

## Data Management and Analysis Group

### Education Team Workplan 2007/08



**Education**

# **DMAG Briefing 2007-07**

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**Education Team  
Workplan 2007/08**

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# Education Team Work plan 2007/08

## Introduction

This *Briefing* outlines the 2007/08 work programme for the Education Team, based within the GLA's Data Management and Analysis Group. The report covers:

- The Role of the Team
- Staffing
- Clients and Stakeholder Liaison
- 2007/08 priorities
- The Work Programme
- Publications

## The Role of the Team

The role of DMAG Education is to analyse and report on education and related data to ensure that the GLA and its partner agencies have the evidence base necessary to inform policy development in this area. The Team has licensed access to pan-London pupil level data, which is its single main source of information and has now been expanded to include pupil level data in the shire counties and unitary authorities around London. Work in the Team on pupil level data has a national reputation. DMAG Education makes use of a wide range of additional datasets, including the 2001 Census, to add context to pupil level data, and work is underway on a London higher education dataset.

Additionally DMAG Education provides, under contract, school roll projections to 22 London boroughs, and has developed a pan-London roll projection system, mainly to meet GLA needs.

In order to meet the needs of the Team's client base, the work programme aims to strike a balance between the following main areas of work:

- Tailored analysis and research designed to inform policy discussions through, for example, analyses of equity, access, and routes to improvement in education.
- Regular and routine updates of previous analysis to facilitate monitoring of GLA strategies and plans.
- Development of 'reference shelf' material to help deal more efficiently with the numerous data requests the team receives.
- Development and maintenance of data holdings.
- Liaison/lobbying with the Department for Education and Skills, and with researchers in higher education and elsewhere, to ensure that the GLA has access to the data it requires.

DMAG Education makes its analysis and research available via the *DMAG Briefings* and *DMAG Updates* series and GLA reports.

## **Staffing**

The Education Team has two full-time staff as well as part of the time of the Demographic Consultant (John Hollis), who manages the Demography Team and the Social Exclusion Data Team as well as the Education Team.

David Ewens – Senior Research and Statistical Analyst - is responsible for research and data analysis, and for liaison with research and statistics staff in other organisations.

Shen Cheng – Research and Statistical Analyst - is mainly responsible for the school roll projections service. She also updates statistical reports on other DfES data, and has access to a range of pupil level and other data connected to issues in demography.

## **Clients and Stakeholder Liaison**

DMAG Education's main clients may be segmented as follows:

- Mayor's Office – contributing to the evidence base which supports policy development, in particular through its work with the Children and Young People's Unit and the Education Policy Team
- London boroughs (forecasting demand for school places)
- GLA Directorates, particularly in relation to:
  - providing data analysis to support the formation on policy on education and children's services issues
  - provision and development of monitoring data to assess GLA strategies
- Greater London Assembly
- Functional Bodies

Central government agencies, academics, the media and the voluntary sector seek the work and advice of the Team.

DMAG Education has close working relationships with the Department for Education and Skills Analytical Service as well as with the staff at the Institute of Education and the London School of Economics, as well as researchers in other universities and in local government.

DMAG Education is active in a number of other groups, including the British Educational Research Association and the London Education Research Network. It hosts meetings of the latter, including its post-16 education group, and holds regular meetings of the London School Roll Project Liaison Group. This plays a crucial roll in the development of the roll projection service for 22 subscribing London boroughs. Under the auspices of DMAG Evidence-based Education Research (DEBRe), DMAG Education holds an annual conference on evidence-based research in education, and is currently working with the new London Education Research Unit at the Institute of Education, London University, to jointly organise a conference in October 2007 on education and social selection.

The meetings of these groups, together with other ad-hoc meetings, enable the GLA to put London's case to government for better statistics and better access to data and to forge working alliances with other groups researching education in London. They also maintain the GLA's high national profile in the analysis of such data. Additionally DMAG

Education staff attend other internal GLA forums as appropriate, including the Demography Liaison Group and the Census User Group.

DMAG's education work is reported to, and partly developed through, the Education Policy Team. David Ewens is a member of the EPT, which is run by the Mayor's Office. Most of the DMAG Education's work is published as *DMAG Briefings* or as presentations to conferences and seminars.

The field of research on education and on children's issues is growing rapidly, with more academic, government and private organisations active in the field. The Team already works closely and co-operatively with DfES and academics. Should time constraints permit, DMAG education will participate in developing joint agency work to support future data analysis, including analysis of currently sparse data on students in further education. Should the necessary resources become available, that activity could extend to contract working. However, it is currently unlikely that sufficient resources will be available to achieve this in 2007/08.

