

BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (PEOPLE) TO CABINET ON 23rd JANUARY 2019

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUMMER BORN CHILDREN

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the policy for admission arrangements for deferred entry to primary schools for summer born children

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the proposed policy be approved in order to ensure compliance with DfE guidance.**

3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 Non-statutory guidance was issued in December 2014 to assist Local Authorities and admission authorities to understand the framework within which admission authorities must operate when responding to parental requests for summer born children to be admitted out of their normal age group.
- 3.2 Summer born children are those born between 1st April and 31st August and they are not required to start school until a full year after the point at which they could have been admitted – the point at which other children in their age range are commencing Year 1.
- 3.3 Whilst a process for considering such requests is already in place, due to the increasing number of requests, a formal policy has been drafted, together with supporting documentation and literature for parents.

4.0 PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

- 4.1 The draft policy is attached as Appendix 1 to this report and is fully compliant with the requirements of the School Admissions Code and guidance from the DfE. The Code and guidance (*please see Appendix 2*) must be followed by admission authorities should follow unless they can demonstrate, if challenged, that they are justified in not doing so.

5.0 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

- 5.1 Not applicable to the statutory duty to admission arrangements for admission to school.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS

6.1 There are no specific area implications arising from this report. The arrangements provide a consistency of approach across Barnsley and ensures compliance with DfE guidance.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

8.0 EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report and the policy is fully compliant with DfE guidance, ensuring that the Council is meeting obligations in relation to admission to school requirements.

10.0 CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

11.0 COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There no implications arising from this report.

12.0 CONSULTATIONS

12.1 No consultation is required as this policy is to ensure compliance with DfE guidelines.

13.0 THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

13.1 Combined with the Council's ongoing work, through its role in the Barnsley Alliance, towards improving learning and teaching standards and promoting inclusion through education, the Code, non-statutory guidance and draft local admission arrangements will not affect summer-born children from being able to attend a good school and achieving the required level of progress at each stage of the National Curriculum.

14.0 PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

14.1 The proposed policy complies with guidance from the DfE and is fair and transparent across the Borough for all service users.

15.0 TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY

15.1 Not applicable to this report.

16.0 TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

16.1 Not applicable to this report.

17.0 REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

17.1 Not applicable to this report.

18.0 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

18.1 The proposed policy and administrative arrangements comply with the School Admissions Code and DfE guidance on the admission arrangements for summer born children.

18.2 Failure by the Authority to comply with the mandatory requirements of the School Admissions Code would be a breach of the Authority's statutory duty. Failure to comply may result in an objection being made to the Schools Adjudicator or a complaint to the Secretary of State. Failure to follow the guidelines in the new Code, where it cannot be justified, could result in an objection being upheld by the Schools Adjudicator.

19.0 HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESILIENCE ISSUES

19.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

20.0 COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

20.1 The admission arrangements are compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights and help fulfil the right to education within the Convention.

21.0 CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

21.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

22.0 GLOSSARY

22.1 None

23.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

23.1 Appendix 1: Arrangements for delayed entry to primary school of summer born children in Barnsley.

Appendix 2: Department for Education advice and non-statutory guidance on the admission arrangements for summer born children.

24.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

School Admissions Code 2014

Departmental Advice (DfE) on the admission of summer born children December 2014

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

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