

# Children, Young People & Skills Committee

Date: **9 January 2023**

Time: **4.00pm**

Venue **Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall**

Members: **Councillors:** Allbrooke (Chair), John (Deputy Chair), O'Quinn (Opposition Spokesperson), Brown (Group Spokesperson), Grimshaw, Hamilton, Lloyd, McNair, Meadows and Nield

## **Co-optees**

Trevor Cristin (Diocesan Director of Education) and Simon Parr (Catholic Diocese)

## **Non-Voting Co-optees**

Adam Muirhead (Community Works Rep) and Becky Robinson (PaCC)

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# AGENDA

## 31 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

**(a) Declaration of Substitutes:** Where Councillors are unable to attend a meeting, a substitute Member from the same Political Group may attend, speak and vote in their place for that meeting.

**(b) Declarations of Interest:**

- (a) Disclosable pecuniary interests;
- (b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
- (c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare

- (i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
- (ii) the nature of the interest; and
- (iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure, Members should seek advice from the committee lawyer or administrator preferably before the meeting.

**(c) Exclusion of Press and Public:** To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

**Note:**

Any item appearing in Part Two of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.

A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

## 32 MINUTES

7 - 16

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2022.

## 33 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

## 34 CALL OVER

- (a) Items 39 – 45 will be read out at the meeting and Members invited to reserve the items for consideration.
- (b) Those items not reserved will be taken as having been received and the reports' recommendations agreed.

## 35 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by members of the public:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions received by due date of 10 working days ahead of the meeting (21 December);
- (b) **Written Questions:** to receive any questions submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 3 January;
- (c) **Deputations:** to receive any deputations submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 3 January.

### 36 ITEMS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

17 - 24

To consider the following matters raised by members of the public and referred from the last full council meeting:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions - none;
- (b) **Deputations:** to receive any deputations;
  - i. Bright Start Nursery Proposed Closure – Caroline Jany.
- (c) **Petitions for debate:** to receive any petitions that were debated at the full council meeting.
  - i. Save Bright Start – Suda Perera.

### 37 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by Councillors:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions notified by the due date of 21 December;
- (b) **Written Questions:** to consider any written questions;
- (c) **Letters:** to consider any letters;
- (d) **Notices of Motion:** to consider any Notices of Motion submitted directly to the Committee.

### 38 UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN BRIEFING

Update to be provided by the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning.

### 39 BRIGHT START CLOSURE PROPOSAL

Report of the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning – report to follow.

### 40 UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

25 - 62

Report of the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning.

Contact Officer: Anna Gianfrancesco, Gerry  
Brandon  
Tel: 01273 293966  
, Tel: 01273  
296348

Ward Affected: All Wards

- 41 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT SERVICE PROGRESS REPORT - JAN 2023**
- Report of the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning – report to follow.
- 42 ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE** **63 - 70**
- Report of the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning.  
*Contact Officer: Richard Barker Tel: 01273 290732*
- 43 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2024-25**
- Report of the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning – report to follow.
- 44 SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE PLACEMENTS** **71 - 78**
- Report of the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning.  
*Contact Officer: Steve Dillow Tel: 01273 291019*
- 45 FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND LEARNING FEES AND CHARGES 2023/24** **79 - 90**
- Report of the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning.  
*Contact Officer: Richard Barker Tel: 01273 290732*  
*Ward Affected: All Wards*
- 46 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL**
- To consider items to be submitted to the 2 February 2023 Council meeting for information.

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### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Emma Thomson, (01273 291077, email [emma.thomson@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:emma.thomson@brighton-hove.gov.uk)) or email [democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

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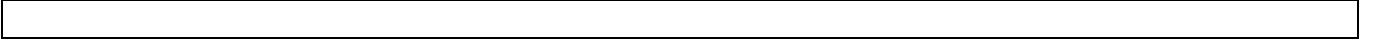
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**Brighton & Hove City Council**  
**Children, Young People & Skills Committee**

**4.00pm 7 November 2022**

**Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Councillor Allbrooke (Chair) John (Deputy Chair), O'Quinn (Opposition Spokesperson), Brown (Group Spokesperson), Grimshaw, Hamilton, Lloyd, McNair, Meadows and Nield

Co-optees: Mr T Cristin, Mr A Muirhead, Mr S Parr and Ms B Robinson

**Part One**

**15 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

**(a) Declarations of Substitutes**

15.1 There were none.

**(b) Declarations of Interest**

15.2 Cllr John declared that the two primary schools discussed in agenda item 23 were in her ward and that she had a child at one of the schools.

15.3 Ms Robinson declared that she also had a child at one of the schools discussed in agenda item 23.

15.4 Cllr O'Quinn declared that she was a Governor at the Central Hub.

**(c) Exclusion of Press and Public**

15.5 There were no Part Two Items and so the press and public were not excluded from the meeting.

**16 MINUTES**

16.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

**17 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

17.1 The Chair gave the following communication:

Firstly, attendees will note that Deb Austin, Executive Director for Families, Children and Learning is not here today. This is because it's her birthday and she is taking some very well-deserved leave. In her absence, Jo Lyons is here to provide assistance, and of course, will be able to answer any questions. I'm sure everyone here would like to wish Deb a very happy birthday.

We have a few new Committee members joining us today. Becky Robinson is the new chair of PACC, and Matilda Whisker is our new youth representative. Thank you to both Diana Boyd and Louise Brown for their contributions to the Committee. Alongside Matilda and Becky, I'd also like to welcome Emma, who is our new Democratic Services Officer for this Committee – so welcome to you all and thank you for joining us.

Government turmoil over the last few months has meant considerable delays to projects which have a real impact on the city. We await further information on the so called 'Local Authority' Multi-Academy Trusts, which we had intended to bring to the January Committee, but now can no longer given that we don't have that information, as well as more than the initial response for the Government to the Care Review, or indeed, whether those plans will go forward at all.

There are some urgent things that children and young people need resolving and so far, dither and delay has meant that urgency hasn't been met. I am also concerned about the impact of cuts to services in the planned budget next week for children and young people. Twelve years of austerity has not only let our city down, but it has failed. As we head into our own budget setting process over the next few months, I urge the Government to answer calls from the Local Government Association to Save our Services – many of which, support children and young people.

When local councils are trusted and funded to deliver services for our communities – we deliver. Last month I visited our Adult Education Hub, which opened last July. Here we deliver lots of courses for adult learners – whether that is ESOL, digital, maths, wellbeing, or employability. In that visit I also met with some of those who've used the centre – including refugees from Ukraine and other parts of the world. If I ever needed convincing further, it's clear that we are doing excellent work there that we can all be proud of, and I want to commend the team on their excellent work. You can view the range of courses we offer at <https://adulteducation.brighton-hove.gov.uk>.

I've also visited our Adolescent Service and met with some of the young people who are using that service. This team includes our Youth Offending Service, who were inspected as Outstanding last year, and ru-ok? They all do great work, working with young people, who are both victims and perpetrators of crime, and really are a team to be proud of.

I was really pleased that at the last Committee we had such a good discussion about children in care and fostering placements. As corporate parents, we all have a responsibility for our children and young people who are in care or care experienced, and we have to do everything we can to support them. To that end, I am looking forward to Corporate Parenting Board next week, which we sadly delayed in September due to the passing of Her Majesty the Queen, and I hope to see you there.

I also wanted to highlight that this week we have launched a new website for Our City, Our World, our environmental education programme showing what pioneering work is



being done in Brighton and Hove schools. I want to thank all of those involved in delivering that, not least, Katie and Mita. If you would like to visit that website and see the offer that we provide to schools, and some of the work that schools are doing on the topic of environmental education, you can go to [ourcityyourworld.co.uk](http://ourcityyourworld.co.uk).

I expect we may hear more about this later – but I also wanted to highlight and congratulate Georgia and Deneb, who were in the House of Commons chamber last Friday as our members of UK Youth Parliament. I am sure they had an excellent day – and I know from watching parts of the debate that they represented the city and our young people well. Councillors can watch the debates back on the UK Parliament YouTube channel – it's about two and a half hours and I recommend watching bits of it if you can.

Councillors will remember that last year, this Committee heard a report on our response to the Power of Youth Charter. Part of that commitment included mentoring being offered by Councillors to young people. I'm delighted to say that the finer details of this scheme have now been worked out and Councillors on this Committee will very soon receive an invitation to take part in a pilot with members of youth council. This pilot will enable us to fine tune the scheme, ready for wider roll-out, both of Councillors and of young people, after the May 2023 local elections, and I hope that you would all take part in that scheme.

Finally, this week is Youth Work week and I want to both celebrate that, and encourage Councillors, if they can, to attend some youth work sessions that are happening this week across the city to see the real impact of youth work on our young people.

## **18 CALL OVER**

18.1 All items, with exception of 24 and 25, were reserved for discussion.

## **19 ITEMS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL**

19.1 There were no items referred from Full Council.

## **20 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

20.1 There were no Petitions, Written Questions or Deputations.

## **21 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT**

21.1 There were no Petitions, Written Questions, Letters or Notices of Motion.

## **22 ETHNIC MINORITY ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE (EMAS) UPDATE**

22.1 The EMAS Team Leader and Pashto Home School Liaison Officer introduced the presentation for the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) update.

22.2 Cllr McNair was advised that the bilingual assistants were trained in child development and school strategies and worked with the child in the classroom for two to three hours a week, focusing on key areas highlighted in the teacher's plan. The EMAS Team Leader

stated that the wellbeing of the child was also assessed, rated, and shared with an outside agency to ensure this was monitored. Further, they advised that the English language acquisition of the children was aided through immersion within the curriculum as they learnt alongside their social and academic interactions, whilst maintaining their home language.

- 22.3 Cllr Brown was informed that all nurseries and pre-schools were aware that they can refer children and families to EMAS, and Speech and Language Therapists referred children that were identified as having delayed development. For those not already in nursery, the Home Liaison staff helped facilitate this and EMAS liaised with all children's centres to review eligible children for funded two- and three-year places to support families in up taking pre-school places. The EMAS Team Leader confirmed that there were cultural and other reasons why families chose not to send children to pre-school, however, the number of black and minority ethnic families accessing pre-school places had increased.
- 22.4 Cllr Grimshaw was advised that EMAS were not involved with unaccompanied asylum children living in hotels as they moved from the hotels within two to three weeks. Instead, unaccompanied children who had arrived in the city and been taken in and cared for by social services and placed in a foster care placement were supported. The EMAS Team Leader also advised that while home liaison was a universal service for primary schools, bilingual support was purchased and so, where EMAS could not provide free support, they were required to sell it to schools. Therefore, if EMAS had the finances to delegate bilingual support where it was most needed, it would be more equitable, as not every school had the resources to fund the service.
- 22.5 Cllr O'Quinn was notified that the early years aspect was funded by the designated schools grant and de-delegated funding was agreed by the schools forum, which allowed a core service to be provided to all primary schools. Additionally, funding was received from the virtual school for unaccompanied young people and for Afghani, Syrian and Ukrainian children, meaning schools were not charged. The EMAS Team Leader advised that they were unaware of any absconding from the hotel for children living with their families and, within foster care, the rate was also very low as it was more secure, and the children had autonomy to voice concerns if they felt their placement was not working.
- 22.6 Cllr McNair was advised that there was a professor who was the main lead for the area of research around children's language acquisition and the teaching provided by EMAS offered pre-teaching of texts and scaffolded the language the children may require, to ensure they received additional support to approach tasks. Further, training was also provided to class teachers to ensure they could differentiate the work, so the children could engage with it at the level they were at, and specialist teachers covered specific aspects of language with the children prior to them being in the classroom.
- 22.7 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee agreed to note the presentation.

**23 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2024-25**

- 23.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Families Children & Learning which detailed the proposed school admission arrangements for the academic year 2024-25 for the schools in the city where the Council was the admission authority.
- 23.2 Cllr O'Quinn was informed that several meetings had taken place with the bigger schools to articulate the context and need to address this issue in the future. The Head of School Organisation also advised that continuous conversations were ongoing with both head teachers and governing bodies to determine their requirements in terms of support, consideration, advice and information around contributing to the need to reduce Published Admission Numbers (PAN).
- 23.3 In response to a query regarding the rationale behind the numbering of the reduced PAN for Hove Junior School, the Head of School Organisation confirmed that Junior Schools were not restricted by Infant Class Sizes Regulations, therefore, up to thirty-two places could be admitted. They advised that given the longstanding evidence that those schools could accommodate more children, if the PAN were to be restricted to a multiple of thirty, it could be challenged.
- 23.4 Cllr Brown was advised that dialogue remained open with both diocese of our voluntary aided schools regarding the PAN and how those schools could work collectively and collaboratively together. Further, as there were fewer children in the city, the schools would continue to discuss and demonstrate how they operate efficiently.
- 23.5 Cllr Meadows was informed that the proposals related to primary schools, which did not have catchment areas linked to them. The Head of School Organisation confirmed that conversations had begun with them, though there was more time to engage with headteachers and school governing bodies to address this matter, whilst recognising the additional complexity of catchment areas.
- 23.6 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee –
- i. Agreed to make no changes to the Council's admission arrangements (other than the changes listed below) or school catchment areas (where applicable).
  - ii. Agreed to consult upon a change to the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Downs Infant School from 120 to 90 pupils.
  - iii. Agreed to consult upon a change to the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Hertford Infant School from 60 to 30 pupils. As part of an overall approach to securing the future provision of a 'Hertford' education offer, with the vision to create a one form entry, single site, primary school in the future.
  - iv. Agree to consult upon a change to the Publish Admission Number (PAN) of Hove Junior School (Holland Road site) from 96 to 64 pupils to reflect changes previously made to Hove Infant School (Connaught Road).
  - v. Agreed to make no changes to the "relevant area".

**24 SIXTH FORM PROVISION**

24.1 The recommendations were agreed without discussion.

24.2 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee –

- i. Noted the proposal of the Headteacher and Governing Body for Hove Park School and Sixth Form Centre to suspend the admission of pupils into Year 12 from September 2023.
- ii. Noted the intention of the sixth form provision remaining closed in the academic years 2024-25 and 2025-26 and the governing body to review the decision in relation to admissions from September 2026.

**25 PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE THE PRIMARY PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT PROVISION TO THE FORMER WEST HOVE INFANT SCHOOL, CONNAUGHT ROAD SITE**

25.1 The recommendations were agreed without discussion.

25.2 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee –

- i. Agreed to the relocation of the Primary PRU provision to the former West Hove Infant School site at Connaught Road with effect from Easter 2023, subject to minor capital works being concluded.

**26 EARLY YEARS STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN**

26.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Families Children & Learning outlining a new framework for early years strategic thinking.

26.2 Ms Robinson was advised that when it was raised with the Early Years Team that a child with SEND couldn't access nursery provision, they were supported to find a sufficient place. The Head of Family Hubs also stated that the Family Information Service was utilised to ensure that there was provision that supported those children and young people.

26.3 Cllr O'Quinn was informed that work was being undertaken on two pathways to ensure there was early assessment to support early years children. Resultantly, the age two progress check process would be reviewed to identify its efficiency and amendments that may be required. Speech, language, and communication would also be considered, to establish how consistent assessment and interventions could be utilised early on to reduce the demand on those specialist services down the line. In terms of finances, the Head of Family Hubs confirmed that they had responded to the Department for Education's consultation regarding early years funding and were awaiting the outcome.

26.4 Cllr Grimshaw was advised that the consultation regarding the recommendation to increase mandatory staff to child ratio in early years settings had also been responded to.

26.5 Cllr O'Quinn was notified that our Council nurseries were staffed to meet the needs of the children that were attending, based on the required ratios. The Head of Family Hubs also advised that all nurseries had spaces for children, but if numbers fell, then considerations would be given to the number of children that were interested in taking up those places.

