

Council – 11 January 2010

Local Admission Forum

Service: Walsall Children's Services - Serco

Wards: All

1. Summary of report

This report provides details of nominations received since the approval of the new arrangements by Council.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council approves appointment of the following as members of the Walsall Admission Forum for a four year term of office (subject to their continuing eligibility) from 1 February 2010:

- Colin Hopkins (the Church of England),
- Kate Edwards (the Catholic Church),
- Samantha Fallon (parent, secondary sector),
- John Murray (voluntary aided schools, primary sector).

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. It has not been possible for all of these to identify nominees in the intervening period, however, it is expected that it will be possible to bring further names to future meetings of Council.

3.4 There was a high level of interest from parent governors from the primary sector and as a result it has been necessary to contact them for additional details to enable a ballot to be held.

4. Resource considerations

4.1 **Financial:** There are no direct financial implications.

4.2 **Legal:** 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:** 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:** The Council is required to reconstitute the membership of Walsall's Admission Forum in line with the Regulations.

8.2 **Performance management:** 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
Statutory Instrument 2008 No. 3091: The School Admissions (Local Authority Reports and Admission Forums) (England) Regulations 2008.
DCSF: School Admissions Code

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Signed:



pp on behalf of

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Date: 30th December 2009

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