
Meeting: CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE ADMISSIONS FORUM
Date: 1 November 2011
Subject: Future of the Admissions Forum
Report of: Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services
Summary: To discuss and consider future options for the Admissions Forum

Contact Officer: Rosa Bonwick

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. To seek the views of members on future options for the Admissions Forum**

Background

- Members of the Forum will recall from the previous meetings that, subject to the passage of the Educational Bill 2011 and the Parliamentary process, the requirement on local authorities to set up Admissions Forums (imposed by the Education Act 2002) will be removed and it will be left to local partnerships to develop and grow.
- Members of the Forum had previously expressed a preference for the Forum to continue in Central Bedfordshire and the purpose of this report is to consider the options for continuing in a non statutory capacity.

Options

- The Admissions Forum could continue as an advisory group to consider:
 - any issues arising from changes to legislation relating to school admissions;
 - how well existing and proposed admission arrangements serve the interests of children and parents within the area of the authority;
 - the means by which admission processes might be improved and how actual admissions relate to the admission numbers published;
 - the timetable for the admissions processes;
 - any proposed changes to the admission arrangements;

- any proposed changes to catchment areas;
 - any proposed changes to the Fair Access Protocol;
 - the information in the Local Authority's Annual Report.
4. In discharging those responsibilities member of the Forum would be asked to:
- represent the views of their respective groups of schools / bodies;
 - promote agreement on admission issues;
 - promulgate the advice of the Forum through their respective groups.
5. This option would dependent upon appropriate support being available to service the advisory group.
6. The alternative would be for the role of the Forum to be taken up through existing headteacher groups or other group / representative meetings. Members of the Forum are asked to consider and discuss possible options.
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October 2011

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