



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 3 February 2005

Report of the Director of Education

Report on the Co-ordinated Admission Scheme for Secondary Schools.

RECOMMENDATION

1. To note the contents of the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Code of Practice on School Admissions required all Local Education Authorities to act as a 'clearing-house' for all applications to secondary school from the September 2005 intake. This was to ensure that the process of applying for a school place is easier for parents as only one form is needed. It also ensures that parents receive only one offer of a school place rather than multiple offers.
- 2.2 Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools, which are their own admission authorities, still apply their own oversubscription criteria to those who have expressed a preference and the scheme does not affect their status as admission authorities.
- 2.3 The scheme has been approved by the Secretary of State for Education and all admission authorities within Derby City have signed up to the scheme.
- 2.4 Exceptions to the scheme are Landau Forte and Independent Schools. All other schools in the country are governed by the national scheme.
- 2.5 Forms are sent out at the beginning of September, with a closing date of the 25th October. Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council liaise closely as the authority in which the child resides is classed as the Home Authority. It is this authority that will send the final offer letter, on behalf of the school governors.
- 2.6 Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools are given a list of all applicants to their schools and are asked to rank them according to their own oversubscription criteria. These rankings are then used to assess the highest ranked place that can be offered. Applications lower than the final offer are disregarded, and the right of appeal given to those ranked higher than the final offer.
- 2.7 The scheme allows for parents to select their normal area school as a fourth and last preference, if not included in their top three preferred schools. If no preference can be offered, the scheme allows the authority to see if places are available at their normal area school first, and if no places are available, to allocated a place at the next nearest school with places available.

- 2.8 The Education Service will operate a waiting list of unsuccessful higher preferences until the end of September. The lists will then be passed to the relevant schools in order for them to maintain should they so wish.
- 2.9 Finally, the reason for the national scheme should be borne in mind when assessing the Derby City Scheme. It is to make the transfer from Primary to Secondary School easier and far less complicated for parents, and for parents to receive only one offer a school place, regardless of which authority the school is situated in.

For more information contact: Cathy Ford / 01332 717965 / cathy.ford@derby.gov.uk

Background papers: None

List of appendices: Appendix 1: Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising from this report

Legal

2. None arising from this report

Personnel

3. None arising from this report

Equalities Impact

4. None arising from this report

Corporate Objectives and Priorities for Change

5. The initiatives outlined also contribute to a number of key priorities to support the vision for the Education Service. These include:
 - improving the prospects of Derby residents
 - high quality, universal provision