

Agenda Item: 7

Meeting: Admissions Forum

Date: 24 June 2009

Subject: Update on 2009 Admissions and Appeals

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children, Families and Learning

Summary: The purpose of this report is to provide an update on admissions for 2009 and appeals held since 1 September 2008.

Contact Officers: Rosa Bonwick and Rob Mills

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To note the school preference and online application data.
 2. To note the appeals information.
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Background

1. The school preference data and online application data in this report relates to Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough. The appeals data relates to Central Bedfordshire schools.

School preference data

2. Table 1 shows the number and percentage of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th preferences met for each school phase, at the time of allocation.

Table 1

Phase	Applicants	1 st preferences met	2 nd preferences met	3 rd preferences met	4 th preferences met	Total preferences met
Lower	4,382	94.23%	3.49%	0.59%	0.07%	98.38%
Middle	4,443	93.36%	4.82%	0.50%	0.07%	98.74%
Upper (all) *	4,646	96.99%	2.13%	0.24%	0.09%	99.44%
Upper (home)*	4,454	97.0%	2.2%	0.2%	0.00%	99.5%

* All = all applications received. Home = applications for Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough residents only

- Local authorities are required to submit to the Secretary of State secondary (upper) preference data on National Offer Day. The publication of preference data enables local authorities to compare the percentages of secondary preferences met in their local area against national and regional data. The published data relates to applications made by residents in each local authority area. Table 2 shows that the percentage of Bedfordshire parents offered a place for their child at their first preference secondary (upper) school exceeds both national and regional averages, as does the percentage of total preferences met. It should be noted that Bedfordshire achieved the highest percentage of first preferences met in the eastern region.

Table 2

	Applicants living in the area	1 st preferences met	2 nd preferences met	3 rd preferences met	1 of 3 preferences met	Total preferences met
National Average	546,744	83.2%	8.4%	3.1%	94.6%	96.2%
Regional Average	59,135	84.7%	8.1%	3.0%	95.8%	96.4%
Bedfordshire	4,454	97.0%	2.2%	0.2%	99.4%	99.5%

Online Applications

- Table 3 shows the percentage of online applications received for each school phase across Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough.

Table 3

Phase	Applicants	Percentage of online applications
Lower	4,382	52.44%
Middle	4,443	31.51%
Upper (home)*	4,454	30.0%

Home = applications for Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough residents only

- The secondary preference data submitted to the Secretary of State on National Offer Day includes the percentage of online secondary (upper) applications. Table 4 compares the number of online applications received in Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough with national and regional data. It should be noted that although the number of secondary (upper) online applications was below the regional level it was the same as the national level.

Table 4

	Applicants living in the area	Percentage of online secondary applications
National Average	546,744	30.0%
Regional Average	59,135	49.6%
Bedfordshire	4,454	30.0%

Admission Appeals

6. Table 5 shows, for Central Bedfordshire schools, the number of appeals heard and the number upheld for the period 1 September 2008 to 5 June 2009. It also shows the number of appeals still to be heard. All appeals have been processed within the required timescale. Appeals will continue to be received throughout the remainder of the academic year as late applications and in-year applications are processed.

Table 5

Phase	Appeal held	Appeals Upheld	Appeals Pending
Lower	28	2	0
Middle	26	22	10
Upper	8	5	0
Combined	2	2	0
Total	64	31	10