

Report of: Director of Children & Families

Report to: Executive Board

Date: 7 February 2018

Subject: Determination of school admissions arrangements 2019/20



Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

This report seeks approval for the local authority admission policy and coordinated admissions arrangements for September 2019.

The School Standards Framework Act 1998 Section 84 and The School Admissions (Admissions Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admissions Arrangements) (England) Regulation 2012 require the local authority to consult on their proposed admissions arrangements, including the admissions policy and the coordinated scheme, as well as in year admissions arrangements, every seven years or whenever any changes are proposed. The admissions arrangements for September 2019 must be determined by 28 February 2018.

For the 2019/20 policy no significant changes to the policy were proposed and consulted upon, however minor amendments to wording were introduced for clarity and accuracy. (Summarised at Appendix E)

The paper also outlines changes to the Published Admissions Number for Carr Manor Through School (Secondary Phase) and Roundhay All-Through School (Secondary phase) in line with their published statutory notices from 2011 and 2015.

Recommendations

Executive Board is asked determine the school admissions arrangements for 2019 by:

- a) approving the admissions policies for Primary and Secondary (Appendices A and B) noting the following:
 - the wording in relation to Children Looked After will be amended to reflect current legislation and practice
 - PAF (Postcode Address File) will no longer be the main source of data for our measuring system, being replaced by LLPG (Local Land and Property Gazetteer)
 - The policy will include clarity that the Local Authority may withdraw an offer if it is found that a family have used a false address on their application
- b) noting the changes to the admission number for 2 all through schools at their secondary phase of admission
- c) Noting the Coordinated scheme for admissions arrangements for entry in September 2019 (Appendices C and D) and that there are no changes to the 2018 arrangements other than updates to timelines.
- d) Noting that the officer responsible for this work is the Lead for Admissions and Family Information Service, and the date for implementation (ie determination of any revised policy) is no later than 28 February 2018.

The officer responsible for publication of the determined arrangements is the Lead for Admissions and Family Information Service and the date for implementation (ie publication) is no later than 15 March 2018.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of the local authority admissions policy and admissions arrangements for entry to school in 2019, describing the changes to the policy. The report also describes changes to the published admission number for two All-through schools, in line with their previously published statutory notices, and asks Executive Board to note the co-ordination arrangements.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The School Standards Framework Act 1998 Section 84 and The School Admissions (Admissions Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admissions Arrangements) (England) Regulation 2012 require the local authority to consult on their proposed admissions arrangements, including the admissions policy and the coordinated scheme, as well as in year admissions arrangements, every seven years or whenever any changes are proposed. Following consultation the admission arrangements must be determined by 15 March 2018.
- 2.2 Consultation was conducted between 22 November 2017 and 5 January 2018. In line with the regulations, information was sent to all local schools, neighbouring authorities, diocesan bodies, elected members, trade unions and early years' providers. It was also hosted on the Leeds.gov.uk web site for parents to comment.

3 Main issues

Changes to the admissions policy

- 3.1 There were no significant changes proposed for the Admissions policy (Appendices A and B for proposed policy, Appendix E summarises the changes), and no comments were received in relation to the proposed amendments, which updated language and provided clarity about detail already provided in the 2018/19 policy.

Co-ordinated Scheme

- 3.2 The Co-ordinated Scheme sets out the key dates and admission arrangement for entry in the normal admissions round in September 2019 (Appendices C and D)
- 3.3 The only key changes to this scheme from last year relate to the updating of the dates included in the scheme.

Other responses received during consultation

3.4 Otley

- 3.4.1 One respondent proposed that the primary schools within Otley, due to their geographical location, are not best suited to the current straight line distance priority areas as this means that families have to travel long distances to get to their nearest priority school, with other local schools closer to their home when travelling routes are taken into account. The suggestion made was that travelling

distance rather than straight line, should be used to determine nearest priority schools. This has been explored as an option many times in the past and has not been adopted due to the subjectivity of travelling routes – those walking would take a different route to those in a car or on public transport, therefore a universal measure of ‘travelling route’ would not be possible.

3.4.2 One alternative option to the current ‘nearest’ priority is to identify and set ‘catchment’ areas for primary schools, which could take into account more local knowledge and data relating to geography and any other identified issues.

3.4.3 Catchment areas were set as part of the determination of admission policy for community Secondary schools in 2016. Over the next few months we will model potential options for introducing Primary School catchment areas in order to determine whether it is appropriate to consider this for future consultation processes.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.4 Consultation was carried out in accordance with the regulations and local custom and good practice, and included consultation with ward members.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 An EDCI has been completed for the changes to the policy and arrangements, and is attached to this report at Appendix F. No adverse implications are anticipated.

4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan

4.3.1 The admissions policy and arrangements continues to ensure children receive fair and consistent treatment, and have reasonable access to local schools. In doing so it supports the council’s obsession with improving attendance, contributing to good educational outcomes for children. These are important factors in the drive to become a child friendly city.

4.3.2 A key objective within the Best Council Plan is to build a child friendly city. The delivery of pupil places through the Admissions Arrangements is one of the most baseline entitlements of a Child Friendly City. A good quality school place contributes to the achievement of targets within the Childrens and young People’s Plan such as our obsession to ‘improve attendance, attainment and achievement’.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 As the admitting authority for community and voluntary controlled schools, the authority is required under The School Admissions (Admissions Arrangements and coordination of Admissions Arrangements) Regulations 2012 and the

Admissions Code 2014 to determine the admissions arrangements by 28 February 2018.

4.5.2 The report is subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no significant risks associated with the required approval of the policy for 2019.

5 Conclusions

5.1 There were no comments received in relation to the minor changes and amendments proposed.

6 Recommendations

Executive Board is asked determine the school admissions arrangement for 2019 by:

e) approving the admissions policy noting the following:

- the wording in relation to Children Looked After will be amended to reflect current legislation and practice
- PAF (Postcode Address File) will no longer be the main source of data for our measuring system, being replaced by LLPG (Local Land and Property Gazetteer)
- The policy will include clarity that the Local Authority may withdraw an offer if it is found that a family have used a false address on their application

f) noting the changes to the admission number for 2 all through schools at their secondary phase of admission

g) Noting the Coordinated scheme for admissions arrangements for entry in September 2019 and that there are no changes to the 2018 arrangements other than updates to timelines.

h) Noting that the officer responsible for this work is the Lead for Admissions and Family Information Service, and the date for implementation (ie determination of any revised policy) is no later than 28 February 2018.

The officer responsible for publication of the determined arrangements is the Lead for Admissions and Family Information Service and the date for implementation (ie publication) is no later than 15 March 2018.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.