

HARROW ADMISSIONS FORUM

18 NOVEMBER 2009

Chairman:	* Reverend P Reece		
Councillors:	* Mrs Anjana Patel * Bill Stephenson		
Community School Representatives:	<u>Governor</u> (Vacancy)	<u>Primary</u> * Sue Jones	<u>Secondary</u> * Janice Howkins
Jewish School Representative:	Mrs D Palman		
Roman Catholic School Representative:	* Mr M Murphy		
Church of England School Representative:	(Vacancy)		
Krishna Avanti Primary School Representative:	(Vacancy)		
Church of England Diocese Representative:	* Rev'd Paul Reece		
Catholic Schools Diocese Representative:	† Miss M Ryan		
United Synagogue Representative:	(Vacancy)		
I-Foundation Representative:	* Dr Kamlesh Bahl		
Primary Elected Parent Governor Representative:	* Mrs D Speel		
Secondary Elected Parent Governor Representative:	* Mr R Chauhan		
Harrow Council for Racial Equality Representative:	Julia Smith		
Early Years Development Partnership Representative:	† Helena Tucker		
Children's Services Representative:	(Vacancy)		

* Denotes Member present
† Denotes apologies received

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS**PART II - MINUTES**141. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no Reserve Members in attendance at this meeting.

142. **Declarations of Interest:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no declarations of interests made by Members.

143. **Minutes:**
In accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, this item was admitted late to the agenda to allow Members to approve the minutes of the last meeting at the earliest opportunity. This item had not been available at the time the agenda was dispatched and circulated due to the proximity of meetings and the need to consult.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2009 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

144. **Public Questions, Petitions and Deputations:**

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were put, or petitions or deputations received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rules 16, 14 and 15 respectively.

145. **Feedback from Nursery Admissions Working Group:**

In accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) 1985, this item was admitted late to the agenda so that the feedback from the Nursery Admissions Working Group could be considered at the earliest opportunity. The feedback from the Nursery Admissions Working Group was not available at the time the agenda was printed and circulated.

An officer introduced the report which set out the feedback from the Nursery Admissions Working Group on arrangements for admission to Harrow nursery classes. The officer stated that the Nursery Admissions Working Group had made recommendations which, if approved by the Forum, would be used as part of the public consultation on admission arrangements.

In response to questions, it was stated that:

- when allocating nursery places, older children were given priority over younger children;
- offering parents one choice of nursery reflected the fact that the majority of parents only applied to their local nursery;
- at present, nursery admission applications were not processed centrally, resulting in a need for schools and nurseries to consult with each other to ensure that children were not offered more than one place;
- in addition to community schools with nursery classes, there were many other providers;
- in the event of a late application being received, children would still be admitted to the nursery of their choice if spaces were available. If there were no spaces, the child would be placed on a waiting list;
- as admissions to nurseries were not dealt with centrally, officers could not provide detailed statistics for the area. However, officers did have figures for the number of children attending nursery in Harrow.

RESOLVED:

That

(1) the Nursery Working Group's recommendations be approved;

(2) the recommendations of the Nursery Working Group be used as part of the public consultation on nursery admissions.

146. **Draft Admission Arrangements for Community Schools 2011-12 Academic Year:**
In accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, this item was admitted late to the agenda so that the consultation process on proposed admission arrangements for Harrow Community primary and high schools for the school year 2011-12 could be approved at the earliest opportunity. The report was not available at the time the agenda was printed and circulated.

An officer presented the report which outlined Harrow's current admission arrangements and the changes required in order to meet the requirements of the Schools Admissions Code of Practice.

The officer stated that:

- it was proposed that the oversubscription criteria be amended to ensure that twins and other multiple birth children could attend the same primary schools;
- officers were awaiting guidance from the Department of Children, Schools and Families on the issue of flexible entry into reception class.

RESOLVED:

That

(1) the recommendations set out in the report of the Director of Schools and Children's Development be approved.

(2) the consultation process on proposed admission arrangements, to apply to Harrow Community primary and high schools for the year 2011-12, be agreed.

147. **Any Other Business:**

- (i) Children's Services Representative
In response to a question from a Member, an officer stated that a request for a representative of Children's Services to join the Forum had been made to the relevant Corporate Director. A nomination was expected soon.
- (ii) I-Foundation Representative
The Forum requested that legal advice be sought on the status of the I-Foundation as a representative of the Hindu faith on the Forum.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 6.30 pm, closed at 7.14 pm)

(Signed) REVEREND P REECE
Chairman