26.6 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee –

- i. Agreed the Early Years Strategic Action Plan for the transition period in implementing the Brighton and Hove Start for Life Strategy in March 2024.
- ii. Agreed the four priority areas for the Early Years Strategic Action Plan as further detailed in section 3 of this report:
  - 1) To ensure sufficient and appropriate support for early years children identified with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
  - 2) To ensure clear and consistent assessments and pathways for early years children.
  - 3) To ensure there are sufficient early years childcare places in the city so that all children can take up their early years free entitlement and parents can work.
  - 4) To ensure early years provision is good quality and supports outcomes for disadvantaged children with the aim of closing the gap between them and their peers.
- iii. Requested an update on the Start for Life Strategy to come to a future meeting of the Children, Young People and Skills Committee.

## 27 FAIRER BRIGHTON & HOVE - NOVEMBER 2022 UPDATE

27.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Families Children & Learning which provided an update on A Fairer Brighton & Hove – our strategy framework for children, young people, and families at risk of disadvantage.

27.2 Cllr Nield's was informed that Patcham High School had adopted specific alternatives to fixed term exclusions for the past couple of years and had begun sharing their practice with other schools in the city. The Service Manager – Policy & Business Support advised that the restorative practice model, was a continuation of that work, to improve inclusion in the city's schools.

27.3 Mr Muirhead was advised that the Council's community and voluntary sector colleagues were integral to this work and their role would be key throughout the lifetime of the framework. Particularly to continue to engage, challenge, influence, and work collaboratively with the Council to ensure the voices of those in the communities were heard.

27.4 In response to Cllr O'Quinn, the Service Manager – Policy & Business Support confirmed that data transformation had played a key part in successfully securing the Family Hubs Transformation Programme fund money. They also advised that significant work had been done with the police in recent years to reduce the criminalisation of young people. Additionally, the Youth Offending Service was also inspected as Outstanding, which signalled good practice across the board, however, the area

remained a focus. In relation to school attendance, the Head of School Organisation advised that over the COVID-19 period, the permitted attendance of the city was in line with the national average, and we now awaited the publication of the last academic year's data to confirm if this level had been sustained since schools returned to regular opening.

27.5 Cllr Grimshaw proposed the Council purchase drying racks for schools to ensure children turning up in damp clothes, had an opportunity to get them dried. Given the bleak financial situation of the Council and limitations of the current budget, Cllr Grimshaw stated that she would donate the remaining money from her ward budget towards the drying racks and that her Labour colleagues would do so too. The Assistant Director - Education & Skills advised that they would review the potential costs further and have a discussion with schools about the suitability in terms of space, and what children would wear while their clothes were drying.

27.6 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee –

- i. Noted the update on A Fairer Brighton & Hove – our disadvantage strategy framework.
- ii. Noted the Framework recommendations provided at 3.11 below.

## 28 YOUTH COUNCIL - MAKE YOUR MARK UPDATE

28.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Families, Children & Learning which outlined the outcome of the national and local results of the 2022 Make Your Mark vote, progress made on the Youth Council's existing and latest campaigns, and an update on the youth manifesto event held at Brighton Youth Centre and other youth voice opportunities Youth Councillors had supported.

28.2 Cllr Allbrooke was advised that the Youth Council were encouraging pupils from more schools to join, which should increase engagement and the response rate to the Make Your Mark survey. Further, where applicable, the use of QR codes in schools and the inclusion of the survey in form time, would continue to be used to increase engagement.

28.3 Mr Muirhead was notified that the pilot work experience scheme to shadow a Councillor would initially focus on giving young people the opportunity to learn about power, decision making, and politics, whilst offering a first-hand experience of the life of a Councillor. The pilot would, therefore, provide further insight as to how the opportunity could be offered to more young people.

28.4 Cllr Grimshaw was informed that there was an open Brighton & Hove Youth Council WhatsApp page, but work was ongoing to increase the public profile, both in terms of when meetings were held, and holding meetings which were accessible online. The Lead Youth Participation Worker also confirmed that a Comms Team had been appointed to ensure the work of the Youth Council was communicated externally.

28.5 Ms Robinson was advised that inclusion was a highly important aspect of the Youth Council, therefore, anyone who expressed an interest to be involved was supported to do so. Further, if a young person didn't want to join the Youth Council but had questions

or thoughts, these could be submitted to the Youth Council's Instagram page via direct message or the Google form link.

**28.6 RESOLVED:** That the Committee –

- i. Noted the local outcomes of the 2022 Make Your Mark vote and subsequent local campaign.
- ii. Noted the Youth Council's progress on their campaigns and future plans.
- iii. Requested this report is referred to the Health and Wellbeing Board and Environment Transport and Sustainability Committee for information.

## **29 SCHOOL OFSTED PRESENTATION**

29.1 The Head of Education Standards & Achievements and Head of Service – Family Hubs provided an update on the latest Ofsted inspections for early years settings and schools in the city.

29.2 Cllr O'Quinn was notified that there were various areas of the inspection, therefore, while the overall scale for many schools was Good, there were many that had achieved Outstanding in several areas.

29.3 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted the report.

## **30 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL**

30.1 No items were referred to the next meeting of Council.

The meeting concluded at 6.25pm





# Brighton & Hove City Council

## Children, Young People & Skills Committee

## Agenda Item 36(b)

**Subject:** Bright Start Nursery Proposed Closure  
Deputation referred from Council held on the 15 December 2022

**Date of meeting:** 9 January 2023

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**For general release**

### 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 To receive the following Deputation which was presented at the Council meeting held on the 15 December 2022.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That the Committee either note or call for an officer report.

### CONTEXT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The following deputation was presented at the Council meeting held on the 15 December 2022 by Caroline Jany:

*Thank you for inviting us to speak on a topic that is very close to our hearts.*

*Earlier this month we discovered that Bright Start Nursery was being considered for closure. This was devastating news to all parents, staff and surrounding communities. Therefore, the following petition was made which has now reached above 1300 signatures.*

*Let me explain a few reasons why Bright Start is so special to our city.*

***\*Staff specialist knowledge and training in dealing with children with complex disability, medical and educational needs\****. *It is very difficult to find this training in any other nursery in Brighton.*

*Currently the nursery caters for children with the following needs:*

- o Children with Type 1 Diabetes - one parent said she tried 8 nurseries before finding this one which is perfect. The closure of this nursery will have a huge negative impact to her son and therefore to her family.*
- o Children suffering with Autism*
- o Children suffering with Seizures*
- o Children with other special educational needs (SEND)*

*Bright start staff are long term members – other nurseries have a high turnover of staff. This is not the case for Bright Start which has a huge positive impact to our children.*

***\*Supporting families of low income households.\****

- o A quarter of the children come from low income households and*
- o Further children are from refugee families*

***\*Diverse and multi lingual\****

- o The Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) have stated that Bright Start is the most diverse nursery in Brighton, with families and staff speaking multiple languages.*
- o The nursery had a recent council run 'stickman' specialist event, where the story was read in English, French and Arabic - to cater for the Arabic community lead by Christine Boothe and translator Eman.*

***\*Community\****

*There is a large community attached to the nursery of present attending families, past attending families, local businesses and the North Laine Community Association (NLCA). For example the following local businesses have/had their children attend the nursery.*

- the owner of the local pub the king and queen*
- Infinity foods employees*
- Nearby GPs and NHS staff*
- American Express employees*
- Kimberly Clark employees*
- University of Brighton (grand parade) staff*
- Pronta Print and other local print and graphic design agencies.*
- and many more.*

***\*Location, facilities, timings and cost\****

- The only North Laine City Centre childcare available*
- A great outdoor space which is often not available in other nurseries*
- Baby room contains a quiet sleep area, other rooms have great space availability*
- Care available from 8am-6pm for both term time and holiday periods*
- Affordable pricing*
- Acceptance of childcare vouchers and schemes*

***\*Our Ask:\****

*Before making such a large decision of closure hastily, please kindly consider looking into other options for the nursery.*

***\*Building costs\****

*Some letter responses from counselors have stated that the building renovation costs are equivalent to £50k. Are you able to provide us with the detail on this? Quotes from relevant contractors? If you are unable to provide us with this can we send in our own specialists to provide us with quotes?*

*Would the council be willing to receive a grant or donations for the building costs?  
And if so would the nursery still have enough funding to keep running?*

*Could another central venue be used?*

***\*42 nurseries\****

*It has also been stated there are 42 other childcare options. Can you please provide us with a list of those nurseries? From our own personal research, none are so central, have the same facilities or even have any available spaces, waiting lists can be very long.*

***\*Date of closure\****

*If closure of the nursery is required, please can you kindly consider the impact to the children. Particularly those who will be starting school in September. Rather than having a closure date of April 2022, please consider extending it to August/September 2022, to avoid children having alternative care just for a few months.*

*Thank you for listening, for those of you that are parents, you will understand the detailed effort you would undertake for your own children's care, safety and education. To make sure they feel loved and cared for. Children with good childcare has an exponential effect to their development as an adult. Our Brighton children are the future of our city, if we prioritize their care we can ensure a greater future for our very much loved city.*

Extract of the minutes of Council to follow



# Brighton & Hove City Council

## Children, Young People & Skills Committee

## Agenda Item 36(c)

**Subject:** Save Bright Start  
Petition referred from Council held on the 15 December 2022

**Date of meeting:** 9 January 2023

**Ward(s) affected:** All

For general release

### 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 To receive the following Petition which was presented at the Council meeting held on the 15 December 2022.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That the Committee note the petition.

2.2 At the Council meeting held on the 15 December 2022, the following recommendations were agreed:

- i. That the petition is noted and referred to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee for consideration.
- ii. That a report comes before the January meeting of the Children, Young People & Skills Committee detailing the reasons for the closure of the Bright Start Nursery, including information on alternative provision and the actions the council will take to enable the timely placement of children in other suitable nursery provision.

### CONTEXT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The following Petition was presented at the Council meeting held on the 15 December 2022 by Suda Perera:

*This is a petition against the planned closure of Bright Start Nursery in Barrack Yard. We refute the rationale set out by the council for the closure and instead believe that closing the nursery deprives the city of an essential service and further disadvantages the city's vulnerable population.*

*The global pandemic and political turmoil of the past few years has had a significant impact on children under 5, and throughout this period the staff at Bright Start have been exemplary in providing support and care to all children who go there, allowing many key workers with families to work essential jobs during lockdowns and beyond. The skills and expertise of the staff reflect a track record of providing high quality care to children in Brighton for several decades. Shutting down Bright Start would show a total lack of regard for the wellbeing*

*and dedication of the staff who have given so much to our community over the years.*

*As one of only a few council-run services in the town centre, Bright Start provides affordable, accessible childcare for parents throughout the city, many of whom work in the city centre, but also many of whom commute to work outside of Brighton. It's central location close to public transport routes makes it accessible to families without cars. In fact, Brighton has very few nurseries who provide care all year round, for all children aged 3months-5years, from 8am-6pm every day. Bright Start is one of them. Losing this kind of care will impact families who have to work long hours, single-parent families, and families who cannot afford to take longer periods of parental leave.*

*The staff at Bright Start also have specialist knowledge and training in dealing with a range of children with complex medical, disability and special educational needs. At a time when many of the other services for children with additional needs are being squeezed, closing down the nursery will mean depriving them of one of the few remaining sources of support available to them. Furthermore continuity of care is essential for the well-being of these young children, some of whom face the extra upheaval of having to find a new nursery for only a few months before they then move on to primary school.*

*We do not believe the council has sufficiently considered the significant impact that the closure of Bright Start will have, not only on the staff and families of the children who currently go there, but on the community as a whole. There are not enough suitable childcare settings that equal the provisions that Bright Start can offer to such a diverse range of needs. Moving the more than 50 children who currently go to Bright Start to the few other nurseries that provide comparable care (if that is even possible) would decrease the staff: children ratios at these nurseries creating further strain on already over-stretched services. We believe Bright Start needs to be kept open in order to provide essential services for all families in the city and its closure will be a huge loss to Brighton.*

Extract of the minutes of Council to follow







# Brighton & Hove City Council

## Children, Young People & Skills Committee

## Agenda Item 40

**Subject:** Update on the work of the Corporate Parenting Board

**Date of meeting:** 9<sup>th</sup> January

**Report of:** Executive Director Families, Children & Learning

**Contact Officer:** Name: Anna Gianfrancesco  
Tel: 07795 336399  
Email: [anna.gianfrancesco@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:anna.gianfrancesco@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

### For general release

#### 1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 To provide Committee with an overview of the work of the Corporate Parenting Board.
- 1.2 For Committee to review and approve the new Terms of Reference for Corporate Parenting Board.

#### 2. Recommendations for CYPS

- 2.1 That Committee notes the work of the Corporate Parenting Board and the responsibilities of the council as Corporate Parents.
- 2.2 That Committee approves the new Terms of Reference (Appendix 5)

#### Recommendations for P&R

- 2.3 CYPS Committee has agree the new ToR (appendix 5) for Corporate Parenting Board in principle, and is recommending to P&R that it formally approve them, in line with the requirements in the Council's Constitution.

#### 3. Context and background information

- 3.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 sets out that when a child or young person comes into the care of the council or is under 25 and was previously in care for at least 14 weeks after their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday, the council becomes their corporate parent.
- 3.2 This means that the council should:

- act in their best interest and promote their physical and mental health and wellbeing.
  - encourage them to express their views, wishes and feelings and take these into account, while promoting high aspirations and trying to secure the best outcomes for them
  - make sure they have access to services
  - make sure they are safe, with stable home lives, relationships and education or work
  - prepare them for adulthood and independent living.
- 3.3 Every councillor and officer with the council has a responsibility to act for children in care and those previously in care as a parent would for their own child.
- 3.4 The Corporate Parenting Board is the forum that provides strategic oversight and leadership in championing the needs of children in care and those previously in care. It does this through working with elected members, council officers, partner agencies and children and young people.
- 3.5 The Corporate Parenting Board provides governance and oversight to the work undertaken across the council, ensuring a corporate parenting approach is undertaken by all council departments and agencies, and that all services support children that are or have been in our care. This enables children in care and previously in care to benefit from the widest possible resources to support them in their lives.
- 3.6 The Corporate Parenting Board meets 4 times a year and is co-chaired by the Deputy Chair of the CYPS Committee and a member of the Care Leavers Forum. It has a responsibility to ensure that the council's Corporate Parenting Strategy is delivered. (Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Strategy 2020-23).
- 3.7 Children and young people we care for have written 10 promises they want the council, as their corporate parent, to deliver on (see Appendix 2). These are regularly reviewed to ensure children and young people can tell us what is important to them. This work is coordinated through our Children in Care Council.
- 3.8 Our Local Offer (Appendix 3) sets out the support and services our care experienced young people aged 16 can access. The Local Offer sets out the council's commitment to care leavers, supporting them to
- develop healthy and safe relationships
  - maintain physical and emotional health and well-being
  - have access to education, training, and employment opportunities
  - have financial support and security
  - have access to high quality supported accommodation
  - prepare for independent living and support into their own tenancy.

