

Shadow Dorset Council

Date of Meeting	11 February 2019
Lead Member	Cllr. Andrew Parry – Lead Member for Economic Growth, Education, Learning & Skills
Officer	Nick Jarman - Director of Children’s Services
Subject of Report	School Admissions Arrangements 2020-2021
Executive Summary	<p>As a result of successive Acts and associated Regulations, admission authorities are required to consult on proposed admissions arrangements prior to determination. A consultation had to be carried out by the 31st January 2019, the outcomes determined by the 1 March 2019, published by the LA by the 15 March 2019 for admissions into schools in September 2020.</p> <p>Department for Education December 2014 Admissions Code requires admission authorities to consult for a minimum period of 6 weeks between 1 October and 31 January in any given year and to include relevant parents and other groups in that consultation.</p> <p>The consultation on Dorset’s Admissions Arrangements was completed on 21 December 2018 after a 6 week period. This report summarises the consultations that have taken place and invites members to approve the policies as a result of those consultations in order to meet the Local Authority’s statutory duties.</p> <p>All Admissions Authorities, of which Dorset County Council is one and Dorset Council will be one, are required to ‘determine’ their admissions arrangements on an annual basis.</p>
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment:</p> <p>This process is bound by the 2014 School Admissions Code.</p> <p>There are no proposed changes to the any of the policies – this is an annual statutory duty to consult.</p> <hr/> <p>Use of Evidence:</p> <p>Details and links to the consultation was circulated to all schools, all neighbouring Local Authorities, all nursery settings, all DCC Elected Members, Association of Parish and Town Councils and Ministry of Defence. Schools were then asked to notify parents through their website and newsletters.</p>

	<p>The Consultation did not generate any responses.</p> <p>The latest guidance from the Department of Education with regards to Admissions Law has been used.</p> <p>Budget:</p> <p>There are no significant budget risks.</p> <p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the LGR approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk LOW</p> <p>Other Implications:</p> <p>None</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>1. That The Shadow Executive formally agrees to the adoption of the following policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset County Council Admissions Arrangements including the Co-Ordinated Scheme and the Admissions Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in Dorset 2020-2021, • Armed Forces Policy 2020-2021 • Guidance on the Placement of a Pupil Outside His or Her Normal Age Group 2020-2021 • 6th Form Admissions Policy 2020-2021 • Nursery Admissions Policy 2020-2021 • Guidance on Consulting on Admissions Arrangements 2019
<p>Reason for Recommendation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To determine admissions arrangements in accordance with statutory requirements including the Schools Admissions Code December 2014. • To ensure compliance with the latest legislation and subsequent regulation/statutory guidance.
<p>Appendices</p>	<p>Appendix 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Co-Ordinated Scheme Timetable 2020-2021 - Local Authority Admissions Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in Dorset 2020-2021 - Armed Forces Policy 2020-2021 - Guidance on the Placement of a Pupil Outside His or Her Normal Age Group 2020-2021 - 6th Form Admissions Policy 2020-2021 - Nursery Admissions Policy 2020-2021 - Guidance on Consulting on Admissions Arrangements – November 2019

Background Papers	<p>DFE Schools Admissions Code - <i>December 2014</i> https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code--2</p> <p>DFE Guidance on Summer Born Children - <i>December 2014</i> https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission</p> <p>DFE Guidance on Admissions and The Armed Forces Covenant – <i>April 2013</i> https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/admissions-to-schools-in-england-and-the-armed-forces-covenant</p>
Officer Contact	<p>Name: Ed Denham Tel: 71819193 Email: e.denham@dorsetcc.gov.uk</p>
Date agreed by Lead Member	
Date agreed by Statutory Officers	<p>Matt Prosser – Jason Vaughan - Jonathan Mair –</p>

1. Co-ordinated Schemes

- 1.1 The new timetable for the Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme meets with the requirements of the Schools Admissions Code of Practice and is attached in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The scheme co-ordinates with neighbouring local authorities and the national offer dates as set out in the code of practice. There have been no responses to this consultation

Elected members are asked to support the adoption of the co-ordinated scheme in order to meet statutory requirements.

2. Admissions Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in Dorset 2020-2021 including The Sixth Form Admissions Policy 202-2021 and the Nursery Admissions Policy 2020-2021

- 2.1 Admissions arrangements for all maintained schools are bound by the DFE Schools Admissions Code, which was revised and updated in December 2014.
- 2.2 DCC has made no changes to the oversubscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools.
- 2.3 DCC has made no changes to the Sixth Form Admissions Policy nor The Nursery Admissions Policy.
- 2.5 There were no responses to the consultation.

Elected members are asked to adopt the Admissions Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in Dorset 2016-2017 and note that Local Authority Sixth Form Admissions Policy, Local Authority Nursery Admissions Policy are unchanged.

3. Dorset Admissions of Armed Forces Community Children Policy

- 3.1 This policy applies to all schools where Dorset is the admissions authority (community and voluntary controlled schools) – it is also promoted for adoption with Dorset Schools which are their own admissions authorities (academies, foundation, voluntary aided, studio and free schools). A copy of the policy is found in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 This policy recognises the Armed Forces Covenant and reflects the DFE Guidance issued in April 2013.
- 3.3 The Guidance from the DFE and DCC's policy is designed to ensure that admissions arrangements do not disadvantage service families, and the policy provides the admissions authority flexibility in how they may process applications from service families.
- 3.4 The policy ensures that an admission authority has flexibility in determining main residence when managing place allocations using base and future addresses where a family is subject to a new posting/rotation.
- 3.5 There is flexibility in the application of the Infant Class Size (ICS) legislation, which allows admissions authorities to place over number as an 'exception', though it is still incumbent on the admissions authority to respect the philosophy of ICS and not to necessarily make an 'exception' of every service family.
- 3.6 The policy also allows and requires an admission authority to act flexibly when an allocated school place through a future service or base address is then not appropriate to the residential address that the service family has once they are finally settled.
- 3.7 There have been no responses to the consultation including the Ministry of Defence who were consulted.

Elected members are asked to adopt the attached policy in order to support military families and to meet the requirements of the Armed Forces Covenant.

4. Guidance on the Placement of a Pupil Outside His or Her Normal Age Group

- 4.1 This policy applies to all schools where Dorset is the admissions authority (community and voluntary controlled schools) – it is also promoted for adoption with Dorset Schools which are their own admissions authorities (academies, foundation, voluntary aided, studio and fee schools). A copy of the policy is found in Appendix 1. There have been no changes to this policy.
- 4.2 There have been no responses to the consultation

Elected members are asked to adopt the policy that relates to the placement of children outside of their normal age group, thus ensuring that DCC is adhering to DFE statutory guidance.

5. Guidance on Consultations for Admissions Arrangements.

- 5.1 DCC are required to consult on how it determines the scope of any consultation. This guidance details the duties of various admission authorities when consulting on their admissions arrangements.
- 5.2 This Guidance also includes further detail on how the Local Authority will fulfil its duty to engage with families of 2-18 year olds when consulting on Admissions Arrangements and Home to School Transport.
- 5.3 Schools and Admissions Authorities were consulted on the document in September/October 2016. The principles agreed were then used to guide the formal consultation on the LA Admissions Arrangements for September 2020.
- 5.4 The Guidance was also published as one of the documents that the wider public could comment on during this consultation. No responses were received.

Elected members are asked to agree the adoption of the ‘Guidance on Consultation for Admissions Arrangements’.