

Appendix D1:

Open text responses to questions 5, 7 and 8 (themed)

Q5. What have we not been clear about (asked of those who said *'Fairly clearly'* or *'Not clearly'* in response to *'How clearly have we described the proposal?'*)?

i. Questions / concerns – catchments

- No link to other catchment schools, with no mention of Westways, which is a feeder to King Edward. Will this reduce the opportunities for Westways pupils, as you expand the catchment area North West?
- How you will determine priority for schools with a widening catchment?
- Not sure of the exact changes to the catchment area proposed and to how far it will affect people to be able to get into King Edward's School.

ii. Questions / concerns – feeder schools

- What are the repercussions for the other feeder schools, i.e. for Walkley Primary, St Mary's and Westways?
- My children attend feeder school Walkley Primary school although we now live outside this catchment area in the North of Sheffield. I am not clear of the impact this proposal might have on my children's chances of attending King Edward's secondary school. Will there be more competition for places at King Edward's, lowering my children's chances?
- I am unsure what effect this will have on children in the catchment of Westways.
- It isn't fully clear but it would appear to me that you are prioritising children attending Tapton primary feeder, and as such creating an unfair disadvantage for children attending for example Westways primary. Children attending Tapton feeder primary are already in an affluent area and it would appear to me that you are further extending the privileges of such area at the disadvantage of other schools.
- No mention of implications for children in feeder schools to King Edwards but not in catchment.
- How the proposal will affect children within other feeder schools

- King Edward VII Secondary School already has 6 feeder schools. How can adding one more school/area to it, will help getting admission into it. The distance of pupils in Hallam Catchment area will most likely be more than the existing feeder school pupils, thus by using the over-subscription tie-breaker, the pupils from Hallam Catchment area will be more likely to lose out a place at King Edward VII as well.

iii. Clarity / accessibility / how information is displayed

- The road boundaries / map could have added clarity.
- There is no map attached to the proposal

iv. Miscellaneous questions / points

- Which schools are oversubscribed and why is King Edwards considered under subscribed?
- States Lydgate catchment residents who already have catchment status for King Edward, Tapton and Mercia Academies. Not clear if children already attending Lydgate allocated a place at King Edward, Tapton and Mercia Academies or not.
- The impact of children living in Walkley.
- The school already heavily draws from S10. I think it's more about balancing the demographics at King Edward.
- Not clear why only King Edward VII is being added to the list of schools available for Hallam Catchment. Not clear why this change in not being made applicable to pupils starting Year-3 (Infant to Junior transition) and being made for those pupils who are already in the advanced years of their junior/primary schools.

Q7. Please tell us why you feel this way (asked of those who said ‘*Good idea*’, ‘*Good idea but with some reservations*’ or ‘*Not a good idea*’ in response to ‘*How do you feel about the proposal?*’).

i. Positive comments

- Gives local parents a wider option for secondary schools.
- King Edwards is a good school and extending offers more choice.
- Increased choice of decent school for children to attend.
- It gives the same choice to Hallam parents that other schools in the area already have.
- This will allow more choice and help ease the over subscription of schools.
- Living in Lodge Moor at the edge of the city – if my children weren't offered a place at Tapton without King Edwards there isn't another local school that is accessible by public transport. Mercia School is too far away and High Storrs not accessible by bus. King Edwards is on the 51 bus route so would be a suitable alternative. This is a very sensible proposal.
- As long as it doesn't create large class sizes, that's fine.
- Having just applied for secondary school for my son, it was reassuring to have 3 choices available (he attends Lydgate Junior) so I would think parents of Hallam schools would welcome having more choice.
- Good idea because it's important that people have choice. Having access to two secondaries plus Mercia is puts parents in a great position. Mercia gives a very different style of school as an option to parents and children, while having the choice of two local secondaries helps with picking a school for the child's strengths and picking school that can logistically work for you. Note, Mercia's style is not a good fit for everyone, so if that school is not an option for you, you should still have at least two reasonable (admissions wise) options near you. My reservation is this does not go far enough. As said, for residents in this part of Sheffield, having access to two local secondaries plus Mercia is a great set of options. At the moment though, some residents have this, whilst others don't. I am asking you consider widening this proposal. My personal example is that the Greystones, Brincliffe and Sharrow Vale area residents still only have priority admissions options of High Storrs + Mercia,

where those in Greystones and Brincliffe could easily benefit from also being in the Silverdale catchment, and those in Sharrow Vale could benefit from either King Edward VII or Tapton. This is just my local example; I'm sure there are many other pockets of the city who could benefit from increase options too.