- 3.9 The Corporate Parenting Board, together with all council committees, has a responsibility to consider how the council is delivering on the 10 promises and Local Offer, and how the work of the council impacts upon children in care and care experienced young people
- 3.10 Over the past 12 months, there has been considerable work with the Care Leavers Forum to develop the functioning of the Corporate Parenting Board to ensure the voice of children and young people is at the centre of how it operates. As stated above, a care experienced young person now co-chairs the Board with the deputy chair of the CYPS Committee.
- 3.11 The agenda for the Board is co-created with our Care Leavers Forum, with young people presenting on the theme selected for each Board meeting. They are supported in this by a participation worker. Officers then respond to the issues raised by the young people and to councillor questions and challenges. This enables scrutiny by both our care experienced young people and elected members.
- 3.12 Themes discussed at the Corporate Parenting Board in the past 12 months have included the housing needs of care leavers; physical and mental health needs: the Local Offer to care experienced young people.
- 3.13 Young people have raised several requests following these discussions at Board and this has led to:
- a restructuring of Corporate Parenting Board meetings to enable more input from care experienced young people, including co-chairing arrangements
  - council tax exemption for care experienced young people up to the age of 25
  - Baby Box Project established with all care experienced parents receiving essential equipment for their baby and additional financial support.
  - Commitment for free Big Lemon bus travel available
  - DIY volunteer scheme for council employees to help care leavers when moving into their own accommodation
  - a new housing protocol for care experienced young people being developed between Housing and FCL
  - financial remuneration for being part of the Care leavers Forum and Corporate Parenting Board.
- 3.14 The Corporate Parenting Board is presented with regular data and metrics regarding children in care and those previously in care. The 2021/22 Corporate Parenting Dashboard (Appendix 4) outlines the key areas of performance.
- 3.15 It is important to celebrate the success of our children in care and care experienced young people. Our “Flying High” Children in Care Awards 2022 were held on 14 October 2022 to celebrate the successes and achievements of our children and young people in care and care leavers. The awards were held at the i360 and included performances by J1\_Active

and Dred – both of whom are young people with experience of the care system.

- 3.16 It is encouraging that the council's Chief Executive and several Councillors attended the event.
- 3.17 A review of the Corporate Parenting Board took place on 28 November 2022. It was agreed that there would be particular focus on:
- Development of a training programme around corporate parenting for councillors and to support increased attendance of elected members at the Board
  - Expanding the Board membership to include CVS representation and Health partners as standing members
  - Cross council directorate attendance at the Board
  - 3 Corporate Parenting Board meetings a year to be themed with the 4<sup>th</sup> to be an annual review and forward planning meeting
  - An action log to be created to track actions from meetings
  - Supporting councillors to develop a councillor profile that can be shared with children in care and care leavers.
  - Terms of Reference to be updated to incorporate the above and the youth co-chair.
- 3.18 The Terms of Reference (Appendix 5) have been updated to incorporate the new model with a young person co-chair and the outcomes from the development day work.

#### **4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options**

- 4.1 This report sets out the purpose and responsibilities of a corporate parent, details the changes that have been made to the Corporate Parenting Board over the past 12 months and ensure the new terms of reference have the voice of children and young people at the center of what we do.

#### **5. Community engagement and consultation**

- 5.1 The Participation Team supports the Children in Care Council/ Care Leavers Forum to meet regularly with decision makers and Corporate Parenting Board members. It also supports young people to attend and present at meetings and take part in discussions with senior council officers and partner agencies. Both Forums supported to participate in local, regional and national developments.

#### **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 Corporate parenting is the responsibility of every councillor and council officer. The purpose of the Corporate Parenting Board is to assure itself that the council is meeting its duties towards children in care for and care experienced young people.

- 6.2 Over the last year considerable work has taken place to develop the voice of children in care and previously in care within the Corporate Parenting Board. The challenge going forward is ensuring this voice is heard across all council committees and across all services areas within the council.
- 6.3 Children in care and those previously in care have a right to be fully supported to achieve their potential, recognising that they often start from a position of disadvantage. The underlying principle for a corporate parent is to question whether the services and support being offered to a child in care or previously in care would be good enough for their own child. Elected members and council officers have a duty to ensure this is always the case.

## **7. Financial implications**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications.

Name of finance officer consulted: David Ellis Date consulted (29.11.22):

## **8. Legal implications**

- 8.1 The council has statutory responsibilities to any child in the care of the council and to care leavers. The delivery of those duties is a key function of any councillor.
- 8.2 Any changes to the existing TOR of the CPB recommended by this Committee will need to be approved by the Policy and Resources Committee before the constitution of the CPB can be updated.

Name of lawyer consulted: Natasha Watson Date consulted: 21.12.22

## **9. Equalities implications**

- 9.1 It is important to dispel the myths and challenge the stigma and discrimination faced by children and young people in care and care leavers. This is achieved by celebrating individuality, championing diversity and inclusion and helping children and young people understand where they come from.
- 9.2 The city council has made a pledge to become an anti-racist organisation. Within social work services there is a recognition that we must do better to support Black and Global Majority children and young people by tackling systemic inequality, championing diversity, and practicing empathy in our individual roles.
- 9.3 Our children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) need special consideration as have difficulties communicating their thoughts and feelings and can feel excluded.

## **10. Sustainability implications**

- 10.1 Within our services and role as Corporate Parents we aim to address sustainability by
- sustainable procurement: to ensure that our suppliers share our commitment to reducing the impact of the products and services they provide
  - sustainable travel and transport - travel is kept to a minimum but where necessary active and sustainable travel is prioritized
  - supporting foster carers to consider their sustainability and supporting them in making their homes more sustainable.

## **11. Other Implications**

### **Social Value and procurement implications**

- 11.1 None identified

### **Crime & disorder implications:**

- 11.2 None identified

### **Public health implications:**

- 11.3 None identified

## **Supporting Documentation**

1. Corporate Parenting Strategy 2020-2023
2. 10 Promises to Children in Care
3. "Reach for the Stars" Local Offer to Care leavers
4. Corporate Parenting Dashboard end of year 2021-22
5. Updated Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference



Brighton & Hove City Council

# Corporate Parenting Strategy 2020 to 2023

Thank you to the children, young people, carers and staff who have helped us put this strategy together.



Brighton & Hove  
City Council

# Foreword

**Pinaki Ghoshal**  
Executive Director  
Families, Children  
& Learning



**I and other senior officers across the council act as corporate parents to around 385 children and young people at any one time.**

It's a responsibility that we take very seriously.

I'm proud to have the chance to have a positive impact on the lives of so many young people who may have previously experienced loss and trauma.

We must all make sure that the children we are caring for now – and who we have previously cared for – get the best experiences in life.

This means doing everything we can to help our children in care and care leavers have high aspirations and achieve their potential.

### **We are committed to:**

- Delivering excellent parenting and stable placements
- Providing access to educational achievement
- Offering a wide range of opportunities to develop talents and skills
- Supporting your health and emotional wellbeing.

We want to 'reach for the stars' for our children and young people. We will listen to their wishes and feelings and work with them to achieve their goals and hopes.

**Councillor John Allcock**  
Chair of the Children,  
Young People  
& Skills Committee



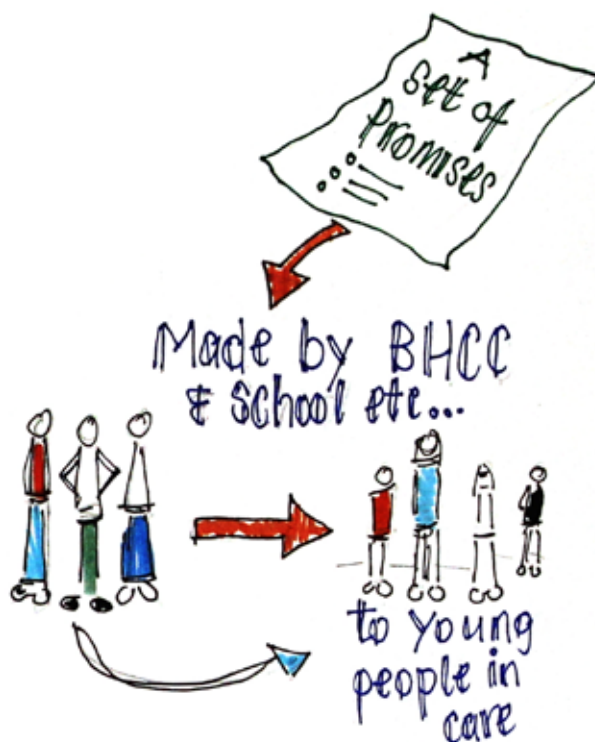
**As corporate parents, we want to deliver the best possible outcomes for the children in our care.**

We will work with partners such our housing services, our schools and the local NHS to deliver the best possible services for our children in care.

I believe we have a solemn duty to be the best corporate parents we can be to everyone in our care, and we promise to act as responsible parents.

When providing a service for you we will always ask ourselves the following question: "Would this be good enough for my own child?"

This strategy outlines our vision, principles, achievements and key priorities for supporting the children and young people who are looked after by the council.





# Foreword

## A message from our Children in Care Council (CiCC)

Dear councillors and Corporate Parenting Board members,

These are some of the most important things we think a parent should be:

- responsible
- protective
- loving and kind
- honest
- patient

### These are qualities we expect from you:

- We would like you to stay connected to us – to take an interest in us and to get to know us.
- We would like the opportunity to share our successes with you and be supported when times are tough.



The following are messages from members of the CiCC to their corporate parents:

We would like the chance to shadow some of you in your every day jobs. So could you give us a short profile of yourself and what you do, so that we can see if we might be interested in coming to work with you for a day please?

We would like the opportunity to share our successes with you and to be supported when times are tough.

Love us like your own.

We would like you to stay connected to us.

Keep asking yourself, "Is this good enough for your own child?"

# Our vision

**Our vision is to be the very best corporate parents we can be for our children and young people in our care.**



Our vision is to be loving, accepting, caring, honest, reliable, consistent and concerned on a human level with the children and young people we look after.

We will show these qualities in our day to day relationship-based practice, and always work within safe professional boundaries.

We will work tirelessly to ensure that our children and young people feel safe and secure, and have stability in their lives.

We will help them achieve their full potential by supporting them in fulfilling their ambitions and aspirations.

**As of January 2020 we are corporate parents to:**

- 343 children in care
- 42 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- 163 care leavers

The key message we hear from our children in care is: "Love us like your family. Love us like your own."

As professionals we may sometimes feel uncomfortable responding to this wish. But we are committed to honouring it.



# Highlights of what we have done in the last three years.

## 1 Your Choice Your Voice: Young Ambassadors



Young Ambassadors are young people who have had experience of having social work support. They are trained and supported to work with council teams to help them recruit and train staff.

Young Ambassador training is available to all young people aged 13-25 who have experience of being in care. The young people are paid for their time and can gain qualifications through an accreditation scheme.

## 2 The Children in Care and Care Leavers Awards



This is an annual celebration recognising the personal achievements of children and young people who are in care or have been in care in Brighton & Hove.

It is designed to recognise how award winners have made a difference to their own or someone else's life.

The theme for the 2019 event was 'Reach for the Stars'. This was to show that there is no limit to how high people can aim or how far their success can soar.

## 3 'Me, Myself & Us'

This project used creative writing and hip-hop to engage children and young people in poetry, graphic stories, storytelling and song writing.

It enabled them to feel the power of creativity and develop their literacy and enthusiasm for writing and performing.

The children and young people investigated their identities both as individuals and as a group – hence the title '**Me, Myself & Us**'.



## 4 Higher Education Student Mentors

These are care leavers who have graduated from university or who are still at university.

**They can offer advice and information about:**

- the process of applying for university
- the different educational paths young people can take to get to university, and
- the financial support available to care leavers when they go to university.



## 6 Providing a home where you feel safe and secure



Watch our film here  
[www.fosteringinbrightonandhove.org.uk](http://www.fosteringinbrightonandhove.org.uk)

- We will provide a home where you feel safe and secure.
- We will make sure that your carer is trained and supported to care for you.

## 5 The Brighton & Hove Contact Service



This provides a safe supervised setting for children to spend time with the parent they do not live with.

Our focus is on safeguarding and supporting children and their parents to spend quality time together in a way that promotes positive experiences of the parent-child relationship.

**Our vision is to:**

- keep families connected
- help them to enjoy spending time together, and
- build better relationships for the future.

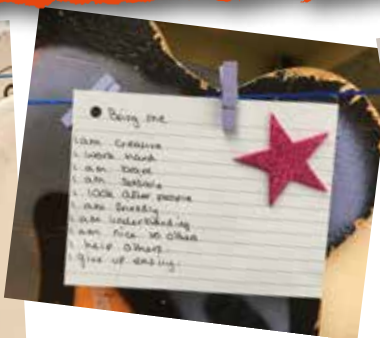
## 7 Beyond, the Care Leavers' Trust



We have supported local councillors to develop Beyond, the Care Leavers' Trust. This was launched in April 2019 to support young people when they leave care and increase the opportunities available to them.

It brings together charitable donations from a range of individuals and businesses. All young people leaving care will be able to apply to the fund. Any money awarded will be in addition to the money and grants that already exist for care leavers.

# Reach for the Stars: Our ten promises for children in care



This document was created by the Children in Care Council and by children and young people attending the 'Reach for the Stars' consultation event in October 2019.

They worked with staff from our families, children and learning team to agree ten promises saying how our staff will work with our children in care.

The promises are that we will:

- 1 Always involve you in decisions made about you.
- 2 Provide a home where you feel safe and secure and support you if you return to your family or move to another home.
- 3 Help you to keep in regular contact with family and friends if it is in your best interest and is what you want to do.
- 4 Make sure that your carers are trained and supported to care for you.
- 5 Support you to get the most from your education and to help you to achieve the best you can.
- 6 Support and engage you to take up and develop your own interests, hobbies and activities.
- 7 Help you to achieve your aspirations and dreams.
- 8 Respect you and help you develop a strong sense of personal identity and maintain your cultural and religious beliefs.
- 9 Help you to have the same social worker for a long time.
- 10 Support you to be as physically and emotionally healthy as you can be.

# Reach for the Stars: Our Local Offer for care leavers

We have taken advice from some of our care leavers in order to develop a package of support and services for young people leaving care in Brighton & Hove. This is called our Local Offer.

**Through our Local Offer we are committed to working with young people to help them:**

- develop healthy and safe relationships
- promote physical and emotional health and well-being
- access education, training and employment opportunities
- have financial support and security
- have access to high quality supported accommodation
- prepare for independent living and supported into their own tenancy.

We will continue to consult with young people in care and care leavers so that we can provide the service you need and will need in future.



encourage you to take a break and if you are working while living in supported accommodation we will provide additional money up to £30 a week to offset some of the rental costs.

We'll pay for interview clothes or special clothes you need for work. We will pay your transport costs to attend interviews for employment.

As a Brighton & Hove care leaver you are guaranteed a job interview for any apprenticeships within the council. We will also discuss with you any relevant work experience you may be able to undertake within the council. We will work with colleagues in other teams to arrange this.

**Su**  
When you are ready to start your own tenancy, we will give you a chance to see and experience what working at Brighton & Hove City Council is like.



# Our Plan for the next three years

We have made considerable progress in the last three years. But we are committed to building on this and continuing to ask the question: "Is this good enough for my child?"

We have listened to children and young people and have produced four key strategic objectives that will improve the support we provide to them in the future. These are:

**1** To ensure that children and young people are consulted and actively participate in the decisions we make about how we deliver our services.

**2** To ensure children and young people receive a good education and achieve the best educational outcomes.

**3** To provide good opportunities for children in care and care leavers to maintain and improve emotional health and wellbeing.

**4** To ensure that the role of the corporate parent is promoted across the council and among partners.



# Our Plan for the next three years

## How will we make this happen?

### The Corporate Parenting Board

The Board consists of a cross-party group of councillors supported by the executive director for families, children and learning, other FCL staff and representatives of our partner agencies.

It is responsible for ensuring that the council acts as good corporate parents and fulfils its duties corporately and in partnership with other statutory agencies.

We expect all corporate parents to know and understand the diverse needs of our children in care and care leavers.

### The Children in Care Council (CiCC)

This is a group of young people aged 13-25 who have all experienced being in care.

It meets one Saturday per month. It's a great opportunity for children and young people to be part of a group, share their experiences, and influence decisions that are being made about children's social work.

Current members enjoy shared activities including table tennis, pool, cooking, arts and crafts and hanging out together. Sometimes they invite professionals who are corporate parents to come and meet them and hear their views.

Representatives from the CiCC attend and feed back into the Corporate Parenting Board.





