

DEVON LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

26 July 2007

Present

Devon County Council

Councillors Davis (for Councillor Mrs Spence) and Way

Devon Schools Group)

Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools

Mr R Shilvock

Church of England Diocesan Board of Education

Mrs C Mabin

Community Representatives

Mr Duttson, Mr I Rogers (DAG)

Neighbouring LEAs

Plymouth Council

Mrs D Wallace

Cornwall County Council

Mrs J Turner

Apologies

Councillors Bray, Pennington, Mrs Spence and Yabsley (Devon County Council), Mr Kirk, Mrs S Nield, Mr Sindall (Foundation Schools), Mr Mannix (Roman Catholic Schools), Mrs M Strudwick (EYCDP), Ms Innet, (Torbay Council) and Mr Walker (Voluntary Aided Schools),

43 **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

RESOLVED that Councillor Way be elected Chairman and Mrs Strudwick Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

44 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 25 April 2007 were signed as a correct record.

45 **Determined Admission Arrangements for 2008/09**

The Committee considered the report of the Secretary (CY/07/032) on the admission arrangements determined by the County Council for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for 2008/9 and on further recommendations following responses to the consultation not previously reported to the Forum in April 2007. These had been supported by the Chairman of the LAF prior to formal determination by the LA's Executive. Details of the approved Determined

Admission arrangements could be viewed on the LA's website: <http://www.devon.gov.uk/determined-admissions-2008>.

One school was pursuing a formal objection with the Schools Adjudicator relating to its admission arrangements. The outcome would be reported to a future meeting.

A member suggested that for future arrangements reconsideration be given to the term 'waiting lists' which erroneously implied a chronological aspect rather than the mainly geographical emphasis within oversubscription criteria.

In response to a question from a local member the Access Services Manager reported on dialogue with schools about PAN levels taking into account their assessed capacity and local demand for places.

RESOLVED

(a) that the Local Authority's further recommendations for determination, not previously reported to the Forum in April 2007 be noted;

(b) that the admission arrangements determined by the County Council for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for 2008/9 be noted.

46 National Updates

The Committee noted the report of the Secretary (CY/07/033) on the new School Admissions Code which came into effect on 28 February 2007. The Code allowed for the appointment of Choice Advisers by the Local Authority.

The Forum received a presentation from Ms Henrywood a recently appointed Choice Adviser. She outlined the role of the new service in providing independent support and advice for parents about the move to secondary education, particularly for the more 'hard to reach' groups including children in public care. The Adviser also reported on their funding, staffing across Devon with 6 Advisers, training and accreditation process, publicity and contacts.

Members suggested that the Service should also develop links with PTAs and the Diocesan authorities. Links had also been made with the traveller community via the Traveller Education Service.

RESOLVED that a further presentation be submitted in due course outlining progress and development of the Service.

47 The Role and the Membership of the Forum 2007/08

The Committee considered the report of the Secretary (CY/07/034) on the statutory role of the Local Admissions Forum under the new School Admissions Code of Practice 2007 including the new regulations setting out the core and additional membership of the Forum, and on a new power to publish an annual report on the work of the LAF.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the statutory role of the Local admissions Forum be noted;
- (b) that the Armed Services be requested to nominate a member to represent the interests of service families and that Ms Booth (CYPS Directorate, Strategic Manager, Raising Achievement for Children in Care) be appointed to the LAF to represent the interests of Children in Care;
- (c) that the Forum write to the Secretary of State seeking clarification and guidance about the appointment of ‘School members’;
- (d) that the data required for the Annual report be submitted to the next meeting for further discussion regarding its preparation.

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Inclusion

The Forum considered the report of the Secretary (CY/07/035) on the monitoring of how well the ‘In Year’ Admissions Protocol was working, admission of pupils who arrive in Year 11 and Devon’s current policy, and exclusions from Devon Schools in 2006/07. The Forum received current provisional data on the admissions out of the Normal Round to secondary schools and the Exclusions and Reintegration Officer updated the Forum on the ‘Inclusion through Collaboration’ initiative and the success of the NORDAB and roll out of the project through-out the County. The Forum noted also the latest provisional information on permanent and fixed term exclusions, and the relatively high number of exclusions involving children in care and possible reasons and the time taken to identify suitable placements.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the following be appointed as a Task Group to review Devon’s Admission protocol for Pupils who arrive in Year 11: Councillor Way (Chairman), Debbie Booth, a head teacher representative (to be nominated) and Mr Shilvock;
- (b) that the number of exclusions made by Devon and the results of the ‘In Year’ Admissions Protocol be noted.

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CE Dioceses: Update on Admission Arrangements for 2009/10

Mrs Mabin, on behalf of the Church of England Dioceses, reported on the arrangements and support for its VA schools in terms of the new Admissions Code of Practice. It was assisting the schools and advising on best practice including special arrangements for Children in Care and outlining the time table for consultations. The Diocese would also be producing guidance for Appeals for its VA Schools. The Forum noted the position.

Dates of Meetings

RESOLVED that the following dates be agreed:

Thursday, 29 November 2007

Thursday, 27 March 2008

Tuesday, 15 July 2008

At 10.30 am at County Hall.

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 12.20 pm