

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 19 October 2016

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Talib Hussain, Joe Otten, Chris Peace and Andrew Sangar

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Nasima Akther.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 RESOLVED: That the public and press be excluded from the meeting before discussion takes place on items 6 and 7 on the grounds that, if the public and press were present during the transaction of such business, there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information described in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21st September, 2016 were approved as a correct record.

5. ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

5.1 The Committee noted that, since its last meeting, no decisions had been made by the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, under powers delegated to her with regard to home to school transport or school admissions.

6. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEALS - VERBAL APPEAL

6.1 In attendance were the appellant and Amanda Dale and Julie Pryor (Customer Services).

6.2 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves. He then outlined the procedure which would be followed during the meeting.

6.3 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents had appealed against the administrative decision made by the Executive Director with regard to the refusal to grant a home to school travel bus

pass (Case No. FO/VA1).

- 6.4 Amanda Dale explained the Stage 1 and Stage 2 appeals criteria regarding the City Council's Home to School Transport Policy. She informed the Sub-Committee of the reasons why the application had been refused at Stage 1 and then the subsequent refusal of the appeal at Stage 2.
- 6.5 The appellant explained to the Committee the reasons for the request for a home to school travel pass for her child.
- 6.6 In response to questions from Members, the appellant stated that due to her divorce last year, she had moved to the address where she now resides. At the time, there wasn't a place available at the catchment school for her daughter so she attended the school offered, for which she received a travel pass. Since that time her daughter had settled into the school, and although a place had become available at the catchment school, the appellant did not want to move her daughter again. The appellant went on to add that her financial circumstances had changed since those stated in her application at the beginning of the school year.
- 6.7 At this stage in the proceedings, the appellant left the meeting to enable the Sub-Committee to consider the evidence.
- 6.8 RESOLVED: That the appeal be upheld on the grounds that there are exceptional educational, family and financial circumstances in the case (Case No. FO/VA1).

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUESTS FOR PRIORITISATION ON WAITING LIST AND/OR FRESH APPLICATION

- 7.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon two cases where parents had expressed a wish for their children to be admitted to primary schools of their choice. The Executive Director stated that places in primary schools had been identified by the City Council, in accordance with the published admission criteria, and it had been agreed that the Executive Director would provisionally allocate places at those schools where there were places available, up to the standard number/admission limit. The Committee was requested to consider prioritising the pupils on waiting lists, within their respective categories, for admission if and when places become available.
- 7.2 The Committee gave consideration to all the supporting evidence and information provided by the pupils' parents including, in both cases, evidence and advice provided by voluntary or professional bodies and organisations and, arising therefrom, it was:-
- 7.3 RESOLVED: That (a) one pupil be granted a fresh right of appeal, due to a change in circumstances since the original application was made (Case No.LJ1);

and

(b) one pupil be not prioritised on the waiting list, within their respective category, on the grounds that the Committee considers that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated (Case No.HH1).

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday, 16th November, 2016, at 1.15 p.m. in the Town Hall.