

12 February 2018**Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING & SKILLS****FIRST ADMISSIONS APPLICATIONS TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOLS
AND ACADEMIES - 2017/18 ACADEMIC YEAR****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with information on first admission applications to Nottinghamshire primary schools and academies for the 2017/18 academic year.

Information

2. First admission applications to primary schools are made for children aged 5 years old in the academic year they are applying for. This report covers those who applied for a school place and are aged 5 between September 2017 and August 2018.
3. Parents made their applications between November 2016 and January 2017 and were informed of their allocated school in April 2017. There are two sets of figures included in this report – data which is based on offers made to Nottinghamshire residents on National Offer Day (18 April 2017) and data based on offers made to Nottinghamshire residents as at 24 November 2017. The later data will include a more up to date picture of applications and offers made which will include late applications and any changes made to offers.

As at national offer day

4. There were 8,881 applications received from Nottinghamshire residents for the year 2017/18. This is down slightly on the number of applications received the previous year (394 fewer applications than for 2016/17).
5. Just over a third of applications (3,145; 35.4%) made only one preference on their application.
6. 92.2% (8,191) of applications were offered their first preference school which represents a slight increase from 91.5% the previous year. When taking into account offers at any stated preferences this increases to 98.2% (8,717) which again is a slight increase on last year (97.8%). Of the 164 applicants that were not offered a place at any of their stated preferences, most had only made one preference (116; 71%). All were then made alternative offers.

7. A total of 831 applications were received from residents outside of Nottinghamshire. The highest proportion of these applications were received from Nottingham City (600; 72.2%) followed by Derbyshire (157; 18.9%), Leicestershire (26; 3.1%) and Lincolnshire (24; 2.9%).
8. **Appendix 1** presents information as at offer day in graphical form.

As at late November

9. The analysis below is based on offers made to Nottinghamshire families (which includes 'accepted by parent', 'allocated', 'provisionally allocated' and 'offer'). Where an application is missing one of these codes the higher application preference school / academy recorded under the 'rejected by parent' code is used. This is where an offer was made but has since been rejected by the parent.
10. There will be instances where an offer of a school place was made at a lower preference with the pupil placed on a waiting list for a higher preference. The higher preference was later offered but rejected by the parent. In 2017/18 there were 61 applications (0.7%) where this was the case. For the purpose of this analysis these applications are based on the initial offer.
11. Figures will include pupils who have moved residence into the County since offer day. This will mean incomplete preferences for these families as they will have applied to the admission authority where they initially lived. Nottinghamshire would only be informed where one of its schools / academies was listed as a preference. Whilst it would be possible to remove pupils who are missing a first preference (therefore identifying an incomplete application) it would not be possible to remove pupils who later moved into the County where a county school / academy was listed as first preference. For this reason incomplete applications remain.
12. The data below excludes withdrawn applications and those where no offer was made due to a deferred application:
 - there were 9,297 applications received from Nottinghamshire residents for the year 2017/18
 - just over a third of applicants (3,264; 34.9%) made only one preference on their application
 - 92.0% (8,557) of applicants were offered their first preference school
 - 4,016 applications indicated a sibling at a preference school (43.2% of all applications). Of these 3,821 (95.1% of applications with siblings) were offered the same school.

Other Options Considered

13. The process for presenting performance information set out in this report is in line with corporate guidance, which has itself been established following an appropriate analysis of alternative options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. The reporting of schools admissions information to Committee is in line with the established processes of reporting and publishing performance information across all of the services within the Children and Families department.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

16. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Committee considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the information contained within the report on the outcomes of the Council's admissions services for Nottinghamshire applications to primary schools for the 2017/18 academic year.

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 19/12/17)

17. Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report. If Committee resolves that any actions are required it must be satisfied that such actions are within the Committee's terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SAS 20/12/17)

18. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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