## Useful info and contacts:

Brighton and Hove Fostering Service:  
[www.fosteringinbrightonandhove.org.uk](http://www.fosteringinbrightonandhove.org.uk)

Virtual school for children in care and previously in care:  
[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/VirtualSchoolCICsupport](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/VirtualSchoolCICsupport)

Sussex CAMHS:  
[sussexcamhs.nhs.uk/help-support/children-young-people](http://sussexcamhs.nhs.uk/help-support/children-young-people)

Youth Advocacy Project [help@bhyap.org.uk](mailto:help@bhyap.org.uk)  
Call free from a landline on **0800 0524 280** or text or call on **07812 356 994**

Brighton and Hove Children in Care Council  
For more information please email [youth@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:youth@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

The Brighton and Hove Children in Care Health Team please email  
[SC-TR.BandHLAC@nhs.net](mailto:SC-TR.BandHLAC@nhs.net) Tel **01273 696011 x1039**

Illustrations by Matt Worden



# Reach for the Stars

A set of promises to children and young people in the care of Brighton & Hove City Council.



The promises are an acknowledgement of the Top Ten messages from the 2019 Care Experience Conference <https://www.careexperiencedconference.com/>

1 We will always involve YOU in decisions made about YOU.

2 We will provide a home where you feel safe and secure and support you if you return to your family or move to another home.

3 We will help you to keep in regular contact with family and friends if it is in your best interest and is what you want to do.

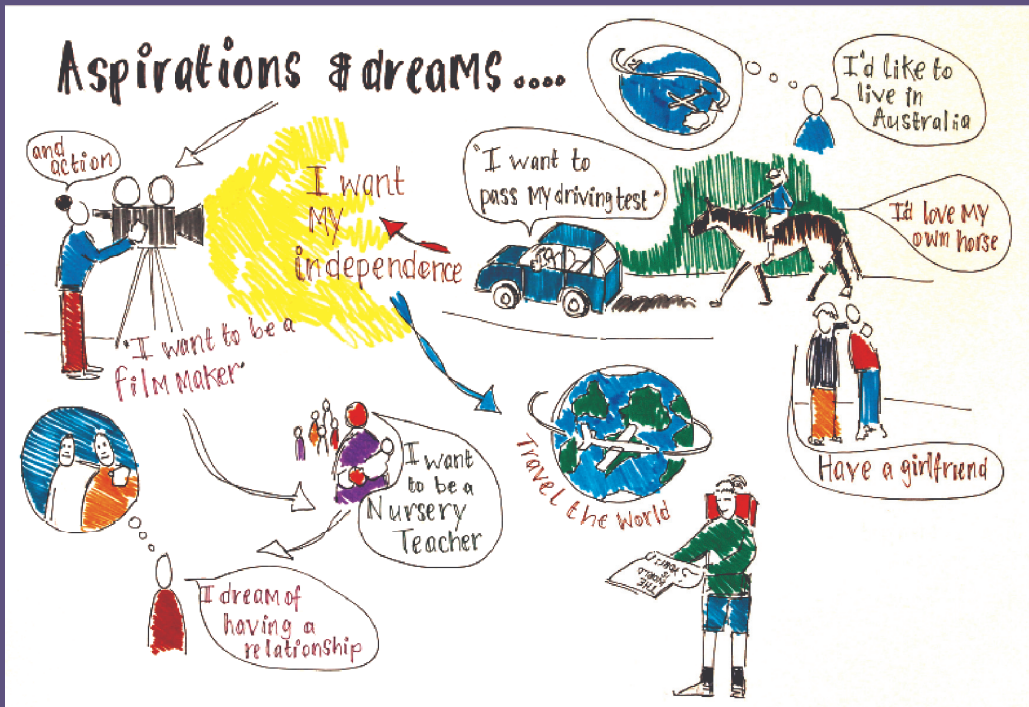
4 We will make sure that your carers are trained and supported to care for you.



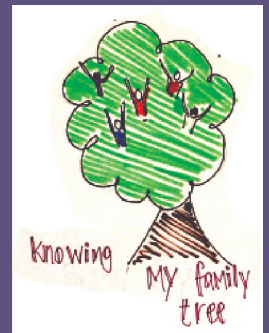
5 We will support you to get the most from your education and to help you achieve the best you can.

6 We will support and encourage you to take up and develop your own interests, hobbies and activities .

7 We will help you to achieve your aspirations and dreams.

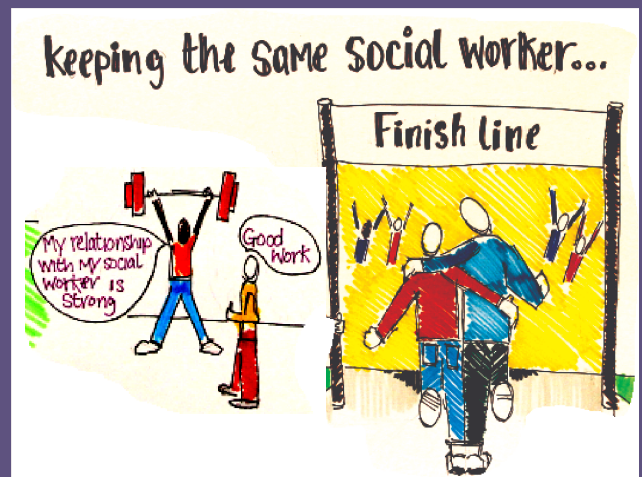


8 We will respect you for who you are. We will help you to develop a chance to be yourself and to keep your cultural and religious beliefs.



9 We will help you to have the same social worker for a long time.

10 We will support you to be as healthy (physically and emotionally) as you can be.



Drawn by: Mott@art-social.co.uk



# Reach for the stars!

Our Local Offer for  
Brighton & Hove care leavers



# Reach for the stars!

You may be leaving care or have left care. In either case we want you to feel safe and supported **and to know that we care about you.**

As you prepare for independence, we want to make sure you receive the advice and support you need to be successful and to achieve your potential.

We have taken advice from some of our care leavers in order to develop a package of support and services for young people leaving care in Brighton & Hove. This is called our Local Offer.

We will continue to consult with young people in care and care leavers so that we can provide the service you need and will need in future.

Were you in care on or after your 16th birthday?

Have you spent at least 13 weeks in care since your 14th Birthday?

If the answer to both these questions is **'yes'**, then this leaflet **will help you.** It tells you about the support on offer to you as someone aged between 16 and 25 who has been in care but who has now left care.

We know you have the potential to achieve great things.

We want to continue to work with you to help you **reach for the stars** – and achieve the best in your life.

Through our **Local Offer** we are committed to working with you to:

- develop healthy and safe relationships
- promote your physical and emotional health and well-being
- access education, training and employment opportunities
- have financial support and security
- have access to high quality supported accommodation
- prepare you for independent living and support you into your own tenancy.



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# Relationships



We believe it is important to feel supported and have positive and healthy relationships

**We are committed to supporting you to achieve this:**

## Family contact

**We will work with you to promote your relationships with your family.** In some cases, we can help you with travel costs to have contact with immediate family members.

**We will give you support and advice** to help you maintain or regain relationships with friends, family or previous carers.

**We will provide advice and referrals to more specialist agencies in your local area** who can help you learn about building and maintaining positive, healthy relationships.

## Parents

**If you are parent – or become one – we will support you to care for your child safely.** This includes access to an early parenting assessment programme (known as an EPAP) if you want it.

This is a specialist team of social workers based in a children's centre. They offer parents a chance to prepare for the birth of their baby and support them after the birth with a programme of baby-focused work, teaching and guidance.

## Social worker support

Between the ages of 16 and 18 your social worker will continue to work with you. Your social worker will meet with you in your accommodation / placement at least every six weeks, or every three months if you have been living there for over a year and there are no concerns about this accommodation.

Around your 16th birthday your social worker will develop a 'Pathway Plan' with you. This will replace your care plan and will be based on an assessment of your needs. Your plan will look at important things such as:

- getting ready to leave care
- where you live
- health issues
- employment, education and training opportunities
- developing independent living skills such as budgeting, cooking etc.

As you approach your 18th birthday your social worker will introduce you to a colleague in the leaving care team who will be your **personal adviser (known as a PA)**.

You will be entitled to support from your PA up to the age of 25. We will continue to care about you and support you even though you are an adult.



## There for you

**Your PA will be there for you.** They will offer support and guidance to help you with your transition into adulthood and develop your independence. They will support you if you are struggling and celebrate your successes.

Your PA will want you to be the best that you can be. This means they will help you access the support services that you need in key areas such as housing, health, employment, training and education.

Whenever possible you will keep the same PA throughout your time with the leaving care team. If your PA is on holiday or off sick and you need assistance you can contact a leaving care team duty worker. If your PA is off work for more than four weeks we will contact you and give you a different PA who will be your contact until your usual PA returns to work.

## How we will help you in terms of building supportive relationships:

- Your PA will discuss with you how often to meet and how best to keep in contact. They should see you every two months, or more often than that when required.
- In between visits you and your PA can keep in contact by phone, text, email or Facebook.
- Your PA will review and agree your pathway plan with you at least every six months.
- Your PA will be able to talk to you about support services and mentoring schemes that are available to you.
- If you had an independent visitor while you were in care you will be able to continue this contact.
- You can ask for an independent advocate if you are not happy about the support you are receiving, and we will refer you to the advocacy service.





# Education & training support

We have high aspirations for your progress in education and training. We want all our young people to thrive and learn new skills and knowledge.

**We want you to achieve your goals in life, and we will provide support to help you achieve them.**

Your PA will support you into education, employment or training. If you live in the Brighton & Hove area you can also get help from the youth employment service (YES) to access education, employment or training.

They work jointly with your PA to offer face to face support and / or online advice and guidance. This is part of the support YES offers care leavers up to the age of 25.

Care leavers who are not ready to access mainstream education or employment can access vocational training and qualifications as part of the YES Plus re-engagement programme.



## Support for 16-17 year olds

For all further education courses and some training schemes you can claim an education bursary from your college or training provider.

We will pay for all essential books, equipment, special clothing and field trips. We will also pay for your exam fees and the internet access that you need for your course.

If you don't have access to a computer, one will be provided for full-time courses where it's needed for completing coursework.

If you're on a course of more than 16 hours a week and can't get the education bursary, we'll pay £30 a week incentive allowance.

If you're on a course of less than 16 hours and not getting the education bursary, we'll pay £20 a week for 10 weeks.

After 10 weeks, this can go up to £30 a week depending on how many hours a week you are training. These incentives are paid on the same attendance conditions as the education bursary.

Where a traineeship pays less than £59 a week you will get a top-up to this amount.

If you are on the Under-18 Minimum Wage or on an apprentice wage, we will top up your earnings by 50p for every hour you work.

Any expenses you have when doing voluntary work will be repaid.

## Higher Education

If you are thinking of going to university, please let your social worker know and they will fully support you to achieve this. This will be included in your Pathway Plan and we will help you plan for this. We can arrange for a higher education student mentor to provide support around this.

Our higher education student mentors are care leavers who have graduated from university or who are still at university. They can offer advice and information about going to university – the process of applying, the different educational paths you can take to get there and the financial support available to BHCC care leavers when at university.

## Further Education & Training

Support is available for young people aged 18-25.

For further education courses and some training schemes you can claim either an education bursary or 19+ Learner Funds from your college.

If you're unable to claim either of these and you continue in full-time further education (more than 16 hours a week) we'll pay you £30 a week incentive allowance on the same attendance conditions as the education bursary.

If you're on a training course of less than 16 hours a week and can't get the education bursary, we'll pay you an incentive allowance of £20 a week for 10 weeks.

After 10 weeks, this could go up to £30 a week. This depends upon the number of training hours a week and will be paid on the same attendance conditions as the education bursary.

We will pay for books, equipment, special clothing, field trips, exam fees and internet access that are essential for your course. We will also pay for a weekly or a monthly bus pass during term time.

If you didn't receive a computer when you were 16 or 17 and you haven't got access to one – and you need one to complete coursework – we will provide one.

We will also repay any expenses you have when doing voluntary work.



## University

You will receive the following support:

- **A higher education bursary** of £670 at the start of the academic year
- **Rent** on your flat, or a shared house or your hall of residence for 52 weeks a year
- **If 'staying put' with former foster carers this arrangement can continue** with the agreement of the foster carers. It can be either full-time or weekend stays or for vacations on a daily pro-rata basis
- **We will pay for all required books, equipment, special clothing, field trips and exam fees.** If you didn't receive a computer when you were 16 or 17 and you haven't got access to one we will provide one if it is required to complete your course.
- **We will pay travel costs to university** at the beginning of each term and then home at the end of each term. We will also pay any removal costs.

Like all other students, you will need to take out a loan from the Student Loan Company to cover payment of the tuition fees. We can help you with this.

You will be responsible for repaying any loan you take out.

However, many universities give a fees discount or cash bursary to young people who are care leavers under the National Scholarship Scheme or Access to Learning Fund. We will support you to access these bursaries and/or reductions.

You will also be entitled to a student mentor if you want one. All universities have staff specifically to support care leavers. We will encourage you to make contact with these people.





# Employment



Working is a great way to earn money, increase your confidence and help you get to where you want to be in your adult life.

## We can offer you the following support:

If you are on the 18-20 years or 21+ years Minimum Wage or the Apprentice Wage there may be additional support available to encourage you to stay in that job.

If you are working while living in supported accommodation we will provide additional money up to £30 a week to offset some of the rental costs.

We'll pay for interview clothes or special clothes you need for work. We will pay your transport costs to attend interviews for employment.

As a Brighton & Hove care leaver you are guaranteed a job interview for any apprenticeships within the council. We will also discuss with you any relevant work experience you may be able to undertake within the council. We will work with colleagues in other teams to arrange this.

We will have a 'bring a care leaver to work' day twice a year. These will give you a chance to see and experience what working at Brighton & Hove City Council is like.



# Financial support

We will provide financial support and advice to help you prepare for your transition to adulthood and independence.

## Your personal adviser will help you develop your budgeting skills. Where necessary, they will also refer you to money advice services.

We have close links with the local Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). If you need help claiming the benefits you are entitled to, we will help you.

While you are waiting for your benefits to come through we will pay £59 minus your service charge for four weeks. If your benefits have not arrived after this, through no fault of your own, we will give you food vouchers. We do not ask you to repay this money when you get your backdated claim.

We can refer you to Kitchen Kick Start. This is a programme for care leavers run by the voluntary organisation Food Matters.

Their workshops help you develop happy healthy eating habits for long-term independent living and learn cooking skills.

When you are ready to live independently, you are entitled to a 'Setting Up' allowance of up to £2,170. This is to help you set up home and live independently.

You'll need to agree what you need with your PA well before you move, and find out the cost of each item so these can be approved.

The allowance is also available to young people with disabilities who are not able or ready to live independently.

We will pay for:

- any documents you will need including replacement birth certificate, passport and provisional and full driving licences
- removal costs
- a TV licence
- home contents insurance policy for the first year in your own accommodation.

If you are a care leaver living on your own in Brighton & Hove you don't pay council tax until your 26 years old. If you live with one other adult you will receive a 25% discount. If you live with more than one other adult the council tax bill will not be reduced.





# Accommodation

We want you to be happy, safe and secure.

## Support for 16-17 year olds

If you live with foster carers or in a children's home, they provide your:

- pocket money
- personal and clothing allowances
- travel costs
- birthday and Christmas presents (or other festival such as Eid al-Fitr) and holiday costs

If you live in supported lodgings you get a personal allowance of £38 a week and a weekly or monthly bus pass. All your meals are provided and you don't pay towards household bills.

In young people's hostels such as Downlink YMCA, Foyer and Stopover you get an allowance of £58 a week and a weekly or monthly bus pass. The weekly service charge from the hostel which covers your contribution to utility bills will be deducted from your allowance.

