

Report to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools
Report submitted by: Interim Executive Director for Children and Young People
Date: 7 April 2015

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
All

**Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme 2016/17 –
Determination of the Qualifying Scheme**
(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

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Executive Summary

This report concerns the determination of the statutory scheme for co-ordinating admissions for Lancashire's primary and secondary schools and academies for 2016/2017.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and Standing Order 25 has been complied with.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools is recommended to:

- i. Approve that the scheme listed at Appendix 'A', be adopted as the qualifying scheme for admissions to Lancashire primary and secondary schools and academies for 2016/2017. The amended scheme includes additional information at section 5 about processing applications from out of area or abroad (including for those who own properties in or near to Lancashire); and
- ii. Approve that the Director of Children's Services shall seek to secure the adoption of the scheme by the governing body of each Lancashire voluntary aided and foundation school and academy in order to inform the Secretary of State that a scheme has been introduced in Lancashire.

Background

Every local authority is under a duty to formulate a scheme to co-ordinate the admission process for every state funded school in their area. The requirements for such a 'qualifying scheme' for the co-ordination of admission arrangements for the academic year 2013/14 onwards are set out in The School Admissions (Admission

Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012. New free schools may be exempt from this scheme during the first year of their establishment.

A draft scheme for Lancashire schools and academies / free schools was circulated for consultation with schools and academies, governors, diocesan representatives and neighbouring authorities during Autumn Term 2014 – the deadline for responses was 27 February 2015. This is set out at Appendix 'A'.

The scheme for 2016/2017 maintains the focus on on-line applications being the principle means of applying for school places.

Every voluntary aided and foundation school and academy governing body in Lancashire will be asked to adopt the scheme during summer term 2015. Any participating free schools will also be asked to adopt the scheme (although these arrangements may vary slightly).

The Secretary of State for Education must be informed that a scheme is in place. If a scheme is not adopted by all admission authorities then a scheme will be imposed by the Secretary of State.

Consultations

Consultations have been held with the governing bodies of all schools and academies in Lancashire, representatives of the local Diocesan Education Authorities and neighbouring authorities.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk Management

Financial

The adoption of this scheme has no financial implications

Legal

If a qualifying scheme is not adopted by the authority before 15 April 2015 a scheme will be imposed by the Secretary of State.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Ext
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Nil		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A
