

ADMISSIONS FORUM

Meeting: 18 October 2006

At : 6.00pm

PRESENT

Councillor Colin Foster

Councillor Jenny Humphreys

Councillor Paul Porgess

Councillor Mark Weldon

M. Brown

- Voluntary Controlled Schools Representative

Patricia Goodstadt

- Shrewsbury Diocese Representative

Chris Keeble

- Children & Young People Officer

Pat Morgan

- Head of Service (Pupils, Parents & Schools)

Jan Morris

- Children & Young People Officer

Liz Parkinson

- GOVVAS Representative

Bernadette Singleton

- Primary Heads Voluntary Aided Schools

Emma Storer

- Children & Young People Officer (Inclusion)

Ian Tunnard

- Secondary Heads Consortium

Damian Eaton

- Chief Executive's Directorate

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED – That Councillor Jenny Humphries be elected Chair of the Admissions Forum until the next Annual Council Meeting.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED – That Councillor Mark Weldon be appointed Vice-Chair of the Admissions Forum until the next Annual Council Meeting.

3. MINUTES

The minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 15 March 2005 were approved as a correct record.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

5. DFES CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CODE

A representative of the Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the main proposals, guidelines and requirements contained within the proposed code

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

6. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AT MAINTAINED SCHOOLS 2008/2009 AND SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2008/2009 - CONSULTATION

A representative of the Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing proposals to make significant changes to the Authority's School Admissions Policy and Procedures and outlining proposed school terms and holiday dates for the academic year 2008/2009.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- As a result of significant changes to the Code of Practice on school admissions the authority could no longer provide a priority area guarantee.
- There was a significant minority of parents who assume that a place at a secondary school was guaranteed as a result of having their children attend an associated primary school.
- There was a need to ensure that the admissions criteria are relayed to parents as effectively as possible to dispel any misconceptions.
- The role of priority areas in ensuring that local children attended local schools was one which was valued.
- The disadvantage of using straight line distance as a criteria for school admissions was that those schools on the periphery of the Borough could subsequently draw the majority of their pupils from outside the Borough.
- There was a need to ensure that school holidays were as far as possible coterminous with those of neighbouring authorities to ensure that family life was not disrupted in those families where children or parents attended or worked at schools in different authorities.
- Cheshire and Derbyshire County Councils should be consulted in addition to other Greater Manchester authorities in the setting of school terms and holidays dates for Stockport 2008/2009.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Corporate Director, Children & Young People be requested to consider the comments of this Forum in the setting of school terms and holiday dates for 2008/2009.

7. ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS 2005/2006

A representative of the Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a joint report of the Corporate Director, Children & Young People and the Chief Executive (copies of which had been circulated) outlining the allocation of places to maintained primary and secondary schools in September 2006 and the pattern of admissions to secondary schools after the normal admissions round during 2005/2006 including the work of the Educations Appeals Panel over the last twelve months.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR VULNERABLE PUPILS 2005/2006

A representative of the Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the Authority's arrangements for the admission of vulnerable pupils to the Pendlebury Centre and the Secondary Behaviour

Support Service Pupil Referral Units in the 2005/2006 academic year. The report also details the Authority's arrangements for the reintegration and education of permanently excluded pupils and the managed transfer of pupils at risk to exclusion during the 2005/2006 academic year.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the thanks of the Forum be extended to the Education Inclusion Service for their hard work over the past year.

9. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Forum be held on 14 March 2006.

10. CHRIS KEEBLE

The Chair reported that this would be the last meeting of the Forum to be attended by Chris Keeble as he was shortly due to retire. The Chair thanked Mr Keeble on behalf of the Forum for his hard work for the children of Stockport and wished him a long and happy retirement.

The meeting closed at 7.09pm.