## Support for 18-21 year olds

When you leave care we will help you find accommodation that fits with what you want and need. Most young people will not be ready to live unsupported in their own tenancy straight away.

Your social worker will have worked with you to agree your accommodation and these will be included in your Pathway Plan. Whichever accommodation you move into, your PA will visit you and make sure you are safe and happy.

## Staying Put

If you have been in a settled foster home you may want to remain living there. You have the right to do so until the age of 21 if your foster carers agree.

This arrangement is called 'staying put'. If you and your foster carer want to do this we will help draw up a 'living together' agreement.



## Support to 18-25 Year olds

### Supported Accommodation

Another option available to you is to move to supported accommodation. This gives you the chance to learn skills for independent living in preparation for your own tenancy.

There are different types of supported accommodation available. These include semi-independent units of various sizes with various levels of support offered. There is also the possibility of supported lodgings and shared houses with extra support if you need it.

Your PA will discuss your requirements with you and help complete the appropriate referral forms.

### Independent Living

The leaving care team has an agreement with the council's housing team to make sure care leavers can access affordable social housing when they have been assessed as being ready for independent living.

However, you can only get your own council tenancy when your PA has assessed you as being ready for independent living. It doesn't happen automatically when you turn 18.

For your PA to assess you as ready for your own tenancy you will usually be expected to have sustained at least a year in employment, training or further / higher education. You will also have to demonstrate that you have practical skills like budgeting and cooking, and that you are emotionally ready to live on your own.



In addition, you will have to attend the leaving care team's two-day course on independent living skills.

You can only be nominated once for social housing so we need to make sure you are ready to avoid any risk of you losing your tenancy.

When you do get your own tenancy, you will automatically be offered tenancy support.





Your physical and emotional health and well-being is important. We want to help you learn about healthy lifestyles and try out local leisure activities.

**You will have health assessments every year until your 18th birthday.**

These will be carried out by a specialist nurse in the children in care health team, with supervision from a named doctor.

As part of this they will discuss with you your physical health and emotional well-being, and address any identified needs in your health assessment report and individual health care plan.

If you have specific health needs, your PA will talk to you about how these can be met as part of your Pathway Plan. They will also offer you advice and support on how to access health services (both mental well-being and physical health). This will include giving you information about counselling services that are available.

**When you leave care you will receive a copy of your health passport.** This will include all the available information regarding your health history, from your birth to leaving care.

**We will help you register with a GP and dentist.** Your PA will check if you are eligible for free dental care, eye care and prescriptions. We will also help you with transport costs to attend health appointments.

**You'll get a 'Listen Up' card** that gives you free use of swimming and sports facilities at the Prince Regent, King Alfred, Moulsecomb, St Luke's and Withdean centres. If you have to pay for costs like gym induction, we will reimburse you.

The 'Listen up' card also gives you free admission to the Royal Pavilion and to all Brighton and Hove Museums. If you are placed outside the city we will pay for gym membership.

**Brighton Table Tennis Club** in Kemptown runs four 'all-comers' sessions a week for anyone aged 16+. A 'Listen Up' card will give you free access to any of these. If you attend 10 sessions then you get a free bat worth £30. Contact [nick@brightontabletennisclub.com](mailto:nick@brightontabletennisclub.com) for more information.



**The Early Parenting Assessment Programme (EPAP) is available to you if you want it.**

This is a specialist team of social workers and parenting workers based in a Children's Centre. They offer parents an opportunity to prepare for the birth of their baby and support them after the birth with a programme of baby-focused work, teaching and guiding.

# Participation in society

We want to help you feel you have all the chances in life that other young adults have, and that you can make a positive contribution to society.

- ★ We will help you to **enrol on the Electoral Register**, so you can vote in elections. We will also inform you about groups and activities in your area.
- ★ We will give you access to the **council's staff discount scheme**. This gives you discounts on a whole range of shops and services across the city and beyond (eg restaurants, local and national supermarkets, and cinema tickets).
- ★ We will **pay for special costs** that will help you follow your religion or culture or with your English if it is not your first language.
- ★ You are **guaranteed an interview** if you apply for any **BHCC apprenticeships**. We will also explore any relevant work experience opportunities within the council.
- ★ We hold the **Children in Care and Care Leavers Awards** each year. These are to celebrate and recognise your personal achievements, and show how you have made a difference to your own lives as well as other people's. The awards are also designed to inspire you to strive for success – to reach for the stars! – knowing that we are behind you every step of the way, and that we appreciate how much you are achieving.
- ★ We will hold an **annual participation event** with care leavers and other key people, chaired by our assistant director responsible for children in care, to review this local offer and ensure it is updated where necessary.

Your Children in Care Council:

## #Your Voice, Your Choice

– Get involved and make a difference

We are committed to working with you to learn from your experiences to improve services. We want to listen to your views and encourage you to take part in making decisions.

There are lots of opportunities to get involved and make a difference. For example you can:

- **meet other care leavers** to work on projects, eat together and take part in activities you are interested in
- **share your views** with decision makers and councillors
- **help to recruit** new social workers and managers
- **train** university students and other professionals
- **learn leadership skills** so you can work with groups of young people
- **visit residential homes**, talk to the young people there and suggest changes
- **attend regional and national events** to meet other care leavers who have a passion for making a difference.

We will give you the training and skills you need for each of these roles. The training is accredited so will add to your qualifications and look great on your CV.

We will pay you in gift vouchers for some of this work. This is usually at £9 an hour.

## Get involved, build your skills and make a difference!

Please ring or text Debbie Garrett in the youth participation team on 07880 043396 to find out more.

## Relevant services & useful contacts for care leavers

### Accommodation

#### Young People's Supported accommodation

– If you require supported accommodation your PA can refer you to the supported accommodation panel. Your referral will be discussed with the council's housing team to see what is the best option for you.

#### Brighton Housing Trust (BHT)

114 London Road, Brighton BN1 4PH  
**01273 645400**

BHT has developed a comprehensive range of services to meet the needs of homeless, insecurely housed and vulnerable men and women. It works in partnership with other organisations.

#### YMCA Youth Advice Centre(YAC)

11 St Georges Place, Brighton BN1 4GB  
**01273 624432**

Email [yacservices@ymcadlg.org](mailto:yacservices@ymcadlg.org)

YAC offers housing advice for anyone under 26 years old who is homeless or threatened with homelessness. It also has a family support and mediation service, and offers support and advice about sexual health advice and services, emotional and well-being support and benefits and money advice.

### Education and Training

#### Greater Brighton City Metropolitan College

Central Brighton Campus  
Pelham Street, Brighton BN1 4FA  
**01273 667788**

We offer a huge range of qualifications for 16-19 year olds, university degrees, full and part time courses for adults, apprenticeships and professional qualifications.

#### Albion in the Community

American Express Community Stadium  
Village Way, Brighton BN1 9BL  
**01273 878265**

Email: [info@albioninthecommunity.org.uk](mailto:info@albioninthecommunity.org.uk)

We deliver high-quality, accessible opportunities that improve the health and well-being, education and aspirations of our community.

#### Prince's Trust

47 Church Road, Hove BN3 2BE  
**01273 221470**

The trust's team programme is a FREE course available throughout the year that enables you to develop your communication, leadership and team work skills through projects in the community.

#### Brighton and Hove Recovery Centre

18 Preston Park Avenue, Brighton, BN1 6HL  
**01273 565 049**

The Recovery College is a specialist college dedicated to providing courses that support people to manage their mental health and recovery. Courses on offer include those that focus on a student's health and well-being, managing their mental health, developing life skills, and their expression and creativity.

### Health and Well-being

#### Sexual Health and Contraception (SHAC)

[www.brightonsexualhealth.com](http://www.brightonsexualhealth.com)

A free and confidential specialist service open to everyone regardless of age and sexuality.

#### Brighton and Hove Mental Health Rapid Response Service

**0300 304 0078** (24 hour service)

We provide an urgent response service to the people of Brighton & Hove when they feel they are in a mental health crisis and are at immediate risk of harming themselves or others.

#### MindOut Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans & Queer Mental Health Service

Community Base  
113 Queens Road, Brighton BN1 3XG  
**01273 234839**

Email: [info@mindout.org.uk](mailto:info@mindout.org.uk)

We are a mental health service run by and for LGBTQ people who work to improve the mental health and well-being of LGBTQ communities.

#### Pavilions

**01273 731900** or **0800 014 9819**

Drug and alcohol services for people in Brighton & Hove. Support is available to anyone concerned about their drug or alcohol use, and for families and carers supporting people who are struggling with substance misuse.

### Finance

#### The council's welfare rights team

Mondays 10am to 1pm: **01273 291116**

This offers advice and representation to people who have been turned down for benefits. We can be contacted on our public advice line on Mondays (as above). If you need basic information about benefits, go to a local Jobcentre plus office or visit GOV.UK.

#### Brighton and Hove Food Partnership

Brighthelm Centre  
North Road, Brighton BN1 1YD  
**01273 431700**

Email: [info@bhfood.org.uk](mailto:info@bhfood.org.uk)  
[www.bhfood.org.uk](http://www.bhfood.org.uk)

Helps people learn to cook, eat a healthy diet, to grow their own food and to waste less food.

#### Brighton & Hove Citizens Advice Bureau

Tisbury Road Offices, Hove Town Hall,  
Tisbury Road, Hove BN3 3BQ  
[www.brightonhovocab.org.uk/](http://www.brightonhovocab.org.uk/)  
**0300 3309033**

CAB offers free, confidential, impartial and independent advice on managing your finances, including opening bank accounts, problems with bank accounts, benefit overpayments, budgeting and general debt problems.

#### Money Advice

St Luke's Advice Service  
18 Exeter Street, Brighton BN1 5PG  
**01273 549203**

Helps you negotiate a repayment plan if you are in debt that suits your circumstances. Helps you fill in income and expenditure forms. Looks at whether there are other benefits to which you are entitled. Helps you apply for grants to pay off utility arrears. Negotiates with your creditors or tells your creditors that you do not have any spare money to repay your debts at the present etc.

#### Refugee Council

**0808 808 2255**  
text phone/Minicom: 0808 808 2259 (for people with speech or hearing difficulties)  
[www.refugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk)  
Offers information and advice to asylum seekers and refugees. Opening hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9.30am - 1pm and 2pm - 4.30pm. Wednesdays 2-5pm only.

### Participation

#### The council's youth participation team

**0800 0524 280 (free from a landline)**  
**01273 295510**

Text or call us on 07870 168948

Email: [help@bhyap.org.uk](mailto:help@bhyap.org.uk)

The council's youth participation team is made up of the following teams:

- Advocacy
- Youth Voice (including Youth Council, Children in Care Council, Young Ambassadors, Ask Report Change Programme)
- Independent Visitors
- Accreditation (including Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Youth Arts Award)

The office is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

### Relationships

#### Brighton Table Tennis Club

The Fitzherbert Centre  
36 Upper Bedford Street, Kemptown BN2 1JP  
**01273 670 145**

The club works with people of all ages, especially young people, to improve health, celebrate diversity and build a strong community. We run sessions for young people of all ages and backgrounds.

#### Allsorts Youth Project

Young People's Centre  
69 Ship Street, Brighton BN1 1AE  
**01273 721211**

We listen to, support and connect children and young people under 26 who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or unsure (LGBTU) of their sexual orientation and / or gender identity.

#### Miss Represented

[www.brightondome.org/missrep](http://www.brightondome.org/missrep)  
We use the arts to explore important issues, feel empowered and have a platform to be heard. It is a lifeline to many vulnerable young women in Brighton and its surrounding area. You can get in touch with us by contacting Bex on [rebecca.fidler@brightondome.org](mailto:rebecca.fidler@brightondome.org)



For more information go to  
[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk)



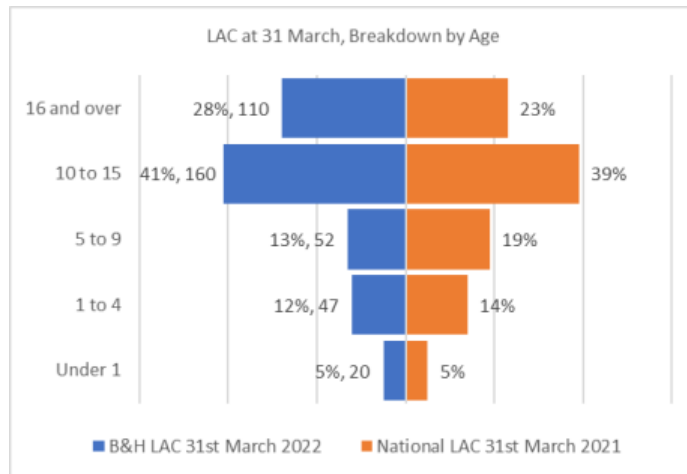
# Q4 2021/22 Corporate Parenting Board Dashboard

All 2021/22 figures are provisional. Final figures will be published by DfE in November 2022.



## 389

Children in Care at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, up from 373 at March 2021.



## 40

Children in Care who are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 (10.3% of CiC), up from 37 (9.9%) at March 2021.



## 11.3%

Percentage of Children in Care who had 3 or more placements during the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, (44 children), up from 10.0% during the previous 12 months and above the 2020/21 national average of 9%.



## 27.2%

Children in Care excluding UASC who are of minority ethnic origin at end of March 2022 (34.7% including UASC), up from 22.5% at March 2021 (29.0% including UASC).



## 66.7%

Percentage of Children in Care for at least 2.5 years in March 2022 who had been in current placement for 2 years or more, above 64.0% in previous year but below the 2020/21 national average of 70%.

# Q4 2021/22 Corporate Parenting Board Dashboard

All 2021/22 figures are provisional. Final figures will be published by DfE in November 2022.



**100.0%**

Of the 192 school age Children in Care at the end of the Summer Term who had a Personal Education Plan that had been completed and authorised by a Virtual School Adviser, compared to 100% for the Spring Term 2022.



**341**

Incidents of children missing from care in 2021/22, down from 449 during the previous year.



**15.8%**

Children in Care and Care Leavers in academic years 12 and 13 at May 2022 who were NEET or whose activity was not known (22 young people), up from 11.7% (14 young people) at May 2021.



**12.8%**

Children in Care having a missing incident in 2021/22, down from 13.0% during the previous year but above the 2020/21 national average of 10.0%.



**9.1%**

Children in Care having more than one missing incident in 2021/22, up from 7.5% in 2020/21.



# Q4 2021/22 Corporate Parenting Board Dashboard

All 2021/22 figures are provisional. Final figures will be published by DfE in November 2022.



**6.0%**

Percentage of children who ceased being looked after in 2021/22 who were adopted (8 children), down from 7.0% in 2020/21 and below the 2020/21 national average of 10%.



**12.7%**

Percentage of children who ceased being looked after in 2021/22 due to a special guardianship order being granted (17 children), down from 19.6% in 2020/21 and below the 2020/21 national average of 14%.



**69.2%**

Percentage of children in care at 31<sup>st</sup> March 22 who were in foster care (in house foster placements, Independent Foster Placements and Kinship Care placements – 269 children), down from 74.0% in 2020/21 and below the 2020/21 national average of 71%.



**19.8%**

Percentage of children in care at 31<sup>st</sup> March 22 who were in children's homes, secure units and hostels (77 children), up from 17.0% in 2020/21 and above the 2020/21 national average of 14%.



**4.1%**

Percentage of children in care at 31<sup>st</sup> March 22 who were placed for adoption (16 children), up from 2% in 2020/21 and above the 2020/21 national average of 3%.

# Q4 2021/22 Corporate Parenting Board Dashboard

All 2021/22 figures are provisional. Final figures will be published by DfE in November 2022.



**84.7%**

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date health check at March 2022, down from 87.0% at March 2021 and below the 2020/21 national average of 91%.



