

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET – 9TH APRIL, 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOLS 2010-2011

Executive Summary

- 1.0 This report invites the Cabinet to determine the Authority's admission arrangements for community secondary schools and the coordinated admissions scheme for 2010-2011.

Background

- 2.0 The Authority is required to consult on its admission arrangements for secondary schools and determine the arrangements by April of the previous year. Regulations made in 2003 also require the Authority to have in place a coordinated scheme for admissions to all secondary schools in 2010-11. A copy of the proposed scheme is attached (Appendix 1).

Responses to the Consultation

- 3.0 There were no responses to the consultation.

Changes to the Coordinated Scheme

- 4.0 Following the initiation of consultation in December 2008 there have been two factors which have an impact on secondary admission arrangements.
- 4.1 The first is the approval by the Secretary of State of the new Birkenhead High School Academy. The Academy is now included in the coordinated admission arrangements from September 2010. Also from September 2010 Wirral Grammar School for Girls and West Kirby Grammar School for Girls are Foundation Schools, responsible for their own admission arrangements. From April 2009 Bebington High School is also a Trust school responsible for its own admission arrangements.
- 4.2 The School Admissions Code 2009 also has an impact on local arrangements in the following ways.
- (a) The Authority will be unable to inform admissions authorities for voluntary aided, foundation and academies of the rank order of parents' preferences.
 - (b) There is now a national closing date for secondary applications of 31st October in the offer year.
 - (c) The fair access protocol must be extended to include the list of categories of children set out in appendix 3 of the code.

4.3 In view of the above statutory changes Amendments have been made to the coordinated scheme. The Admissions Forum has also agreed to establish a working party to review the Fair Access Protocol (d) so as to ensure undersubscribed schools do not admit a greater proportion of children with challenging behaviour than other schools.

Admission Numbers

5.0 For Community Schools these are indicated in Appendix 2.

Financial and Staffing Implications

6.0 There are none.

Human Rights Implications

7.0 There are none.

Equal Opportunities Implications

8.0 There are none.

Planning Implications

9.0 There are none.

Local Agenda 21 Statement

10.0 There are none.

Local Member Support Implications

10.0 All wards are affected by this report.

Community Safety Implications

11.0 There are none.

Social Inclusion Implications

12.0 There are none.

Anti-Poverty Implications

13.0 There are none.

Background Papers

14.0 The School Admissions Code of Practice 2009.

Recommendations

That Cabinet agree the proposed admission arrangements and coordinated scheme for 2010-2011.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services