

Time Commenced: 5.00 pm
Time Finished: 5.40 pm

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FORUM 2 NOVEMBER 2005

Present: Ian Samways – Co-opted (in the Chair)
Councillors Khan, Latham and MacDonald
Lance Dean – Foundation Schools
David Keys – Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools
Alison Brown – Church of England Schools
Carran Stevenson – Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools
Andrew Prince – Derbyshire County Council

08/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wynn, Dr Devendra and Nasreen Iqbal – Parent Governor Representatives and Thomas Johnston – Co-opted Member.

09/05 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

The Chair advised that this would be his last meeting as he wished to resign from the Forum. He also announced resignations from Thomas Johnston and Lance Dean.

10/05 Declarations of Interest

Name	Type of Interest	Reason
Lance Dean	Personal	Governor – Chellaston School
Councillor MacDonald	Personal	Governor – Lees Brook Community Sports College Member of National Union of Teachers
David Keys	Personal	Governor – Brackensdale School and Mickleover Primary School
Ian Samways	Personal	Governor – Littleover Community School

Carran Stevenson	Personal	Governor – Meadow Farm Community School Associated Governor at West Park Community School Works at Friesland School
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11/05 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

12/05 Report on Fair Shares Protocol – Managed Moves 2004-05

Sue Bradley, Head of Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and Behaviour Support Service, gave an update on the Managed Moves process. The Forum was advised that the Fair Shares partnership agreement was approved by Secondary Heads in March 2004 and by the Admissions Forum in April 2004. It was implemented in September 2004. There had been six Managed Moves Panel meetings during the 2004-05 academic year. Sue advised that this had been a very positive process with clear collaboration between schools. All managed moves had been successful except for one instance that had resulted in permanent exclusion.

There was one slight disappointment in that there had been a difficulty in recruiting a governor representative due to the time commitment needed. Sue advised that she would be writing to schools asking for governor representative nominations.

Sue reported that at the last meeting of the Managed Moves Panel the work of the Hard to Place Panel was incorporated. The Hard to Place protocol had been devised to place children needing to be reintegrated into mainstream education after attending the PRU and in some cases to place children not admitted to their normal area school on appeal rather than direct them to a school that might be vulnerable.

Resolved to note the update.

13/05 Casual Applications to Secondary Schools Form

Cathy Ford, Head of Service – Admissions, advised that the form had been in use since September 2005 and had been adapted following recommendations from schools.

Lance Dean suggested that the form should be clear that it is for applications outside the normal admissions round. Simon Longley, Assistant Director - Resources and Strategic Planning, said that this would be taken on board.

Lance Dean also commented that this process had resulted in a lot more paper work for schools. Simon Longley responded that this was indeed a substantial burden on the Authority but this was done to improve the process for parents. The recently published White Paper celebrated the success of this process for parents.

Councillor Latham asked whether this process had improved the number of admission appeals. Cathy Ford responded that there had been a substantial reduction in appeals for admission in September 2005.

Resolved to note the report.

14/05 Primary Consultation Progress

Simon Longley, Assistant Director - Resources and Strategic Planning, advised the Forum that the consultation period had ended on 31 October 2005. There had only been a few comments and most of these had been positive. The document had been consulted on widely. The Council was not disappointed in the response as a lot of people had had input along the way. It was important to note that this paper was not highlighting a surplus of Primary Schools in the City, only a surplus number of places at certain schools.

Ian Samways asked if this work was related to a review undertaken by the Education Commission. Simon Longley responded that it was directly related to that work. The Education Commission would be hearing the comments made from the consultation on 7 November and Council Cabinet would be receiving a full report on 17 January 2006.

Resolved to endorse the Primary School Place Planning Strategy.

MINUTES END