

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Children and Adult Services
Learning and School Effectiveness
Children and Families

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Children's and Adults' Services – Councillor David Elkin, the Lead Member for Children and Families – Councillor Colin Belsey and the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness – Councillor Nick Bennett on Thursday 14 March 2013 at County Hall, Lewes

Councillor Ensor spoke on items 5 and 6 (see minute 38 and 39)
Councillor St Pierre spoke on items 4, 5 and 6 (see minute 37, 38 and 39)

35. REPORTS

35.1 A copy of the reports referred to below are contained in the minute book.

36. MINUTES

36.1 Councillor Bennett approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 21 January 2013.

37. EARLY YEARS FUNDING FORMULA

37.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which set out proposed changes to the East Sussex Early Years Funding Formula from 2013/14.

DECISION

37.2 **RESOLVED** to (1) approve the proposed use of the trajectory funding as set out in paragraph 1.3 of the report; and
(2) approve the new formula and the rates for eligible two year olds as set out in paragraph 1.5 and Appendix 1 of the report.

Reasons

37.3 In order to make formal provision for additional early years places for two year olds and ensure the quality of places provided it is necessary to make funding available outside the funding formula to be held centrally for distribution to pre-schools and schools from the trajectory element of the Early Years Block. The Schools Forum has consulted on and agreed these proposals, and will continue to monitor the situation.

38. DETERMINATION OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2014/15 SCHOOL YEAR

38.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which set out the proposed admission arrangements for the 2014/15 school year,

following consultation. A further response from the Eastbourne Area Secondary Heads Group was circulated, and the distinction between in-year admission arrangements and the Fair Access Protocol was clarified.

38.2 With regard to in-year admissions from September 2014: On 1 September 2014, it is proposed that the central co-ordination of in-year admissions will cease. Applications for all year groups (but **not** the normal year of entry, i.e. 4+, 7+ or 11+ as appropriate) will be dealt with directly by schools regardless of whether they are situated inside or outside East Sussex. The following points will be necessary:

1) For consistency, the County Council's application form should be used. Schools with additional admissions criteria (e.g. religious affiliation) will provide parents with their supplementary information forms.

2) Application forms will have a short reference to parents' rights.

3) All schools must provide roll returns on a fortnightly basis. This is because the Authority is obliged to let parents know where there are places available.

4) All schools must offer any available places in strict accordance with their published admission arrangements.

5) Schools that are their own admission authority must notify the Authority of all applications they receive and the decisions they have made. These schools will be responsible for notifying parents in writing of the admissions decisions. Where the decision is to refuse admission, parents must be informed in writing of their right to appeal.

6) Community and voluntary controlled schools will only send letters to parents where a place can be allocated. If they do not have a place available, they must forward the application to the local authority for a decision.

All schools are asked to note that ending central co-ordination for in-year admissions will inevitably lead to some children being offered more than one school place. Where the Authority is made aware of these duplicate offers, the relevant schools will be notified so that they in turn can contact families for a decision as to which school they will be accepting.

DECISION

38.3 **RESOLVED** to (1) approve the amended procedure for the administration of in-year admissions from September 2014 as set out in paragraph 38.2 above;

(2) approve the admissions criteria set out in Appendix 1 of the report;

(3) approve the admissions numbers outlined in Appendix 2 of the report; and

(4) approve the co-ordinated admissions schemes in Appendix 3 of the report.

Reason

38.4 The County Council is required by law to carry out consultation on admission arrangements, and obliged to determine final arrangements by 15 April each year.

39. A GOOD EDUCATION FOR ALL: OFSTED CONSULTATION ON INSPECTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES

39.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which set out the proposed response to a consultation by Ofsted regarding proposals for a framework for inspecting local authorities responsible for maintained schools and the wider education of children and young people. The proposed response to Question 2 was circulated.

39.2 The effectiveness of the proposed inspection regime was queried, with a potentially significant effect on current resources to produce data that is already available to Ofsted by other means. It was proposed that a further comment be added to address this issue.

39.3 A concern was raised regarding the sharing of performance data by the Academies with the authority, and the impact on monitoring the need to plan improvements. It was proposed that a further comment being included, to suggest the introduction of a right to challenge an Academy that refuses to share its data.

DECISION

39.4 RESOLVED to endorse the response, subject to the additional comments set out in paragraphs 39.2 and 39.3.

Reason

39.5 The closing date for the consultation is 19 March 2013.