

By: Roger Gough - Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform
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To: Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee –
1st February 2017

Subject: Proposed Co-Ordinated Schemes For Admissions to Primary And Secondary Schools In Kent And Admission Arrangements For Primary And Secondary Community And Voluntary Controlled Schools 2018 /19

Classification: Unrestricted

Past pathway of paper N/A

Future pathway of paper Cabinet Member Decision.

Summary: To report on the outcome of the consultation on the proposed scheme for transfer to Primary and Secondary schools in September 2018 including the proposed process for non-coordinated In-Year Admissions.

Recommendation: The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to accept and determine:

- a) The Coordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2018/19 incorporating the In Year admissions process as detailed in Appendix A
- b) The Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme 2018/19 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 2018/19 as detailed in Appendix C (1)
- d) The oversubscription criteria relating to Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools in Kent 2018/19 as detailed in Appendix D (1)
- e) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2018/19 as set out in Appendix C (2)
- f) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools 2018/19 as set out in Appendix D (2)
- g) The relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2018/19 as detailed in Appendix C (3) and the relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Secondary Schools 2018/19 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.

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 Cabinet Committee is requested to comment and inform the forthcoming Cabinet Member's decision to agree the Co-ordinated scheme for Admissions to Primary and Secondary schools in Kent for 2018/19 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 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 2018. 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 1 November 2016 until 7 December 2016 and considered the following aspects:

- a) The Primary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme including the In Year admissions process for 2018/19;
- b) The Secondary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme including the In Year admissions process for 2018/19;
- c) The oversubscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools in Kent 2018/19;
- d) The oversubscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools in Kent 2018/19;
- e) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2018/19;
- f) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools 2018/19;
- g) The relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Infant, Junior, Primary and Secondary Schools 2018/19.

3. Outcome

(a) The Co-ordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2018/19 incorporating In Year admissions process

a.i All Admissions Authorities within Kent agreed to the proposed Co-ordinated Primary Admissions Scheme for 2018/19. 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 2018/19 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 2018/19

c.i The over-subscription criteria for most Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools are the same as those used in 2017. 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 Tunbury Primary School and Whitfield Aspen Primary School. The proposal for Tunbury Primary School was to create a priority zone around the school in response to ongoing housing development. The proposal for Whitfield Aspen

Primary School was to amend the school's intake priority to take into account the new split site arrangement.

c.iii Parents and Parish representatives attended a meeting at Tunbury Primary School to discuss the proposals. Six formal responses were received following this meeting, with five respondents supporting the proposal and one remaining undecided.

c.iv The LA received no responses to the consultation for Whitfield Aspen Primary School. 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 websites, advertisement on the KCC admissions website and a consultation notice in the local newspaper.

c.v Details of the 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 2018/19

d.i The proposed over-subscription criteria for most Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools are the same as those used in 2017. 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 both Dover Grammar School for Girls and Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School. The amendment was proposed following suggestions from the Select Committee into Grammar Schools and Social Mobility and was the same for both establishments. The consultations proposed to add priority to any Pupil Premium children assessed suitable for grammar school before applications were considered on a distance basis.

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 each 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 websites, advertisement on the KCC admissions website and a consultation notice in the local newspaper.

d.iv The LA received four responses for the Dover Grammar School for Girls consultation, with all four respondents raising an objection to the proposal. Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School received nine responses, three in favour of the proposal and six raising an objection. Objections from respondents to both schools had a similar theme. Respondents felt that admission to Grammar school should be a purely academic endeavour and social standing should not form part of the consideration. Respondents also highlighted that this proposal simply disadvantaged another cohort of children. Objections also highlighted that this did little to support families who narrowly miss Pupil Premium eligibility, but who were no less disadvantaged by their social circumstances. One respondent suggested that coaching of children from disadvantaged areas would produce a fairer system. One respondent stated that this would create a disparity between arrangements for Grammar schools in the area. Another respondent raised a concern that sibling priority should not be provided, due to the more independent travelling arrangements of Secondary students.

d.v The small number of responses compared to the cohort size of the schools suggests that the local communities are not significantly concerned by the proposed changes. Officers consider the significant benefits and opportunities created by these changes for children from poorer backgrounds far outweigh the concerns of the 10 responses that were not in favour of the pupil premium priority. The findings of the Select Committee seeking to improve social mobility through selective education developed a range of recommendations and KCC and Officers consider this change an important shift in the way grammar schools attract learners from poorer backgrounds and importantly raise the aspiration of children and families to seek academic pathways where very able children are suited to this type of learning. The Select Committee Report concluded that Grammar schools have a shared moral responsibility to ensure that the most academically able children from disadvantaged backgrounds access Grammar schools. Officers therefore hold the view the proposed changes should be determined to afford priority to pupil premium children. This approach has been adopted by a range of own admission authority grammar schools across Kent and it should be widely regarded as best practice going forward.

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 2018/19

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 the schools listed fall into this category, at the time of going to print.

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 2018/19

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 the schools listed fall into this category, at the time of going to print.

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 2018/19

g.i Relevant statutory consultation areas have not changed from 2017/18. Details for the Primary arrangements are in Appendix C (3) and Secondary arrangements in Appendix D (3).

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to accept and determine:

- a) The Coordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2018/19 incorporating the In Year admissions process as detailed in Appendix A
- b) The Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme 2018/19 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 2018/19 as detailed in Appendix C (1)
- d) The oversubscription criteria relating to Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools in Kent 2018/19 as detailed in Appendix D (1)
- e) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2018/19 as set out in Appendix C (2)
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Background documents

None