
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Members of the work of the Local Admissions Forum and to receive its annual report, for information.

Summary

2. The Local Admissions Forum is a mandatory body. Its membership comprises Headteachers and governors from community, trust, voluntary aided schools and Academies. The Forum is constituted to make sure that all publically funded schools co-operate and subscribe to the co-ordinated admissions scheme, which must be administered by the local council.
3. Admissions Forums have an important power under Section 85A(1a) of the School Standards and Framework Act (1998) to publish an annual report. The report is part of the mechanism by which authorities show their admissions policies are open and fair. The Local Admissions Forum received the annual report at its meeting on 12th November 2008.
4. The report provides an objective analysis of the degree to which local admission arrangements support fair access. The Schools Commissioner undertakes a biennial national review of fair access, based on national data and information presented in Forum reports. The Commissioner's report will be presented to Parliament in April, 2009.

Recommendations

5. It is recommended that Members :-
 - (a) receive the report for information; and
 - (b) request the Director of Children's Services to have the report made available on the Council's web-site.

Murray Rose,
Director of Children's Services

Background Papers:

School Standards and Framework Act (1998)

George McQueen: Extension: 2847

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no factors from the report directly influencing crime & disorder issues.
Health and Well Being	There are no factors from the report directly affecting health and well being issues.
Sustainability	The report shows that the majority of parents are allocated a school for which they have stated a preference and that a school place is available for every child.
Diversity	The report demonstrates that the Authority is seeking to provide a fair and equitable admissions experience for all children and families, and providing a forum in which discussions and negotiations can be carried out to assist decision making.
Wards Affected	All wards in Darlington.
Groups Affected	Children of statutory school age.
Budget and Policy Framework	A fair admissions system is consistent with the Children & Young People's Plan, which seeks to provide a school place for every child.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Providing schools of choice is consistent with the Aspiring Darlington theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy, particularly easing the transitions in people's learning and development, particularly between the primary and secondary phases of schooling.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

6. The Annual Report of the Local Admissions Forum for the 2008/09 year is attached at **Appendix A**.

Outcome of Consultation

7. The Local Admissions Forum canvasses the views of parents, schools and governors to ensure continuous improvement in the process of developing schools admissions policy.