ii. Worries / concerns children won't get into King Edwards as a result of proposal

- As Westways School is now a very large school, I worry that the children who attend will have problems getting a place at King Edwards even though it is a feeder primary school.
- We are in catchment for Walkley Primary which is currently a feeder school for King Edwards. Even families who don't live in catchment for King Edwards haven't previously had issues getting places if they've come from Walkley Primary. I would worry that by sending more children there from other schools would mean a lot of the children at Walkley Primary would be forced into going to Forge Valley.
- I understand that this is a selfish perspective to the issue, but we worry that pupils from Walkley Primary, who are not in the catchment for King Edward, but actually live closer to that school than to Forge Valley, will be pushed out of a chance to be accepted to King Edward. Traditionally, all kids from our neighbourhood, although just outside of King Edward's catchment, went to King Edward. If the school's catchment extends to the west, our kids will have to go to Forge Valley, which is inconvenient and has a bad Ofsted report for several years now. I will support this change, as I realise that it will potentially solve a demographics problem, if there are guarantees that this will not create negative consequences elsewhere.
- I live just outside this catchment and my daughter goes to Westways. King Edward is within walking distance of my house. Our catchment school, Forge Valley, is not. If King Edward became oversubscribed it would impact on students if other feeder schools such as Westways, who may not be in their catchment.

- More Walkley parents will be denied the option of their children attending King Edwards.
- My child attends Westways as an out of catchment school. She currently has a fairly good chance of attending King Edwards with her peers. Increasing the catchment to include Hallam means many of the children who are currently placed out of catchment at Westways due to its lower pupil numbers risk being sidelined to other schools despite attending a recognised feeder.
- We live in Broomhall, just below the Hallamshire in Springfield catchment. We want our children to go to their LOCAL secondary school, King Edwards. This is by far the nearest and the easiest to travel to. The upper school is 400m from our house. Yet we are in the Silverdale catchment. This is miles away and takes 2 buses or 1 bus and a long walk. Giving Hallam Primary catchment children an advantage in getting into King Edwards will disadvantage our children from getting into their nearest school. Please extend this proposal to make King Edwards a catchment school for children living in Springfield Junior catchment area too. This will avoid further disadvantaging pupils in Broomhall who are already at a disadvantage in many ways.
- King Edward's had such a big catchment area anyway, and the children directly affected have a choice of two good schools. Is it fair for them to choose a third and potentially push out other children?
- Because this is being done in conjunction with decreasing catchment for Tapton (for Westways children I think?) so it appears that Westways children will now not have access to Tapton and have more competition for places at King Edwards.
- I can understand the rationale for the proposal but I am worried that this will mean that it will be harder for my children to be accepted into King Edwards. We are currently just out of catchment (we live off Walkley Lane and our local school is Rivelin). However, we made the decision for our son to attend Westways School because it was a feeder school for King Edwards. I was aware that King Edwards accepts children from across the city and therefore, my children would have a good chance of being accepted but this change now risks that. The secondary school that we are in catchment for is Forge

Valley which has a bad reputation and he wouldn't have any friends whilst starting there. It is frustrating that Upper Walkley/Crookes/Crosspool etc. has a range of very good schools to choose from but those that live in Lower Walkley don't have any other choice than Forge Valley if Tapton/King Edwards are oversubscribed.

