

## DEVON LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

30 November 2006

Present

Devon County Council

Councillors Way (Chairman), Bray, Pennington and Mrs Spence

Devon Schools

Mr Kirk,

Foundation Schools

Mr Sindall

Voluntary Aided Schools

Mr Walker

Church of England Diocesan Board of Education

Mrs C Mabin

Community Representatives

Mr Duttson

Early Years Childcare Development Partnership

Mrs M Strudwick

Plymouth City Council

Ms D Wallace

Torbay Council

Ms K Bailey

Somerset County Council

Mr Pollock

Apologies for Absence

Mr I Rogers (Devon Association of Governors), Mrs Nield, Mr Shilvock (Devon Schools) and Councillor Yabsley (Devon County Council)

**30**            **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 13 July 2006 were signed as a correct record.

**31**            **Admissions Update - 2007 Admissions Round**

The Forum considered the report of the Secretary (CY/06/062) on the operation of the Secondary and Primary Co-ordinated Schemes which began their third and second year of operation respectively on 1 September 2006. The report outlined in the success of the online admissions process, awareness raising initiatives and how information was provided to parents.

The Members noted the encouraging increases in on line applications. However certain technical issues would be raised with the soft ware supplier about some problems that had been encountered. The Forum also referred to the problems in reaching some parents of pre school children especially and suggested that information was available at Children's Centres, where advice about the on-line applications could also be given. Contacting 'hard to reach' and other parents particularly in the more rural areas at admission points was acknowledged as a challenging issue. It was noted that the impending recruitment of 'choice advisers' should assist with secondary transfer applications in this respect. Previous advice from the Forum relating to transport issues, feeder primary schools, and out of normal admissions round had also been included in information for parents. Members commended the production of the information leaflets for parents.

A member referred to the need to improve information for parents of children with special needs and the Schools Access Manager indicated that whilst there were separate processes involved, there was good liaison between the teams of officers and recent restructure within the CYPS Directorate would help facilitate closer working. A member also questioned the terminology used in respect of 'Looked After Children'.

The Forum noted the report.

**32**            **Admissions Arrangements for 2008/9**

The Forum received the report of the Secretary (CY/06/063) on the proposed admission arrangements for 2008 and the current consultation process, which must end by 1 March 2007. The County Council would be consulting on the arrangements electronically via its website and consultees would also be sent an email with the web link. The report also included the proposed co-ordinated schemes from 2008/09 at primary and secondary levels, which would be lodged with the Secretary of State with the appropriate changes to conform to the draft Admissions Code of Practice, which was likely to be in force in February 2007.

**34**            **Inclusion**

The Forum received the report of the Secretary (CY/06/064) on the monitoring of the new 'In Year' Admissions Protocol. The report also detailed proposals from the

North Devon Admissions Board (NORDAB) relating to a pilot scheme for a supported placement/reintegration protocol, in the context of inclusion through collaboration.

In terms of monitoring how well the In Year admissions Protocol was working the report provided data on the admissions using the policy to date for the current academic year across Secondary schools. Data included the number of permanently excluded pupils admitted to each school and the number of Looked After Children placed using the policy and the time taken to identify an education placement for each Looked After Child.

The AEO (Exclusions and Alternative Provision) explained the proposals from NORDAB and the issues involved. The pilot project would conform to the provisions of The Education and inspections Act 2006. If successful the model could be rolled out to the remainder of the County.

Members discussed the use and pressures within the PRUs which were not designed as a permanent alternative for excluded children but as a temporary placement to assist the process of reintegration. The key strategy was to reduce the numbers of permanently excluded children alleviating capacity issues within the PRUs and also expeditious reintegration of children into main stream education.

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) that the data relating to admissions made using the policy be noted;
- (b) that the proposed NORDAB 'Supported Placement/Reintegration Panel Protocol, be approved in advance of the consultation on admission arrangements for 2008/9;
- (c) that the existing 'In Year' arrangements be supported subject to the 3% provision relating to actual admission levels in September and not necessarily the 'PAN' in advance of the 2008/09 consultation on admission arrangements.

### **35 School Admissions - National Updates**

The Committee received the report of the Secretary (CY/06/065) on the draft School Admissions Code of Practice and School Admission Appeals Code of Practice 2006; and recruitment of Choice Advisors and implications of particular aspects of the new draft codes. The Forum suggested that the new Advisors should liaise closely with parents of children with special educational needs and carers of Looked After Children.

### **36 Dates of Meetings**

Tuesday, 13 March 2007 and  
Thursday, 5 July 2007 at 10.30 am at County hall, Exeter.

The meeting started at 10 am and finished at 12.20 pm