

The Role of DfE Pupil Place Planning Advisers

DfE Regions Group has one Place Planning Adviser in each region, whose responsibilities are:

- to engage with that region's local authorities (LAs) to monitor and report on their ability to meet their statutory sufficiency duty for each academic year and to report on any risk of a breach;
 - supporting, advising and challenging LAs (where necessary) on their place planning strategy, plans and contingency arrangements and
 - providing specialist advice to other DfE teams, where the sufficiency picture is of relevance. This may include providing input into the assessment of Free School (FS) proposals and the ongoing review of pipeline FS projects; into the consideration of academy expansion, school closure and land disposal proposals and into periodic central programmes, such as the Schools Rebuilding Programme.
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- The advisers' remit is focused on mainstream provision, with only light-touch responsibility for monitoring the progress of any projects being undertaken by LAs to create additional SEND or AP places.
 - Advisers do not engage directly with individual schools or Academy Trusts on matters of sufficiency and the DfE does not have any powers to require them to amend published admission numbers (PANs).