



Brighton & Hove
City Council

Overview & Scrutiny

Title:	Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date:	23 March 2011
Time:	5.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Contact:	Sharmini Williams Overview & Scrutiny Support Officer 29-0451 sharmini.williams@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The following are requested to attend the meeting:

Councillors:

Older (Chairman), McCaffery (Deputy Chairman), Davis, Deane, Hyde, A Norman and Phillips

Statutory Co-optee with Voting Rights

Mike Wilson	Diocese of Chichester
David Sanders	Diocese of Arundel & Brighton
Amanda Mortensen	Parent Governor Representative
Vacancy	Parent Governor Representative

Non-Statutory Co-optees without Voting Rights

Carrie Britton	Children's Health
Rachel Travers	Community Voluntary Sector Forum
Mark Price	Youth Services
Alex Qui	Youth Council
Azdean Boulaich	Youth Council
Vacancy	Children's Social Care Representative

AGENDA

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48. QUESTIONS & LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS No letters or questions have been received from Councillors.	
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CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

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Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Sharmini Williams, (29-0451, email sharmini.williams@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email scrutiny@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication - Tuesday, 15 March 2011

Agenda Item 44

To consider the following Procedural Business:-

A. Declaration of Substitutes

Where a Member of the Committee is unable to attend a meeting for whatever reason, a substitute Member (who is not a Cabinet Member) may attend and speak and vote in their place for that meeting. Substitutes are not allowed on Scrutiny Select Committees or Scrutiny Panels.

The substitute Member shall be a Member of the Council drawn from the same political group as the Member who is unable to attend the meeting, and must not already be a Member of the Committee. The substitute Member must declare themselves as a substitute, and be minuted as such, at the beginning of the meeting or as soon as they arrive.

B. Declarations of Interest

- (1) To seek declarations of any personal or personal & prejudicial interests under Part 2 of the Code of Conduct for Members in relation to matters on the Agenda. Members who do declare such interests are required to clearly describe the nature of the interest.
- (2) A Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or a Select Committee has a prejudicial interest in any business at meeting of that Committee where –
 - (a) that business relates to a decision made (whether implemented or not) or action taken by the Executive or another of the Council's committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees; and
 - (b) at the time the decision was made or action was taken the Member was
 - (i) a Member of the Executive or that committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee and
 - (ii) was present when the decision was made or action taken.
- (3) If the interest is a prejudicial interest, the Code requires the Member concerned:-
 - (a) to leave the room or chamber where the meeting takes place while the item in respect of which the declaration is made is under consideration. [There are three exceptions to this rule which are set out at paragraph (4) below].
 - (b) not to exercise executive functions in relation to that business and

(c) not to seek improperly to influence a decision about that business.

(4) The circumstances in which a Member who has declared a prejudicial interest is permitted to remain while the item in respect of which the interest has been declared is under consideration are:-

- (a) for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the item, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise, BUT the Member must leave immediately after he/she has made the representations, answered the questions, or given the evidence,
- (b) if the Member has obtained a dispensation from the Standards Committee, or
- (c) if the Member is the Leader or a Cabinet Member and has been required to attend before an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Sub-Committee to answer questions.

C. Declaration of Party Whip

To seek declarations of the existence and nature of any party whip in relation to any matter on the Agenda as set out at paragraph 8 of the Overview and Scrutiny Ways of Working.

D. 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 2 of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is confidential and therefore not available to the public.

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

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5.00PM 26 JANUARY 2011

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Older (Chairman); McCaffery (Deputy Chairman), Deane, Hyde, A Norman, Phillips, Janio and Allen

Statutory Co-optees: with voting rights::

Non-Statutory Co-optees: Carrie Britton (Children's Health) (Non-Voting Co-Optee), Joanna Martindale (Community Voluntary Sector Forum) (Non-Voting Co-Optee) and Rohan Lowe (Youth Council) (Non-Voting Co-Optee)

Apologies: Councillor Melanie Davis, Mike Wilson, David Sanders, Amanda Mortensen and Mark Price

PART ONE

37. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

37a. Declarations of Substitutes

37.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Melanie Davis, David Sander (Diocesan representative for Arundel & Brighton), Mike Wilson (Diocesan representative for Chichester), and Amanda Mortensen (Parent Governor Representative).

37.2 Councillor Kevin Allen was present as substitute for Cllr Melanie Davis.

37b. Declarations of Interest

37.3 There were none.

37c. Declaration of Party Whip

37.4 There were none.

37d. Exclusion from the Press and Public

37.5 In accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, it was considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in section 100I (1) of the said Act.

37.6 **RESOLVED-** That the press and public not be excluded from the meeting.

38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

38.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting of 10 November 2010 be approved by the Committee.

39. CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS

39.1 The Chairman informed the Committee that Councillor Smart had passed away before Christmas and his contribution and commitment to CYPOSC would be greatly missed. Councillor Tony Janio had joined the Committee in his place.

40. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

40.1 There were none.

41. QUESTIONS & LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

41.1 There were none.

42. SCRUTINY OF DIRECTORATE OF BUDGET STRATEGIES

42.1 Councillor Vanessa Brown, the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, introduced the budget proposals for 2011/12. Councillor Brown reminded the committee that the budget papers placed before them had been produced in December 2010, but that work on the budget was an ongoing process. In addition, some Government grant allocations had still to be confirmed and that hopefully this could help offset the reduction in funding.

42.2 Cllr Brown then answered members' questions, with support from Terry Parkin, Strategic Director, People; Steve Barton, Lead Commissioner for Children, Youth & Families; Gill Sweetenham, Acting Lead Commissioner for Schools, Skills & Learning and Louise Hoten, Head of Business Engagement Children's Services & Environment Finance.

42.3 Responding to concerns about a 50% reduction in funding for the Education Welfare Service, Mr Parkin told members that there was an opportunity to progress service integration in the council's Delivery Unit including the role of Education Welfare Officers in relation to the mainstream children's social work teams. This would create efficiencies and savings, but more importantly would create a simpler and more coherent care pathway for children requiring support. This was an instance in which improving the service would also create savings. Mr Barton went on to summarise the Children's Services Value for Money Programme and gave specific examples of initiatives which have enabled the council to deliver services more efficiently.

42.4 In reply members expressed concern at the impact of any cuts to early intervention services; Mr Parkin told the committee that the council was acutely aware of the importance of early intervention. Indeed, this was a particular local priority given the high numbers of children in care in the city, and, subject to finalisation of the budget it was

anticipated that additional resources would be made available to support early intervention. The council was currently examining why the city figures for children in care were so high including the relationship, and assumptions about the links to local patterns of substance misuse. Particular attention is being given to the incidence of domestic violence and the numbers of children entering the care system. This work (and early interventions based on its findings) will be key to managing the number of children taken into care within the current threshold for intervention which has been carefully reviewed and validated.

Members requested further written details of the detailed plans to restructure children's care services when these became available.

- 42.5 In answer to a question about the quality and timeliness of social work assessments, as identified in the previous report to CYPOSC in relation to the Ofsted Inspection, Mr Parkin told members that the council continues to work closely with its partners about thresholds for referred to social work teams. Referrals which did not meet the agreed threshold are an issue as they also require proper assessment and these impact on available social work resources. By working with partners, the number of inappropriate referrals could be reduced and costs better managed.

Officers agreed to return to the committee at a later date with more details on this issue.

- 42.6 In answer to queries about savings identified in out of city SEN placements, Mr Sweetenham told members that effective early intervention work had reduced the need for specialist out of city placements for children with SEN. It was therefore possible to make savings in this budget area.
- 42.7 In response to questions about plans to reduce city Educational Psychologist (EP) capacity, Mr Sweetenham explained the background to the headline figures in the budget report. When the city had first developed an area team approach to children's services, educational psychologists had taken a lead role in developing services in each locality. As this work was now successfully established and with the improved understanding with partners and parents regarding Special Educational Needs Statements this should reduce the need for Educational Psychologist time.
- 42.8 Rohan Lowe, Youth Council Representative asked whether young people had been involved in the budget consultation, it was confirmed that although the focus groups used for the consultation were in the main adults that Young People were involved in consultation through the work of the Youth Participation Team and specific projects such as the Youth Services Review.
- 42.9 In response to a query as to how a reduction of £130K in youth services could be managed, Mr Barton told members that proposals were being developed through the Youth Service Review to make best use of resources, including the efficient use of buildings.
- 42.10 In response to questions about city music services, Councillor Vanessa Brown told members that it was an outstanding service, that the savings identified had been agreed by the Head of City music services and that if the grant was lower than expected it would be looked at again. Mr Parkin informed members that these services received

relatively generous direct government funding and it should be possible to reduce local subsidies without a negative impact. However, the council was committed to offering musical opportunities to all city children and would closely monitor the effect of the changes to ensure that they did not unduly impact upon particular communities.

- 42.11 In answer to whether the authority was responding to the SEN Green paper challenges, Members were told the authority works closely with the local Special schools and that it would consult fully with its partners over the planned changes.
- 42.12 In relation to the savings for the Ethnic Minority Achievement Services (EMAS) Members were informed that the service could be provided better and more economically by working directly with schools.
- 42.13 It was agreed to add “outcomes” to the “menu of service interventions options - Prevention activities”.
- 42.14 In answer to a question on when the Equalities Impact Assessments pertaining to these plans be published, members were told that these would be ready for the appropriate Cabinet meetings.
- 42.15 Further concern was expressed that there would be a need to consider the cumulative impact of savings on multiple service users. The Committee were told that this would be taken into account.
- 42.16 The Committee were informed that the minutes from CYPOSC would be forwarded onto the Overview & Scrutiny Commission.
- 42.17 **RESOLVED**

The Committee requested additional information (to be supplied at a later date) on:

- (1) The restructuring of the Education Welfare service;
- (2) Partner performance regarding welfare assessment referrals;
- (3) Staffing information of social worker assessment times;
- (4) A report on how Children’s Services was engaging with the local 3rd sector
- (5) “Outcomes” added to the “menu of service interventions options – Prevention activities”

43. WORK PROGRAMME

- 43.1 Members agreed the work programme.

