

## **DEVON LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM**

15 July 2010

### Present

Church of England Diocese  
Mr Mabin (Chairman)

Roman Catholic Diocese  
Ms Blyth

Devon Schools Group  
Foundation Schools  
Mr Evans

Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools  
Mr Juby

Voluntary Aided Schools  
Mr Tancock

Devon Association of Governors  
Mr Rogers

Community  
Ms Booth (children in care)  
Ms Denson (Service Families)

Early Years Child Care Development Partnership  
Ms Butler

Neighbouring Authorities (Advisors)  
Mr Pollock (Somerset County Council)

Apologies  
Ms Bailey (Torbay Council), Mrs Boote (Community Schools), Cllr Channon, Cllr Davis (LA), Mr Duttson (Community Representative), Mr Jones (Community Schools), Ms Lewendon (Dorset County Council), Mrs Turner (Cornwall County Council) and Mrs Wallace (Plymouth Council)

### 45 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Channon be elected Chairman for the ensuing year and Mrs Mabin Vice Chairman.

Mrs Mabin in the Chair

### 46 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2010 were signed as a correct record.

47 Urgent Matters: Academies/Free Schools

RESOLVED that a report be made to the next meeting on the any guidance from Government on proposed new admission arrangements for academy, free schools and early years.

48 Update on Education Transport Policy

The Forum noted the report of the Secretary (CY/10/66) on a County Council review of transport provision with a view to reducing costs by removing discretionary elements of LA provision and charging accordingly. The changes involved:

- that the contribution required from parents or students will be raised by £90 to £378 per year. This will apply for concessionary seats, post-16 student contributions and contributions towards faith transport;
- subject to consultation prior to implementation for 2010 -11 academic year, it will be proposed that the provision of transport to faith or selective schools be removed for new applicants unless there is an entitlement on designated school, nearest school or on low income grounds.

**RESOLVED** that a report be made to the next meeting on the anticipated net savings for the County Council arising from the proposals to remove faith and grammar school transport from September 2011 for new starters, and to include an outline of possible alternative travel arrangements for the affected parents.

49 Admissions to Grammar Schools: Testing Before Preference Update

The Forum considered the report of the Secretary (CY/10/67) on the County Council's reservations about the provision in the Admissions Code to inform parents of the outcome of entry tests for grammar education before they made applications for other schools. The report outlined discussions between Mr Evans (as the head of Colyton Grammar School) and the selective schools in Torbay, and detailed the concerns of the LA in terms of logistical difficulties for it and the schools which would have cost implications and also potential disadvantages for parents and children in Devon.

RESOLVED

- (a) that this LAF express its concerns and reservations, as detailed in the report, to the Torbay LAF;
- (b) that Devon Local Authority be advised to similarly express its concerns to the Torbay LA; and
- (c) that Mr Evans be requested to continue his discussions with the Torbay Heads.

50 Admissions to Primary Schools: Update on Entry Points

The Forum noted the report of the Secretary (CY/10/68) on the County Council guidance (with links to the web site – [www.devon.gov.uk/sop\\_guidance062010.pdf](http://www.devon.gov.uk/sop_guidance062010.pdf)) for early years settings and schools on the single offer point. Briefings had been arranged for staff and updates would also be included in the Stepping Out booklet for parents, which was also available on the Council's website.

51 Local Authority Report to the Schools' Adjudicator from Devon County Council

The Forum received the draft Annual report from the LA to the Adjudicator which all Local Authorities nationally were obliged to submit. The report would be published on the County's website and had been submitted to the Adjudicator on 30 June and followed a national template with detailed questions on all aspects of the admission arrangements and compliance with the Code.

Forum members were invited to submit any comments to [andrew.brent@devon.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.brent@devon.gov.uk) for consideration in respect of next year's report.

52 Devon Local Admissions Forum Annual Report

The Forum considered the draft report of the Secretary (CY/10/73) on the draft LAF Annual report developed by a working group of the Forum. Whilst the Forum was not obliged to submit its own report members agreed that it had been a useful and worthwhile exercise as an independent review of arrangements. The report would be submitted to the Schools' Adjudicator and covered in-year coordination, admission appeals, and proposed measures to raise parental awareness. It included a number of detailed recommendations for the Forum, LA and DfE.

RESOLVED that the first Annual LAF Report be approved for submission to the Adjudicator and that he be requested to provide a formal response to this Forum.

53 LAF Membership

The Forum considered the report of the Secretary (CY/10/71) on the proposed additions to the current membership to a maximum of 20. With the current uncertainties relating to the academy proposals in the County and requirements for their representation on the LAF, members asked that the matter be deferred pending clarification.

RESOLVED that membership be considered further at the Forum's next meeting.

54 Dates of Future Meetings

Friday, 19 November 2010; Thursday, 17 March at 10.30 am at County Hall, Exeter

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 12.20 pm

The Minutes of the Forum are published on the County Council's Website at:-  
[http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/learning/schools/admissions/admissions\\_forum.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/learning/schools/admissions/admissions_forum.htm)