

Lewisham Council

Transforming pupil transition
with SixIntoSeven



BACKGROUND

Ensuring a seamless transition for primary to secondary school pupils has always posed considerable challenges for Local Authorities. Lewisham Council were no exception. Their partnership with SixIntoSeven has streamlined the pupil transition process and paved the way for a collaborative success story.

Ruth Griffiths – Head of Access, Inclusion and Participation – at Lewisham Council Education Services, provides insight to their journey:

“Transition is one of those major milestones in a child’s life. We asked ourselves, how do we do things better? We started working on ways to improve the transfer of pupil information in a modern and digital way.”

Ruth, Natasha, and their colleagues sought various strategies. They attempted to improve paper trails to aid the transfer of information between schools. Unfortunately, this process was marred by its clunkiness and the time it took. Unwieldy PDF files were created that were challenging to edit and to transfer efficiently.

“It meant most of the summer term was wasted on doing an activity that, at the end of it, I don’t think entirely worked.”

Having recognised the need for improvements, the focus shifted towards collaboration with the SEND team to enhance pupil well-being, protect the vulnerable cohort and reduce staff workload. Ruth explains:

“We had found a system whereby we were building the different profiles of information that we wanted for data transfer. Natasha had worked hard on a pupil passport form, to transfer that information across to secondary schools. So, it wasn’t a wasted exercise, and schools were really pleased with the passport.”





...moving from primary to secondary school can induce anxiety...

PROBLEM

The Challenge: Bridging the transition gap

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of pupil transition became even more apparent. The shift to remote learning highlighted the need for effective transitions, given that moving from primary to secondary school can induce anxiety due to the unfamiliar environment. Addressing this, Lewisham Council's senior team identified the necessity of a streamlined process that eliminated manual, error-prone paper trails.

