

Leeds Admissions Forum

1st September, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor Gruen in the Chair

Councillor R Harker
Mrs P Hill – Health Representative
Mr J Young – IGEN
Mr M Woods – Aided School
Mrs S Knights – Special School Governor
Mr I Faulkingham – Primary School Governor
Mrs L Bryan – Other Member
Mr J Fryett – Other Member

In Attendance

Mrs V Buckland – Education Leeds
Mrs D Leonard – Legal Services
Mr J Grieve – Governance Services

1 CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to this additional meeting of the Leeds Admission Forum. The Chair apologised for the timing of the meeting, he was aware that it was the first week of term and not the best time for School Representatives to be away from school.

The meeting had been called in order that the Forum could contribute to a consultation exercise organised by the Department for Children, Schools and Families on the Revised School Admissions Code. The proposed new code includes major implications for the future of Admission Forums, it is therefore important that due consideration be given and the Forum respond appropriately. The consultation runs until 2nd October 2008.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor M Coulson, Councillor R Finnigan, Councillor A Shelbrooke, Mr N Pyke, Mr R Finnigan, Mrs F Beevers, Mrs S Ulyett, Mr D Shipley, Mr B Stott, Mr S Camby, Mr J Daulby, Mr P Forbes, Mrs G Ladden and Mr A Reese

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were submitted for comment/approval.

The Chair referred to Minute No. 43 and requested if the second resolution could be amended to read that Fiona Beevers be elected Vice Chair of the Challenging and Vulnerable Children's Sub Committee for a one year period

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Tuesday, 7th October, 2008

RESOLVED – That with the inclusion of the suggested amendment the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd April 2008 be accepted as a true and correct record

4 MATTERS ARISING

There were no issues raised under matters arising

5 CHALLENGING AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN'S SUB COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Challenging and Vulnerable Children's Sub Committee held on 15th April 2008 were submitted for comment/ approval

John Fryett said he had recently been appointed Project Director for the Leeds Inclusive Learning Strategy (LILS). Commenting on the minutes Mr Fryett said many of the topics included within the minutes were currently ongoing and no conclusions had been reached

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Challenging and Vulnerable Children's Sub Committee held on 15th April 2008 be accepted as a true and correct record

6 BRIEFING NOTE - CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED SCHOOL ADMISSION CODE

The Chief Executive Education Leeds submitted a report setting out details of a DCSF Consultation Exercise on the proposed School Admissions Code. The consultation runs until 2nd October 2008

Addressing the report Mrs Buckland, Admissions and Transport Manager, Education Leeds reported that there were proposals in the consultation which would require further changes to primary legislation relating to Admissions Forums. The new duties being placed on the local authority would lead to some duplication of functions with the Admissions Forum role. The local authority had a duty through the Education and Skills bill to report on the legality, fairness and effectiveness of admissions arrangements to the Schools Adjudicator. The report would cover the extent to which admission arrangements meet the needs of vulnerable children, such as children in care and children with statements of special educational needs or those with behavioural problems. It would also include the number of admission appeals heard and upheld and how many children had been admitted under the Fair Access Protocol.

Forum Members considered the response form appended to the report, discussing in detail each of the 33 questions and providing comment/opinion upon them

RESOLVED –

- (i) That Officers be instructed to complete the response form on the lines indicated.

- (ii) That in respect of Questions No. 20 & 21 (Fair Access) these be referred to the Challenging and Vulnerable Children's Sub Committee for comments
- (iii) That following the receipt of (ii) above, the Chair be authorised to sign and forward the response on behalf of the Forum

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no issues raised under any other business

8 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That future meetings be scheduled as follows:

Tuesday 7th October 2008

Tuesday 25th November 2008

Meetings to be held in the Civic Hall, Leeds commencing at 4.00pm