**15.3**

Average Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire Score for Children in Care in 2021/22, down from 15.5 last year and above the 2020/21 national average of 14.0



**67.5%**

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date dental check at March 2022, up from 48.0% at March 2021 and above the 2020/21 national average of 40%.



**1.9%**

Percentage of Children in Care aged 10 or above subject to a final warning or reprimand in 2021/22 (4 children), in line with the national average of 2.0%



**88.7%**

Percentage of Children in Care with up to date immunisations at March 2022, up from 84.0% at March 2021 and above the 2020/21 national average of 86%.



**8.4%**

Percentage of Children in Care identified as having a substance misuse issue in 2021/22 (23 children), up from 6.0% at March 2021 and above the 2020/21 national average of 3%.

# Q4 2021/22 Corporate Parenting Board Dashboard

All 2021/22 figures are provisional for 2021/22. Final figures will be published by DfE in November 2022.



66

Care Leavers aged 17 to 18 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, down from 80 at March 2021.



220

Care Leavers aged 19 to 21 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, down from 221 at March 2021.



75.8%

Percentage of Care Leavers aged 17 to 18 who were in Education, Employment and Training in 2021/22, down from 79% last year and above the 2020/21 national average of 65%.



71.4%

Percentage of Care Leavers aged 19 to 21 who were in Education, Employment and Training in 2021/22, up from 64% in 2020/21 and above the 2020/21 national average of 52%.



98.5%

Percentage of Care Leavers aged 17 to 18 who were in Suitable Accommodation in 2021/22, up from 94.0% last year and above the 2020/21 national average of 91%.



87.3%

Percentage of Care Leavers aged 19 to 21 who were in Suitable Accommodation in 2021/22, down from 89.0% last year and below the 2020/21 national average of 88%.



## **Corporate Parenting Board – Terms of Reference**

### **1. Purpose**

The Corporate Parenting Board reports to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee. It acts as an advisory board to the Council, its partners and its Committees on matters related to the Council's Looked after Children. Its role is to ensure that the Council and its partner agencies have a joint commitment to:-

- (a) Achieving improved outcomes for children in care and care leavers;
- (b) Developing and overseeing implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy to drive improved outcomes;
- (c) Providing challenge to ensure that the Council's duties as Corporate Parent are carried out effectively and consistently.

### **2. Objectives and Terms of Reference**

2.1 To assist in the development, operation, monitoring and review of the Council's policies and strategies as they affect children in care and care leavers.

2.2 To develop, monitor and review a Corporate Parenting Strategy and work plan.

2.3 To promote a co-ordinated and partnership approach to the delivery of Council services as they affect children in care and care leavers and to challenge services where this is not evidenced or effective.

2.4 To advise the Council and its Committees on issues relevant to children in care and care leavers and to ensure that policies implemented by the Council which affect these children and young people are effective and appropriate.

2.5 To review and monitor outcomes for looked after children and care leavers, including data from the Corporate Parenting Report Card and feedback from the Standards and Complaints and Quality Assurance Framework officers in respect of children in care and care leavers.

2.6 To ensure that clear and accessible information is readily available to children in care and care leavers on the corporate parenting they can expect from the Council.

2.7 To ensure that systems are in place which mean that the views of children and young people are represented in the development of services that affect them.

2.8 To ensure arrangements are made for the training and development of Members (and others as appropriate) on the Council's Corporate Parenting role.

2.9 To receive reports on the discharge of the Council's functions regarding the provision of accommodation for looked after children and care leavers, and to make recommendations to the appropriate body of the Council.

### **3. Reporting**

3.1 To report to the Council's Children, Young People & Skills Committee on an annual basis.

3.2 To make recommendations to other relevant Committees where responsibility for a particular function rests with that Committee, Ensuring that any such recommendations are also reported to Children Young People & Skills Committee for noting and tracking.

### **4. Membership**

4.1 Membership of the Corporate Parenting Board will consist of:- • 6 elected Members and 2 nominated co-optees

4.2 Invitations to attend the Corporate Parenting Board are extended to all councillors Chairs of Committees and Chief Exec.

4.3 Chairs of committees will be expected to attend when agenda items are linked to their lead area.

4.3 Every directorate is encouraged to be represented at each meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board.

4.4 Interested groups and Officers from across Council services will be invited on an agenda specific basis.

4.4 The membership of the Corporate Parenting Board is subject to review by the Children, Young Persons and Skills' Committee, subject to formal approval by the Policy & Resources Committee. 4.5 The Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board is an elected Member. The Care Leavers Forum has a nominated young person who works with the Chair and acts as co-chair.

### **5. Frequency of meetings**

5.1 Corporate parenting board meets 4 times a year, 3 times it reviews an agreed themed area of work and once a year reviews the Corporate Parenting report care (data), feedback on the work over the year and sets priority areas for the coming year.

### **6. Review**

The work of the Corporate Parenting Board is subject to annual review by the Children & Young Person's Committee, which may make recommendations to Policy & Resources Committee where it considers that changes to these terms of reference are necessary.

# Brighton & Hove City Council

## Children, Young People & Skills Committee

## Agenda Item 42

**Subject:** Elective Home Education in Brighton and Hove

**Date of meeting:** 9 January 2023

**Report of:** Executive Director Families, Children & Learning

**Contact Officer:** Name: Richard Barker, Head of School Organisation  
Tel: 01273 290732  
Email: [richard.barker@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:richard.barker@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**For general release**

### 1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the current numbers of Electively Home Educated (EHE) children in the city, a comparison with other Local Authorities and the reasons given for parents choosing to home educate their children.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the information regarding the number of home educated children and how this reflects the regional and national position.
- 2.2 That the Committee notes the Council's process to safeguard children and young people who are Electively Home Educated and the mechanisms to engage positively with the EHE community in the city.

### 3. Context and background information

- 3.1 Elective Home Education is a term used to describe a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home, or at home and in some other way which they choose, instead of sending them to school full-time. This is different to education provided by a local authority 'otherwise than at a school', for example tuition for children who are too ill to attend school.
- 3.2 It is worth noting that 'flexischooling' is a form of EHE where the parents choose to educate their child but arrange with a school directly for some of that to be undertaken in school. The child is placed on roll at the school. It is for the school's leadership to decide if they wish to agree to this arrangement. There is no compulsion for a school to agree to a parental request for flexischooling and there are a small number of children attending the city's schools under this arrangement.

- 3.3 Legislation provides that the primary responsibility for ensuring that children are properly educated belongs to parents. The Department for Education (DfE) is of the view that, a local authority has a “moral and social obligation” to ensure that a child is safe and being suitably educated. If it is not clear that that is the case, the local authority should act to remedy the position.
- 3.4 In a recent High Court ruling, after a Judicial Review was launched against Portsmouth City Council, it was determined that a council acted within its powers when asking a home educating parent for examples of work to ensure their child’s home education was suitable. The parent had sent a “detailed” outline of their three children’s home education, but the council asked to see examples of the children’s work to ensure that the education described was actually taking place and being received by the child. The parent argued that this put the “burden of proof” on parents that children were receiving a suitable education, despite “no legal requirements” for them to mark or formally assess work.
- 3.5 The judgement held that the Local Authority was not “necessarily compelled to accept merely assertive statements by the parent...Without intending to be prescriptive, what may be needed in such cases could well involve a meeting with the child and/or an examination of the child’s work, whether or not this work has been marked by the parent.” A parent who receives an informal request for information needs to respond in a meaningful way if they are to avoid the Local Authority taking further action.
- 3.6 In addition, local authorities have a statutory duty to ‘establish, so far as it is possible to do so, the identities of children in its area who are not receiving a suitable education. The duty applies in relation to children of compulsory school age who are not on a school roll, and who are not receiving a suitable education otherwise than at school (for example, at home, or in alternative provision).
- 3.7 The guidance on [Elective Home Education](#) outlines that ‘There are no specific legal requirements as to the content of home education, provided the parents are meeting their duty in s.7 of the Education Act 1996. This means that education does not need to include any particular subjects and does not need to have any reference to the National Curriculum; and there is no requirement to enter children for public examinations. There is no obligation to follow the ‘school day’ or have holidays which mirror those observed by schools. Many home educating families do follow a clear academic and time structure, but it should not be assumed that a different approach which rejects conventional schooling and its patterns is unsatisfactory, or constitutes ‘unsuitable’ education. Approaches such as autonomous and self-directed learning, undertaken with a very flexible stance as to when education is taking place, should be judged by outcomes, not on the basis that a different way of educating children must be wrong.’
- 3.8 It has recently been confirmed that the Schools Bill will not continue its journey through Parliament. It contained a duty on local authorities to establish and maintain a register of Children Not in School. The register was expected to record eligible children of compulsory school age that are: electively home educated, flexi-schooled, or receive alternative provision in an unregistered setting. Parents, and certain providers of out-of-school education will be required to provide information for this register.



- 3.9 The DfE wrote to all Directors of Children’s Services on 16 December 2022 to reassure them that the decision on the Schools Bill does not mark any change in policy in respect of attendance. The government still intends to make the new attendance guidance statutory, no earlier than September 2023. The DfE expects local authorities to continue to implement the changes introduced through the new school attendance guidance because as with all government guidance, local authorities are legally obliged to take the new guidance into account in exercising their functions.
- 3.10 There are a number of home educating families who are opposed to the register. We understand that there are concerns that any register and possible enhanced inspection will lead to more education programmes being deemed unsuitable.
- 3.11 The Bill also proposed to place a duty on local authorities in England to provide support to home educators (local authority support is currently discretionary). The support is expected to promote the education of that child, where this is requested by their parent. The nature and amount of the support are at the local authority’s discretion and the DfE will provide more guidance in due course. However, the support will need to be tailored to the child’s needs i.e. more support should be offered to those children that need it most, for instance whether a child has special educational needs.
- 3.12 The support is expected to, as a minimum, help the parent to ensure that the child is receiving an efficient, full-time, suitable education. If the child’s education is already meeting that standard without support from the local authority, any requested support should be aimed at further improving the child’s education. It is suggested that this may take the form of:
- advice about education of the child
  - information about sources of assistance for the education of the child
  - provision of facilities, services, or assistance (including financial assistance)
  - access to non-educational services or benefits
- 3.13 In the Q2 (July – Sept) data for 2022/23 there were 527 pupils registered as EHE. This is an increase on the previous three quarters.
- 3.14 At the time the report was written (06/12/22) the total number of children who are currently EHE in Brighton and Hove is 486.
- This includes 42 children and young people who are attending alternative education settings but are not on roll at a school and are therefore EHE. These are:
- Self-Managed Learning College (SMLC) (all age groups)
  - Plumpton College (years 10 and 11)
  - Greater Brighton Metropolitan College (Year 10 and 11)
- 3.15 These college courses tend to be 1 day a week at GBMC and include 3 GCSE courses and vocational courses such as Hair & Beauty, Construction, Creative Industries, Motor vehicle (3 days) and Catering.

- 3.16 At Plumpton College these are usually 3 days a week and include 2 GCSE/skills programmes and vocational qualifications such as Horticulture and Art and also include personal progress, employability and work experience.
- 3.17 Over the last academic year (2021-22)
- 205 children became EHE
  - 86 children were taken off the EHE register, 58 of whom returned to school.
  - The rest have moved out of area, with 3 pupils being referred to the Children Missing Education Officer with 2 moved out of area and 1 is still open to CME as we are still seeking their destination.
- 3.18 This academic year to date (06/12/22) 66 children and young people (C&YP) have been newly registered as EHE. 42 C&YP have been removed from the register in that time as they have reintegrated back into school or moved, 2 have moved abroad.
- 3.19 The most recent comparative data from south east local authorities is in table 1 below, showing the rate of EHE per 1000 pupils. The LAs highlighted had a higher rate than Brighton & Hove.

Local Authority	Summer 2022 rate per 1k pupil population
Brighton and Hove	15.44
East Sussex	24.31
Hampshire	12.12
Kent	16.08
Medway	16.99
Slough	8.57
West Sussex	12.50
Windsor and Maidenhead	10.85
Wokingham	9.78

- 3.20 All EHE referrals are allocated to one of the Access to Education team. Email information is provided immediately, and phone contact is made as soon as possible, generally within two weeks. In those exchanges the Council seeks to ascertain the reason for the parent's decision to home educate if the school has not provided it.
- 3.21 Once a child is identified as being home educated, they are offered an initial home visit, followed by a review visit in 6-8 weeks. An initial check is done to identify any current or previous safeguarding issues, repeated yearly. All families are sent a letter/email to indicate whether provision is approved or not.
- 3.22 A RAG rating is used to identify the range of support and advice going forward. This ranges from red cases, where there is no or scant educational evidence, to amber cases where a child may have an Education Health and Care Plan, have previous attendance concerns or where there are low level concerns over the volume or appropriateness of education provided. Then green cases where there are no concerns identified.
- 3.23 Below are the broad reasons given for the move to EHE from the September 2022 numbers of C&YP recorded as EHE. The proportion of each reason remains broadly as it has been historically, although the numbers are greater. We do not

have reasons for all children as we only get information where parents provide it; they are under no obligation to do that.

Reason	Number	Percentage (of those giving a reason)
Ideological	125	44%
School Allocation	14	5%
SEND need	17	6%
School issues: -dissatisfaction with school -unhappy at school	46	17%
Attendance/ School refusing	28	10%
Mental Health issues	14	5%
Covid concerns (initially)	36	13%
No reason supplied	233	N/A
TOTAL	513	

- 3.24 As indicated above, ideological concerns remain the main reason parents are removing their child to home educate.
- 3.25 Since the start of the pandemic there has been an increase in the number of parents who are home educating because they do not feel their child's needs are being met in school, either as a result of SEND needs, the manner in which schools deal with issues such as bullying, their child not enjoying school, mental health needs and the associated lowering of attendance.
- 3.26 Anecdotal evidence, (in conversations with parents and schools), suggests that Elective Home Education is seen as an option in ways it was not previously as there is a much wider knowledge that the option exists. This year on year increase is reflected nationally, as evidenced in the ADCS survey [ADCS EHE Survey 2021 Report FINAL.pdf](#) which is conducted yearly. There has been a substantial national increase following Covid. This year's data is being collected centrally by the DfE and will be part of the census data published later in the year.
- 3.27 The most recent government guidance on EHE reiterates the Local Authority's duty regarding safeguarding and home education. It encourages the use of statutory powers to identify any child not receiving an education and seeks to ensure their timely entry into school using those powers.
- 3.28 In Brighton & Hove we continue to use all available methods to identify and make contact with all known home educating families. These include links to health services and the private education sector alongside our CME obligations. We are advising schools to refrain from immediately taking children off roll where parents inform them that they are going to home educate and to contact the parents and have a conversation regarding the implications of their choice and to explore in more depth if it is the right approach for them. According to DfE advice they should be removed from roll immediately, but we consider for safeguarding reasons that there should be a discussion with parents prior to this happening.
- 3.29 The council sent out guidance to all schools on the steps they should use with parents who request removing their child to home educate which reiterated the information we already give to schools to ensure they have a challenge

conversation with all parents who are requesting to remove their child to home educate.

- 3.30 The 2.4 FTE equivalent staff in the Access to Education team who work with EHE cases also share responsibility for the provision of education for children with medical needs in the city. Both of these areas have seen significant rises in numbers following the Covid 19 pandemic. For the financial year 2023/24 additional funding has been secured with the support of the Schools Forum to enhance the capacity of the team to manage the additional responsibilities and the greater number of EHE cases.

#### **4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options**

- 4.1 No options for consideration

#### **5. Community engagement and consultation**

- 5.1 There was no community engagement in the preparation of this report as the purpose of the report is to give the current position on home educated children in the city following questions from councillors.

