
Meeting: CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE ADMISSIONS FORUM

Date: 27 March 2012

Subject: Admission Arrangements September 2013
Consultation Process and Responses

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

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

Contact Officer: Rosa Bonwick

RECOMMENDATION:

To note that no responses were received to the consultation on the proposed admission arrangements

Background

1. The School Admissions Code and The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012, do not require admission authorities to consult on their proposed admission arrangements for the academic year 2013 / 2014 and any subsequent year unless the admission arrangements are not the same as those determined following the last consultation. This is subject to the requirement that admission authorities consult on their admission arrangements at least once every seven years even if there have been no changes during that period.
2. An increase to the admission number or a change made to comply with a mandatory requirement of the School Admissions Code of the Regulations is not a change that would require consultation, except that a local authority, as an admission authority, has to consult the governing body of a community or voluntary controlled school if they propose an increase to the admission number. Consultation must last for a minimum of eight weeks and must take place between 1 November and 1 March.
3. Members of the Forum will recall from the meeting on 1 November 2011 that no significant changes to the admission arrangements were proposed, other than those required to comply with the new Code. However, the Authority decided to undertake a full consultation for September 2013 which would provide the starting point for any future consultations.

4. Following consultation with community and voluntary controlled schools about the admission arrangements, a number of schools requested changes to their oversubscription criteria. The local authority had no objections to some of the changes, details of which are provided in a later report.
 5. The local authority consulted on the proposed changes and that process took place between 29 December 2011 and 1 March 2012.
 6. 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 all academies
 - all neighbouring local authorities
 - parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen who are resident in the relevant area (through publication of a notice in local newspapers)
 - other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admission arrangements (through publication of a notice in local newspapers).
 7. The consultation included:
 - the amendment to Note 2 of the standard admissions policy to include academies in the consideration of an alternative school when a place is not available at the catchment area school
 - the proposed changes to the oversubscription criteria for some community and voluntary controlled schools
 - the admission numbers – for information purposes, except where a reduction is proposed
 - the changes to the co-ordinated schemes for admissions relating to the reply slips and to in-year admissions.
 8. No responses were received to the consultation.
-

March 2012

g:\pab\admiss\word\forum central beds\27 march 12\consultation.doc