- I feel that the catchment area of King Edwards is already very large, and to add another primary school into the catchment may put the places at risk for the parents / children that have chosen their primary school place with the intention of going to King Edwards at risk. King Edwards already has a significant amount of Primary schools as feeders.
- Both our children attend Westways primary which is currently a feeder school for King Edwards, but we live out of catchment. Our concern is that this proposal would reduce the likelihood of our first child (currently in year 4) being offered a place at King Edwards. This would not only mean that the transition to secondary is significantly more challenging without her peers but present significant logistical challenges in terms of our youngest daughter (currently in year 2) transportation to school when her sister is in a very different part of the city.

iii. Current situation

- It seems strange at the moment that Hallam don't get King Edward's as a choice. It feels like they are given priority for Tapton yet the admission criteria currently says that tie breakers are done on distance as the crow flies, therefore someone living in Crosspool near Lydgate Junior School should have priority.
- It's currently unfair as all other catchment areas have a choice of 3.

iv. Miscellaneous concerns / criticisms

- The proposal to extend the area to another local school while, on the face of it is a good idea, feels like it is just tinkering at the edges of the problem.
- The school is already large. There needs to be another secondary school to meet demand.

- I want my child to go to Tapton. I do not want another catchment school choice to affect this.
- Unclear what other additional measures you are proposing to manage short-term oversubscription. Unclear the extent of any likely impact on people outside of catchment for King Edward but attending a designated feeder school (other than Hallam). Unclear the extent of any likely impact on people outside of catchment but with a sibling at King Edward.
- Long distance to travel to school from Hallam to King Edward's.
- Help is needed for children to be able to go to school locally as possible.
- Not clear on subscription status of Tapton or Mercia.
- Without the above point explained, it feels like you are taking pressures resulting from Tapton being oversubscribed and moving those pressure to King Edward's.
- Will open the door to a lot more applicants, however, will lead to slower application process and more people applying for the same schools.
- It seems inequitable that some addresses have more than one catchment school option, while immediately adjacent addresses can have only one option. The secondary school entry criteria have catchment above feeder school status, hence the reason for considering this inequitable - some addresses have a better choice, and this choice simply is based on an arbitrary border and not distance.
- People living the catchments of Tapton and Mercia already have two good schools to choose from, I don't think it is fair for this catchment to have a third good schools to choose from while in my catchment we only have one school which is further away from our home than two of these schools and not to the same standard as any of the three schools above. Tapton and King Edwards are the nearest schools to us in Walkley yet we don't fall in the catchment for these.
- I've explained that I feel that you are creating a situation of privilege for children attending Hallam, Lydgate and Netherthorpe whereas existing catchment schools, some from less privileged areas will be disadvantaged. Primary schools from Tapton feeder area have already access to Tapton

secondary so I feel that children attending other primary schools should have priority on choosing King Edward's as their secondary school.

- I find the proposal very unfair. We are currently in King Edward's catchment (by two houses from Tapton catchment) with a catchment boundary that makes very little sense. We only have the choice of one catchment school where parents all around us have the choice of three already and if this consultation succeeds it will enable more parents to have the choice of three too. This is not fair on the children of those on the borders of the catchments. For context, our primary catchment is Westways. However their wraparound care would not have enabled us both to continue working, putting a considerable strain on us financially. We were fortunate that our daughter got into Lydgate which offers better wraparound care. However, we are now in the position where she will not be able to go to high school with the majority of her peers as we only have one choice, yet other parents who already have the choice of two schools are now potentially getting the choice of three. Going to high school without her peers is going to be very unsettling for our daughter and I think a wider consideration of choice for all feeder school parents should be considered. We are in the position that people in catchment live further from both Lydgate and Tapton than us and actually walk past our front door to get to both schools. I also note that Tapton are currently running a consultation which will give priority to catchment children from the three feeder schools. I believe there are 240 children at the three feeder schools (a number potentially being out of catchment) and that Tapton always takes at least 240 children. I therefore don't see why extending another choice to Hallam parents is necessary.

v. Questions / suggestions

- Why can't areas in the northwest of the city have a similar choice of 3 schools? What's so special about the parents of children in the southwest of the city that they get so much choice?
- Will there be enough space?
- Why not also include Hunters Bar Primary in the mix?