#### **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 Elective Home Education is a term used to describe a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home, or at home and in some other way which they choose, instead of sending them to school full-time. At the time the report was written the total number of children who are currently EHE in Brighton and Hove is 486.
- 6.2 local authorities have a statutory duty to 'establish, so far as it is possible to do so, the identities of children in its area who are not receiving a suitable education. There are no specific legal requirements as to the content of home education This means that education does not need to include any particular subjects and does not need to have any reference to the National Curriculum and there is no requirement to enter children for public examinations.
- 6.3 The most recent comparative data from south east local authorities indicates that three local authorities have a higher rate of EHE per 1000 pupils than Brighton & Hove.
- 6.4 All EHE referrals are allocated to the Access to Education team. Contact with families is made as soon as possible. In those exchanges the Council seeks to ascertain the reason for the parent's decision to home educate. A RAG rating is used to identify the range of support and advice required by the local authority going forward.
- 6.5 Ideological concerns remain the main reason parents are removing their child to home educate. Since the start of the pandemic there has been an increase in the number of parents who are home educating because they do not feel their child's needs are being met in school.

## **7. Financial implications**

- 7.1 As set out in the report, the local authority is required to fulfil duties in support of EHE children in line with regulations set by government. In order to comply with these requirements, additional funding of £0.030m has been secured in financial year 2023/24, following agreement at the October 2022 Schools Forum meeting.

Name of finance officer consulted: Steve Williams Date consulted:16/11/22

## **8. Legal implications**

- 8.1 The only statutory requirement in respect of home education is that the education received be suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude and any other special educational needs that they may have (section 7 Education Act 1996). Local Authorities have a duty to monitor whether parents who are home educating their school age children are causing them to receive suitable education (section 436A of the 1996 Act).
- 8.2 The recent High Court case of R (Goodred) v Portsmouth City Council [2021] concerned a challenge by a parent to the manner in which the city council discharged its statutory responsibilities in respect of children not receiving education in school under the Education Act 1996. The court held that it is the Local Authority and not the parent who is the final arbiter of what constitutes a 'suitable education' and that parents can be asked to prove, instead of affirm, that the education being provided is indeed suitable.

Name of lawyer consulted: Serena Kynaston Date consulted 15.11.2022

## **9. Equalities implications**

- 9.1 None identified

## **10. Sustainability implications**

- 10.1 None identified



# Brighton & Hove City Council

## Children Young People & Skills Committee

## Agenda Item 44

**Subject:** Supported Accommodation for Young People Placements

**Date of meeting:** 9 January 2023

**Report of:** Executive Director Families, Children & Learning

**Contact Officer:** Name: Steve Dillow  
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**Ward(s) affected:** All

**For general release**

### 1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 This report seeks approval for the extension of the existing hybrid framework (as defined in paragraph 3.18) and the re-opening of the hybrid framework for new applications. This is to allow sufficient time to assess the implications of Ofsted's planned oversight of the sector and the potential creation of new Regional Care Cooperatives.

### 2. Recommendations

2.1 That Committee agrees to extend the Supported Accommodation for Young People hybrid framework for a further period of 2 years from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025.

2.2 That Committee delegates authority to the Executive Director of Families, Children & Learning to:

- (i) take all necessary steps to extend the hybrid framework and to reopen it to operators in the new year, and
- (ii) to procure and award call off contracts and individual placement agreements from the hybrid framework.

### 3. Context and background information

#### Background

3.1 Young people between age 16 and 24 needing support rather than care may be provided with supported accommodation. This will usually be staffed accommodation for those under age 18, or floating support for those aged 18 and above. This support helps young people transition into adulthood.

- 3.2 The Council does not currently provide in-house supported accommodation for young people services. There is a growing market of private and third sector providers and strategic commissioning has grown the local market for these services.
- 3.3 There continues to be a need to make supported accommodation placements for young people and a compliant means of procuring these services is required.

#### Current Contracting Arrangements

- 3.4 The Council has a joint hybrid framework agreement with East Sussex County Council (ESCC) for the provision of supported accommodation for young people placements which commenced on 1 July 2018 and expires on 30 June 2023. The hybrid framework agreement was for an initial period of 3 years with an optional extension of 2 years, which has been utilised.
- 3.5 ESCC were named on the OJEU Contract Notice as a party that may run Mini Tenders for contracts under the hybrid framework but did not contribute to its design. ESCC subsequently decided to run their own tender for supported accommodation for young people and their framework commenced in April 2019. ESCC are not currently using our hybrid framework and have awarded no contracts under it.
- 3.6 The hybrid framework was initially opened in 2018 and had 8 approved providers. It was re-opened for new applications in 2019, 2020 and 2021, and there are currently 26 approved providers. This has improved the sufficiency for supported accommodation for young people placements.
- 3.7 The current contracting arrangements are a result of a joint project between Housing and Families, Children & Learning. Housing lead on the prevention of homelessness for young people and are responsible for commissioning the majority of the block contracts under the hybrid framework. Families, Children & Learning lead on the commissioning of supported accommodation placements for young people in care and for care leavers. Families, Children & Learning commissioned placements in staffed units tend to be for higher levels of need than those commissioned by Housing.
- 3.8 The current number of supported accommodation placements in the independent sector commissioned by the Families, Children & Learning is shown below:

Figures at September 2022:

Families, Children & Learning commissioned block contracts:

- Age 18+ floating support                      4 placements

Families, Children & Learning commissioned individual placements:

- Age 16/17 staffed units                      32 placements
- Age 16/17 floating support                  2 placements
- Age 18+ staffed units                         1 placement



- Age 18+ floating support 51 placements

### Alternative Contracting Arrangements

- 3.9 The Council is not part of any other consortia-based commissioning of supported accommodation for young people services. This is primarily a locally based service need, although some placements are made out of area for either safeguarding reasons or to maintain networks.

### National Care Review

- 3.10 The Independent Review of Children's Social Care by Josh MacAlister was published in May 2022 and can be found at: [Home - The Independent Review of Children's Social Care \(childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk\)](https://www.childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk)
- 3.11 The review includes a recommendation to establish of up to 20 Regional Care Cooperatives, owned and managed by councils, which would be responsible for the commissioning and management of all children's placements. It is not clear at this stage whether this recommendation will be taken forward, and if so, in what timescale, or if this will cover supported accommodation for young people in addition to foster care and residential child care.

### Ofsted

- 3.12 The supported accommodation for young people provision is currently unregulated and not subject to oversight by Ofsted. However, Ofsted will conduct enforcement action if a supported accommodation provider provides care rather than support.
- 3.13 Ofsted conducted consultation on introducing a lighter touch regulatory regime for this sector and a phased implementation of regulatory oversight is due to be introduced for 16 and 17 year olds in placement. Further consultation on draft regulatory guidance and quality standards was published in December 2022. Registration of providers is expected to commence in 2023, with inspections starting in 2024.

### Due Diligence

- 3.14 As there has been no regulatory oversight of this sector, the use of supported accommodation for young people providers carries a higher degree of risk. This is mitigated by either the quality questions and referencing checks when providers submit tenders to join the hybrid framework or through due diligence checks for spot placements.
- 3.15 Due diligence checks include:
- Procurement Standard Selection Questionnaire
  - Accounts
  - Insurance

- Statement of Purpose
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- References
- Companies House records
- Location Risk Assessment
- Company directors

### Finance

- 3.16 Purchasing services through a framework or DPS gives better control of costs compared with spot purchasing.
- 3.17 The average cost of staffed and floating support placements made by the Council with a framework provider on 30 September 2022 is less than corresponding off-framework placements.

### Procurement Plans

- 3.18 In this report 'hybrid framework' is used to describe an agreement between one or more contracting authorities and one or more economic operators which has been procured under the Light Touch Regime of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the purpose of which is to establish the terms governing contracts to be awarded during a given period. This is similar to a framework agreement under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 but has the option to reopen for new applications once every year.
- 3.19 Extending the current hybrid framework will allow time to assess the implications of Ofsted's oversight of the sector and whether Regional Care Cooperatives will be established, which will inform future commissioning plans. Providers will still have the opportunity to apply to join the hybrid framework when reopened during the period of extension.
- 3.20 Housing has decided to incorporate the re-commissioning of their block contracts into wider commissioning plans and will be tendering their services separately rather than using the proposed hybrid framework for their re-commission.

### Procurement Advisory Board

- 3.21 The report was considered by the Council's Procurement Advisory Board on 21 November 2022 and the recommendations were approved.

## **4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options**

- 4.1 Alternative procurement routes to market were assessed when authority to use the hybrid framework was originally sought from Committee. Details of each including the preferred option is detailed below:

### Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS)

- 4.2 A DPS is not favoured for these services as it does not give the same level of control over pricing in comparison to a standard framework or hybrid framework. Providers can give notice on a DPS agreement and then immediately re-apply with new pricing.

### Standard Framework

- 4.3 A standard framework is fixed for a 4 year period and does not allow for new applications during this period. This is not favoured as a number of providers would be expected to be interested in applying to join the framework during its life.

### Hybrid Framework

- 4.4 A hybrid framework is considered to give better control of costs whilst allowing a degree of flexibility on admitting new suitably qualified providers to the hybrid framework.

## **5. Community engagement and consultation**

- 5.1 Full consultation was undertaken as part of the development of the Housing and Homelessness Strategies and the Housing and Support Commissioning Strategy for Young People, which included service users and stakeholders.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 Extending the current hybrid framework will allow sufficient time to assess the implications of Ofsted's planned oversight of the sector and the potential creation of new Regional Care Cooperatives

## **7. Financial implications**

- 7.1 The hybrid framework has no value in itself, so there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of the report. The framework provides more stability and control of contracting costs. The current available budget for placements for young people between 16-24 is £3.708m.

Name of finance officer consulted: David Ellis Date consulted: 18/11/22

## **8. Legal implications**

- 8.1 The concept of a hybrid framework is not included in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. These services are covered by the 'light touch regime' and the Council therefore has considerable flexibility as to how it procures these contracts provided it complies with the principles of transparency and equal treatment. Economic operators will be able to apply to join the hybrid framework when it is reopened in the new year.

Name of lawyer consulted: Alice Rowland Date consulted: 24.11.22

## **9. Equalities implications**

- 9.1 An updated Equality Impact Assessment will be conducted however there is no change to either policy or budget in relation to this commissioning.
- 9.2 The Council has a responsibility to promote access to appropriate educational provision for all in accordance with legislation including the Equality Act 2010.

## **10. Sustainability implications**

- 10.1 Subject to placement availability, placements for young people will be made as closely to networks as possible, where this is safe to do so, and in the young person's best interests.

## **11. Other Implications**

### **Social Value and procurement implications**

- 11.1 Much of the activity undertaken by providers of supported accommodation for young people through this hybrid framework will be of inherent social value given the nature of the service specification.
- 11.2 Admission to the hybrid framework is based on quality. To reflect the importance of Social Value, 10% of the tender evaluation weighting is given to a Method Statement Question on Social Value.
- 11.3 Bidders must score a minimum quality score of 50% in order to be accepted onto the hybrid framework. Providers are ranked into tiers to reflect the different levels of quality, and this can impact on the call-off process.

### **Crime & disorder implications:**

- 11.4 The Outcomes Framework has a number of measures under basic needs (safety and health), functioning (control, relationships and achievement), personal resources (resilience, self-esteem and emotional intelligence) and preparation for adulthood (participation, independence, inclusion and wellbeing) that contribute to the prevention of crime and disorder.

### **Public health implications:**

- 11.5 Improving health and wellbeing are two of the key objectives within the Outcomes Framework.

## **Supporting Documentation**

### **1. Background documents**

1. 'The Independent Review of Children's Social Care' by Josh MacAlister was published in May 2022 and can be found at: [Final Report - The Independent Review of Children's Social Care \(childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk\)](https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk)



# Brighton & Hove City Council

## Children, Young People & Skills Committee

## Agenda Item 45

**Subject:** Families, Children and Learning Fees and Charges 2023/24

**Date of meeting:** 9 January 2023

**Report of:** Executive Director Families, Children and Learning

**Contact Officer:** Name: Louise Hoten / Jo Templeman/ Richard Barker

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**Ward(s) affected:** All

**For general release**

### **1. Purpose of the report and policy context**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to review the Families, Children and Learning Services fees and charges in accordance with the corporate policy.

### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 That Committee agrees that the implementation of new fees & charges rates is as soon as practicably possible

2.2 That Committee agrees the position on fees charged for nurseries as detailed in section 3.22.

2.3 That Committee agrees the position on fees and charges for Childcare Workforce Development as detailed in section 3.25.

2.4 That Committee agrees the position on fees and charges for the Early Years Quality Improvement Programme as detailed in section 3.30.

2.5 That Committee note the position on the charges for school meals as detailed in section 3.31 - 3.37.

2.6 That Committee agree the position on fees and charges for Adult Education Courses as detailed in section 3.38 – 3.42.

Note: If the above recommendations are not agreed, or if the committee wishes to amend the recommendations, then the item will need to be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 9 February 2023 to be considered as part of the overall budget proposals. This is because the budget is being developed on the assumption that the fees and charges are agreed as recommended and any failure to agree, or a proposal to agree different fees and charges, will have an impact on the overall budget, which means it will normally need to be dealt with by Policy and Resources Committee as per the requirements of the constitution. This does not

prohibit the service Committee from making alternative recommendations to Policy and Resources Committee.

### **3. Context and background information**

- 3.1 As part of the budget setting process Executive Directors are required to agree changes to fees and charges through relevant Committee Meetings. The management of fees and charges is fundamental both to the financial performance of the City Council and the achievement of the Council's corporate priorities. The council's Corporate Fees & Charges Policy requires that all fees and charges are reviewed at least annually and should normally be increased in line with the cost of providing the service to maintain income in proportion to the net cost of service. The Corporate Fees & Charges Policy also stipulates that increases above or below a 'corporate rate of inflation' should be approved by committee. However, it should be noted that the corporate rate of inflation (3%) is not a default rate of increase and is a planning assumption only, set early in the financial year, and should not therefore determine actual increases which should normally reflect current inflation rates and cost increases to ensure that income is maintained in proportion to expenditure.
- 3.2 If the proposed fees & charges recommended in this report are not agreed, or if the Committee wishes to amend the recommendations, then the item will normally need to be referred to the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 9 February 2023 to be considered as part of the overall 2023/24 budget proposals. This is because the 2023/24 draft and final budget proposals are developed on the assumption that fees and charges are agreed as recommended and any failure to agree, or a proposal to agree different fees and charges, may have an impact on the overall budget proposals, which means it would need to be dealt with by Policy & Resources Committee as per the requirements of the constitution. However, this does not fetter the committee's ability to make recommendations to Policy & Resources Committee.
- 3.3 In response to Recommendation 2.7 of the Targeted Budget Management (TBM) 2022/23: Month 7 (October) report to Policy and Resources committee on the 1 December 2022, the actions that the Families, Children and Learning Directorate have been taking and plan to take to support the in-year budget position are as follows:
- 3.4 All vacancies are scrutinised to determine whether or not they can be filled through redeployment, covered by alternative arrangements (e.g. increasing part-time hours, overtime or acting positions), delayed or left unfilled. However, the directorate has a wide range of exemptions for care workers and social work staff to maintain statutory services, which means that there are limitations to the level of impact this measure can have.
- 3.5 The Executive Director for Families, Children and Learning sent a message to all staff on the 29 November requesting that all non-essential spend stop.



