

CABINET

15 DECEMBER 2015

SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2017 – ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mike O'Brien, Children's Services

Report from: Barbara Peacock, Director of Children and Adults Services

Author: Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer
Simon Harrington, Student Services Manager

Summary

To set out the comments of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee which considered this report on 8 December 2015.

1. Background

1.1 The Student Services Manager introduced the report which detailed the outcome of the consultation on the primary and secondary co-ordinated admission schemes for 2017. He explained that the consultation had run from 1 October – 13 November 2015 and had been widely publicised. There had been no responses received during the consultation, which had been expected as there were no major changes being proposed for 2017.

1.2 Members then raised a number of points and questions which included:

- **Clarification of the distance criteria** – The Student Services Manager confirmed that this was being amended from 'shortest available walking route' to 'shortest available route by road and path' to make the definition more transparent for parents and carers, as some routes used for admission purposes were routes that were not acknowledged as available walking routes.
- **Update on school statuses** – In response to a request for an updated list of Medway schools statuses, officers undertook to provide this via a briefing note. It was requested that the briefing note include details of the implications academy conversions have on the local authority.
- **School places** – In response to a question about whether all children can be assured of a place at a school within walking distance, the Student Services Manager explained that places were offered depending on parental preference and some families chose schools much further away from their home for a variety of reasons. The local authority was unable to

guarantee an offer at a school from a family's preference list but it could guarantee that every child is offered a place at a Medway school

- **Multiple births** – In response to a question about how many incidents there had been where twins or other multiple birth siblings had been placed in separate schools, the Student Services Manager explained that where this occurred the other sibling(s) were either placed within the school over its published admission number or offers were adjusted to ensure multiple birth siblings were offered the same school.

1.3 The Committee recommended the proposed admissions arrangements and schemes to the Cabinet for approval at its meeting on 15 December 2015.

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