

**Executive**

**On 20 December 2005**

Report Title: **Admissions to Schools – Approval to Consult**

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): **2005/119**

Report of: **Ian Bailey, Assistant Director, The Children's Service**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Key Decision**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 To recommend that the Executive approve consultation on the arrangements for admission to community primary and secondary schools and St Aidan's Voluntary Controlled School for the 2007/08 school year.

### **2. Introduction by Executive Member**

2.1 This report concerns the admission arrangements to be published and implemented for the 2007/08 school year by the Council as the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in Haringey.

2.2 Consultation on admission issues is an annual requirement for local authorities under Section 89 Of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended by the Education Act 2002.

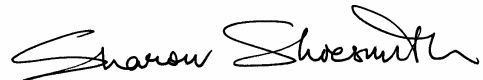
2.3 The main areas are the qualifying schemes for the co-ordination of admission to reception classes and entry to Year 7 at secondary transfer, the implementation of eAdmissions and the Hard to Place Students' Protocol.

2.4 Executive is particularly asked to note the introduction of eAdmissions and the Hard to Place Students' Protocol. The protocol is of particular importance in Haringey as it offers an opportunity to ensure that we are able to find school places for a large number of secondary-aged students who arrive each year outside of the normal admissions round. To operate, the protocol needs to the support of all maintained Secondary Schools in Haringey.

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 To approve the proposed consultation on admission arrangements for all community primary and secondary schools and St Aidan's Voluntary Controlled Primary School.

3.2 To approve the proposed consultation for Qualifying Schemes for the co-ordination of arrangements for admission to reception classes in all maintained primary and secondary schools in Haringey. At secondary level, this entails the Council's continued participation in the Pan-London Scheme.



Report Authorised by: **Sharon Shoemith**  
**Director**  
**The Children's Service**

Contact Officer: **Sheila Locke, Head of Admissions (020 8489 3162)**

#### **4. Executive Summary**

- 4.1 This report seeks the Executive's approval to conduct the annual consultation on arrangements for admission to Haringey community primary and secondary schools as required under Section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended by the Education Act 2002.
- 4.2 The Education Act 2002 required Local Authorities to introduce co-ordinated arrangements for admission to Year 7 for all maintained secondary schools in their area from September 2005. Haringey is part of the Pan-London System which was first introduced for the September 2005 intake and which had considerable success for secondary school admissions in the borough. The Pan-London System is now into its second year and it is recommended that this arrangements should continue for the 2007/08 school year.
- 4.3 Current Regulations require that co-ordination of admissions to reception classes of all maintained primary and infant schools in each authority's area was introduced for the September 2006 intake. Following successful consultation early in 2005, a qualifying scheme was introduced with the agreement of all admission authorities in Haringey. This is currently underway.
- 4.4 The Haringey Admissions Forum is due to meet on 12 December 2005 to consider these proposals.
- 4.5 The hard-to-place students protocol, currently under discussion with secondary schools and Admissions Forum, offers an opportunity to agree a fair and equitable way not only to allocate places for excluded pupils and others who are considered to be difficult to place, but even more importantly for Haringey to allocate places – when necessary above the normal admission limit – to students who would otherwise not have a school place.

## **5. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)**

5.1 It is not proposed to change the admissions policy for community and voluntary controlled schools in Haringey. However, the Executive is particularly asked to note two important additions to the admission arrangements – the implementation of eAdmissions and the Hard to Place Students' Protocol. The government requires that both are in place from 2007.

## **6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

- Section 89 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998
- The Education Act 2002
- The Education (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Secondary Schools) (England) Regulations 2002
- The School Admissions Code of Practice (DfES/0031/2003)
- Education (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Primary Schools) (England) Regulations 2002

## **7. Background**

7.1 Section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by the Education Act 2002 and associated Regulations require admission authorities to consult annually on their admission arrangements for the following academic year. Haringey Education Services gives advice to governing bodies who are the admission authorities for other maintained primary and secondary schools in Haringey (i.e. voluntary aided schools and Greig City Academy). Consultation for all admission authorities must be completed by 1 March 2006, and determined by 15 April 2006. The new arrangements will then come into effect from the September 2007 intake.

