

Children and Young People Cabinet Member Meeting 20th April 2009

The Main changes in Admission Forum Membership and Duties

Membership

- Forum membership is restricted to a maximum of 20.
- The concept of attendance and voting for all schools removed – previously all schools could send a representative who would have voting rights.
- Only two LA representative members are permitted. (Brighton & Hove had 5 under the previous constitution.)
- Places must be given to representatives from faith groups representing schools in the area with a religious character. In Brighton & Hove this is the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities.
- At least one representative for Community Schools, Voluntary Aided Schools, and Academies. These representatives must be either the headteacher or a governor.
- At least one parent member, resident in the area who has a child aged between 2 and 16 at the time of their appointment.
- At least one member representing the interests of any section of the community, to be appointed by the other members as they see fit, who is not eligible for membership under any of the other categories.
- Membership is for a fixed period not exceeding 4 years, but members may be re-appointed by their appointing body and serve further terms of membership provided they still qualify in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations.

Key Functions

Admission Forums must consider and advise on the following:

- How well do admission arrangements serve the interests of children and parents in the area?
- How well do admission arrangements in the area serve children in care, vulnerable pupils, excluded pupils and those with special educational needs?
- How effective is the fair access protocol for the area?
- Are arrangements for children arriving outside the normal admission round effective?
- Are the schemes for coordinating admissions effective?
- Consider and advise on the advice and guidance made available to parents through the composite prospectus and the delivery of Choice Advice.
- Consider which persons or bodies have an interest in admission arrangements in the area and should be consulted by the LA and VA schools in the annual exercise.

- Any means by which local admission arrangements might be improved and how numbers of pupils admitted relate to published admission numbers for schools.

Other

- The Forum should refer objections to the Schools Adjudicator if it identifies any unfair or unlawful school admissions policy or practice that contravene the Admission Code.
- The Forum may produce an annual report to include such items as they see fit and reflect matters of local interest around school admissions. This should not be too complex or duplicate the content of the local authority annual report to the Schools Adjudicator.