
Meeting: CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE ADMISSIONS FORUM
Date: 1 November 2011
Subject: Admission Arrangements September 2013 - Consultation
Report of: Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services
Summary: The purpose of this report is to inform the Forum of the arrangements for consulting on changes to admission arrangements.

Contact Officer: Rosa Bonwick

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. To note the proposed changes to the requirement to consult on admission arrangements.**

Background

1. The School Admissions Code currently requires 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. Members of the Forum will recall from the consultation on changes to the Code, discussed at the last meeting, that it is proposed that admission authorities need only consult on their admission arrangements once every seven years if no changes are proposed. It is not clear, however, whether all admission authorities will be required to consult on their arrangements for admissions in September 2013. When the last change was introduced all admission authorities were required to consult in the first year.
2. There are no proposals to change the dates for the consultation which must last for a minimum of eight weeks and must take place between 1 November and 1 March.
3. The draft School Admissions Code will require admission authorities to consult with:
 - relevant parents (currently defined as a parent living in the local area with a child aged between two and sixteen, and who has been, is, or will be eligible to apply to the school or academy in question);
 - other groups with an interest in the local area (e.g. community groups, or Admission Forums where they exist);

- their local authority;
 - neighbouring local authorities;
 - the relevant religious authority (in the case of faith schools).
4. Members of the Forum will recall that, subject to the publication of the new Code, there will no longer be a requirement to consult on any increase to the Published Admission Number.
 5. The Local Authority will be writing to own admission authority schools and academies to advise them of the consultation requirements as soon as the new School Admissions Code is published.
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