

14 November 2024

RE: PaCC Response to the Secondary School Admissions Arrangements

Dear Becky,

Thank you for submitting PaCC's position in relation to the recent engagement exercise on possible approaches to secondary school admission arrangements in the future.

It is always useful to be reminded of the challenges faced by the SEND community in Brighton & Hove. It also gives me an opportunity to be clear that decisions are not being made behind closed doors and that any formal proposal will be subject to the usual public consultation. The engagement exercise was an additional element of consultation with the city and I am pleased that we have been able to gather such useful feedback from all area and communities in the city to help inform the next stages of our thinking.

Our meeting on the 20 November will be a good opportunity to discuss the challenges and needs of children with SEND and we can work collaboratively on the work as we move to a formal proposal. When preparing for the non-binding engagement exercise our focus was working confidentially with school leaders to understand the perceived challenges that would come from any adjustments in catchment areas and PANs. On balance we felt we couldn't extend that confidential space further to truly co-produce engagement exercise models with you however I expect to provide much more detail when we meet next week.

Travel concerns, pupils without an EHCP, friendship groups and how we make the formal consultation accessible to all are key aspects for us to consider further. I am clear there are no easy answers, and that we cannot necessarily design an admissions system that will provide every family with the exact school they feel they need. However, I am committed to finding the best outcome for the city that is within the powers of the council and I look forward to discussing this with PaCC in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Jacob Taylor

Deputy Leader of Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet Member for Finance and City Regeneration

Councillor for Moulsecoomb & Bevendean Ward