

Council – 10 January 2011

Local Admission Forum – appointment of members

Service: Walsall Children's Services - Serco

Wards: All

1. Summary of report

This report provides an update of membership changes and details of a nomination received.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council approves the appointment of Helen Keenan (Foundation schools, secondary) as a member of the Walsall Admission Forum for a four year term of office (subject to continuing eligibility) from 10 January 2011.
- 2.2 That Council requests further reports following receipt of further nominations.

3. Background information

- 3.1 At the meeting on 9 November 2009, Council approved a new constitution for the membership of Walsall's Local Admission Forum (see **Appendix A**) and appointed Councillors Carpenter and Walker as local authority representatives.
- 3.2 Admission Forums provide a vehicle for local authorities and other key interested parties to discuss the effectiveness of local admission arrangements, consider how to deal with difficult admission issues and advise admission authorities on ways in which their arrangements can be improved. Their main focus is to consider the fairness of arrangements in their local context. Admission authorities of all maintained schools and academies, when exercising their functions, must have regard to any advice offered by the Forum.
- 3.3 Nominations have been sought from the relevant bodies and organisations detailed in the table below. A further nomination has now been received and Council is recommended to appoint the following headteacher as a member of Walsall's Local Admission Forum:

- Helen Keenan (Foundation schools, secondary), Brownhills School.

3.4 Council is advised of the following membership changes:

- Brett Westwood, Headteacher, Park Hall Infants School, was appointed as a member of the Forum to represent Foundation schools (primary); however, her eligibility ceased with the conversion of Park Hall Infants School to academy status;
- Rajesh Patel, the parent governor appointed to represent parents (primary schools), has resigned; and
- Samantha Fallon, the parent governor appointed to represent parents (secondary schools) has resigned.

3.5 A number of vacancies remain and officers are working with the Primary and Secondary Forums and other groups to secure further nominations. Articles are included regularly in Walsall Governor, the newsletter for governors of Walsall schools, and it is hoped that this will result in further nominations.

4. Resource considerations

4.1 Financial:

4.1.1 There are no direct financial implications.

4.2 Legal:

4.2.1 Local authorities were required to review the membership of their Admission Forum and reconstitute it to meet the requirements set out in the School Admissions (Local Authority Reports and Admission Forums) (England) Regulations 2008. These changes were also set out in the School Admissions Code published in February 2009. The 2007 Regulations which prescribed changes to the membership of Forums have been revoked.

4.3 Staffing:

4.3.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

5. Citizen impact

Admission Forums have a key role in ensuring a fair admissions system that promotes social equity and consider how well existing and proposed admission arrangements serve the interests of children and parents within the area of the local authority.

6. Community safety

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

7. Environmental impact

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

8. Performance and risk management issues

8.1 Risk:

8.1.1 The Council is required to appoint members of Walsall's Admission Forum in line with the Regulations.

8.2 Performance management:

8.2.1 Local authorities must submit an annual report on admissions to the Schools Adjudicator; this includes details of the membership of the Forum. The Schools Adjudicator should refer matters concerning membership and the prescribed maximum limit of an Admission Forum to the Secretary of State where they do not comply with the Regulations.

9. Equality implications

Admission Forums have a key role in ensuring a fair admissions system that promotes social equity.

10. Consultation

The nominating bodies have been consulted regarding nominees to be appointed to the Local Admission Forum.

Background papers

Council report, 9 November 2009: Local Admission Forum

Council report, 11 January 2010: Local Admission Forum

Statutory Instrument 2008 No. 3091: The School Admissions (Local Authority Reports and Admission Forums) (England) Regulations 2008.

DCSF (now DfE): School Admissions Code

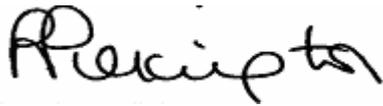
Author

Susan Lupton

Head of Planning & Development Services

☎ 01922 686231

✉ susan.lupton@walsallcs.serco.com



Signed:
Executive Director: Pauline Pilkington
Date: 21 December 2010



Signed:
Interim Managing Director, Walsall
Children's Services – Serco: Graham
Talbot
Date: 20 December 2010



Signed:
Portfolio Holder: Councillor R Andrew
Date: 21 December 2010

Appendix A

Membership of the Local Admission Forum for Walsall

Category	Number of members	Notes
Local authority	2	Elected Members
Schools		
Community Schools	2	One from the primary sector and one from the secondary sector; nominations to be sought from the Primary Forum and the Secondary Forum
Voluntary controlled schools	1	Primary sector; nomination to be sought from the Primary Forum
Voluntary aided schools	2	One from the primary sector and one from the secondary sector; nominations to be sought from the Primary Forum and the Secondary Forum
Foundation schools	2	One from the primary sector and one from the secondary sector; nominations to be sought from the Primary Forum and the Secondary Forum
Academies	1	Secondary sector; nominations to be sought and a ballot held
Religious denominations		
Church of England	1	Nominations to be sought from the church authorities
Catholic Church	1	
Parents	4	Two from the primary sector and two from the secondary sector; nominations to be sought from parent governors and a ballot held
Other	2	To be appointed following nomination by members of the Admissions Forum appointed under groups a), b) and c) above.
Total	18	

Note: representation in the religious denominations category is limited to 1 representative for the Church of England and 1 for the Catholic Church