

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 31 May 2012

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Talib Hussain, Nikki Sharpe and Clive Skelton

.....

1. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

1.1 The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and outlined basic housekeeping and fire safety arrangements.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Alison Brelsford.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 The minutes of meetings of the Committee held on 18th April and 16th May 2012, were approved as correct records and, further to the meeting held on 18th April 2012, it was noted that following the decision to defer consideration of a request for a further statutory appeal hearing, the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, had written to the pupil's parents requesting further information in connection with the case but to date, no such information had been received (Case No. SG1).

5. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

5.1 **RESOLVED:** That the public and press be excluded from the meeting before discussion takes place on the following items of business to be considered on the grounds that they contain exempt information described in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

6. ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

6.1 The Committee noted that, since its last meeting, no decisions had been made the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, under powers delegated to her with regard to home to school transport or school admissions.

7. PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUESTS FOR FURTHER STATUTORY APPEAL HEARINGS

7.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted

reports and commented upon two cases where parents had made requests for further statutory appeal hearings on the grounds of changes in their families' circumstances and, arising therefrom, it was:-

- 7.2 RESOLVED: That the requests be not granted on the grounds that the Committee considered that there has not been a material change in the families' circumstances (Case Nos. G1 and N1).

(NOTE: (a) two requests for further statutory appeal hearings were withdrawn from consideration by the Committee at the request of the pupils' parents; and

(b) in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 26 of the Council's Constitution and the provisions of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the Chair decided that the requests for further statutory appeal hearings in respect of places at primary schools (Case Nos. G1 and N1) be considered as matters of urgency in order for the requests to be considered at the earliest possible opportunity, although it had not been possible to give five clear days' notice that the requests were to be considered.)

8. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

8.1 Home to School Travel Bus Passes

- 8.1.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 26 cases where parents had appealed against the administrative decisions made by the Executive Director with regard to the refusal to grant home to school travel bus passes.

- 8.1.2 The Committee gave consideration to all the supporting information and evidence provided by the pupils' parents including, in some cases, evidence and advice provided by voluntary or professional bodies and organisations and, arising therefrom, it was:-

- 8.1.3 RESOLVED: That (a) 14 appeals be upheld on the grounds that there are either exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances in the cases (Case Nos. Be1, Be2, Be3, GG1, St.M1, Ath1, Ath2, HG1, HG2, HS1, PA1, Ta2, Yw1 and Yw2);

(b) nine appeals be not upheld on the grounds that there are no exceptional circumstances demonstrated and, having regard to the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, (i) the distance from the home addresses of two pupils to the schools for which they are requesting passes for is less than the distance in the criteria (Case Nos. HG3 and HG4), (ii) the schools that two of the pupils are requesting passes for are not their catchment school/nearest suitable school (Case Nos. Sil2 and Ta1) and (iii) five of the pupils do not attend one of their three nearest qualifying schools (Case Nos. Eck 1, Eck 2, Sil1, SB1 and SB2); and

(c) consideration of the remaining three appeals be deferred to enable the

Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, to seek further information in connection with the cases and, if and when such information is provided, authority be given for the Executive Director, in consultation with the Chair, to determine the appeals.

8.2 *Special Educational Needs Case*

8.2.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents had appealed against the administrative decision made by the Executive Director with regard to the refusal to grant discretionary home to school transport, based on the special educational needs of their child and, arising therefrom, it was:-

8.2.2 RESOLVED: That the appeal be upheld on the grounds that the Committee considered that (a) part or all of the walking route from the pupil's home address to the school was unsafe and (b) it was unreasonable to expect the pupil to catch four buses a day, given his medical condition.