## **8. Description**

### **Admission arrangements for the 2007/08 school year – secondary schools**

- 8.1 The current oversubscription criteria for admission to community secondary schools in Haringey are attached as Appendices 1 and 2, and are fully compliant with advice given in the current Code of Practice. No changes are proposed for the September 2007 intake.
- 8.2 The oversubscription criteria for Hornsey School for Girls are among the most complex anywhere in London both in terms of administration and for parents to gauge their chances of getting a place at the school. They were changed for the September 2006 intake so that the waiting list had the same criteria as for admission as required by the School Admissions Code of Practice.

### **Admission arrangements for the 2006/07 school year – primary schools**

- 8.3 The current oversubscription criteria for admission to community primary schools in Haringey is attached as Appendix 3, and are fully compliant with the School Admissions Code of Practice. No changes are proposed for the September 2007 intake.

## **Casual Admissions**

- 8.4 The current arrangements for 'casual' admissions (i.e. admission at stages other than at entry to reception classes or on transfer from primary to secondary school) state that pupils without school places will normally be given priority over pupils transferring from other schools. Within this group, the published oversubscription criteria ensures that priority is given to the most vulnerable children. The Authority is not proposing to make any changes to this arrangement.
- 8.5 The results of the consultation exercise will be reported to the Executive at their meeting on 21 March 2006. The report will be prepared very close to the dispatch deadline as consultation ends on 1 March 2006.

## **Co-ordinated Admissions – secondary schools**

- 8.6 The Pan-London co-ordinated scheme for children transferring from primary to secondary school is now in its second year. Last year, the scheme worked well for Haringey residents, with 69% of applicants securing places at their first preference school. In all, over 95% of applicants achieved one of their preferences (up to six for each pupil) with fewer than 5% being allocated to the nearest available school because they did not achieve any of their preferences.
- 8.7 However, the issue of meeting preferences remains a complex one. Comparisons with the 2004 intake would not be meaningful since the only co-ordination taking place was within Haringey. Parents applied to boroughs independently which meant they often had several first preferences.
- 8.8 Information regarding patterns of admission for the previous two years are published as a guide so that parents can assess their chances of being offered a place at a school. Despite this, some parents continue to name schools where they do not meet any of the admission criteria.
- 8.9 In addition, there was a significant fall in the number of admission appeal heard, down from 168 for the September 2004 intake to 125 for the September 2005 intake. The proposed scheme for the 2007/08 school year is attached as Appendix 4.
- 8.10 A comparison of the 2005 and 2006 schemes will be reported to the Executive at the next meeting after the national offer date of 1 March 2006.

## **Co-ordinated admissions – primary schools**

- 8.11 Following successful consultation early in 2005, the Qualifying Scheme for the 2006/07 co-ordination of admission to reception classes in Haringey has been determined and is currently taking place. The results of the procedure will be reported to Executive after the agreed offer date of 17 March 2006.
- 8.12 The proposed scheme for the 2007/08 school year is attached as Appendix 5.

- 8.13 Both schemes outlined above will be discussed at the Forum's next meeting on 12 December 2005 where they will be asked to approve the proposed schemes.
- 8.14 The planned admission numbers for each community primary and secondary school and St Aidan's voluntary controlled school will be included in the consultation documents.

### **eAdmissions**

- 8.15 The government requires that the facility for parents to apply for school places on line is put into place by September 2006 for the 2007 intake. This does not apply to all admissions, but for those children entering school in the 'normal admission round', that is applications for places in reception classes and transfer from primary to secondary schools. eAdmissions can apply to admission to nursery classes, but in Haringey this function is delegated to schools and will not therefore form part of the eAdmissions exercise.
- 8.16 Haringey is actively participating in the Pan-London implementation of eAdmissions. A programme of tasks to be undertaken by IT and the Admissions Service is being drawn up, in consultation with the eAdmissions Project Team which is co-ordinating implementation across London. It is expected that requirements will be met on time.

