

HEREFORDSHIRE LOCAL ADMISSION FORUM - DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT BY ADMISSIONS AND TRANSPORT MANAGER

LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

21 JUNE 2007

Purpose

1. To consider the draft annual report shown below as required by The Education (Admission Forums) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007.

Financial Implications

2. None.

Considerations

3. Draft Main Report

For ease of reference, the information in this report (as required by The Education (Admission Forums) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007) is set out using the order in the regulations.

4. **For each section, there is a brief analysis of the information in Appendices A1 to A4 and where appropriate, recommendations for the future.**

a) the number and percentages of first, second and third preferences met (or more if applicable) and the main factors that affected whether preferences were met;

Appendix A1 sets out the number and percentages of first, second and (in the case of secondary schools) third preferences met in each of the schools covered by the forum. Allocated places refer to places offered where either none of the preferences stated could be met or where no application had been received by the LA.

As in any LA, the popularity of schools and the level of over subscription have a major impact on the number of first, second and third preferences for each school.

Bishop's as usual attracted the highest number of first preferences, 277 closely followed this year by Whitecross High School, which attracted 232 first preferences. It may be that the attraction of Whitecross is its new buildings and associated facilities.

A significant downturn in popularity is evident at Aylestone, only 126 first preferences compared to 228 in the 2005/2006 round and QE, only 45 first preferences compared to 68 in the 2006/2007 round.

There were in total 5 over subscribed schools, namely: Bishop's, St Mary's, Whitecross, Fairfield and Wigmore.

There are currently 217 spare places (10.3 % of PAN) available in secondary schools within Herefordshire.

b) the number of appeals made to the appeal panel within the area of the authority;

The number of appeals made to appeals panels within Herefordshire is shown in Appendix A1 for each school.

2006/2007 round and 28 in the 2005/2006 round) for Bishop's, St Mary's, Whitecross, Fairfield and Wigmore.

In the primary sector there were fewer appeals, a total of 11, for Canon Pyon, Ledbury, Marlbrook and Mordiford.

c) the ethnic and social mix of pupils attending schools in the area of the authority and the factors that affect this;

The degree of ethnicity within Herefordshire schools is given in appendix A2. As might be expected the largest group is "white" (97.08%) followed by "Asian" (0.67%).

The social mix of pupils attending Herefordshire schools is shown in appendix A3.

d) the extent to which existing and proposed admission arrangements serve the interests of looked after children, children with disabilities and children with special educational needs;

In both primary and secondary sectors, existing admission arrangements appear to have served the interests of looked after children, children with disabilities and children with special educational needs well during the past year.

The local authority has worked in partnership with the schools in the area and satisfactory arrangements were made to admit pupils in these categories.

e) how well the hard to place pupil protocol has worked and how many children have been admitted to each school under the protocol;

Details of the placement of pupils at both secondary and primary schools in Herefordshire following permanent exclusion are shown in appendix A4.

The existing arrangements appear to be working well.

f) whether primary schools are meeting their statutory duties in relation to infant class sizes;

All primary schools in Herefordshire are meeting their statutory duties in relation to infant class sizes. There are very occasional exceptions to this, usually as a result of an appeal panel's decision (which are exempt from the requirement).

g) details of other matters that might affect how fairly admission arrangements serve the interests of children and parents within the authority; and

h) any recommendation or recommendations that the forum wishes to make in order to improve parental choice and access to education in the area of the authority.

Recommendation

That:

(a) the Forum is requested to suggest comments under (g) and (h) above if it is felt to be appropriate;

and;

(b) the draft report is noted and any changes requested by the Local Admission Form be adopted.