

From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform
Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills

To: Education Cabinet Committee – 14 March 2014

Subject: Proposed Co-ordinated Schemes for Primary and Secondary Schools in Kent and Admission Arrangements for Primary and Secondary Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2015/16

Classification: Unrestricted

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet - 24 March 2014

Electoral Divisions: All

Summary:

To report on the outcome of the consultation on the proposed scheme for transfer to Primary and Secondary schools in September 2015 including the proposed process for non-coordinated In-Year Admissions. Cabinet Committee is asked to comment on the co-ordinated schemes for Primary and Secondary Admissions in Kent, the In-Year Admission process for Primary and Secondary schools in Kent and the admission arrangements for the 2015/16 school year, before approval by the Cabinet.

Recommendations:

The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the Cabinet decision to determine the following:

- a) The Coordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2015/16 incorporating the In Year admissions process as detailed in Appendix A
- b) The Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme 2015/16 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 2015/16 as detailed in Appendix C (1)
- d) The oversubscription criteria relating to Community and Voluntary controlled Secondary schools in Kent 2015/16 as detailed in Appendix D (1)
- e) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2015/16 as set out in Appendix C (2)

- f) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools 2015/16 as set out in Appendix D (2)
- g) The relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Primary Schools 2015/16 as detailed in Appendix C (3) and the relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Secondary Schools 2015/16 as set out in Appendix D (3)

1.0 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 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. Education Cabinet Committee is requested to comment and inform the forthcoming Cabinet's decision to agree the Co-ordinated scheme for Admissions to Primary and Secondary schools in Kent for 2015/16 and determine the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools.
- 1.3 All admission arrangements identified in this document are outside the arrangements for pupils with statements of special educational 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; diocesan bodies; independent schools (which have pupils transferring to secondary schools); parents and parental groups on its proposals to co-ordinate admissions to all Kent Primary and Secondary schools in September 2015.

2.0 Consultation and Outcome

- 2.1 The LA consultation took place from 11 November 2013 until 8 January 2014 and considered the following aspects:
 - a) The Primary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme including a revised In Year admissions process for 2015/16;
 - b) The Secondary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme including a revised In Year admissions process for 2015/16;

3.0 The Co-ordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2015/16 incorporating the revised In Year admissions process

- 3.1 All Admissions Authorities within Kent agreed to the proposed Co-ordinated Primary Admissions Scheme for 2015/16. No Infant, Junior or Primary schools 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 active 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 and ensure no children are missing education.

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.

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

4.0 The Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme 2015/16 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 and ensure no children are missing education.

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

5.0 The Over-subscription Criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools in Kent 2015/16

5.1 The over-subscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools are the same as those used in 2014. The LA is no longer required to consult when there is no proposal to change a Community or Voluntary Controlled school’s oversubscription criteria.

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

6.0 The Over-subscription Criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary schools in Kent 2015/16

6.1 The proposed wording for the over-subscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools is the same as that used in 2014. Because there are no changes proposed, no consultation is required.

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

7.0 Published Admission Numbers 2015/16

- 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. No PAN reductions were proposed for 2015/16. 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.

8. Relevant Statutory Consultation Area 2015/16

- 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

9.1 The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the Cabinet decision to determine the following:

- a) The Coordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2015/16 incorporating the In Year admissions process as detailed in Appendix A
- b) The Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme 2015/16 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 2015/16 as detailed in Appendix C (1)
- d) The oversubscription criteria relating to Community and Voluntary controlled Secondary schools in Kent 2015/16 as detailed in Appendix D (1)
- e) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2015/16 as set out in Appendix C (2)
- f) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools 2015/16 as set out in Appendix D (2)
- g) The relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Primary Schools 2015/16 as detailed in Appendix C (3) and the relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Secondary Schools 2015/16 as set out in Appendix D (3)

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Background documents

None