

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 28 July 2021
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Report title	Determined Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2021-2022 and 2022-2023	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre Education, Skills and Work	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's and Adult Services	
Originating service	Children's Services	
Accountable employee	Bill Hague Tel Email	Head of Service - School Business and Support 01902 555100 bill.hague@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Children's/Adult Social Care 8 July 2021 and Education Leadership Team	

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the variation to the admission arrangements for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 to include a priority criterion for children previously in state care outside of England, in order to comply with a new mandatory provision of The School Admissions Code 2021.
2. Approve the admission arrangements for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 to incorporate the variation.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To approve the variation to the admission arrangements for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 and determine them by 1 September 2021 to comply with a mandatory provision of The School Admissions Code 2021.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Each Admission Authority is required to determine admission arrangements every year. The City of Wolverhampton Council's (CWC) responsibility in this regard is for the Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in Wolverhampton. For academies the academy trust(s) are the admitting authority not CWC, however many academies follow CWC admission arrangements.
- 2.2 The admission arrangements for 2021-2022 were previously determined at Cabinet on 19 February 2020. The admission arrangements for 2022-2023 were previously determined at Cabinet on 17 February 2021.

3.0 Admission arrangements for determination.

- 3.1 Paragraph 1.7 of the School Admission Code will require that highest priority is given to "looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted".
- 3.2 This new provision (to incorporate the paragraph above) will necessitate variations to determined admission arrangements to take effect from 1 September 2021. CWC will need to vary the admission arrangements for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. Without these variations, admission arrangements that have already been determined will no longer comply with the Code from this date.
- 3.3 As these variations will be necessary to comply with a mandatory requirement of the Code, it will not be necessary to refer a variation request to either the school's adjudicator.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 There are no alternative options as the change to the admission arrangements is required to comply with the mandatory provisions of The School Admissions Code 2021.

5.0 Reasons for decision(s)

- 5.1 The School Admissions Code 2021 requires children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted to be given equal first priority in admission arrangements, alongside Children and Young People in Care and Children who were Previously in Care.
- 5.2 This new provision will necessitate variations to determined admission arrangements to take effect from 1 September 2021. CWC will need to vary their admission arrangements

for 2021- 2022 and 2022-2023. Without these variations, the previously determined admission arrangements will no longer comply with the School Admissions Code 2021 from this date.

- 5.3 Admission authorities must meet by 31 August 2021 to determine the necessary variations to admission arrangements for 2021- 2022 and 2022- 2023.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 The Schools Admissions service is funded largely through the Dedicated Schools Grant as an approved centrally managed service. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

[TS/01072021/Y]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 School admission arrangements are heavily regulated by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended by the Education and Skills Act 2008. Regulations also apply and the CWC is required to comply with the School Admissions Code in relation to admission arrangements.

- 7.2 The amendment detailed in this report will ensure that the Admission arrangements for Wolverhampton community schools, voluntary controlled schools, free schools and academies (where applicable) comply with relevant legislation which will come into force on 1 September 2021.

[SZ/01072021/P]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 Initial screening was carried out (equality analysis-stage one-initial analysis) in respect of the 2021 – 2022 and 2022- 2023 arrangements and no significant impacts were highlighted.

9.0 All other implications

- 9.1 The City of Wolverhampton school admission arrangements allow for a child with an Education Health and Care Plan which names the school to be admitted.
- 9.2 The oversubscription criterion currently includes children and young people in care and previously in care as the highest criterion. This will now include children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- 9.3 The criterion allows for medical and social claims for a preferred school to be considered.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 School Admissions Code 2021 and The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

11.0 Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – School Admission Arrangements 2021-2022.
- 11.2 Appendix 2 - School Admission Arrangements 2022-2023.