

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

To: **Cabinet – 25 January 2016**

Subject: **Proposed Co-Ordinated Schemes For Primary And Secondary Schools In Kent And Admission Arrangements For Primary And Secondary Community And Voluntary Controlled Schools 2017 /18**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

**Past Pathway of Paper:** Education and Young People's Cabinet Committee

**Electoral Division:** All electoral divisions

**Summary:** To report on the outcome of the consultation on admissions arrangements and the proposed scheme for transfer to Primary and Secondary schools in September 2017 including the proposed process for non-coordinated In-Year Admissions. Cabinet is asked to determine 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 2017/18 school year for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools.

**Recommendation(s):** The Cabinet is asked to DETERMINE the recommendations set out below:

- a) The Coordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2017/18 incorporating the In Year admissions process as detailed in Appendix A
- b) The Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme 2017/18 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 2017/18 as detailed in Appendix C (1)
- d) The oversubscription criteria relating to Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools in Kent 2017/18 as detailed in Appendix D (1)
- e) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2017/18 as set out in Appendix C (2)
- f) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools 2017/18 as set out in Appendix D (2)
- g) The relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2017/18 as detailed in Appendix C (3) and the relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Secondary Schools 2017/18 as set out in Appendix D (3)

## **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 28 February each year. Historically, arrangements have been determined by 15 April, however, timescales were revised in the 2014 Admissions Code.
- 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. Education and Young People's Cabinet Committee received a report at its meeting on 21 January 2016 and the outcomes will be reported to Cabinet.
- 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 2017. 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 Processes**

- 2.1 The LA consultation ran from 6 November 2015 until 18 December 2015 and considered the following aspects:
  - a) The Primary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme including the In Year admissions process for 2017/18;
  - b) The Secondary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme including the In Year admissions process for 2017/18;
  - c) The oversubscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools in Kent 2017/18;
  - d) The oversubscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools in Kent 2017/18;
  - e) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2017/18;
  - f) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools 2017/18;
  - g) The relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Infant, Junior Primary and Secondary Schools 2017/18

### 3. Outcome

#### **(a) The Co-ordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2017/18 incorporating In Year admissions process**

- a.i All Admissions Authorities within Kent agreed to the proposed Co-ordinated Primary Admissions Scheme for 2017/18. 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. 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.
- a.ii 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.
- a.iii The details of the scheme for determination are located in Appendix A

#### **(b) The Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme 2017/18 incorporating the In Year Admissions Process**

- b.i 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.
- b.ii 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.
- b.iii The details of the proposed scheme for determination are located in Appendix B

#### **(c) The Over-subscription Criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools in Kent 2017/18**

- c.i The over-subscription criteria for most Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools are the same as those used in 2016. The LA is no longer required to widely consult where there are no proposals to change Community or Voluntary Controlled schools oversubscription criteria.
- c.ii A local consultation was held for Dartford Bridge Community Primary School. The proposal was to create a priority zone around the school in response to ongoing housing development.

- c.iii The LA received no responses to the consultation on proposed changes. The consultation was managed using KCC best practice to ensure a wide demographic was reached. This included contacting families of children currently in the school, all primary schools within a three mile radius (in line with KCC's determined consultation area), advertisement on school notice boards and website, advertisement on KCC admissions website and a consultation notice in the local newspaper.
- c.iv Details of all proposed over-subscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools are located in appendix C (1).
- (d) The Over-subscription Criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary schools in Kent 2016/17**
- d.i The proposed over-subscription criteria for most Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools are the same as that used in 2016. The LA is no longer required to widely consult where there are no proposals to change Community or Voluntary Controlled school's oversubscription criteria.
- d.ii A local consultation was held for Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys. The proposal, following close consultation with the school, was to provide priority to any Pupil Premium children assessed suitable for grammar school.
- d.iii The consultation was managed using KCC best practice to ensure a wide demographic was reached. This included contacting families of children currently in the school, all primary and secondary schools within a ten mile radius (in line with KCC's determined consultation area), advertisement on school notice boards and website, advertisement on KCC admissions website and a consultation notice in the local newspaper.
- d.iv The LA received a number of responses to the consultation. While the majority of responses were in favour of this priority, a number of concerns were raised. Firstly, respondents raised concerns that the suggested arrangements do not cap the number of Pupil Premium children that can secure a place at the school, which could result in a number of eligible local children failing to secure a place. Second, parents who fall outside the school's current priority zone felt that this further reduces their chances of securing a place.
- d.v While Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys continue to wish to support eligible Pupil Premium children, they are aware that they retain a need to support their local community in a fair manner. With this in mind, admission arrangements have been revised to take into account the points raised. It is proposed that the specific criterion for Pupil Premium priority be replaced with a Pupil Premium priority for all children within each of the school's oversubscription criteria. This maintains the previous balance of support of children living around the school, but provides an increased opportunity for each eligible Pupil Premium child to secure a place. Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys support this proposed revision.
- d.vi Details of the over-subscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools in Kent are located in appendix D (1)

**(e) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2017/18**

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

**(f) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools 2017/18**

- f.i The proposed Published Admission Numbers (PAN) 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 at the time of going to print, the schools listed fall into this category.
- f.ii 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 D (2) where agreement was reached.

**(g) Relevant Statutory Consultation Areas 2017/18**

- g.i Relevant statutory consultation areas have not changed from 2016/17. Details for the Primary arrangements are in Appendix C (3) and Secondary arrangements in Appendix D (3).

**4. Recommendations**

4.1 Cabinet is asked to DETERMINE the recommendations set out below:

- a) The Coordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2017/18 incorporating the In Year admissions process as detailed in Appendix A
- b) The Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme 2017/18 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 2017/18 as detailed in Appendix C (1)
- d) The oversubscription criteria relating to Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools in Kent 2017/18 as detailed in Appendix D (1)
- e) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2017/18 as set out in Appendix C (2)

- f) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools 2017/18 as set out in Appendix D (2)
- g) The relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2017/18 as detailed in Appendix C (3) and the relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Secondary Schools 2017/18 as set out in Appendix D (3)

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**Background documents**

None