

Report to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools
Report submitted by: Head of Service, School Improvement
Date: 8 February 2016

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
All

Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme 2017/18 – Determination of the Qualifying Scheme

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:

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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 2017/2018.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order No 25 have 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 2017/18; and
- (ii) Approve that the Director for 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 and Advice

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 and timetable for Lancashire schools and academies/free schools was circulated for consultation with schools and academies, governors, diocesan representatives and neighbouring authorities during Autumn Term 2015 – this was issued on 16 October 2015 with a deadline for responses at 2 December 2015. These are attached at Appendix 'A'. The amended scheme includes additional information at section 6 about infant school to junior school transfers (year 2 to year 3). An explanatory note is attached at Appendix 'B'

The scheme for 2017/18 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 spring term 2016. 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 28 February 2016 a scheme will be imposed by the Secretary of State.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Ext
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A