



<u>Committee and Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
Cabinet	
21 July 2021	
	<u>Public</u>

VARIATION TO DETERMINED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2021-22 AND 2022-23

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1. Summary

- 1.1 A revised draft School Admissions Code passed through the parliamentary process on 1 July 2021. This requires admission authorities across the country to agree by 1 September 2021 a variation to their admission arrangements to comply with the new Code.
- 1.2 Shropshire Council's admission arrangements, determined in February 2020 for 2021-2022 and determined in February 2021 for 2022-2023, gave the highest priority to looked after children (LAC) and children who were previously looked after by English local authorities (PLAC) and the second highest priority to children who appear to Shropshire Council to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted (IAPLAC).
- 1.3 The revised draft Code requires IAPLAC 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 LAC and PLAC children who were previously looked after by English local authorities.
- 1.4 In order to comply with the new School Admissions Code, all admission authorities are required to determine a variation to determined admission arrangements for both 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 to take effect from 1 September 2021. Without these variations, admission arrangements that have already been determined will no longer comply with the Code from this date.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the variations to Shropshire Council's admission arrangements for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, namely to give equal top priority to 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, alongside children who are currently or were previously looked after by English local authorities and ceased to be so as a result of being adopted.

- 2.2 That Cabinet approve the variations to take effect from 1 September 2021 in compliance with the School Admissions Code 2021.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 Without these variations, Shropshire Council's admission arrangements that have already been determined will no longer comply with the School Admissions Code from 1 September 2021.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications for Shropshire Council connected with the variation to determined admission arrangements.

5. Background

- 5.1 Shropshire Council's arrangements for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 gave the highest priority to looked after children and children who were previously looked after by English local authorities and the second highest priority to children who appear to Shropshire Council to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted (often referred to as IAPLAC).
- 5.2 A draft School Admissions Code was laid before Parliament on 13 May 2021 for a 40-day period during which both the House of Commons and the House of Lords had the opportunity to review the Code and any Member pass a motion to not approve it. This 40-day period expired on 1 July, and as there is no such motion, the new Code as drafted will come into force on 1 September 2021.
- 5.3 The top priority in Shropshire Council's admission arrangements for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 will now read as:
- 'Looked after children' or children who were previously 'looked after' but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those who appear to Shropshire Council to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- 5.4 All applications received before 1 September 2021 will have been processed in accordance with the existing (2014) Code and offers made and places allocated will be unchanged. Any applications received on or after 1 September 2021 will be processed in accordance with the new Code.
- 5.5 Schools in Shropshire for whom Shropshire Council is not the admission authority have been advised to agree a variation to their admission arrangements in compliance with the revised School Admissions Code.
- 5.6 As these variations will be necessary to comply with a mandatory requirement of the School Admissions Code, no consultation on the change is required and it will not be

necessary to refer a variation request to the schools' adjudicator (or to the Education and Skills Funding Agency in respect of academies).

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

School Admissions Code 2014 (available from www.education.gov.uk)

Revised draft School Admissions Code 2021 (available from www.education.gov.uk)

Shropshire Council Determined Admission Arrangements 2021/22 (available from www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Shropshire Council Determined Admission Arrangements 2021/22 (available from www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight

Local Member

All members

Appendices

None.