

By: Alex King – Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Localism & Partnership
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To: Selection and Member Services Committee –13 October 2009

Subject: Constitution of School Admissions Forum

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Members are invited to agree the revised constitution of the Kent School Admissions Forum in light of new legislation and appoint two elected members to represent the County Council on the School Admissions Forum.

Introduction

1. (1) The Admissions Code and the School Admissions (Local Authority Reports and Admissions Forums) (England) Regulations 2008 set out revised regulations relating to the membership of Local Admissions Forums. The Code came into force in February 2009.

(2) Paragraph 4.29 of the Code confirms the importance of Admissions Forums reflecting the needs of the local community and that membership must reflect the types of schools in the locality. This would include:

- a representative from each faith group represented by schools in the area;
- parent and community representatives;
- up to two local authority representatives as the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools;
- local employers and other representatives, which could, for example include Service Personnel and Choice Advisors.

Paragraph 4.30 of the Code clearly states that the membership of the Forum must not exceed 20.

(3) The 2008 Regulations and the Admissions Code appeared to be in conflict. The regulations do not refer explicitly to “up to 2 local authority representatives” although the Admissions Code stated unequivocally that the Forum must include up to 2 local authority representatives (as the admissions authority for community and voluntary controlled schools). CFE Officers have now sought clarification from the DCSF and confirm the following membership profile meets the legal requirements.

School Admissions Forum Membership

2. (1) It is recommended that representation on the Kent School Admission Forum should be constituted as follows, giving 19 members out of a possible maximum number of 20 places:

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| 2 | Elected Members |
| 1 | Rochester Diocesan |
| 1 | Canterbury Diocesan |
| 1 | Southwark Diocesan |
| 1 | Voluntary Aided Primary Catholic School |
| 1 | Voluntary Controlled Primary Church of England School |
| 1 | Primary Community School |

1	Primary Foundation School
1	Foundation Grammar School
1	Academy
1	Secondary Faith School
1	Secondary Comprehensive School
1	Secondary High School
1	HM Forces Service Personnel
1	Choice Adviser
2	Parents
1	From the Business Community

(2) It is proposed that for each of the schools' representatives of the different types of Secondary Schools in the county, nominations are sought for Headteacher representatives via the Secondary Forum and for governor representatives via the Kent Governors' Association. This should ensure the process is open and transparent.

(3) Similarly, it is proposed that for each of the schools' representatives of the different types of Primary Schools in the county, nominations are sought via the Primary Forum and Kent Governors' Association.

(4) It is proposed that a representative from the Army Welfare Service represents the interest of HM Service Personnel.

(5) KCC currently buys in a Choice Advisor service at the times of year when parents need their support. It is proposed that the same Choice Advisors are asked to form part of the Forum Membership to provide the necessary insight into parental experiences of the admission process. The cost of Choice Advice representation at the forum will be met by CFE.

(6) Two parents and a single representative from the business community will be invited to nominate themselves by way of a public notice published in the Kent Free Press. Nominees could then be endorsed via the Kent Federation of Parent Teacher Associations (KFPTA) and the Kent Chamber of Commerce respectively.

Recommendation

3. (1) Members are asked to agree the proposed membership of the School Admissions Forum as set out in this report; and

(2) Nominate and confirm the appointment of two Members to be the representatives of the County Council on the Kent School Admissions Forum.

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Background documents: Nil