

Agenda Item: 4(a)

Meeting: ADMISSIONS FORUM

Date: 24 March 2010

Subject: Consultation Process and Responses

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services

The purpose of this report is to inform the Forum of the outcome of the consultation.

Contact Officer: Rosa Bonwick

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. To note the outcome of the consultation and the responses received**
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Background

1. The School Admissions Code and The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2008, require admission authorities to consult, every three years, on their proposed admission arrangements unless the admission arrangements are not the same as those determined following the last consultation. The consultation must last for a minimum of eight weeks and must take place between 1 November and 1 March.
2. Members of the Forum will recall that a change to the admission policies for community and voluntary controlled schools was proposed, which would give catchment siblings a higher priority for admission than other children living in the catchment area. There were also some changes to admission numbers and to the Co-ordinated Scheme for Admissions to Middle, Primary and Lower Schools to reflect the requirement on local authorities to co-ordinate applications from residents living in the local authority area.
3. Following consultation with community and voluntary controlled schools about the admission arrangements, a number of schools requested other changes to their oversubscription criteria. The local authority had no objections to the proposed changes which were included within the statutory consultation process.
4. As a result of the changes the local authority was required to carry out appropriate consultation. The consultation took place between 4 January and 1 March 2010.

5. In accordance with the Regulations the local authority consulted the following:
 - the governing bodies of all community and voluntary controlled schools
 - the governing bodies of all voluntary aided schools
 - the governing bodies of all foundation schools
 - the governing bodies of all trust schools
 - the governing body of the Academy
 - all neighbouring local authorities
 - parents
 - local community and voluntary groups

6. The consultation included:
 - the proposed change to the admission policies of all community and voluntary controlled schools
 - changes to admission numbers
 - changes to the Co-ordinated Scheme for Admissions to Middle, Primary and Lower Schools
 - changes to the oversubscription criteria for some community and voluntary controlled schools

Included also within the consultation were those admission authority schools that had asked the local authority to consult of their behalf on a change to their policies to give catchment siblings a higher priority for admission than other children living in the catchment area.

7. Only two responses were received, one from a parent of lower and pre-school aged children and the other from Hadrian Lower School. The parent supported the change to give catchment siblings a higher priority for admission than other children living in the catchment area and the school supported all of the proposed changes. No comments were received on other changes to the oversubscription criteria of some schools, the Co-ordinated Scheme for Admissions to Middle, Primary and Lower Schools or the changes to admission numbers.
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