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## **REPORT TO LEEDS ADMISSION FORUM**

Date 1 March 2010

Venue: Civic Hall

Time: 4.00pm

Subject: Initial Preference Summary for September 2011

### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To update members of the Admission Forum on the initial preferences and the impact on demand for September 2011.

### **2. Background Information**

- 2.1 Entry into secondary school in September 2011 and September 2012 is expected to have the smallest cohorts of children in the City. There were about 300 fewer children applying this year for year 7 places. The government introduced a national closing date for applications for both primary and secondary applications. Whilst the national offer day for secondary remains 1 March, the closing date for applications for primary is not until 15 January, putting the offer date at 20 April this year. There is no national primary offer day but it is likely to be mid April each year.

Due to this change in dates we are able to advise Forum of the situation with secondary places, but can only give a very early indication of primary preferences. Not all preferences are yet logged.

The number of primary schools oversubscribed on first preferences is similar to last year at 72 (79 last year) but may rise slightly when all preferences have been logged.

### **3 Main Issues**

#### **3.1 Secondary**

We are able to offer 86% of parents their first preference school, an increase of 2% from last year. Of the 779 parents who have not been given their first preference, over a quarter of them were asking for Roundhay. Despite being advised that they are not likely to be offered a place, parents continue to ask for the school. In these cases parents are very strongly advised to be realistic with at least one of their preferences. The other most oversubscribed schools are Abbey Grange, Allerton High and Pudsey Grangefield.

All children who expressed a preference for their nearest school were able to be offered one. Many traditionally popular schools are not full this year due to the small cohort entering year 7. Approximately 100 children did not express any preference despite advising their primary schools and follow up work by the Choice Adviser. We have

gone on to allocate the next nearest school with an available place where we believe any year 6 child to be in one of our primary schools. A further 200 parents who did express a preference were not able to be allocated any of them. None of these families asked for their nearest school as one of their preferences. There were a total of 7624 places allocated.

### **Primary**

Unfortunately we can only give a very preliminary overview of the situation with primary preferences. We have received approximately 8200 preferences, which is similar to this time last year. However the closing date last year had been October and a great deal of chasing up had taken place by February. This year we are only just past the closing date and beginning to chase up the remaining preferences. We will provide a further update at the next Forum meeting.

At present a similar number of schools are oversubscribed as last year. There are a number of schools where we would expect to see more preferences and will be contacting all nurseries with children we know to be on their roll who have not yet expressed a preference.

## **4 Conclusion**

- 4.1** Secondary demand has fallen and there are no areas of the city where nearest children are unable to gain a place. Birth rates are rising for Reception and due to legislative changes the offer day will not be until 20 April so detailed information is not yet available. A report will be brought to the next Forum meeting with an update.

## **5 Recommendation**

- 5.1** That Admissions Forum note the report.