

14 July 2014**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND
INCLUSION****PROPOSED VARIATION TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ADMISSION
ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED
SCHOOLS FOR 2014-2015 AND 2015-2016****Purpose of the report**

1. This report requests Committee agreement for approval to be sought from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to vary the determined admission arrangements for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016, as detailed in **Appendix 1**.

Information and advice

2. Nottinghamshire County Council, as the local authority, is the admissions authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in Nottinghamshire and is therefore responsible for determining the admission arrangements for these schools. These requirements are described in the School Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998 and the School Admissions Code (SAC) 2012 which are available from the Department for Education website www.education.gov.uk.
3. The School Admissions Code 2012 (3.6) states that once admission arrangements have been determined for a particular academic year, they cannot be revised by the admission authority unless such revision is necessary to give effect to a mandatory requirement of the Code, admissions law, a determination of the Adjudicator or any misprint in the admission arrangements.
4. Admission authorities may propose other variations where they consider such changes to be necessary in view of a major change in circumstances. Such proposals must be referred to the Schools Adjudicator for approval and the appropriate bodies notified.
5. Nottinghamshire County Council consulted on a proposal to change existing admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools within Nottinghamshire to extend the waiting list period to an all-year round waiting list for all primary year groups (with the exception of year 6) with effect from 1 September 2014.
6. Nottinghamshire County Council consulted on this proposed change between 27 May 2014 and 27 June 2014.

7. The consultation was available for the full period at:
<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/admissions/schooladmissionarrangements/>
8. Information about where to access the consultation was sent in advance to:
 - all community and voluntary controlled schools in Nottinghamshire
 - all own admission authority schools in Nottinghamshire
 - chairs of governing bodies of Nottinghamshire schools (where the chair's email was known to the authority)
 - all neighbouring local authorities
 - diocesan representatives
 - all registered early years providers within Nottinghamshire.
9. In addition, an advert was published in the local press immediately prior to the consultation opening, to notify other persons in the relevant area who have an interest in the proposed arrangements that the document was available.
10. Consultees were invited to respond by completing an online form. All responses received by 27 June 2014 were considered and no objections were received.

Other Options Considered

11. No other options were considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. To enable the County Council to seek approval from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to vary determined admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

14. Over 25,000 families express a school preference each year. In drawing up their admission arrangements, Nottinghamshire County Council ensures that the practices and the criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear and objective.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That Committee agrees that approval be sought from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to vary the determined admission arrangements for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016, as detailed in **Appendix 1**.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 30/06/14)

15. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (KLA 17/06/14)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

Nottinghamshire School Admission Arrangements 2014-15 – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 11 March 2013
Nottinghamshire School Admission Arrangements 2015-16 – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 17 March 2014

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.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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