

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

4th April, 2007

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in Training Room 2,
Municipal Buildings, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Pam Hargreaves (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Anne Smith, Head of Information, Planning and Support Services
Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer

39. Admissions to Schools 2008/09 and Co-ordinated Admissions Procedures to Primary and Secondary Schools for 2008/09 *(Director of Children's Services)*

Type of decision

Key decision – test (ii)

Purpose of report

To determine the admission policy for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools in Hartlepool for the school year 2008/09 and the co-ordinated admissions procedures to primary and secondary schools for 2008/09 following consultation with governing bodies and other admissions authorities.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report indicated that Section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 lays down the way in which an admissions authority must determine admission arrangements and requires it to consult with governing bodies and with other admission authorities.

The Secretary of State had published a revised Code of Practice on School Admissions in 2003. The Code had since been revised and laid before Parliament in January 2007. The Code stated that in drawing up admission arrangements, admission authorities should aim to ensure a number of issues and these were detailed in the report. Further background information was detailed in the report and the Portfolio Holder was advised that the main significant changes which affect Hartlepool

Admission Authority are in relation to the abolition of first preference first and also changes to home to school transport.

The report and Appendix 1 summarised responses to a consultation process on the 2008/09 Admissions Policy. Revised admission limits were detailed at Appendix 2. The Admissions Forum had noted the changes to the scheme which were attached at Appendix 3.

On the basis of the consultation exercise, it was proposed that the admissions policy for entry to community and voluntary controlled schools in 2008/09 be as detailed in the report.

In relation to Building Schools for the Future, the report detailed the current position and how this could affect secondary schools' admissions. The Portfolio Holder asked how BSF would affect admissions for 2007/08 and the Head of Information, Planning & Support Services advised that the Admission arrangements for 2007/08 had already been submitted to and agreed by the DfES and these could not be changed; the allocations would stand and admission appeals would go ahead.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder agreed:

- (a) that the admissions policy for 2008/09 set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report be approved;
- (b) that the revised admission limits be agreed, subject to further discussion with 3 particular schools;
- (c) that the revised co-ordinated admission schemes be approved;
- (d) that further consultation be undertaken with parents and private child care providers with a view to move to a single entry system for reception effective from September 2008.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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