

## ITEM 4

Commenced: 10.30am  
Adjourned: 11.00am  
Reconvened: 11.02am  
End: 11.30am

### SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FORUM 11 NOVEMBER 2011

Present:	David Keys	Brackensdale Junior School Authority Governor (Chair)
	Carran Stevenson	Chair of Meadow Farm Community Primary School (Vice Chair)
	Jean Sands	St Benedict Catholic School
	Kathy Hardy	Woodlands School
	John Holmes	Landau Forte College
	Geoff Wilson	Merrill College
	Vivene McCella	Parent
	Diane Whitehead	Derby City Council Admissions Manager
	Robin Constable	Derby City Council Solicitor

#### 01/11 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence

#### 02/11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 03/11 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

#### 04/11 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 17 March 2011 were declared a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### 05/11 Co-ordinated Admission Schemes 2013-14

The Forum received a report from the Admissions Manager, on behalf of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People. The Manager informed the forum that following consultation on the changes to the Admissions Framework, the Department for Education had revised the School Admissions and School Admission Appeal Codes. In addition to key policy changes, the revised codes removed the

requirement for compulsory admission forums. Local partnerships retained discretion as to whether to continue the operation of a forum. The Admissions Manager proposed that the function of the forum as a voluntary consultative body was retained, to ensure that the authority's admission arrangements were fair, equitable and promoted parents' right to expressing a preference.

The Solicitor to the Council and the Constitutional Services Officer agreed to investigate the possibility of revising the membership requirements of the forum, together with the associated voting rights. It was unclear as to whether the previous governing regulations would continue to apply to the forum, following the implementation of the revised codes.

The Admissions Manager updated the report to remove sections 1.4 and 4.4, following the recent updated publication of revised draft codes. The forum was informed that although section 10.3 of appendix 2 was new to previous requirements, its inclusion mirrored the requirements of other admissions authorities. In relation to the requirements placed on applicants to determine residency within a catchment area boundary, the manager confirmed that evidence could be provided in the form of a solicitor's letter, which confirmed the purchase of a property. The manager acknowledged that the growing trend of parents owning two properties was becoming problematic.

The manager amended the first oversubscription criterion, contained in annex 2 of the report, to state 'A 'looked after child or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989.'

#### **Resolved:**

- 1. to note the key policy changes and agree the authority's stance on the co-ordination of all admissions for school entry in September 2013;**
- 2. to agree local authority (LA) consultation with own admission authority schools with the aim for schools to also support the fact that the LA should continue to co-ordinate all admissions;**
- 3. to support the retention of the functions and duties of the School Admissions Forum;**
- 4. to support the proposed primary and secondary admission arrangements for school entry in 2013 to local authority maintained schools for consultation;**
- 6. to note and support the additional requirements placed on applicants to prevent school places being obtained fraudulently, or by submitting deliberately misleading applications;**
- 7. to note and support the additional increase in the Published Admission Number at Homefields Primary School for entry in September 2013; and**

8. **to discuss and agree the impact of any proposed amendments to catchment area boundaries as described in section 1.7 of the report, for consultation on the proposed admission arrangements 2013-2014.**

MINUTES END