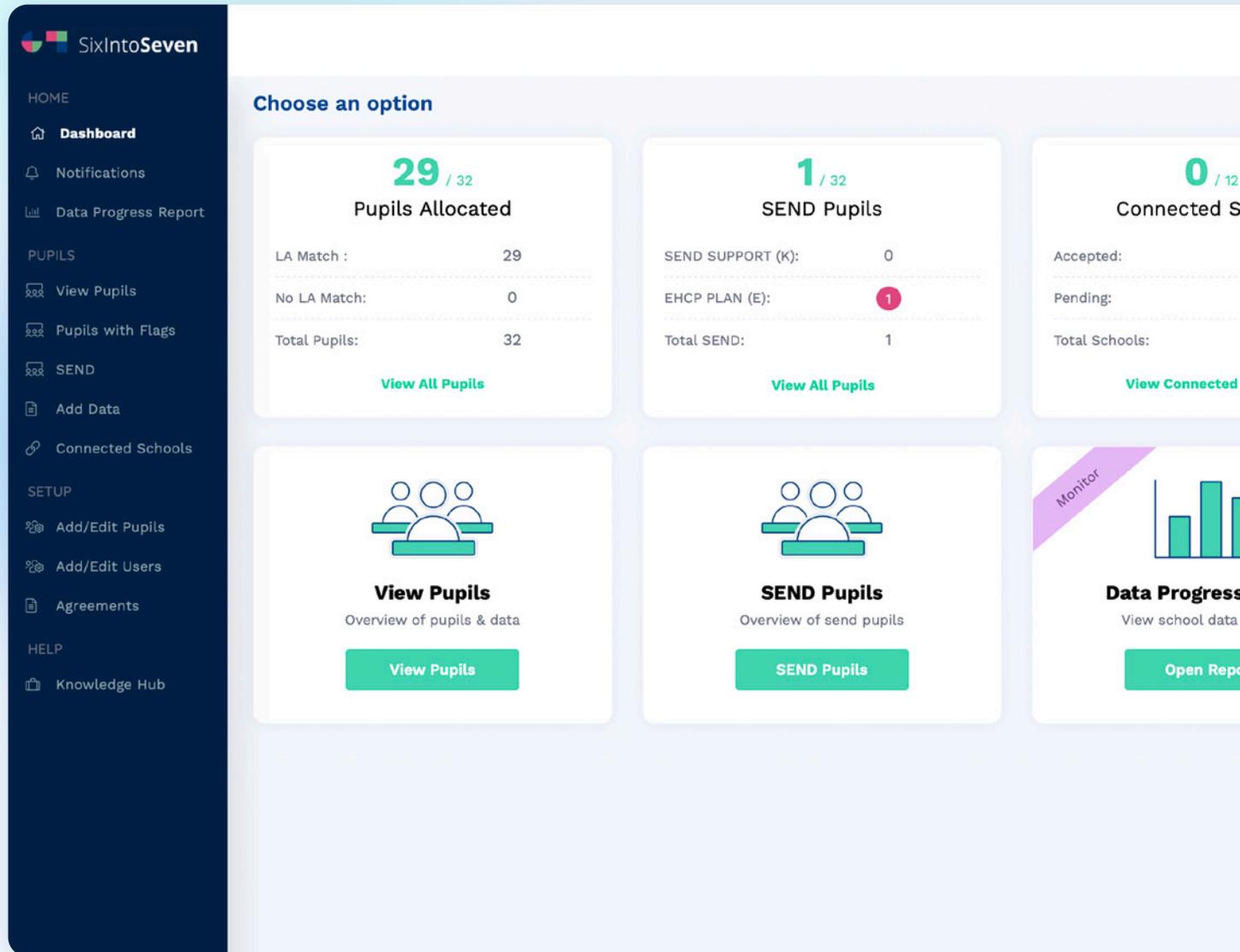


SIXINTOSEVEN

The Solution: Introducing SixIntoSeven

Lewisham Council's search for a solution led them to the SixIntoSeven platform. A recommendation from their Head of Learning sparked their interest, and they embarked on a two-year journey to implement the platform. Natasha Orumbie, Safeguarding and Inclusion Manager:

"I think the feedback after the first year was that it was still a bit time-consuming but much better than the process that we had. I would say about 98% of users were like, 'Oh yeah, much better. Absolutely brilliant!'"

The screenshot shows the SixIntoSeven dashboard for Lewisham Council. It features a dark blue sidebar with navigation options: HOME (Dashboard, Notifications, Data Progress Report), PUPILS (View Pupils, Pupils with Flags, SEND), SETUP (Add Data, Connected Schools), and HELP (Knowledge Hub). The main content area is titled 'Choose an option' and contains several cards:

- Pupils Allocated:** 29 / 32. Sub-cards show LA Match: 29, No LA Match: 0, and Total Pupils: 32. A 'View All Pupils' button is at the bottom.
- SEND Pupils:** 1 / 32. Sub-cards show SEND SUPPORT (K): 0, EHCP PLAN (E): 1 (highlighted in red), and Total SEND: 1. A 'View All Pupils' button is at the bottom.
- Connected Schools:** 0 / 12. Sub-cards show Accepted, Pending, and Total Schools. A 'View Connected' button is at the bottom.
- View Pupils:** Overview of pupils & data. A 'View Pupils' button is at the bottom.
- SEND Pupils:** Overview of send pupils. A 'SEND Pupils' button is at the bottom.
- Data Progress:** View school data. A 'Open Report' button is at the bottom. A purple 'Monitor' banner is present.

BENEFITS

Transitioning from manual to automated

The initial efforts were directed at refining the data transfer process itself. Previously, Ruth and her colleagues struggled with collating and forwarding information, leading to inefficiencies, increased workload and errors. The adoption of SixIntoSeven digitised and standardised this process, ensuring consistency and enabling efficient tracking of pupils across the local authority region.

Positive impact and continuous improvement

The implementation of SixIntoSeven produced immediate positive results. Despite the inevitable initial time-consuming onboarding challenges, around **98%** of users praised the streamlined process and ease of use of SixIntoSeven. The subsequent year (2023) brought an improved user experience which reduced the time taken to upload data.



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REACH

Extending benefits: Collaborating beyond borders

Lewisham Council envisions extending SixIntoSeven benefits through collaboration with adjacent neighbouring Local Authorities (Greenwich, Bromley, Southwark, Lambeth, Tower Hamlets).

A high percentage of pupils' transition into and out of their own Local Authority schools. By including surrounding boroughs, more vulnerable pupils can enjoy the benefits of SixIntoSeven, helping us ensure that no child is left behind.

Collaboration breeds success

Reflecting on the journey, Ruth highlights the positive impact on communication and the strengthened trust between the council and schools. The move from manual to a digital automated process has significantly benefited both pupils and schools.


REGION MAP

KEY

■ Hounslow, Lewisham,
Barking & Dagenham



...envisions a future where
no child falls through the
transition cracks.

RESULT**Conclusion: Forging a
seamless future**

Lewisham Council and SixIntoSeven partnered to transform pupil transitions. The journey from manual processes to digital and automation has produced significant benefits, underpinned by a commitment to collaboration, data security, compliance, and continuous improvement. "This collaborative success story envisions a future where no child falls through the transition cracks" as Ruth notes.