

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
CABINET MEMBER**

**VARIATION TO SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS
FOR 2021/22 AND 2022/23
COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the Cabinet Member's approval to implement the proposed varied admission arrangements for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 academic years.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The 2021 School Admissions Code (the Code) requires 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 looked after children (LAC) and children who were previously looked after by English local authorities (PLAC). These children are referred to as internationally adopted previously looked after children (IAPLAC).
- 2.2 The draft Code and associated regulations were laid before Parliament on 13 May 2021. The Code is laid in Parliament for a 40-day period during which both the House of Commons and the House of Lords have the opportunity to review the Code and any Member can pass a motion to not approve it. This 40-day period is expected to expire on 1 July, and provided there is no such motion, the new Code will come into force on 1 September 2021.
- 2.3 Paragraph 1.7 of the new Code will require that highest priority is given to "looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those 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".

2.4 This new provision will necessitate variations to determined admission arrangements to take effect from 1 September 2021. Admission authorities will need to vary their admission arrangements for 2021/22 (which would have been determined by 28 February 2020) and their admission arrangements for 2022/23 (which would have been determined by 28 February 2021). Without these variations, admission arrangements that have already been determined will no longer comply with the Code from this date.

2.5 Variations will be conditional on the Code passing through its Parliamentary process (i.e. a date on or around 1 July 2021). If any variations are agreed before then, they must be expressed to be conditional on the Code passing through Parliament. All such variations should come into effect on 1 September 2021.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the proposed varied admissions arrangements for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 academic years contained in Appendix 1.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 If the variations are not approved the council's determined admission arrangements for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 academic years will cease to be compliant with the Code.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 Nil

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 Nil

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 Not required. The arrangements will not alter the pattern of where children attend school.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 No consultation is required as the variations are to enact mandatory requirements of the 2021 School Admissions Code.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the proposed varied admissions arrangements for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 academic year contained in Appendix 1.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

The 2021 School Admissions Code