

Another way to secure more places for children moving into a given area is to allow late applications to be processed as on time where there is proof of a change of address. This would enable them to be considered as resident in the area, prioritising them ahead of other children who live further away than their new home address.

The impact this would have had on Sedlescombe in the example given in Appendix 3 above would have been that two, or possibly three of the families who moved into the area would have been given places in the initial allocation process, reducing the number of out of area children offered places accordingly. This would have meant that when a further three families moved in to the area, they would have been able to be accommodated within the class size limit (as there were three children who moved out), and the school would only have been obliged to accept two movers-in under the Fair Access Protocol (assuming everything else stayed the same).

We would need to have a cut-off date for accepting these applications as on time as clearly there comes a point when decisions have to be made in order to meet the allocation date of 1 March or 16 April (for secondary and primary respectively). However we propose to allow these applications up until 1 February (secondary) and 15 March (primary) so as to allow as much time as possible for movers-in while at the same time being confident of being able to achieve the legal obligation to offer places on national offer day.

Other authorities take this approach and have reported that it works well. For example, this approach is used in Brighton & Hove, who outline it in their admissions literature so that parents are aware of the situation and can act accordingly. In this way the authority is seen to be acting reasonably to respond to the needs of movers-in, as well as reducing the number of children placed long distances from home, which in turn has a positive impact on the number of appeals received and on the home to school transport budget.