

Cabinet Member Decision Report

By: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director Education Learning and Skills

To: Roger Gough - Cabinet Member for Education Learning and Skills

Decision Number: 15/00039

Subject: Proposed Co-Ordinated Schemes For Primary And Secondary Schools In Kent And Admission Arrangements For Primary And Secondary Community And Voluntary Controlled Schools 2016 /17

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee - 13 January 2015

Electoral Division: All

Summary: To report on the outcome of the consultation on the proposed scheme for transfer to Primary and Secondary schools in September 2016 including the proposed process for non-coordinated In-Year Admissions. The Cabinet Member is asked to agree the co-ordinated schemes for Primary & Secondary Admissions in Kent, the 'In-Year' Admission process for Primary & Secondary schools in Kent and the admission arrangements for the 2016/17 school year as set out in the report.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Local Authority (LA), as the admissions authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, is required to determine its admission arrangements for these schools by 15 April each year.

1.2 The Education Act 2002 includes a duty on each LA, to formulate a scheme to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all maintained schools in its area and to take action to secure the agreement to the scheme by all admission authorities. The Education Cabinet Committee was asked to comment and inform the decision to agree the Co-ordinated scheme for Admissions to Primary and Secondary schools in Kent for 2016/17 and determine the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools at its meeting of 13 January 2015. Following this meeting admission arrangement consultations were concluded and updates have been made below to inform outcomes. These updates relate to admissions arrangements only; scheme consultations were completed ahead of Education Cabinet Committee meeting.

1.3 All admission arrangements identified in this document are outside the arrangements for pupils with statements of special education need which take place in accordance with the SEN Code of Practice (2001) Paragraph 5.72.

1.4 KCC has consulted the Headteachers and Governors of all Kent Primary and Secondary schools; the neighbouring LAs and diocesan bodies on its proposals to co-ordinate admissions to all Kent Primary and Secondary schools in September 2016. Due to the fact the scheme remains broadly unchanged as in previous years admissions authorities have been advised that non-response to the consultation, constitutes full acceptance to the proposals.

2. Consultation and Outcome

2.1 The LA scheme consultation ran from 1 December 2014 until 5 January 2015 and considered the following aspects:

- a) The Primary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme including the In Year admissions process for 2016/17;
- b) The Secondary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme including the In Year admissions process for 2016/17;

3. The Co-ordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2016/17 incorporating In Year admissions process

3.1 All Admissions Authorities within Kent agreed to the proposed Co-ordinated Primary Admissions Scheme for 2016/17. No Infant, Junior or Primary schools or Academies have refused to accept the scheme. The scheme dates are set out in a similar way to last year following broadly similar scheme dates. Primary National offer day is now well established following its introduction in the School Admissions Code 2012. The scheme specifies a process for schools to follow when making offers for “in year” applications and includes a requirement to inform the LA of all applications and outcomes to enable continued monitoring of pupil movement to maintain essential safeguarding duties. The transition from the co-ordinated round to the in year round has been improved following consultation with the DfE to ensure parents are appropriately supported.

3.2 The LA is required to assist parents where they have difficulty securing a school place. Schools and academies must keep the LA informed about the vacancies in each year group as they arise in order for the LA to carry out its statutory duty to ensure every eligible child has a school place.

3.2 The details of the scheme for determination are located in Appendix A

4. The Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme 2016/17 incorporating the In Year Admissions Process

4.1 The Secondary Co-ordinated Scheme was agreed by all Kent Admissions Authorities. No Secondary schools or Academies refused to accept the proposed scheme. The scheme dates are set out in a similar way to last year following broadly similar scheme dates. The scheme specifies a process for schools to follow when making offers for “in year” applications and includes a requirement to inform the LA of all applications and outcomes to enable continued monitoring of pupil movement to maintain essential safeguarding duties. The transition from the co-ordinated round to the in year round has been improved following consultation with the DfE to ensure parents are appropriately supported.

4.2 The details of the proposed scheme for determination are located in Appendix B

5. The Over-subscription Criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools in Kent 2016/17

5.1 The over-subscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools are the same as those used in 2015. Some drafting improvements have been made to the arrangements to aid comprehension and update terminology. New requirements relating to applications from parents of summer born children requiring deferred entry have been included in the 2014 Admissions Code. These additions have been included. The LA is no longer required to widely consult where there are no proposals to change Community or Voluntary Controlled school’s oversubscription criteria.

5.2 A local consultation was held to formally link Callis Grange Nursery and Infant School to St Peter-in-Thamet Church of England Junior School for admissions purposes, using the same oversubscription criteria as all other linked Infant and Junior schools. St Peter-in-Thamet Church of England Junior School is Voluntary Aided and so held its own consultation in conjunction with the LA. The link has been proposed to ensure children at Callis Grange Nursery and Infant School are not displaced through the Junior transfer process by children who already have educational provision in place for Year 3.

5.3 The consultation to link the schools closed Tuesday 3 February 2015 no objections were received to the new linked arrangements.

5.4 Details of the over-subscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools are located in appendix C (1).

6. The Over-subscription Criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary schools in Kent 2016/17

6.1 The proposed over-subscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools is the same as that used in 2015. Some drafting improvements have been made to the arrangements to aid comprehension and update terminology. Because there are no changes proposed, no consultation was required.

6.2 Details of the over-subscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools in Kent are located in appendix D (1)

7. Published Admission Numbers 2016/17

7.1 The proposed Published Admission Numbers (PAN) for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary, Infant and Junior schools are identified in Appendix C (2) and for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary schools are detailed in Appendix D (2). The LA can only determine the admission number for schools where it is the admissions authority and the schools listed fall into this category, at the time of going to print.

7.2 The LA is no longer required to hold a local consultation where Published Admissions Numbers are proposed to stay the same or increase. Area Education Officers worked with Community and Voluntary Controlled schools to monitor interest in PAN increases and these are highlighted within Appendix C (2) and Appendix D (2) where agreement was reached. Where additional increases are agreed, amendments will be made until the arrangements are determined on 23 March 2015.

7.3 The LA has held a local consultation to clarify Benenden Church of England's Primary School's PAN which reduces to 25.

7.4 The consultation concluded on 3 February 2015 and no objections were received to the proposed PAN reduction.

8. Relevant Statutory Consultation Area 2016/17

8.1 Relevant statutory consultation areas have not changed from 2015/16. Details for the Primary arrangements are in Appendix C (3) and Secondary arrangements in Appendix D (3).

9. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agree:

- a) The Coordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2016/17 incorporating the In Year admissions process as detailed in Appendix A
- b) The Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme 2016/17 incorporating the In Year admissions process as detailed in Appendix B
- c) The oversubscription criteria relating to Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary schools in Kent 2016/17 as detailed in Appendix C (1)
- d) The oversubscription criteria relating to Community and Voluntary controlled Secondary schools in Kent 2016/17 as detailed in Appendix D (1)
- e) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2016/17 as set out in Appendix C (2)
- f) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools 2016/17 as set out in Appendix D (2)
- g) The relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Primary Schools 2016/17 as detailed in Appendix C (3) and the relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Secondary Schools 2016/17 as set out in Appendix D (3)

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Background documents

None