

Islington School Organisation Programme Board

Draft Terms of Reference

Introduction and Purpose of the Board

Falling rolls in primary schools is a pressing issue. A series of managed reductions to existing capacity proposed for 2022/23 will help bring the surplus in Reception down to 11% temporarily, with a further rise expected the following year if no action is taken due in large part to declining birth rates. In relation to secondary schools, reductions agreed at two schools has reduced the growing surplus of secondary year 7 places, from 16% in 2019/20 to 8.9% in 2020/21. At secondary phase a surplus over 10% is projected over the next 5 years.

This issue affects all planning areas in Islington and it is therefore imperative that we develop a new comprehensive School Organisation Plan to ensure appropriate levels of high quality school places at both primary and secondary; that we promote good choice and diversity in our local school offer and ensure that the most vulnerable children, including those with specific educational needs are supported through effective school place planning.

Functions of the Board

To drive the delivery of Islington's strategic School Organisation and Pupil Place Planning approach through:

- Production of the Islington School Organisation Plan for 2021 -2024 which will set out a clear vision and principles that underpin and guide the management of surplus places
- Monitoring the plan, including the development and management of the risk register
- Making recommendations to the Local Authority on school organisation including, where appropriate, recommendations to the Local Authority to take forward to central government
- Informing the statutory annual admissions consultation process
- Taking account of the needs assessment for school places based on roll projections, net capacity, SEND, Published Admission Numbers (PANs), the Capital Programme and advice from the Regional Schools Commissioner and religious authorities
- Taking account of the financial sustainability of schools in any recommendations that are made
- To develop a long-term approach to School Organisation and Pupil Place Planning
- Reporting into related boards and governance
- Evaluation and assessment of proposals for school organisations and their impact, including the equality and socio-economic impacts for residents and staff.

In Scope in Phase one

The focus of the board in the first phase is on the organisation of schools for the appropriate provision of places from reception through to year 11.

Out of Scope in Phase one

The sufficiency of early years places, special school capacity (this is being addressed through a parallel SEND Review) and Post-16 provision are out of scope in this phase as a specific programme but will be key factors that are considered in the application of the principles.

Frequency of meetings

- Once every 3 weeks in summer term 2021
- Bi monthly during autumn term 2021
- Once a term from Spring 2022 unless more are required

Membership of the Board

As a minimum:

- 5 x Headteachers from a representation of school types and phases
- 3 x Chairs of Governors
- 1 x School Business Manager
- Local Authority Officers:
 - Corporate Director Resources (Chair)
 - Assistant Director School Improvement
 - Assistant Director School Support and Information Services
 - Head of Capital, Contracts and Asset Management
 - Head of Pupil Services
 - Head of Admissions and Children out of school Service
 - Head of School and Early Years Finance
 - Head of Data and Performance