

# PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS

<b>DATE</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2021
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Councillor Ian Lindley, Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Skills
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	Lisa Arthey - Director of Children's Services
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Variation to School Admission Arrangements 2021-2022 and 2022-2023
<b>STATUS</b>	OPEN
<b>FORWARD PLAN REF NO.</b>	GENERAL EXCEPTION – Not included on the Forward Plan therefore will be considered under the General Exception provisions of the Constitution

## CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The recommendation contributes to 'Enable children, young people and adults to learn and be ready to work.' School Admission Arrangements enable children and young people to access appropriate education and therefore have better opportunities to learn and be employed.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the variation to the local authority's school admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for the academic years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. In accordance with legislation these arrangements should be determined and published by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That, the variation to the admission arrangements, for the local authority's community and voluntary controlled schools for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 be agreed.
2. That it be noted that those schools / academies that are their own admission authorities and have their own policy will also be determining the necessary variation to their admission arrangements.

## REASONS FOR DECISION

The 2021 School Admissions Code 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 looked after children (LAC) and children who were previously looked after.

## **1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES**

The draft Code and associated regulations were laid before Parliament on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021. As neither Houses of Parliament objected to the draft Code within a 40 day period, the Code 2021 was published on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and the Code and all its provisions will come into effect from 1 September 2021.

## **2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Risk Assessment against variation to school admission arrangements. Identified as Priority E – Low Risk, Requiring Monitor and Review.

## **3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

No other options considered as this is a statutory change.

## **4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS**

There are minimal potential reputational implications for the Council resulting from the decision.

## **5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There is no effect on the Council's revenue or capital expenditure or any expectation to call upon Council reserves.

## **6. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY**

There has been no consultation with Council's Scrutiny Panel.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The report is proposing no major changes to the Councils general admissions policy. Consequently, there are no direct additional financial implications arising from the report. All resource implications will be contained within existing budgets.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Section 88C of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended, requires the Local Authority in its role as admission authority to determine and vary, if necessary, the admission arrangements that will apply in line with regulations and the mandatory requirements of the School Admissions Code.

8.2 As stated in the body of the report the Local Authority has a statutory duty to determine the necessary variation to its admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools.

8.3 In adopting the recommendations as set out in the report the Local Authority is adhering to, and complying with, such obligations.

**9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

**10. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

All wards are affected.

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The DfE's School Admissions Code 2021 [School admissions code - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)  
[Admissions priority for children adopted from state care outside of England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

**12. CONTACT OFFICER(S)**

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