## 2007/08 Priorities

During 2007/08 the main priorities of the Team will be to prepare a range of analyses of new DfES and other data relevant to education and to children's issues in London. This will reflect a continuing effort to improve and extend data holdings, and to improve DMAG Education's capacity generally.

DMAG Education will enhance its capacity to provide and analyse data by engaging in joint projects and through co-operation with groups in central government agencies, higher education and local government. This activity will include, for example, contributing to the Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) review of possible pan-London arrangements for projecting school rolls. In line with ALDCS recommendations the Team will work to ensure that its *Briefings* are more readily available electronically to audiences outside the GLA.

DMAG Education will ensure that the school roll projection service for subscribing authorities will be maintained and developed in consultation with those authorities. That consultation will take place through the London School Roll Project Liaison Group and in the annual customer satisfaction survey. Roll projections will be delivered promptly and, taking the available data into account, accurately with a commentary appropriate to customer needs.

DMAG Education will continue to provide data and expertise on relevant topics for the GLA and others.

Specific items will include:

- Continuing analysis of pupil admissions to different types of schools, including City Academies where this has a bearing in issues of equity, access and educational improvement
- Continuing analyses of child mobility where this has a bearing on education and/or where it points to children missing education
- Continuing analyses of pupil mobility, especially where this has a bearing on issues of access, equity and educational improvement
- Continued analyses of education and children who face disadvantage
- Bringing together key reference material on schools and teachers in London, and on the wider economic and social context of education in the capital

## **The Work Programme**

There are areas of weakness as far as the availability of data on education is concerned. There is, for example, a remarkable dearth of publicly available data on further education. However, areas of weakness aside, the available data on education have expanded exponentially in recent years, and this has been especially so since the creation of the National Pupil Dataset in 2002. Research and data available on the website of the Department for Education and Skills now far exceeds that available from any other government department website.

Additionally, and more so than in any other field apart from medicine, the development of analyses of education data has gone hand in hand with the development of evidence-based policy and practice aimed at school improvement. In 2004 the existing focus on educational improvement was expanded in the Children's Act to include a much wider understanding of people's well-being and success. This has led to increased and changing expectations of what is required from DMAG Education: an increase and change that has been reinforced by additional legislation since 2004.

All this gives the analysis of education data a very wide range of actual and potential customers, with rapidly changing expectations.

For these reasons, the work plan can only be indicative, and will be subject to quarterly review, both internally within DMAG and with stakeholders.

### **Data Supply**

Though crucial to the GLA's interest in regeneration and inclusion, there is, as noted, a remarkable dearth of publicly available data on further education in London. There will be no progress in data analysis in this area until that situation changes. Data on higher education is more widely available, usually at a cost, but still amounts to only a small fraction the data available on pupils and education in maintained schools. Nonetheless, it may be possible to achieve progress in this area. Data on independent schools is also limited, and this is unlikely to change without primary legislation.

DfES updates pupil level data from the National Pupil Dataset (NPD) each year, after extensive and time-consuming work to ensure that data are accurate. London data extracts from the NPD have been released at widely varying intervals, with extracts being received between 9 and 22 months after the initial annual survey took place. The variation in timing reflects the pressures of work at the DfES, combined with the need to make a separate application for access to data each year. Some of the data in the NPD are of a highly sensitive nature, and discussion of the application for access can extend over a (very) protracted period.

Additionally, extensive work is needed once data are received to ready it for statistical analysis. This work extends over several weeks, reflecting the multiplicity of datasets in the extract, the extensive range of variables they contain, the very large number of individual pupil records in the NPD extract, and the wide range of datasets that are merged with the extract to add context to pupil level data.

This has major implications for customers who would prefer analyses to be based on data for the current year. For example, the most recent pupil level data available to DMAG Education at March 2007 is for 2005.

## **Data Analysis**

A range of analysis is planned across the following key areas:

- Differential access to education
- Social selection, social sorting and education
- Child mobility
- Forecasts of demand for school places

## **Requests and reference publications**

- As well as project work DMAG Education deals with a wide range of enquiries and ad hoc requests for analysis. Some will be met by summaries of publicly available data on pupils, teachers, schools and the context of education in London.
- *Focus on London 2008*. A chapter on education has been written for *FoL 2007* and it is expected that input will be made to the 2008 publication.