### **The Hard to Place Students' Protocol.**

- 8.17 There is currently no statutory requirement for authorities to have a Hard to Place Students' Protocol, but it is one of the elements of the government's white paper that protocols will be in place by 2007.
- 8.18 The DfES provided guidance on drawing up protocols in 2004 and their expectation is that authorities will implement these protocols during the 2005/06 school year.
- 8.19 The protocol is a particularly important mechanism for ensuring that pupils are admitted to schools where they would normally be refused because there were no available places. The protocol applies outside the normal admission arrangements, and enables schools to admit pupils above the published admission numbers. Officers will ensure that appeal panels are properly appraised of the implications of the protocol in that the admission of additional pupils in this way will not weaken the Authority's case in appeal hearings.
- 8.20 The Haringey protocol is attached as Appendix 6. Before it can be implemented, agreement must be reached by all secondary admission authorities in the borough, and this has been requested from governing bodies by 9 December 2005 at the latest. It is expected the protocol will then be agreed by the Admissions Forum at the next meeting on 12 December 2005. Pupils should then be placed in secondary schools by 19 January 2006 to ensure schools receive the correct funding for 2006/07. The cost of educating pupils placed in schools and the saving to the Tuition Service will be accommodated within the Dedicated Schools Grant.

## **9. Summary and Conclusions**

9.1 The Education Act 2002 and implementing Regulations require Local Education Authorities to consult on their admission arrangements annually.

9.2 The recommendations included in this report incorporate advice contained within the DfES School Admissions Code of Practice which includes the duty for authorities to make appropriate preparation for the introduction of eAdmissions and to consult on and implement a Hard to Place Students' Protocol as per current advice from DfES.

## **10. Recommendations**

10.1 To approve the proposed consultation on admission arrangements for all community primary and secondary schools and St Aidan's Voluntary Controlled School as set out in this report.

10.2 To approve the proposed consultation for a Qualifying Scheme for the co-ordination of arrangements for admission to reception classes in all maintained primary schools in Haringey, and to approve consultation on carrying forward the current Qualifying Scheme for the co-ordination of arrangements for transferring from primary to secondary school in order that Haringey Council continues to participate in the Pan-London Scheme.

## **11. Comments of the Director of Finance**

11.1 The Director of Finance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and comments are included in the body of the report.

## **12. Comments of the Head of Legal Services**

12.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report. Section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and associated Regulations set out the statutory framework for the determination of an admission authority's admission arrangements. The report sets out the statutory requirements in detail and its proposals follow the required statutory framework in respect of the proposed admission arrangements for 2007/2008.

## **13. Equalities Implications**

13.1 The current oversubscription criteria for Haringey community schools and the advice given to governors of schools who are their own admission authority (Appendix 1) complies with the advice given in the DfES School Admissions Code of Practice. The Code has due regard to the provisions of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000), and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001).

13.2 The admission arrangements for Hornsey School for Girls ensure that despite its popularity, the Council continues to provide equality of access to girls across Haringey and beyond which is important to sustain as the only maintained girls' school in Haringey.

## **15 Use of Appendices**

- Appendix 1 Oversubscription criteria for Haringey mixed community secondary schools for the 2007/08 school year. (NOT Hornsey School for Girls)
- Appendix 2 Oversubscription criteria for Hornsey School for Girls for the 2007/08 school year
- Appendix 3 Oversubscription criteria for Haringey community primary schools and St Aidan's voluntary controlled primary school for the 2007/08 school year.
- Appendix 4 Draft Qualifying Scheme for the co-ordination of admission to Year 7 in Haringey maintained secondary schools in the 2007/08 school year
- Appendix 5 Draft Qualifying Scheme for co-ordination of admission to reception classes in Haringey maintained primary schools for the 2007/08 school year
- Appendix 6 Protocol for the admission of Hard to Place Students in Haringey Secondary Schools