



Groupcall Xporter – Providing seamless import of data for Brent LA

London Borough of Brent Local Authority was formed in 1965 from the area of the former Municipal Boroughs of Wembley and Middlesex. Its name derives from the River Brent which runs through the Borough. Justin Joseph, IT, Data & Infrastructure Manager has been with Brent for 8 years and was looking for a more efficient and controlled way of collecting data from schools.

Brent invested time in a Case Management System which proved problematic as schools were asked to supply the data and staff were often too busy or had difficulty producing the extracts.

Justin explains: “Groupcall Xporter was piloted in our Local Authority for 3 months and comparable to other products was the only real solution available - we now have seamless export of data which has taken the burden away from schools and the LA providing a more complete and structured export”.

At the time Xporter was installed the Groupcall team consisted of just 3 members but it has grown considerably since then. Xporter is currently installed in over 15,000 UK schools and is used by over 65 Education Authorities, allowing the users to define exactly what data is collected and how frequently this happens.

“Using Xporter has saved us time as we no longer need to call and remind schools to submit the data and more importantly staff don’t have to spend several hours per week on the phone instructing schools on how to produce CTF extracts from their MIS. However, it is very difficult to put a figure on the savings Xporter has provided us but more so, it is linked to the efficiencies the system has provided and the time Xporter has saved the LA is invaluable.”

Justin continues: “Xporter has mainly been successful in the Primary sector, as many of the Secondary Schools are averse to automated and silent data collection from their school MIS. All schools benefiting from Xporter are now happy that they are no longer burdened with producing and uploading files to a website and we are thrilled to have the means to automate and schedule the collection of data from schools.”

Justin concludes: “Not only has Xporter benefited the LA in making the data required from schools MIS system available to us as and when required with little or no effort, it has had an equally positive impact on schools in freeing up the time of the administration staff and significantly reducing the burden the LA placed on schools for data.”