



SCHOOL PLACINGS AND EXCLUSIONS APPEAL COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER, 2017 at 10.00 A.M.

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the SCHOOL PLACINGS AND EXCLUSIONS APPEAL COMMITTEE to be held in MEETING ROOM P, WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, on THURSDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER, 2017 at 10.00 A.M.

12 September, 2017

Director of Business Services

To: Councillor S W Smith, Mr G McCaig and Mr A Kane

Contact Person:-

Frances Brown

Tel: 01467 532862

Email:- frances.brown@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

B U S I N E S S

1. Appointment to Chair
2. Declarations of Interest
- 3A. Statement on Equalities

Consider, and if so decided, adopt: "In line with the Council's legal duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 the Committee, in making decisions on the attached reports, shall have due regard to the need to":-

- (i) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- (ii) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (iii) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 3B. Resolution

Consider, and if so decided, adopt the following resolution:

"That under Sections 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting for Item 5 of the business, on account of the likely disclosure of exempt information of the class described in paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act."

4. Admission of Observers
5. Case No. 679 – Appeal Against Exclusion from Stuartfield Primary School **(10.00 a.m.)**

(Pages 4-16)

There are circulated in relation to this case:-

1. Copy of Appeal (Pages 4 - 6)
2. Copy of Decision to which Appeal Relates (Pages 7 - 9)
3. Submissions by the Education Authority (Pages 10 - 14)
4. Submissions by the Appellants (Pages 15 -16)

DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

Paragraph 5 - Particular Child - Information relating to adoption, care, fostering, education or supervision of a particular child.

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY – GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS

What is the duty?

In making decisions on the attached reports, Members are reminded of their legal duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to:-

- (i) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- (ii) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (iii) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The “protected characteristics” under the legislation are: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; and (in relation to point (i) above only) marriage and civil partnership.

How can Members discharge the duty?

To ‘have due regard’ means that in making decisions, Members must consciously consider the need to do the three things set out above. This requires a conscious approach and state of mind. The duty must influence the final decision.

However, it is not a duty to achieve a particular result (e.g. to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination or to promote good relations between persons of different racial groups). It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve these goals.

How much regard is ‘due’ will depend upon the circumstances and in particular on the relevance of the needs to the decision in question. The greater the relevance and potential impact that a decision may have on people with protected characteristics, the higher the regard required by the duty.

What does this mean for Committee/Full Council decisions?

Members are directed to the section in reports headed ‘Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications’. This will indicate whether or not an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals and, if so, what the outcome of that assessment is.

An EIA will be appended to a report where it is likely that the action recommended in the report could have a differential impact (either positive or negative) upon people from different protected groups. The report author will have assessed whether or not an EIA is required. If one is not required, the report author will explain why that is.

Where an EIA is provided, Members should consider its contents and take those into account when reaching their decision. Members should also be satisfied that the assessment is sufficiently robust and that they have enough of an understanding of the issues to be able to discharge their legal duty satisfactorily.

For more detailed guidance please refer to the following link:-
http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/EqualityAct/psed_technical_guidance_scotland.doc