

## **Appendix 6:Explanation of Fair Access Process and breakdown of school referrals.**

The School Admissions code requires each Local Authority to agree a fair access protocol with the majority of schools in its area to ensure that the most vulnerable children are found a place in a school without delay. The code instructs Local Authorities that the list of children considered under the protocol should be agreed locally but must include the following that can have difficulty obtaining a school place

1. *“a) children from the criminal justice system or Pupil Referral Units who need to be reintegrated into mainstream education;*
2. *b) children who have been out of education for two months or more;*
3. *c) children of Gypsies, Roma, Travellers, refugees and asylum seekers;*
4. *d) children who are homeless;*
5. *e) children with unsupportive family backgrounds for whom a place has not been sought;*
6. *f) children who are carers; and*  
*g) children with special educational needs, disabilities or medical conditions (but without a statement or Education, Health and Care Plan)”*

### **Cases presented at Secondary Fair Access Panel by School in 2018/19**

251 pupil referrals were considered by the Fair Access Panel during the 2018/19 academic year. 79 cases were presented at panel as pupils requiring school places who were unable to be placed though the normal admissions procedures

When cases were presented at panel by schools in 2018/19 they were considered under the following categories:

- A. Avoidance. Cases were presented in this category when a pupil was at risk of permanent exclusion
- B. Prevention. Cases were presented in this category it was judged by the school that a pupil would benefit from a fresh start in another setting
- C. Breakdown. Cases were presented in this category when placement previously agreed at the Fair Access Panel had not been successful.

In 2018/19 74 cases were presented by schools under the avoidance category; 81 cases were under the category of prevention; and 17 were placement breakdowns.