- 3.6 All care packages are appropriately reviewed and authorised and, in particular, high-cost packages are being kept under review and alternative solutions sought wherever possible. For example, a very high-cost case was resolved through being able to return a child in care to his parents who live abroad. As discussed below, a higher but reasonable level of risk within the home is also being managed to contribute to demand management and avoid much higher costs being incurred.
- 3.7 Recovery measures have been identified and further options are regularly explored by the Directorate Management Team. At present measures totalling £0.173m have been identified and are contributing to a reduced TBM forecast.
- 3.8 However, the situation across FCL is very challenging and the current projected position is an overspend of £3.173m. In particular, the key significant cost pressures are as follows:
- £1.154m on Children’s Social Care Services;
  - £0.791m on Adult Learning Disabilities Community Care;
  - £0.320m on in-house disability provision;
  - £1.213m on Home to School transport.
- 3.9 As noted, there are estimated recovery measures totalling £0.173m. These, together with other variances of £0.132m resulted in the forecast overspend of £3.173m overspend as at Month 7.
- 3.10 The post pandemic period has seen children with increasingly complex needs as well as problems in foster care recruitment causing an acute sufficiency issue making placing children in families either in-house or with external providers very difficult. This has inevitably led to increasing numbers of children being placed in residential homes or very expensive semi-independent placements. In order to manage these demands the Directorate is managing a higher but reasonable level of risk at home. The number of resident Children in Care (CIC) has reduced although the number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children has increased, accounting for 15% of our CIC numbers.
- 3.11 The number of care leavers requiring financial support for accommodation has been steadily rising over the last 12 months. As at 31 October 2022 there were 143 care leavers in receipt of financial support compared with 118 at the same time last year – a rise of 21%.
- 3.12 For Adults with Learning Disabilities, the 2022/23 community care budget allowed a 2% across the board fee uplift to all providers across all care types. However, due to recent events such as the increase in the cost of living and the higher than anticipated increase in the living wage there have been strong representations from providers for an additional uplift in 2022/23. The forecast allows for a further uplift of 2% in fees across all providers (this equates to approximately £0.650m) and this is a significant reason for the predicted overspend on this budget. However, the 2022/23 savings target of £0.926m within the Adult LD community care budget is

anticipated to be fully achieved through the specific savings strategies set out in the 2022/23 corporate budget proposals.

- 3.13 The overspend on the Home to School Transport budget is as a result of increased demand; increased numbers of children requiring single occupancy journeys; settings outside of the city being named in Education, Health and Care Plans; and increased contract prices on routes which accommodate dual placements, part-time timetables, alternative provision and post 16 provision. Local driver, vehicle passenger assistants, and vehicle shortages and increased fuel costs are resulting in the service receiving fewer and more costly bids on routes. These shortages are not unique to Brighton and Hove, they are being seen across the country and a benchmarking exercise is underway to ascertain the scale of the problem by the DfE who have declared that nationally Home to School Transport is at significant risk of failure due to these unprecedented issues. There is increasingly less capacity in the local system to meet increasing demand, not just in the numbers of children requiring transport but the nature of the transport requirements.
- 3.14 Given the demand led nature of the services within FCL; the statutory ratios for staffing within which the Nurseries and Care Homes operate; and the critical role of the Council as corporate parents it is not possible to cease spend in the majority of service areas. However, the effective management of increased levels of risk within the home is ensuring that the service is contributing to the challenge of managing the budget position as much as possible.
- 3.15 Nurseries
- 3.16 Part of the council's early year's strategic action plan is to provide high quality childcare in the most disadvantaged areas to ensure local children can access provision. Council run full day care nurseries are:
- Acorn Nursery – North Portslade Children's Centre
  - Bright Start Nursery – Old Slipper Baths (North Laines)
  - Cherry Tree Nursery – Hollingdean Children's Centre
  - Jump Start – Moulsecoomb Children's Centre
  - Roundabout Nursery – Roundabout Children's Centre (Whitehawk)
- 3.17 The nurseries provide free part-time early education places for low-income families of two-year olds and for three & four year olds, and childcare that parents pay for. All the nurseries are based in buildings owned by the Council.
- 3.18 The Council subsidy for the nurseries in 2022/23 was £907k, which includes £150k of pressure funding. The highest permanent subsidies are for the nurseries in Whitehawk and Moulsecoomb where most children just take up their free childcare places and there are the highest number of funded two-year olds. There are also more children with child protection plans and special educational needs and disabilities who need higher staff ratios.

### Funding for free childcare places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

- 3.18 Disadvantaged two-year olds are entitled to 570 hours a year free childcare from the term after their second birthday and a key priority is to ensure there are sufficient high-quality places for these children. The council is funded at an hourly rate of £5.57 per hour. This is the lowest rate in the south east and is significantly below the national average of £5.83. The average rate for local authorities in the south east is £5.93. Rates for 2023/24 are likely to be published in December 2022.
- 3.19 All three- and four-year-olds are entitled to 570 hours (15 hours a week, term time only) of free childcare. Funding is allocated by government on a national formula. The gross rate for Brighton & Hove is £4.76 per hour which is significantly below the national average of £5.15. The average rate in the south east is £5.11. These figures refer to the total rate paid to the local authority and include inclusion funding and central costs. The council is passing on at least 95% of its funding allocation to childcare providers, with an average hourly rate of £4.58. This is less than the average fee that parents pay for childcare.
- 3.20 Rates for 2023/24 are likely to be published in December 2022.

### Nursery Fees

- 3.21 The existing fee policy for the Council nurseries is:
- £5.83 for all ages of children
  - £2.57 for lunches and teas. Breakfast and snacks are included in the hourly rate. Parents can choose to bring a packed lunch
- 3.22 The proposal is to increase fees by 3.0%. This is in line with the expected corporate rate of inflation of 3.0%. The proposals are to:
- Increase the standard hourly rate of £5.83 for all ages of children to £6.00. This is a 17p per hour increase.
  - Increase the cost of meals by 8p to £2.65 per meal for lunch or tea by the inflation rate of 3%.
- 3.23 Coram Family and childcare publish an annual childcare cost survey. The 2020 Survey included average costs for 25 and 50 hours of childcare for children under two, two-year-olds and three & four year olds. The amounts for the south east for children attending 25 hours a week were:

	25 hours	Hourly rate
Children under two	£147.06	£5.88
Two-year olds	£143.10	£5.72

Three- and four-year olds (based on 10 hours in addition to 15 hours free childcare)	£55.56	£5.55
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*Note. These figures are the same as in last year's report as they haven't published a 2021 survey yet.*

3.24 There is a range of help from the Government for parents with childcare costs in addition to the free early year's entitlement of 15 or 30 hours. Parents on Universal Credit can claim up to 85% of childcare costs and parents on higher incomes can apply for Tax Free Childcare which will pay 20% of their childcare costs (see paragraph 9.2).

### Childcare Workforce Development

3.25 It is proposed that charges for early years and childcare providers for childcare training should increase by 3%, rounded to the nearest pound:

<b>Training</b>	<b>Brighton &amp; Hove</b>	<b>Providers outside of B&amp;H</b>
Full day face to face	£68	£108
Half day face to face	£45	£76
Full day online	£32	£64
Half day online	£17	£32
Safeguarding face to face	£22	£43
Safeguarding e-learning	£20	£38
E-learning	£11	£22
Job advertisement	£74	£130

3.26 The increase in charges is being kept to a minimum, because of the limited ability of early years providers to pay for training.

3.27 A fall in applications for training as a result of a price increase would have a negative impact on income generation. We want providers to continue to access our high-quality training programme in order to maintain the quality of early years provision in the city.

3.28 The national increase in funding for three & four year olds for 2021/22 was 1.3%. We are awaiting information on funding for providers for 2022/23 which should be published by December 2022. Costs for providers continue to rise including National Insurance and minimum wage increases. Income from parental fees may be lower because of changed working patterns as a result of Coronavirus.

3.29 Benchmarking of training costs with other local authorities is difficult because pricing is not easily available and is not consistent. In addition, some local authorities include training with a subscription for other services.

### Early Years Quality Improvement

- 3.30 There is a charge of £150 per module for early years providers completing the Quilt quality improvement programme. This charge is waived for providers with a large number of disadvantaged children to support closing the gap between these children and their peers.

### School Meals

- 3.31 The cost of school meals to the local authority (schools) is inflated annually in accordance with the price review mechanism detailed in the school meals contract as outlined below. The current contract started on 1 August 2018 for a period of 4 years with an opportunity to extend up to 24 months. As a fully delegated service, schools may choose to buy into the contract or make their own school meals arrangements. All secondary schools and secondary academies within the city and the Bilingual Primary School, City Academy Whitehawk and Moulsecoomb Primary provide meals, including free meals to entitled pupils, through their own individually negotiated contracts.
- 3.32 The charge for school meals in primary schools is due to increase by 5p per meal to £2.25 from 1 January 2023. The price was last increased in April 2018. The contract requires the payment of the Living Wage (Living Wage Foundation) to employees. Any decision to increase the selling price to parents will be made in June 2023 for implementation from 1 August 2023, and will be based on the April 2023 indices detailed below:
- 3.33 The meal price will be varied in line with the following two indices:
- Food element  
Annual movement in the Retail Price Index (all items) as published by the Office for National Statistics. (Food CHBA)
  - Labour element  
The labour element will increase based on the percentage (%) annual movement as agreed by the Living Wage Commission for the UK Living Wage (outside of London).
  - Management Fee  
The Management fee price will vary in line with the annual movement in the Consumer Price Index (all items) published by the Office for National Statistics.
- 3.34. As this is built into the contract terms and conditions, approval by the Children Young People & Skills Committee would only be sought if an increase exceeding inflation was being proposed.
- 3.35. Under the current contractual arrangement there continues to be a low fixed cost in the form of a management fee and a higher variable cost for each meal served, this ensures that the contractor should be more inclined to increase sales as we have seen with the previous contract. This budget area is now operated in a way that the need to fulfil a shortfall would be most unlikely and this is being demonstrated through the current contract performance and the continued support of central government grant funded Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM). There are strong incentives for the contractor to grow the service and these are supported by successful

partnership working with the Council. The increased cost of free school meals has not been passed onto schools for the financial year 2022/23, this will be mitigated through the use of the free school meals supplementary grant.

- 3.36. The decision for the price to be increased for all meals served from January 2023 instead of September 2022 was to try to maintain numbers of children choosing to have a school lunch during the period of economic uncertainty and cost of living pressures and to support families. The majority of income from school meals is now funded from Free School Meals charges made to schools for children where guardians are in receipt of a qualifying benefit and grant funding provided to cover the provision of UIFSM.
- 3.37. The increase in contract meal prices from August 2022 was much higher than in previous years. Schools have therefore been advised of the impact on charges for meals provided for FSM and UIFSM pupils and the move from the current £2.20 to £2.25 for cash paying customers from January 2023.

### Adult Education Courses

- 3.38. Pound Plus is a term used by the Education and Skills Funding Agency to describe additional income or added value generated by providers of adult education over and above the core Adult Education Budget. It is important because generating additional income allows us to maximise the value of public investment and is used increase the service we can provide to residents.
- 3.39. All courses are funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. In order to receive this money, we must ensure that public funding is focused on people who need it most, those least likely to participate in learning. We therefore collect fees from people who can afford to pay, unless otherwise prescribed by the ESFA, and use these to extend provision to those who cannot. In addition, we will look to increase the value of funding received for Community Learning using the principles of Pound Plus by working closely with partners to access free or reduced cost resources.
- 3.40. As part of our 'Pound Plus' commitment, the Adult Education Hub will fully waive fees for evidenced unemployed learners in receipt of one of the following benefits or on a low income:
- Job Seekers Allowance
  - Employment Support Allowance
  - Income Support
  - Earning Less than £18,525
- 3.41. Other learners may also be exempt from fees that meet the ESFA funding guidance. These may include full time carers of adults, refugees and asylum seekers
- 3.42. For those that can afford to pay and do not meet any of the above the rate of £5 per hour will be charged for the 2022/2023 academic year.

#### **4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options**

- 4.1 Alternative options considered for the nursery fee increases included limiting the number of free hours that children can use each day and further increasing the hourly charge for the hours that parents pay for in addition to the free hours.

#### **5. Community engagement and consultation**

- 5.1 Budget holders with responsibility for specific fees and charges were consulted in the preparation of this report.

#### **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 As part of the budget setting process, the Committee are asked to note and agree to changes to fees and charges.
- 6.2 There are proposed changes to nursery fees, workforce training, and the Quality Improvement Programme and updates on school meal and adult education courses.
- 6.3 If the proposed fees & charges recommended in this report are not agreed, or if the committee wishes to amend the recommendations, then the item will normally need to be referred to the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 9 February 2023 to be considered as part of the overall 2023/24 budget proposals.

#### **7. Financial implications**

- 7.1 The total Families, Children and Learning fees and charges budget for 2022/23 is approximately £2.2m excluding schools.
- 7.2 The fees and charges recommended in this report have been reviewed in line with the Corporate Fees & Charges Policy and all relevant regulations and legislation. The anticipated recurring financial impacts of fee changes will be reflected within service revenue budgets. Increases to meet the corporate rate of inflation of +3.0% should normally be applied to all council income budgets as a minimum. However, this rate is set early in the year, as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, and may not match current inflation rates. Fees & Charges should therefore take into account current rates of inflation and be uplifted accordingly to ensure income is maintained as a proportion of the net cost of service wherever possible. Constitutionally, increases above or below the corporate rate of inflation must be approved by the relevant service committee or Policy & Resources Committee and can result in additional contributions toward either the cost of services and/or overheads. This can also result in the achievement of a net budget saving to the council. Where this is the case, this will be reflected in proposals for the relevant service and will be incorporated within the revenue budget report to Policy & Resources Committee and Budget Council in February 2023. Income from fees and charges is monitored as part of the Targeted Budget Monitoring (TBM) process.

Name of finance officer consulted: Louise Hoten Date consulted: (01/11/22)

## **8. Legal implications**

8.1 Families, Children and Learning Services are entitled to review fees and charges as set out in the report. At the time fees and charges are set they must be demonstrably fair and reasonable in all the circumstances. The report indicates the analysis against which the recommendations have been made and the obligations of the council in relation to the funding of free nursery places.

Name of lawyer consulted: Serena Kynaston Date consulted 14.11.2022

## **9. Equalities implications**

9.1 Equal access to childcare is encouraged by ensuring that the nurseries all offer the universal free early years entitlement of 15 hours a week for all 3 & 4 year olds and eligible two year olds. The entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds with working parents is 30 hours (term time only).

9.2 Two-year olds from low income working families are eligible for free childcare in addition to two-year olds from families on out of work benefits. Parents on Universal Credit are entitled to claim 85% of childcare costs. Parents on higher incomes may apply for Tax Free Childcare. For every £8 a parent pays into their childcare account, the government will pay in an extra £2 up to a maximum of £2,000. Parents can then use this money to pay their childcare provider.

9.3 Equal access to school meals is provided by all primary and special schools through participating in a citywide contract that is the same meal at the same price available to all pupils. The contract specifies that provision should be made for modified meals required on the grounds of cultural, religious or medical requirements.

## **10. Sustainability implications**

10.1 There are no direct sustainability issues arising from this report.

## **11. Other Implications**

### **Social Value and procurement implications**

11.1 Social Value is about securing maximum impact on local priorities from all public investment. The city seeks to maximise social value by focusing particularly on strengthening communities through collaborative working across the public, private and community and voluntary sectors.

11.2 The School Meals Service provides significant funding in the order of £3.5m pa to the local and wider economy through its school meals contract. The



contract requires employers delivering services on the council's behalf to pay the Living Wage Foundation Living Wage.

**Crime & disorder implications:**

- 11.3 There are no direct crime and disorder issues arising from this report.

**Public health implications:**

- 11.4 The opportunity to receive a free school meal or meal for no charge (UIFSM) is extremely important to a substantial number of children from low income families, for whom a school lunch may be the only balanced meal they will eat in a day. Research shows that when children eat better, they do better. Whether families are paying for school meals or are entitled to them for free, children are more likely to concentrate in the classroom in the afternoon after eating healthy school lunches in a pleasant environment. This also improves their health and their learning about making better food choices. Research also shows that children eligible for free school meals are less likely to: do well at school, continue into further education, or secure higher paid jobs. Therefore, ensuring that these children eat and gain the benefits of the free school meals they are entitled to, really will make a difference to their ability to learn and succeed.

