

YOUNG PEOPLES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8 December 2018

Admissions Line of Enquiry

Remit of Committee

The interests of young people, including education, care and protection and family support.

Objective

The objective of this piece of scrutiny work is to

- Assess the extent to which our admissions arrangements are compliant and effective
- Assess how the local authority meets its obligations in a diverse educational governance landscape
- Evaluate the parental experience of the admission arrangements, the admissions process
- Explore the challenges, to the authority and its partners, both current and for the future

FIRST STAGE

Strategic level understanding and awareness raising; an overview of statutory framework requirements and how these are reflected locally; assurance regarding our compliance and performance.

Method

Committee meeting on 8 December 2017. CYPS to provide information beforehand, probably by way of a report.

Guidance and advice from CYPS Leadership in the committee meeting as part of an Interactive question and answer session.

CYPS to determine content but possible themes to cover would include.

National Picture

- The meaning of "choice" - what being under an obligation to comply with parental preference *now* means in theory and in practice
- An overview of the statutory framework Admissions procedure including legislative context, national guidance (What the admissions code hopes to achieve) recommended policy and best practice
- The status of the admissions code and what it requires us, as a local authority, to do. Interpretation - is it prescriptive, too flexible etc
- The implications of Academies being admission authorities in their own right
- The responsibilities and obligations upon the local authority, strategically and operationally.
- The role and influence of the Adjudicator

Local Picture: How make the process work locally

Agreeing admission arrangements

- Our admissions criteria, what it is and why it is the way it is - Oversubscription criteria rationale - SEN, distance, catchment areas, Pupil Premiums and so on. Are they commonly used criteria and why are they prioritised in the way that they are
- How do we agree admission arrangements with all schools and partners etc)
- The work of the admissions forum- its status/health, what voice does it have, what has it said
- Working with partners and relationships with schools, resolving differences
- Primaries and secondaries similarities and differences, complexity of local community/area variations
- Publication and consultation requirements and compliance
- How late applications and in year applications are handled

Administering the process: How do we assess what the data and intelligence tells us about how we fare in terms of

- Clarity and Transparency of the process
- Levels of trust in the system
- Timeliness/Efficiency/ good administration

SECOND STAGE

More in-depth discussion and understanding of parental satisfaction, and how arrangements are developing locally as the picture of educational provision changes.

Method

A round table session. Possibly gathering views and experiences from interested parties and stakeholders

Parental Satisfaction

- The parental experience - how we make sure the process works as well as it can - access to information about application, application process online etc, decision making etc
- Satisfaction levels - how do we know how well we are doing
- Disappointment - Why being offered a place at a school for which one has expressed some form of preference can (or cannot) be taken as a true measure of satisfaction

Future challenges -What does the future look like

- How the local authority manages working with schools to prevent inappropriate and/or unduly restrictive admissions arrangements and promote social inclusion objective
- First v favourite school – to what extent is the chances of obtaining a place at the favourite causing parents to adjust behaviour.
- Press reports have suggested that some schools in other local authority areas are using their independence to select pupils in ways which might

be viewed as unfair – even inappropriate. Are there any grounds for concern that that experience might become a concern in north Yorkshire

THIRD STAGE

Members will be asked to make some initial conclusions and recommendations and decide whether a report or briefing should be made, via a committee meeting, to the Portfolio Holder and/or Executive

Work Plan: Timeline

The following work programme is intended to give an impression of the likely timeframe and requirements

Date	Meeting/event	Comments
20 October 2017	Mid Cycle Briefing.	Discuss how the line of enquiry might work, How the information needs of the committee will be met. What approach the committee will take. Who needs to be there.
November	CYPS prepare information for committee	Paul Brennan and William Burchill. Shared with R Busby as necessary
Wednesday 29 November 2017	YP Scrutiny Committee Agenda Despatched	Report submitted for distribution with agenda
8 December 2017	YP Committee meeting	Briefing of Chair and group spokespersons beforehand