

Originator: Rachel Phillips

Tel: 0113 247 5577

Ref Fair Access Protocol 2011/12

REPORT TO LEEDS ADMISSION FORUM

Challenging Children's Sub Committee

Date 1st March 2011

Venue: Civic Hall

Time: 4.00pm

Update by the Admissions Team on the Fair Access Panels and the admission of children during the academic year 2010/11.

There have not been any recent changes in the Fair Access Protocols and the Fair Access Panels (Secondary) continue to sit on a monthly basis to consider parental preferences. There have not been any directions to schools so far this academic year and all young people who have been discussed at Panel, who do not have a school place, have been offered one.

The Fair Access Panels for Primary schools continue to sit as and when required and the Fair Access Officer works very hard to procure resolution without a Panel. However, sometimes it is important for the cluster to meet to find the most appropriate placement for a young person.

Schools continue to develop stronger relationships both within and outside of their own Wedges. This has enabled them to offer more 'managed moves' for young people, for a variety of reasons who may benefit from a 'fresh start' or because they believe that a change of school is the answer to an issue they are experiencing.

However, there are many changes that may effect how Fair Access Panels work or are funded in the future. Firstly, the Education Bill which proposes that Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships are no longer statutory. In Leeds these partnerships are enshrined within the Area Inclusion Partnership (AIP) and it remains to be seen how this will affect the AIP's and their current funding stream. This funding stream is used by the Fair Access Panels to support the inclusion of young people into educational provision, for many this means costly alternative provision.

Another major change that may impact on the Panels is the inclusion of Education Leeds into Children's Services and the proposed changes to increase locality working from a five wedge model to a three wedge model . Whilst it is not envisaged that this will have any immediate impact we will continue to reflect and work with each Panel and consult on any changes that they may feel are appropriate and of benefit to the process.

In additional to these national and local issues the schools themselves are experiencing issues with capacity and they are working with School Organisation to resolve the issues for 2012 and to find a solution for the current shortage of places by trying to arrive at local agreements as to how to accommodate the numbers of young people who are moving into areas where places do not currently exist. The category 'shortage of spaces' has seen the biggest increase in recent months, this category is used when we are unable to offer a school place, within the statutory guidelines on

walking distance, to someone who doesn't have one. This ensures that an offer of a school place is made without the need to attend an appeal hearing.

Finally, the Government are currently reviewing the School Admissions Code and it is possible that this may also impact on the Fair Access Protocols and possibly the Fair Access Panels but this remains to be seen.

Recommendations

The Sub-Committee is asked to note the report and to receive the next update in May 2011 as indicated in the Work Programme 2011/12.