

By: Ian Craig – Director of Operations

To: Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee – 25 March 2008

Subject: Kent Admissions Arrangements For Entry To School 2009

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: On 6 February 2008 Cabinet determined the Admissions Arrangements to Primary and secondary schools for 2009 entry.

Some Admissions Authorities within Kent objected to the proposed admissions arrangements and as a result we do not have agreement on coordination. In these circumstances it falls to the Secretary of State to impose a scheme and the DCSF are presently conducting a consultation with a view to taking a decision on the scheme by the end of May.

Introduction

1. (1) In the Admissions paper presented to Cabinet by Graham Badman recommendations were made to adopt a secondary scheme that introduced testing before preference. This is a new recommendation in the Admissions Code which came into effect from February 2007 has resulted in Kent having to move the test back to September in order to meet these requirements.

(2) The Cabinet Paper including appendices which provided details of feedback from the Formal Consultation which was undertaken as part of the statutory duty to consult admissions authorities in and around Kent is attached for information.

Outcome of Consultation

2. (1) The consultation between admissions authorities for the primary admission scheme was agreed by all those who responded and Cabinet have determined these arrangements for implementation in 2009.

(2) The consultation on the secondary admission scheme was not agreed by all admissions authorities in Kent. 22 either failed to respond or objected to the arrangements. The governing bodies of these schools were written to, to establish if they were prepared to change their position, 3 responded positively and 19 remained opposed.

(3) Because it is a requirement of a coordinated scheme to have agreement from all admissions authorities within the scheme and there are a number of authorities that have refused it must now fall to the Secretary of State to impose a scheme.

(4) The DCSF have now been passed information regarding the proposed schemes and the determined arrangements. The DCSF acting on the authority of the Secretary of State will now undertake to re-consult with admissions authorities before

deciding on the scheme that will be imposed in Kent. We expect that a decision will be taken before the end of May.

Recommendations

3. Members of the Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee are asked to:

- (a) Note the developing situation in relation to the admission arrangements in Kent.
- (b) Use this as an opportunity to raise questions with the Cabinet Members for Operations, Resources and Skills and Children, Families and Educational Achievement.

Scott Bagshaw
Head of Admissions and Transport
01622 694185
scott.bagshaw@kent.gov.uk

Background Documents:

Admissions Paper to Cabinet 6th February 2008

Other Useful Information:

None