

## **DISABILITY ACCESS STRATEGY**

### **The LA's legal responsibilities:**

Since December 2006, the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) has required all public bodies to produce a Disability Equality Scheme (DES); a forward plan of how accessibility improvements and reasonable adjustments will be made. Kingston's DES was produced by the Chief Executive's Office.

Schools must produce their own DES covering a 3-year period to 2009.

The DDA requires public authorities to

- include a statement of methods for assessing the impact of its policies on equality for disabled persons. Regulation 2(3)(b)
- set out an action plan of how it will fulfil the disability equality duty. Regulation 2(3)(c)

### **Access Strategy**

Learning & Children's Services, under a duty set out in the SEN & Disability Act (SENDA 2001) produces a separate, Disability Access Strategy for inclusion in mainstream schools. This strategy has been in place since 2003. It will need to be rewritten in 2009.

The Access Strategy was subject to an EQIA initial assessment and subsequently a full impact assessment in 2007.

The EQIA was fully updated in August 2008.

An action plan covering the period September 2008 to July 2009 has been developed.

## ACCESS STRATEGY UPDATE 2008

In March 2008, there were 470 children and young people in Kingston identified as children with Disabilities on the ICOUNT register, representing an increase of 4% from previous year (451).

Children and young people can be registered in multiple categories. An analysis of the prevalence of disabilities in ICOUNT registrations shows:  
(2007 data given in brackets)

Communication Disorders	255	(237)
Moderate/Severe Physical difficulties	99	(95)
Moderate/Severe Learning Disabilities	178	(176)
Blind/Sight impaired	33	(32)
Hearing Impaired	31	(29)
Profound multiple disabilities	19	(19)
Chronic Medical Disorder	36	(34)
Mental Health	2	(2)
Behaviour	3	(0)
Total	656	(624)

Similar SEN data (January 2008) recorded 598 children & young people subject to a Statement, being a reduction of 1.5% over the previous year (607). An increasing number had difficulties identified as autism (184) or speech, language and communication (273).

In Kingston, there are more boys registered with disabilities than girls:

	Males	Females
General population in Kingston (as 2001 census)	50.1%	49.9%
General population in Kingston (2006 estimate National Statistics) Crown copyright.	50.3%	49.7%
Registered 'ICOUNT' March 2008	68.3%	31.7%

National data for 2008 published by Central Government suggests that 56% of pupils in state funded primary and secondary schools with SEN, including disabilities, are boys. In Kingston Schools, 66% of pupils with SEN are boys; 55% at school action, 67% at action plus and 75% subject to a Statement.

Analysis of the actual number of registered male and females by age profile shows:

Age range	Males	Females
0-4	29 (24)	18 (17)
5-9	98 (100)	37 (31)
10-14	116 (108)	51 (55)
15-19	78 (76)	43 (40)

Further analysis of 470 registered pupils:

Ethnic origin/age band shows:	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	Total
White: British and Irish	32	83	119	82	316
White: Other	3	11	9	6	29
Asian: Bangladeshi			2	1	3
Asian: Indian	1	6	7	3	17
Asian: Pakistani	2	6	4	3	15
Asian: Other	1	4	3	4	12
Black: African	1	2	4	2	9
Black: Caribbean			1	1	2
Black: Other		1	1	1	3
Chinese		1		2	3
Mixed: White and Asian	2	4	5	2	13
Mixed: White and Black African	1	1	2		4
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean		4	1	3	8
Mixed: Other	1	5	3	5	14
Other	2	3	2		7
Unknown	1	4	4	6	15
					470

Analysis of the 'White: Other' category highlighted 3 pupils whose backgrounds were not disclosed, 3 sub groups with 2 pupils from the same background (Australian, Lebanese and Polish) which had 1 category last year, and 21 categories which have only 1 pupil e.g. 1 American, 1 Finnish, 1 Sri Lankan and Turkish etc.

An analysis of the proportion of BME pupils in Kingston schools and those BME pupils identified as SEN shows some statistical variances which appear indicative of under/over representation:

3 primary (no secondary) schools identified at least 10% more BME pupils with SEN than the proportion of their intake with BME suggests. This may be over identification of BME pupils as SEN.

10 primary and 3 secondary schools identified significantly fewer BME pupils with SEN than the proportion of the school's intake. 5 of these schools have BME intakes of more than 50%, 6 schools have a BME intake between 38% and 45%. This may be indicative of under representation.

There are only 37 pupils from a traveller background in Kingston, of whom 29 are primary aged. 48.6% of these children with a traveller background are boys. Only 4 children (10%) have been identified as having disabilities/SEN, but girls represent 75% of those with SEN.

For more information, please contact Julie Ely, Ext 5269