- Children already at Lydgate should be given first refusal to place at King Edward, Tapton and Mercia Academies.
- Instead of changing the catchment area of King Edwards VII which already has 6 primary schools as feeders, it will be good to add Silverdale School which has fewer feeder schools to the Hallam Catchment area.
- Currently King Edward VII Secondary School already has 6 feeder schools. By adding Hallam Primary school how is it going to solve the problem? To sort the problem of over subscription of Tapton Secondary school, there should be an equivalent OFSTED rated secondary school - (Currently the OFSTED of Tapton is Outstanding & that of King Edwards is Good). Why is this not been considered?

vi. Miscellaneous

- So long as this does not mean other areas miss out on attending this school.
- King Edwards is what I would describe as a true comprehensive, already having a wide remit. I don't think families from S10 will go if they don't already. I think Tapton and Mercia that are oversubscribed will be able to select and those it doesn't want will get a place at King Edward's and it will be a place for those that want a S10 school but can't get one.
- It will give more options to people living in those areas - however this school is not of the same standard as Tapton therefore local residents may be concerned and would maybe rather travel further afield instead of being given this school.
- We would like to have a school closer to the Hallam catchment area and that is having equivalent OFSTED rating as Tapton Secondary School. It would be more beneficial for everyone concerned to have Tapton increase their resources and accommodate more pupils than they can currently do.

Q8. Please use the space below to add any further comments.

i. Concerns / criticisms / questions

- My worry is, in expanding the King Edward catchment further northwest into the more affluent areas of Hallam, you reduce the opportunities to access the excellent schools and sixth forms to the less affluent areas of Crookes, Walkley and Crookesmoor – further restricting choice. It seems it has the potential at being discriminatory and making the school less inclusive.
- Unsure of the impact this will have on school placements.
- I am concerned that children in other schools, such as Westways, will lose their place due to these new possible changes. Can we have clarity as to whether Westways students' feeder school will still be King Edwards?
- The addition of the new schools does not seem to have been integrated into the school catchment regimen in any meaningful way. The current catchment areas lack logic and create more problems than it solves. What is actually needed is a full overhaul of the whole thing starting with a blank sheet so that the system makes logical sense rather than being a disorganised mess.
- From the forecast graph shown by Tapton, the number of pupils projected for the Year 2021/22 exceeds the number of allocations (i.e. 256). From the information about Secondary Schools & their feeders provided on Sheffield City Council web-page, this doesn't add-up as their current feeder school pupil count is: Hallam Primary – 90, Lydgate Junior – 120, Netherthorpe – 30, - Total – 240. This implies that in the current batch of Y5's in these feeder schools, there are more pupils than the legal class limit size. If this isn't true then why does the graph show that even the catchment & feeder school pupils will not be able to find a place in Tapton Secondary? Apart from this, in the year 2019/20, it is seen that Tapton Secondary did admit more pupils than the limit of 256 that they have now set. Considering that the year 2021/22 is one of peak years why shouldn't Tapton Secondary carry out a similar approach and allocate more seats?
- The graph on Tapton School website shows that for the Academic Year 2019-20 they have admitted more than the permitted limit of 256 pupils. If they could do it that year why can't they do for the Academic Year 2021-22?

Currently pupils living in the Tapton School catchment but studying in a non-feeder school are at a situation of denial as they are not in the catchment of the secondary school (High Storrs) & also not eligible for Tapton School because they do not attend its feeder school. Why would any parent living in the sort around area-paying high rent/EMI, council tax want their kids to go to King Edwards school which currently has a good Rating but not academic focused, no good GCSE results etc.?

ii. Suggestions

- It would be nice if King Edward catchment were to be extended to all of Walkley.
- Please extend this proposal to Springfield Junior catchment pupils to stop them being unfairly disadvantaged in getting a place at their nearest secondary school.

iii. Miscellaneous

- Good idea if my child definitely will not lose her catchment status to Tapton.