

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 20 February 2013

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

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 RESOLVED: That the public and press be excluded from the meeting before discussion takes place on items 5, 6, 7 and 8 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.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs declared a personal interest in the primary school place Case No. MS1 and Councillor Talib Hussain declared a personal interest in the primary school place Case No. HB1 and in the secondary school place Case No. 11 and they did not take part in the consideration of those appeals.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16th January, 2013 were approved as a correct record.

5. ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

5.1 The Committee noted that, since its last meeting, no decisions had been made by the Interim 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.

6. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEALS

6.1 The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 24 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.

6.2 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:-

- 6.3 RESOLVED: That (a) four appeals be upheld on the grounds that there are either exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances in the cases (Case Nos. AS1, ME1, CI1 and SIL2), with the appeal in Case No. AS1 being subject to the pupil being in receipt of free school meals;

(b) 19 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. SPR1 and PC1), (ii) the schools that seven of the pupils are requesting passes for are not their catchment school/nearest suitable school (Case Nos. STP1, STC1, LYD1, LYD2, NET1, NET2 and DEFSTC1) (Case No. DEFSTC1 had been deferred from the previous meeting of the Committee held on 16th January, 2013), and (iii) 10 of the pupils do not attend one of their three nearest qualifying schools (Case Nos. HS1, HS2, AST1, CI1, NEW1, PAR1, KECG1, KEG2, KEG3 and SIL1); and

(c) consideration of the remaining appeal (Case No. SEN1) be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee in order to enable a Special Educational Needs Development Officer attend the meeting to present the case.

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

7.1 Admission to Reception Year Group 2013/14

The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 27 cases where parents had expressed a wish for their children to be admitted to reception classes at schools of their choice. The Interim Executive Director stated that places in reception classes had been identified by the City Council, in accordance with the published admission criteria, and it had been agreed that the Interim Executive Director would provisionally allocate places at those schools where there were available places, up to the standard number/admission limit. The Committee was requested to consider prioritising the pupils on waiting lists, within their respective categories, for admission if and when places become available.

- 7.2 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:-

RESOLVED: That (a) 23 pupils be not prioritised on the waiting lists within their respective categories, on the grounds that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated (Case Nos. A1, B1, B2, BS1, D1, D3, DR1, EF1, GY1, HH1, HB1, HB2, LY1, LY2, LY3, LY4, M1, NG1, NG2, O1, O2, O3 and T1); and

(b) (i) three pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list, in their respective categories, on the grounds that there were either exceptional educational,

financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated (Case Nos. H1, LY5 and MS1) and (ii) one pupil be prioritised second on the waiting list, in their respective category, on the grounds of the exceptional medical circumstances demonstrated (Case No. LY6).

7.3 Transfer to Junior School 2013/14

The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted a report and commented upon four cases where parents had expressed a wish for their children to be admitted to the junior school of their choice. The Interim Executive Director stated that places in junior schools had been identified by the City Council, in accordance with the published admission criteria, and it had been agreed that the Interim Executive Director would provisionally allocate places at those schools where there were available places, up to the standard number/admission limit. The Committee was requested to consider prioritising the pupils on waiting lists, within their respective categories, for admission if and when places become available.

- 7.4 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:-

RESOLVED: That the four pupils be not prioritised on the waiting lists within their respective categories, on the grounds that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated (Case Nos.E1, E2, LY1 and NG1).

8. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES

- 8.1 The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 11 cases where parents had expressed a wish for their children to be admitted to secondary schools of their choice. The Interim Executive Director stated that places in secondary schools had been identified by the City Council, in accordance with the published admission criteria, and it had been agreed that the Interim Executive Director would provisionally allocate places at those schools where there were available places, up to the standard number/admission limit. The Committee was requested to consider prioritising the pupils on waiting lists, within their respective categories, for admission if and when places become available.

- 8.2 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:-

RESOLVED: That (a) 10 pupils be not prioritised on the waiting lists within their respective categories, on the grounds that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated (Case Nos.1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and11); and

(b) the pupil now mentioned be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'other' category on the grounds that there are exceptional family circumstances demonstrated (Case No. 3).

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday, 20th March, 2013, at 1.00 pm at Howden House.