

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION	
BRIEFING SHEET	
SUBJECT: PROVIDING FULL-TIME EDUCATION FROM THE SIXTH DAY OF A FIXED PERIOD EXCLUSION	
RECIPIENT(S): Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of C of E Schools	
SDBE CONTACT: Carol Jerwood	DATE: 1 March 2007

I INTRODUCTION

1.1 From September 2007 all schools (including CTCs and academies) must provide full-time education, off-site, for any pupil who is excluded for a fixed period of six days or more. The duty comes into play on the sixth day of any fixed period exclusion; for the first five days the child is the parents' responsibility. The duty on schools is matched by a similar duty on LAs to provide full-time education for pupils from the sixth day of any permanent exclusion (currently LAs have a duty to provide full-time education from the sixteenth day).

1.2 This briefing sheet summarises the guidance published by the DfES in February 2007; the full guidance is available on:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/_doc/10833/Day_6_guidance_for_schools_020207_rev.pdf

A revised version of *Improving behaviour and Attendance: Guidance on exclusion from schools and PRUs* will be published in July 2007.

2 DUTIES ON SCHOOLS

2.1 Schools must:

- (i) inform parents of their responsibility to ensure that their child is not in a public place in school hours during the first five days of a fixed period exclusion;
- (ii) provide full-time*, off-site (or in shared provision) from the sixth day of a fixed period exclusion;
- (iii) inform the LA and the pupil's home LA (if different) immediately of any permanent exclusion).

2.2 Schools should:

- (i) be working in partnership to improve behaviour and tackle persistent absence;
- (ii) have in place simple, effective referral mechanisms to ensure that off-site providers have as much notice and information about the pupil as possible;
- (iii) review their strategies for dealing with "day six provision".

*'Full time' means supervised education equivalent to that provided by mainstream schools in the area and will be different for each Key Stage (KS). The recommended minimum hours per week of taught time are as follows: KS1 - 21 hours; KS2 - 23.5 hours; KS3/4 - 24 hours; KS4 (Yr 11) - 25 hours.

3 WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP – TYPES OF PROVISION

3.1 All maintained secondary schools are expected to have formed local partnerships to improve behaviour and tackle persistent absence; such partnerships may include primary schools. In preparation for this, schools should examine the likely impact on the pattern of exclusions; schools should discuss their use of exclusion and examine the effectiveness of multiple fixed period exclusions. Partnerships should not plan for day six provision on the basis that past volumes of exclusion will necessarily be reflected in the future, but schools must try to assess demand for placements not only in terms of numbers but also in terms of the likely range of pupil needs.

3.2 Provision for excluded pupils needs to be suitable to the child's age, ability and any special educational needs and should equate with the number of hours a pupil would expect to receive in school. Education may be provided in another school, a shared unit, a PRU, or in educational provision made by private or voluntary sector provider. There needs to be assurance about the quality of provision. Ideally schools should have

access to a range of provision to meet the differing needs of pupils. Where a group of pupils is excluded together, some consideration should be given to the desirability, or otherwise, of separating the pupils. The following possible options are discussed and examples given in the guidance:

Reciprocal arrangements	whereby excluded children can be educated in another local school by agreement. (It is recognised that there would be difficulties with this in rural areas.)
Shared provision	groups of schools share an off-site facility; it is not clear how this would be funded, but it is suggested this could be similar to a PRU or a youth centre and possibly privately run, or run by a charity or the LA. Further guidance is expected on this in September 2007.
PRUs	the availability of places could be an issue and LAs will need to work closely with schools in ensuring suitable short-term placements. There is an expectation that local partnerships will reduce the need for permanent exclusions and calls on the capacity in PRUs is likely to change.
Externally contracted provision	LAs commission alternative educational provision from a variety of sources, eg FE colleges, tuition centres, e-learning centres and independent schools. LAs should make a list of alternative provision available to schools.
E-solutions	There is a range of ICT provision available to those for whom mainstream schooling is either unsuitable or impracticable (though this is usually long-term). There are supervision issues associated with this type of provision and schools should ensure reliable methods are in place for monitoring the provision.

3.3 Referral mechanisms will need to be in place to ensure that parents and off-site providers are given sufficient information. A referral form is included in the guidance.

3.4 Review of the strategies should be undertaken in summer 2008.

4 FUNDING

4.1 Funding is available for day six provision within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG); for the coming year £9.3m will be available from September 07 to March 08; approximately 62% of this will be devolved to schools, the remainder being retained by LAs to cover costs of permanent exclusion “day six provision”. The DfES has given indicative figures for day six provision for each LA –this is the total amount; each school forum will need to work out an appropriate allocation for schools.

LA	Indicative amount for day six provision (£k)
Greenwich	56
Lambeth	53
Lewisham	56
Southwark	57
Wandsworth	45
Bexley	48
Croydon	65
Kingston	26
Merton	30
Richmond	28
Surrey	175
Sutton	38