

STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION RULES FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED NURSERY, INFANT, JUNIOR AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families

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1. Purpose of the Report

To enable the Scrutiny Committee to comment on the statutory consultation proposals.

2. Summary

The statutory consultation involved three proposed changes :-

- (a) To remove the word “older” from Rule 3 to help families moving into an area secure places for all their children in linked schools.
- (b) To apply Rule 4 until 90% of places at the school have been allocated. This will help to ensure that families living closest to the school have a better chance of securing places.
- (c) To introduce an admissions process for children transferring from separate infant schools to junior school.

3. Conclusions

The Committee will wish to make its views known so that they can inform the CSF Resources Cabinet Panel in formulating proposals for the Cabinet at its meeting of 22 March 2002.

1. Background

1.1 The Cabinet agreed at its meeting of 28 January to consult on the following admission rules for oversubscribed community and voluntary controlled nursery, infant, junior and primary schools :-

Rule 1: Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs which names the school

Rule 2: Children who can prove that they have a particular medical or social reason why they must go to the school

Rule 3: Children who have a brother or sister on the roll of the school, or linked school

Rule 4: Children for whom the school is the nearest in relation to alternative schools (if more families qualify under this rule than there are places available, those families with the longest extra journey to an alternative school with places will be given priority).

This rule will be applied until 90% of places at the school have been allocated.

Rule 5: Children who live nearest to the school.

1.2 It is also necessary to introduce an admissions process for children moving through from separate infant schools to junior schools to conform with the Rotherham judgement which requires all places to children newly admitted to schools be allocated on the basis of expressed parental preference. Proposals for this were also included in the consultation document.

1.3 Approximately 1500 copies of the consultation document were distributed to schools and statutory consultees. It was also posted on the Hertsdirect website for parents and other members of the public. Consultation closed on 1 March but comments from parents received after this date are also being analysed.

1.4 Comments are invited from the Scrutiny Committee so that they can be taken into account as part of the process of formulating a proposed response to the consultation.

2. Financial Implications

The estimated cost of introducing a separate junior admissions process is £8,500.

If you would like to know more about the issue referred to in this report please contact Alan Sapsford on 01992 588500 or Nick Powley on 01992 555933