

By: Graham Badman, Managing Director - Children, Families & Education
Mark Dance, Cabinet Member for Operations, Resources and Skills, CFE

To: Cabinet – 6th February 2008

Subject: LA PROPOSED CO-ORDINATED SCHEME FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KENT AND ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS 2009-10

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To report on the outcome of the consultation on the proposed admission arrangements for transfer to Primary and Secondary schools in September 2009. Cabinet is asked to determine the admission arrangements for that school year and determine the coordinated schemes for Primary & Secondary.

Introduction

1. (1) The LA, as the admissions authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, is required to consult on its proposed admission arrangements for these schools annually, and to determine its admission arrangements by 15 April each year.
- (2) The Education Act 2002 introduced 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. In 2007 17 admission authorities for Secondary Schools in Kent have objected to the proposals to co-ordinate admissions to all Kent secondary schools in September 2009. Failure to reach agreement between admission authorities requires that the Secretary of State imposes a scheme. Cabinet are requested to determine the 2009 Co-ordinated scheme for Admissions in order that this can be sent to the Secretary of State for consideration when imposing a scheme for Secondary Transfer. The Primary Admissions Scheme has been agreed by all admission authorities and determined arrangements can be implemented without intervention.
- (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.

- (4) The LA has consulted the headteachers and chairmen of governors of all Kent primary and secondary schools; neighbouring LAs; diocesan bodies; independent schools (which have pupils transferring to secondary schools); and other interested bodies on its proposals to co-ordinate admissions to all Kent secondary schools in September 2008.
- (5) The LA consulted with the Admissions Forum on the content of the consultation. The forum will be considering the proposed arrangements for determination on 24th January. It is expected that there will be a similar divide as has been the case from Admissions Authorities within Kent.

Consultation and Outcome

2. The consultations considered the following aspects:

- (a) The Primary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme for 2009/10;
- (b) The Secondary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme for 2009/10;
- (c) Over-subscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary schools;
- (d) The relevant statutory consultation areas for Primary and Secondary schools;
- (e) Published admission numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary schools.

(a) The Primary Co-ordinated Scheme

3. All Primary Admissions Authorities within Kent agreed to the proposed Co-ordinated scheme. In total 139 schools responded to the consultation and further details of comments made are available in Appendix A.

(b) The Secondary Co-ordinated Scheme

4. Initially 22 out of a possible 65 Secondary School Admission Authorities failed to agree to the proposed Scheme supporting testing before preference. A further written attempt to seek agreement resulted in 3 schools changing their position but ultimately the LA do not have agreement on a coordinated scheme from all admissions authorities and the Secretary of State will be required to impose a scheme. Comments and feedback on this consultation is in Appendix A.

(c) The Oversubscription Criteria for Primary and Secondary Community and Voluntary Controlled schools.

5. The oversubscription criteria have not changed from 2008/09, details for the Primary arrangements are in Appendix C and Secondary arrangements in Appendix B the comments made as part of the consultation are in Appendix A

(d) Relevant Statutory Consultation Area

6. Details of the relevant statutory consultation areas have not changed from 2008/09, details for the Primary arrangements are in Appendix C and Secondary arrangements in Appendix B the comments made as part of the consultation are outlined in Appendix A

(e) Published Admission Numbers

7. The proposed Published Admission Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools were included in the consultation document. Comments are located in Appendix A and details of the proposed Numbers for Determination are located in Appendix B (Secondary) and Appendix C (Primary)

8. Recommendations

Cabinet is asked TO AGREE:

- (a) That the proposed scheme to co-ordinate admissions to Primary schools in September 2009 is determined as set out in Appendix C.
- (b) That the proposed scheme to co-ordinate admissions to Secondary schools in September 2009 is determined as set out in Appendix B.
- (c) That the oversubscription criteria detailed in Appendix B and Appendix C relating to Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary schools are determined for 2009.
- (d) That the relevant statutory consultation areas detailed in Appendix B and Appendix C relating to Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary schools are determined for 2009.
- (e) That the Published Admission Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary schools are determined as set out in Appendix B and Appendix C.

9. Background Documents:

None.

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