

ADMISSIONS FORUM

Meeting: 4 November 2008
At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Jenny Humphreys (Chair) in the Chair

Councillor Shan Alexander

Councillor Colin Foster

Councillor Hazel Lees

Marjorie Brown

- Voluntary Controlled Schools Representative

Renee Dickens

- Community Representative

Evelyn Leslie

- Offerton School

Ian Roberts

- Church of England Representative

Officers

Richard Bates

- SMBC Service Director (Learning and Achievement)

Jan Morris

- Children's Services Officer (Admissions)

Emma Storer

- SMBC Children's Services Officer

Julie Eltringham

- Head teacher of Virtual School for Looked After Children

David Tomlinson

- Scrutiny Officer

Steve Worthington

- Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies

Liz Parkinson

Bernadette Singleton

Tim McCarthy

Councillor Mark Weldon

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September, 2008 were approved as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

3. ADMISSIONS FORUM 2008 – DRAFT TEXT

A report of the Scrutiny Officer was considered (Copies of which had been circulated) outlining the main body of the first Annual Forum Report.

Members expressed their initial approval to both the content and layout of the report. They commented on a number of issues and suggested a number of minor amendments which would be considered for inclusion by the Admissions Forum Working Group at its next meeting.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the next meeting of the Admissions Forum Sub-Group be held on Tuesday, 18 November, 2008 at 5.00pm in the Marriage Waiting Room.

4. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS – CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX LONG-TERM MEDICAL NEEDS

A representative of the Corporate Director, Children and Young People submitted a report (Copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposal for the variation to admission rules to give priority to those children without statements who had significant long-term needs and would ordinarily be statemented to access provision.

RESOLVED – That the item be deferred to the next meeting for a more detailed explanation of the proposals.

5. WORKING GROUP FEEDBACK

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Admissions Forum Working Group held on 23 September and 15 October 2008 be noted.

6. IN-YEAR FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOL CONSULTATION

A representative of the Corporate Director, Children and Young People submitted a report (Copies of which had been circulated) detailing consultation arrangements for the 'In Year Fair Access (IYFA) Protocol Review consultation.

It was suggested that at the point of transition from Primary to Secondary, it should be reiterated to parents that statistics show that greater academic success is achieved by pupils who attend a single secondary school.

In addition And following Member's questions a further explanation was given to the statement within the report that pupils seeking a school place under the protocol would be given priority over pupils awaiting an appeal.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and the Working Party be thanked for their production of the leaflet.

7. TO AGREE A DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – (1) That the next meeting of the Admissions Forum be held on Tuesday 13th January 2009 at 6.00pm in Committee Room 3.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm