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| AGENDA ITEM: |
| Originator: Chris Wrench Telephone: 0113 3950696 |

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS
DATE: 18 OCTOBER 2006

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE SEPTEMBER 2006 ADMISSION ROUND FOR
COMMUNITY AND CONTROLLED SCHOOLS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Introduction

Education Leeds is responsible for allocating children to primary, infant, junior and secondary schools and defending admission appeals for community and voluntary controlled schools. The company is also responsible for co-ordinating admissions between the 50 voluntary-aided schools, the four neighbouring LEAs and the David Young Community Academy.

The report gives statistical information on:

- the percentage of first preferences achieved, the headline figure is 90.1%;
- the percentage of parents who received one of their three preferences, the headline figure is 97.2%;
- the percentage of first preferences by black and ethnic minority categories;
- information on school appeals, the number of which have fallen this year.

2. Issues

The following issues are identified within the report. The establishment of a new pattern of secondary school provision has led to a reduction of 720 places in year 7 over the last three years and until parents become used to the new pattern there may be a temporary reduction in the percentage of first preferences in future years.

There was a lack of places in the South of Leeds in 2006 and Cockburn High school agreed to accept an additional 30 students. The School Organisation Team are investigating numbers in the area to see if any corrective action needs to be taken for 2007.

The percentage of first preferences for black and ethnic minority children continues to remain below that of the White British category. This was examined in the Review of Admission Policies in 2005 where it was concluded that black and

ethnic minority families had the same level of first preferences as other categories of families who lived in inner city wards. Families in these wards tended to preference schools out of their local area and so did not receive any priority through the admission policy. Advice is given to all parents through the admission policy of the possible consequences of preferencing schools out of the area. The report highlighted the need to raise achievement in inner city schools so that local parents did not feel the need to preference schools out of the area.

3. Recommendations

To note the statistical content of the report including:

- the percentage of first preferences achieved, where 9 out of 10 parents are offered the school of their first preference and 97 parents out of 100 received one of their preferences;
- that the percentage of first preferences in secondary school for black and ethnic minority families continues to be below that of the White British category. The issue is being addressed through the raising school achievement agenda, Building Schools for the Future agenda and through the advice given to parents;
- that a new pattern of school provision is emerging within Leeds through Building Schools for the Future and the David Young Academy, which may lead to a temporary reduction in the percentage of first preferences while parents react to the new pattern.

To note that the appointment of the Choice Adviser is likely to lead to more aspirational preferences from a larger number of parents, which may in turn further reduce the level of first preferences that are allocated.

To note that the pattern of places in the south of the City requires further monitoring and subject to School Organisation Team recommendations may require some corrective action.

To note that the government agenda for further promoting parental choice is not being matched by popular and successful schools seeking to expand to meet such demand. If this trend continues we can expect some further reductions in successful first preferences. This is however countered to some extent by local initiatives around raising achievement in our schools. As these initiatives gather further momentum we may see a wider spread of first preferences by parents and possibly an improvement in the percentages of successful first preferences.



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**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS
REPORT TO EXECUTIVE BOARD
DATE: 18 OCTOBER 2006**

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE SEPTEMBER 2006 ADMISSION ROUND FOR
COMMUNITY AND CONTROLLED SCHOOLS**

Electoral Wards Affected:
All

**Please indicate that the following have
been addressed within the report:**

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call-in

Not Eligible for Call-in

(Details contained in the Report)

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Education Leeds is responsible for allocating children to primary, infant, junior and secondary schools and defending admission appeal for community and voluntary controlled schools. The company is also responsible for co-ordinating admissions between the 50 voluntary-aided schools, the four neighbouring LEAs and the David Young Community Academy.

This report gives statistical information about the process and highlights issues that need to be addressed for the 2007 admission round

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Admission and Transport Team manage transfers into Reception and Year 7 for approximately 16,000 families each year and offer each parent the highest preferred school allowed within the admission policy.

This years figures are broadly in line with expectations with nine out of ten

parents receiving the school of their first preference. This is despite fewer school places being available and thereby affecting the traditional pattern of parental preference. Although we achieved over 90% first preference the large numbers in the round means that 1582 children were not offered their first preference school.

2.1 **Percentage of first preferences achieved**

| | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|
| Secondary | 86.9 | 89.3 | 91.5 | 87.4 |
| Primary | 93.3 | 96.4 | 94.7 | 95.0 |
| Junior | 97.4 | 99.3 | 98.3 | 99.3 |
| Total | 90.1 | 92.5 | 93.1 | 91.4 |

Full details are given in appendix 1.

The admission policy within Leeds allows parents to try for a school out of their local area because they have the safety net of their local school if they are unsuccessful. So another measure is the percentage of parents who received one of their three preferences.

2.2 **Percentage of parents who achieved one of their three preferences**

| | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|-----------|------|-------|------|------|
| Secondary | 96.9 | 98.1 | 98.4 | 94.3 |
| Primary | 97.3 | 99.5 | 99.0 | 99.2 |
| Junior | 99.3 | 100.0 | 99.7 | 96.6 |
| Total | 97.2 | 98.8 | 98.7 | 96.6 |

This indicates that very high numbers of parents were given one of their three preferences.

2.3 **School appeals**

Whenever a parent is refused entry to a school they have a right to appeal against the decision. The appeal is heard by an independent panel which is organised by the Constitution and Corporate Governance Unit as the process needs to be fully independent.

The figures below are based on the period April to July but they do not include in-year appeals.

| | GRANTED | NOT GRANTED | TOTAL | % GRANTED |
|-----------|---------|-------------|-------|-----------|
| SECONDARY | 158 | 352 | 510 | 31.0 |
| PRIMARY | 9 | 110 | 119 | 7.6 |
| TOTAL | 167 | 462 | 629 | 26.6 |

Details for secondary school appeals are given in appendix 3. The total number of appeals heard in the same period last year was 816 so there were 187 less appeals this year.

3.0 **THE ISSUES**

Education Leeds is seeking to reduce the number of school places in line with the fall in the school population as well as making strategic decisions on the closure of schools.

In the secondary sector there has recently been the closure of Mathew Murray and Merlyn Rees High schools and the establishment of South Leeds High school, the closure of Agnes Stewart and Braim Wood High schools and the establishment of the David Young Community Academy. In addition St Michaels College closed in 2004. There have also been smaller adjustments to a number of secondary school's admission numbers. The net effect is that 720 places have been taken out of year 7 in the last three years, whereas pupil numbers have fallen by only 205. Another 105 places will be taken out of year 7 next year.

- These closures cause changes to preferences which are overlaid on top of the normal changes brought about by the shift in schools popularity each year.
- The fall in pupil numbers due to demographics does not affect all areas or all schools equally.
- The fall in the numbers of children transferring to secondary school is not falling as fast as places are being taken out of provision and this will also affect the first preference percentage.
- Popular schools continue to attract many more parents than they can admit, and again this affects first preferences.
- A number of traditionally less popular schools are receiving new buildings and if this increases their popularity some will not be large enough to accept demand from the nearest pupils.

Given the change in the secondary school estate there needs to be time for a new parental preference pattern to emerge recognising the new provision of schools within Leeds. We may see a reduction in the percentage of first preferences achieved until a new pattern emerges. This may be offset by local initiatives around raising achievement in schools which may even out the preferences around the City.

Education Leeds will be appointing a choice advisor to assist parents so that they are able to make a preference for a school knowing all the information available. This may lead them to be more aspirational in their preferences.

There was an issue where the Admission and Transport Team had to offer parents who lived in the south of the City places in the north because of a lack of school places at March 1st, the offer date. To assist with the numbers of students Cockburn High school agreed to admit an additional 30 students. Rodillian High school also agreed to accept extra students but these places were not used because 30 extra students were admitted into Woodkirk High School by the appeals panel. The issue of extra numbers in the south of the City is currently being investigated by the School Organisation Team to see if any corrective action needs to be taken for 2007.

4.0

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications attached to this report.

5.0 **STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

Education Leeds follows all statutory requirements in operating the admission policy . We will however, review all policies and procedures in light of the new Act

6.0 **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

Percentage of first preferences by black and ethnic minority categories.

Details are given in appendix 2. These figures indicate that for secondary preferences the percentage of black and ethnic minority parents being offered their first preference school is below the White British category. This is the same result discussed by the Admission Forum and Executive Board in 2005. This was examined in the Review of Admission Policies in 2005 where it was concluded that black and ethnic minority families had the same level of first preferences as other categories of families who lived in inner city wards. Families in these wards tended to preference schools out of their local area and so did not receive any priority through the admission policy. It was also concluded that parents within these wards are less likely to preference their local secondary school. Whilst they sought a place in an outer area school they were unlikely to be successful because they were applying for a school out of their local area. Many black and ethnic minority families preferred Roundhay High school, which is close to the inner city area but is not classed as the 'nearest' school in terms of the admission policy. The attraction of Roundhay High School was seen to have a distorting effect on percentages. The majority of categories are very small (less than 100) and it is felt that such small numbers are not representative.

The recommendation accepted by Executive Board was to continue with the strategy of raising achievement in all schools and to make all our schools good and improving so that parents will not feel the need to seek a school place out of their local area. To address the issue of raising standards Education Leeds is working closely with all schools and colleagues in school improvement to ensure all our schools are good, improving and inclusive.

In the primary area the difference between the White British category and other categories is less pronounced. All the categories with more than 100 children achieved over 90% first preference. Two categories achieved higher first preferences than White British – Indian and Bangladeshi.

To address the issue of black and ethnic minority students achieving a lower degree of first preferences the Council, through the Building Schools for the Future programme has for 2006 rebuilt Carr Manor and Primrose high schools and increased capacity at Primrose by 40. There are new headteachers in both schools and these schools will prove popular in the 2007 admission round and begin to address the issue.

7.0 **LINKS TO KEY PRIORITIES AND CORPORATE PLAN**

The Admission and Transport Team relate to the Education Leeds Strategic Plan - 1.1 Build Partnerships for Transformation, the Children's and Young Person's Plan - Staying safe and enjoy and achieve and the LCC Corporate

Plan - Our children and young people are healthy, safe and successful

8.0

RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the statistical content of the report including:

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| APPENDIX 1 | ADMISSION NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES FOR SEPTEMBER 2006 | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--|-----------------|------|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|--------|-----|--|
| | TOTAL | 1 ST | % | 2 ND | % | 3 RD | % | PLACED | % | |
| SECONDARY | 8200 | 7133 | 86.9 | 630 | 7.7 | 184 | 2.2 | 221 | 2.7 | |
| PRIMARY | 7572 | 7064 | 93.3 | 253 | 3.3 | 55 | 0.7 | 195 | 2.6 | |
| JUNIOR | 269 | 267 | 97.4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0.3 | 2 | 0.7 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 16041 | 14459 | 90.1 | 887 | 5.5 | 240 | 1.5 | 418 | 2.6 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

Placed is where no preference could be met or the form was not returned. In these cases Education Leeds placed the children into a school against any preference.

APPENDIX 2

FIRST PREFERENCE BY ETHNICITY

| | Secondary | | Primary | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------|---------|-------|
| | No | % | No | % |
| White British | 5547 | 89.2 | 4305 | 94.4 |
| Unknown | 371 | 79.3 | 1138 | 91.5 |
| Pakistani | 216 | 80.9 | 307 | 91.9 |
| Black African | 105 | 70.5 | 89 | 90.8 |
| Indian | 113 | 82.5 | 106 | 94.6 |
| Mixed Black Caribbean and White | 91 | 82.0 | 81 | 93.1 |
| Black Caribbean | 76 | 71.0 | 47 | 87.0 |
| Kashmiri Pakistani | 84 | 82.3 | 99 | 93.4 |
| Bangladeshi | 71 | 81.6 | 87 | 94.6 |
| Any Other Ethnic Group | 56 | 81.2 | 52 | 85.2 |
| Any Other White Background | 61 | 88.4 | 51 | 87.9 |
| Any Other Mixed Background | 55 | 83.3 | 62 | 92.5 |
| Other Asian | 34 | 77.2 | 43 | 89.6 |
| Any Other Black Background | 32 | 74.4 | 27 | 81.8 |
| Mixed Asian and White | 38 | 90.5 | 61 | 92.4 |
| White Irish | 34 | 91.9 | 19 | 100.0 |
| Refused to Answer | 31 | 86.1 | 22 | 91.7 |
| Chinese | 28 | 82.4 | 25 | 86.2 |
| Information Not Obtained | 23 | 85.2 | 166 | 94.3 |
| Mixed Black African and White | 11 | 68.8 | 29 | 87.9 |
| Gypsy Roma | 13 | 92.9 | 8 | 100.0 |
| Traveller of Irish Heritage | 8 | 88.9 | 8 | 88.9 |
| Kashmiri Other | 4 | 80.0 | 8 | 100.0 |

APPENDIX 3.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS APPEAL RESULTS

| | GRANTED | NOT GRANTED | TOTAL |
|---------------|---------|-------------|-------|
| ALLERTON HIGH | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| BENTON PARK | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| BOSTON SPA | 14 | 5 | 19 |
| BRIGSHAW | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| BRUNTCLIFFE | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| COCKBURN | 1 | 26 | 27 |
| CRAWSHAW | 5 | 28 | 33 |
| FARNLEY PARK | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| GARFORTH | 13 | 32 | 45 |
| GRANGEFIELD | 9 | 42 | 51 |
| HORSFORTH | 3 | 9 | 12 |
| LAWNSWOOD | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| MORLEY | 4 | 16 | 20 |
| PRIESTHORPE | 3 | 18 | 21 |
| PRIMROSE | 9 | 11 | 20 |
| RODILLIAN | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| ROUNDHAY | 10 | 95 | 105 |
| SOUTH LEEDS | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| TEMPLE MOOR | 16 | 36 | 52 |
| WETHERBY | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| WOODKIRK | 37 | 1 | 38 |
| | | | |
| TOTAL 2006 | 158 | 352 | 510 |
| | 31% | 69% | 100% |
| | | | |
| 2005 FIGURES | 200 | 561 | 761 |
| | 26% | 74% | 100% |