

22nd February 2021**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND
SKILLS****ADMISSIONS APPLICATIONS IN THE NORMAL ADMISSIONS ROUND TO
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES – 2020-2021 ACADEMIC
YEAR****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with information on admission applications in the normal admissions round (reception and year 7) to Nottinghamshire schools and academies for the 2020-2021 academic year. The report also gives information on the number of preferences expressed by parents on their application.

Information

2. In the normal admissions round parents apply to the local authority in which they live for places at their preferred schools. Local authorities are responsible for coordinating all applications and communicating the single offer of a school place for its residents.
3. Parents/carers made applications for admission to secondary schools (year 7) between August 2019 and October 2019. They were informed of their allocated school in March 2020.
4. Parents/carers made applications for first admission to primary schools (reception) between November 2019 and January 2020. They were informed of their allocated school in April 2020.
5. There are two sets of figures included in this report – data which is based on offers made to Nottinghamshire residents on National Offer Day (2nd March 2020 for secondary and 16th April 2020 for primary) and data based on offers made to Nottinghamshire residents as at 31st August 2020. 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.
6. The School Admissions Code 2014 states that parents are able to express a preference for at least three schools; there is no requirement for parents to express a minimum number of preferences.

7. Nottinghamshire enables parents to submit four preferences on their application. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit four preferences as there is no advantage in expressing only one preference. An increase in the use of social media to promote the benefits of listing four preferences has been used throughout the admission rounds being open.

As at secondary National Offer Day – 2nd March 2020

8. There were 9,088 on time applications received from Nottinghamshire residents for the year 2020-2021. This is an increase on the number of applications received the previous year (142 more applications than for 2019-2020).
9. Over 43% (3,925) made only one preference on their application.
10. 90.8% (8,250) of applications were offered their first preference school which represents a slight decrease from 92.2% the previous year. When taking into account offers at any stated preferences this increases to 96.8% (8,795) which is a slight decrease on last year (97.7%). Of the 293 applicants that were not offered a place at any of their stated preferences, most had only made one preference (55.6%). All were then made alternative offers.
11. A total of 1,684 applications were received from residents outside of Nottinghamshire. The highest proportion of these applications were received from Nottingham City (1,232; 73.2%) followed by Derbyshire (251; 14.9%), Leicestershire (56; 3.3%), and Lincolnshire (86; 5.1%)
12. A number of Nottinghamshire residents expressed preferences for schools outside of Nottinghamshire (1,723). The highest proportion of these applications were received for Nottingham City schools (766, 44.5%), followed by Lincolnshire (411, 23.9%); Derbyshire (269, 15.6%); Leicestershire (102, 5.9%); and Rotherham (55, 3.1%).

Late applications up to 31st August 2020 (secondary)

13. Applications received after the national closing date, 31st October 2019, were considered late. 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.
14. A total of 1,122 applications were received between 1st November 2019 and 31st August 2020, 883 were from Nottinghamshire residents. Applications were also received from children living in other local authority areas (239), the highest proportion of these applications were received from Nottingham City (171, 15.2%) and Derbyshire (22, 2%).

As at primary National Offer Day – 16th April 2020

15. There were 8,881 on time applications received from Nottinghamshire residents for the year 2020-2021. This is a slight increase on the number of applications received the previous year (87 more applications than for 2019-2020).

16. 35.1% (3,115) made only one preference on their application.
17. 92.4% (8,204) of applications were offered their first preference school which represents a slight decrease from 94.1% the previous year. When taking into account offers at any stated preferences this increases to 98.4% (8,742) which is a slight decrease on last year (98.9%). Of the 139 applicants that were not offered a place at any of their stated preferences, most had only made one preference (58.3%). All were then made alternative offers.
18. A total of 636 applications were received from residents outside of Nottinghamshire. The highest proportion of these applications were received from Nottingham City (425; 66.8%) followed by Derbyshire (116; 18.2%), Leicestershire (53; 8.3%), and Lincolnshire (17; 2.7%).
19. A number of Nottinghamshire residents expressed preferences for schools outside of Nottinghamshire (670). The highest proportion of these applications were received for Nottingham City schools (356, 53.1%), followed by Derbyshire (105, 15.7%); Lincolnshire (90, 13.4%), and Doncaster (44, 6.6%).

Late applications up to 31st August 2020 (primary)

20. Applications received after the national closing date, 15th January 2020, were considered late. 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.
21. A total of 1,378 applications were received between 16th January 2020 and 31st August 2020, 1,166 were from Nottinghamshire residents. Applications were also received for children living in other local authority areas (212), the highest proportion of these applications were received from Nottingham City (118, 8.6%) and Derbyshire (41, 3%).

Other Options Considered

22. 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

23. The reporting of school 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.
24. Parents are advised to use all four preferences but increasingly parents submit applications with fewer preferences.

Statutory and Policy Implications

25. 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

26. 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 and secondary schools for the 2020-2021 academic year.

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Constitutional Comments (KK 18/01/21)

27. The proposal in this report is within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (SAS 19/01/21)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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