Elmgrove Middle	15	4.9%	15	5.0%
Kenmore Park Middle	8	2.3%	10	3.0%
Pinner Park Middle	11	3.2%	6	1.7%
Priestmead Middle	5	1.3%	9	2.5%
Roxbourne Middle	4	1.3%	5	1.6%
Stag Lane Middle	6	1.7%	4	1.2%
Stanburn Middle	2	0.6%	7	2.1%
Longfield Middle	6	1.9%	7	2.0%
Weald Middle	5	1.5%	5	1.5%
West Lodge Middle	5	1.6%	3	0.9%
Grange Middle	8	2.6%	6	2.2%
Roxeth Manor Middle	6	1.8%	4	1.2%
Cannon Lane First	5	1.4%	4	1.1%
Cedars First	7	2.5%		
Longfield First	5	1.3%	5	1.2%
Pinner Park First	7	1.7%	8	2.0%
Priestmead First	6	1.5%	10	2.5%
Stag Lane First	3	0.8%	4	1.0%
Belmont First	2	0.7%	2	0.7%
Elmgrove First	17	4.9%	15	4.2%
Kenmore Park First	3	0.9%	3	0.9%
Roxbourne First	4	1.1%	3	0.8%
Stanburn First	3	0.8%	3	0.8%
Weald First	2	0.5%	2	0.6%
West Lodge First	6	1.7%	11	3.1%
Grange First	5	1.7%	5	1.7%
Roxeth Manor First	1	0.3%	3	0.9%
Earlsmead F & M	7	1.8%	8	2.2%
Weldon Park First	8	3.0%	11	4.0%
Weldon Park Middle	10	5.2%	9	4.4%
Norbury F & M	4	0.8%	6	1.2%
Vaughan F & M	15	2.9%	15	2.9%
Glebe F & M	6	1.5%	3	0.7%
Aylward F & M	10	2.1%	9	1.8%
Whitchurch First	9	2.2%	9	2.2%
Whitchurch Middle	14	4.0%	14	3.9%
St. Bernadette's R.C. F & M	7	1.8%	8	1.9%
St. Anselm's R.C. F & M	3	0.7%	3	0.7%
St. Teresa's R.C. F & M	4	0.9%	4	0.9%
St. John Fisher R.C. F & M	7	1.7%	7	1.7%
St. Joseph's R.C. F & M	9	2.2%	7	1.7%
St. George's R.C. F & M	8	1.8%	6	1.4%
Moriah F & M	3	1.4%	0	0.0%

St John's F & M	4	0.9%	3	0.7%
Pinner Wood School	7	1.4%	6	1.2%
Cedars Manor			16	3.0%
Hatch End High	48	4.0%	40	3.3%
Park High	29	2.6%	30	2.7%
Canons High	9	1.3%	8	1.1%
Nower Hill High	33	2.7%	29	2.4%
Whitmore High	46	4.4%	51	4.9%
Rooks Heath High	20	2.1%	16	1.8%
Bentley Wood High	10	1.4%	8	1.1%
Harrow High	18	2.6%	17	2.5%
Sacred Heart High	14	1.9%	10	1.4%
Salvatorian College	22	3.1%	17	2.4%

The highlighted schools are additionally resourced for pupils with specialist needs.

Appendix 2

Name	2007		2008	
	P	% of NOR P	P	% of NOR P
Newton Farm F & M	12	4.2%	11	3.9%
Whitefriars F & M	47	10.7%	46	10.2%
Roxeth F & M	15	3.3%	17	3.8%
Marlborough F & M	38	8.1%	32	6.8%
Grimsdyke F & M	20	4.5%	15	3.3%
Little Stanmore F & M	13	5.2%	38	14.3%
Belmont Middle	46	19.6%	48	21.5%
Cannon Lane Middle	9	2.8%	8	2.3%
Cedars Middle	22	7.3%		
Elmgrove Middle	20	6.5%	32	10.7%
Kenmore Park Middle	17	4.9%	40	12.1%
Pinner Park Middle	27	7.8%	29	8.2%
Priestmead Middle	15	4.0%	23	6.3%
Roxbourne Middle	25	8.4%	20	6.6%
Stag Lane Middle	31	8.7%	30	8.8%
Stanburn Middle	14	4.0%	5	1.5%
Longfield Middle	19	6.0%	18	5.2%
Weald Middle	25	7.6%	25	7.6%
West Lodge Middle	20	6.3%	14	4.4%
Grange Middle	31	10.0%	28	10.2%
Roxeth Manor Middle	15	4.6%	15	4.6%
Cannon Lane First	29	8.1%	11	3.1%
Cedars First	23	8.2%		
Longfield First	14	3.6%	11	2.7%
Pinner Park First	7	1.7%	10	2.5%
Priestmead First	14	3.4%	10	2.5%
Stag Lane First	16	4.3%	15	3.9%
Belmont First	44	16.1%	42	14.7%
Elmgrove First	6	1.7%	9	2.5%
Kenmore Park First	14	4.3%	12	3.6%
Roxbourne First	14	3.9%	16	4.5%
Stanburn First	14	4.0%	10	2.8%
Weald First	20	5.5%	26	7.5%
West Lodge First	10	2.8%	8	2.2%
Grange First	28	9.6%	19	6.6%
Roxeth Manor First	9	2.8%	4	1.2%
Earlsmead F & M	18	4.7%	17	4.6%
Welldon Park First	11	4.2%	18	6.6%
Welldon Park Middle	12	6.3%	14	6.8%
Norbury F & M	33	6.6%	70	14.4%
Vaughan F & M	46	8.9%	63	12.1%
Glebe F & M	28	7.0%	40	9.5%
Aylward F & M	14	2.9%	15	3.0%
Whitchurch First	14	3.4%	10	2.4%
Whitchurch Middle	20	5.7%	13	3.6%
St. Bernadette's R.C. F & M	45	11.4%	32	7.7%
St. Anselm's R.C. F & M	19	4.6%	17	4.0%
St. Teresa's R.C. F & M	20	4.4%	26	5.6%
St. John Fisher R.C. F & M	27	6.5%	16	3.8%
St. Joseph's R.C. F & M	8	1.9%	6	1.5%
St. George's R.C. F & M	7	1.6%	11	2.5%
Moriah F & M	5	2.3%	4	1.9%

St John's F & M	26	6.1%	22	5.1%
Pinner Wood School	34	6.8%	28	5.8%
Cedars Manor			37	7.0%
Hatch End High	62	5.1%	80	6.7%
Park High	35	3.1%	35	3.1%
Canons High	104	14.6%	181	25.5%
Nower Hill High	58	4.8%	60	5.0%
Whitmore High	64	6.1%	46	4.4%
Rooks Heath High	115	12.3%	108	12.3%
Bentley Wood High	13	1.8%	30	4.2%
Harrow High	65	9.3%	97	14.3%
Sacred Heart High	38	5.1%	40	5.4%
Salvatorian College	42	6.0%	66	9.5%