

## **ADMISSIONS FORUM**

Meeting: 9 October 2007

At: 6.00 pm

### **PRESENT**

Councillor Jenny Humphreys (Chair) in the chair

Councillor Shan Alexander (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Stuart Bodsworth

Councillor Colin Foster

Marjorie Brown	- Voluntary Controlled Schools Representative
Renee Dickens	- Community Representative
Liz Parkinson	- GOVVAS Representative
Tim McCarthy	- Stockport Academy
Ian Roberts	- Church of England Representative
Bernadette Singleton	- Primary Heads Voluntary Aided Schools

### **Officers**

Richard Bates	- Service Director, Learning & Achievement
Pat Morgan	- Head of Service, Pupils, Parents & Schools
Jan Morris	- Children's Services Officer (Admissions)
Emma Storer	- Children's Services Officer (Inclusion)
Damian Eaton	- Democratic Services Officer

### **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Julie Eltringham.

### **1. MINUTES**

The minutes (copies of which had been circulated) were approved as a correct record subject to the deletion of the repetition of the word 'Councillor' in respect of Councillor Stuart Bodsworth in the list of those present at the meeting.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

### **3. ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

A representative of the Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a joint report (copies of which had been circulated) of the Corporate Director, Children & Young People and Chief Executive detailing the allocation of places to maintained primary and secondary schools in September 2007 and the pattern of admissions to secondary schools after the normal admissions round during 2006/07.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- There has been a marked rise in online applications for admission to schools.

- It would be helpful in future years to provide a breakdown of those schools attended by Stockport pupils outside of the borough.
- A process would be put into place by September 2008 to provide for a smoother transition into schools of those pupils who are difficult to place outside of the normal admissions round.
- Concern was expressed regarding a case which could suggest an anomaly in the SEN Code of Practice in that one authority is able to name a school in another authority and thus compel them to accommodate that pupil.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

#### **4. SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR VULNERABLE PUPILS ACADEMIC YEAR 2007/07**

A representative of the Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the Local Authority's implementation of the arrangements for the admission of vulnerable pupils to the Pendlebury Centre and the Secondary Behaviour Support Service Pupil Referral Units in the 2006/07 academic year.

The report also outlined the authority's implementation of the arrangements for the reintegration and education of permanently excluded pupils and managed transfers of pupils causing concern/at risk of exclusion during the 2006/07 academic year.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- The work of the Education Inclusion Service was crucial and the systems in place worked very well to ensure that all of Stockport's pupils had access to education.
- Stockport Academy would continue to have a role in the current arrangements for vulnerable pupils.
- Concern was expressed in relation to suggestions that some schools were operating outside of the protocol in relation to the managed transfer of pupils.

RESOLVED - (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Corporate Director, Children & Young People in consultation with the Chair be requested to write to all schools expressing the Forum's concern that some schools may be operating outside of the protocol on the managed transfer of pupils.

#### **5. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AT MAINTAINED SCHOOLS 2009/10 AND SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2009/10 - DRAFT CONSULTATION**

A representative of the Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing matters on which the admissions authorities for maintained schools in Stockport wish to consult in respect of school admission arrangements for the academic year 2009/10 and the proposed school terms and holiday dates for the academic year 2009/10.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- It was commented that North Reddish Infant and Junior Schools would not be amalgamated by September 2008 as indicated in the report and that this would need to be revised prior to the publication of the report.
- It was noted that Hazel Grove High School had requested to reduce their PAN to 214 and that this would be included within the consultation.
- The importance of consultees to participate in the consultation was highlighted.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

## **6. ADMISSIONS FORUM REPORT - CONSIDERATION OF REQUIREMENTS AND FORMAT**

A representative of the Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) outlining proposals for the production of the Admission's Forum's Annual Report including the scope of the content, involvement and planning and the timing and distribution of the document.

RESOLVED - (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That a Working Party be established to consider the planning and collation of an Annual Report and that the membership of the Working Party be comprised of Councillor Jenny Humphreys, Councillor Colin Foster, Councillor Mark Weldon and Liz Parkinson.

(3) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair be requested to make arrangements for meetings of the Working Party to be held prior to the end of December 2007.

(4) That the meeting of the Forum scheduled for 5 February 2008 be rearranged to take place on 19 February 2008

The meeting closed at 7.48 pm