

**Extract of Executive Board Minutes relevant to the Children, Young Peoples and Families Policy and Performance Board**

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – 18 JANUARY 2024**

<b>76</b>	<b>SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2025/26</b>
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The Board received a report of the Executive Director – Children’s Services, which requested the approval of the School Admissions Policy, Admission Arrangements and Co-ordinated Schemes, for admission to primary and secondary schools, including Academy, Free School and Voluntary Controlled schools for the September 2025 intake.

The Board was advised that on 2 October 2023, the Local Authority issued a statutorily required consultation on the proposed admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission schemes for the September 2025 intake for primary and secondary schools (attached as appendices 1 and 2 respectively). The primary scheme also included the proposed oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools for whom the Local Authority was the admission authority.

The report provided details of the consultation, which ran until 10 November 2023. One response was received which was outside the remit of the consultation and had been responded to separately. Additionally, no amendments to the oversubscription criteria were suggested, as these reflected the criteria which are considered good practice and acceptable by the Department for Education.

It was noted that all Halton’s secondary schools were either academies, free schools or voluntary aided and were therefore their own admission authorities, with responsibility for consulting and determining their own admissions criteria and their own Published Admission Number (PAN).

**Reason(s) for Decision**

Local Authorities as the admission authority for community and voluntary schools are required to consult and then determine their admission arrangements annually, and are also required to determine coordinated schemes for primary and secondary admission rounds that apply to all schools.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

None

**Implementation Date**

The implementation date is September 2024 which is when the timetabled process for the September 2025 intake commences.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the Coordinated Scheme for Admission to Primary Schools – which also contains the Local Authority’s admission criteria to community and voluntary controlled schools, and approves the Coordinated Scheme for admission to secondary schools, both of which will apply to the September 2025 intake.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – 22 FEBRUARY 2024**

<b>91</b>	<b>FAMILY HUBS DIGITAL SOLUTION</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Children, which provided an update on the progress of the Halton Family Hubs Programme in meeting the Department of Education’s ambition to implement a Digital / Virtual Family Hub by March 2025. Family Hubs were a system wide model of providing high quality, joined up, whole family support services. Hubs delivered these services from conception, through a child’s early years until they reached the age of 19 (or 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities).

It was noted that Beebot Family Hubs Support had conducted a successful proof of concept exercise with families, residents and professionals, with the aim to gain feedback and opinion from a range of demographics and job roles across Halton. Following on from the exercise, that included positive stakeholder workshop feedback and support, Beebot had been asked to provide a fully costed proposal. The estimated cost of a 3-year licence was £194,000, funded through the Department for Education Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme, and a waiver of Procurement Standing Order 1.14. (iv) and 1.14 (v) was requested for the purchase of the Family Hub Digital Solution.

RESOLVED: That approval be given for a Waiver request in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14. (iv) and 1.14 (v) for the purchase of the Family Hub Digital Solution.