## **Longer Term Priorities**

The single main longer-term priority for 2007/08 is to lay the grounds for expanding the capacity of DMAG Education to the level needed to meet existing customer expectations. To that end DMAG Education will actively seek to develop collaborative projects with key London stakeholders. A secondary long-term aim is to ensure that output from DMAG Education is readily and immediately available in electronic format to stakeholders both inside and outside the GLA.

## **Publications**

The Team is planning to publish the following DMAG *Briefings* during 2007/08:

- Social Selection, Social Sorting and Education in London 1: Admissions
- Social Selection, Social Sorting and Education in London 2: Missing Children
- Social Selection, Social Sorting and Education in London 3: Special Educational Needs
- Social Selection, Social Sorting and Education in London 4: Cross-border pupil mobility
- Moving Home and Changing School 2
- Education and the Wider Economic and Social Context in London
- Ethnicity and Attainment
- Education and Employment
- Statistics of Schools in London
- Statistics of Teachers in London

Contributions will also be made to other GLA reports as required and to *Focus on London 2008*.



## Regular Briefings from the GLA Data Management and Analysis Group

### Recent DMAG Briefings:

DMAG 2006/5	GLA Resident Labour Force Projections	John Hollis
DMAG 2006/6	Parents and Work in London	Lorna Spence
DMAG 2006/7	Claimant Count Model: Technical Note 2006	Lorna Spence / Georgia Hay
DMAG 2006/8	Demography Team Workplan 2006-07	John Hollis
DMAG 2006/9	Benefits Data for London: No. 4: Housing and Council Tax Benefits	Lovedeep Vaid
DMAG 2006/10	Household Representative Rates: Technical Report	Georgia Hay
DMAG 2006/11	Borough and Sub-regional Demographic Profiles, 2006	Georgia Hay
DMAG 2006/12	Interim Household Projections	John Hollis / Georgia Hay
DMAG 2006/13	Social Exclusion Team Workplan 2006-07	John Hollis
DMAG 2006/14	Benefits Data for London: No 5 Pension Benefits	Lovedeep Vaid
DMAG 2006/15	Census Information Note 2006-2	Giorgio Finella
DMAG 2006/17	Sub-Regional Demographic Profiles 2006	Georgia Hay
DMAG 2006/18	Independence for Statistics	John Hollis
DMAG 2006/19	Child Poverty in London	Lorna Spence (Ed)
DMAG 2006/20	Benefits Data for London: 6 Tax Credits	Lovedeep Vaid
DMAG 2006/21	Family and Children's Study 2004	Lovedeep Vaid
DMAG 2006/22	GLA 2005 Round Interim Ethnic Group Population Projections	Baljit Bains / Edmund Klodawski
DMAG 2006/24	National Insurance Registrations by overseas nationals	Gareth Piggott
DMAG 2006/26	A Profile of Londoners by First Language	Lorna Spence
DMAG 2006/27	2001 Census Profile: Jewish population of London	Gareth Piggott / Rob Lewis
DMAG 2006/28	Review of the 2001 Census Small Area Microdata	Rachel Leeser / Giorgio Finella
DMAG 2006/29	Children dependent on benefits by Parliamentary Constituencies	Lovedeep Vaid
DMAG 2006/30	Londoners and the labour market: key facts	Lorna Spence
DMAG 2006/31	The Census Language Needs Indicator	Gareth Piggott
DMAG 2006/32	GLA 2006 Round Demographic projections	John Hollis
DMAG 2006/33	Women and the labour market in London: Key facts	Lorna Spence
DMAG 2006/34	PayCheck 2006: Unequalised and Equalised Household Income	Lovedeep Vaid
DMAG 2006/35	Greater London Demographic Review 2005	Caroline Hall
DMAG 2007-01	DCLG 2003-based household projections	John Hollis
DMAG 2007-02	Claimant Count Model: Technical Note 2007	Lorna Spence / Caroline Hall
DMAG 2007-03	Commuting in London	Gareth Piggott
DMAG 2007-04	Who Benefits?	Lovedeep Vaid
DMAG 2007-05	Disabled People and the Labour Market	Lorna Spence

A full list of DMAG Briefings is available to internal customers through the GLA Intranet; otherwise please contact [dmag.info@london.gov.uk](mailto:dmag.info@london.gov.uk) A CD containing PDF versions of the Briefings, or hard copies, can be provided.

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