The meeting concluded at 7.10pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 49

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: *Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Needs Assessment*

Date of Meeting: 23 March 2011

Report of: *Strategic Director, People*

Contact Officer: Name: **Matthew Wragg** Tel: **29-3944**
Sarah Colombo **29-4218**

E-mail: matthew.wragg@brighton-hove.gov.uk
sarah.colombo@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Child Poverty Act places duties on the local authority to work together with partners to produce a local Child Poverty Needs Assessment and from this a local strategy to reduce child poverty. This fits with developments in Brighton & Hove to deliver improved outcomes for residents through evidence based Intelligent Commissioning.
- 1.2 Child poverty does not only concern material quality of life for families, but also the impact of poverty on the long term life chances for their children. The commitment to reduce child poverty should therefore be adopted at the strategic level by partners within the city in order to impact across the broad range of associated service provision.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) That the Committee consider and provide comments on the findings of the Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Needs Assessment to be taken into account, prior to its agreement by the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership in accordance with the duties of the Child Poverty Act, 2010.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

What is child poverty?

- 3.1. Approximately 2.8 million children and young people in England live in poverty. A family is considered to live in poverty if their income is below 60% of the national average family income. For a family of 2 adults with 2 children this means a

weekly income of £344 or less before housing costs and for a lone parent with 2 children £263 or less.

- 3.2. Outcomes for children raised in poverty are significantly worse than for those who are not. Educational achievement and health and wellbeing are likely to suffer. Lifetime earnings for children raised in poverty are significantly lower, as are their prospects for employment. Therefore children brought up in poverty are more likely to raise their own children in poverty.

Why is it important to Brighton & Hove?

- 3.3. Almost a quarter of all children and young people in Brighton & Hove live in poverty. The majority of these live in families where one or more parents are out of work. A high proportion live in lone parent families, most of which are headed by women. The rate of child poverty varies significantly between different neighbourhoods across the city, meaning that life chances for children raised in more deprived areas are significantly worse.

The local duties

- 3.4. The Child Poverty Act, 2010 commits Government to eradicate child poverty in the UK by 2020. In order to help bring this about, the Act places duties on local authorities to work with partners to produce both a local Child Poverty Needs Assessment and from this a local strategy which proposes how they collectively will work to reduce, and mitigate the effects of child poverty.
- 3.5. Prior to the introduction of Child Poverty Act there was already a commitment to reduce child poverty in Brighton & Hove. One of the strategic priorities of the Children & Young People's Plan 2009-2012 is to reduce both child poverty and health inequality, recognising the link between family income and life chances.

Intelligent Commissioning

- 3.6. The Public Service Board with the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership have been reviewing partnership working arrangements in the city to ensure a collective focus on delivering improved outcomes for residents, according to the priority themes of the refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 3.7. The evidence reviewed and presented in the Child Poverty Needs Assessment demonstrates that, in order to reduce child poverty, partners should work together to improve not only children's outcomes but outcomes for the family as a whole.

What is a Needs Assessment?

- 3.8. A needs assessment is a review of data and evidence for a given subject, in this case child poverty. It judges the level of existing need within the city in relation to the desired outcome. It measures the relationship between need and service provision and, based on approaches that are proven to work, offers

recommendations. These are then used to develop a strategy for commissioning appropriate and effective services.

- 3.9. The structure and headings of the needs assessment are taken from a draft template for needs assessments that will be used across the city in future. The Child Poverty Needs Assessment has been undertaken as a trial of this template and learning from the process will be reported to the Public Service Board.

How was the assessment conducted?

- 3.10. The Government's Child Poverty Unit developed a three tiered model to express the relationship between family circumstances and services in order to reduce child poverty. This was adapted and used locally to gather evidence and also to present the findings of the needs assessment. It is anticipated that this will be used as an approach to develop the local Child Poverty Strategy also.

- 3.11. The three tiers are summarised as follows:

- Short-term support that provides immediate solutions to day to day issues around financial matters in relation to earnings and costs of living.
- Medium-term support that meets the needs of parents and carers around skills and training, job availability and childcare.
- Long-term support that gives children and young people the best chance to prosper as adults, such as education, health, targeted family support and support to communities.

- 3.12. Child poverty is a story of people and place. In order to reduce child poverty it is necessary to understand the complex relationship between individual family needs, the risks they face and the services that are offered to support them. This must also be considered within the context of the immediate community, and the wider economy and dynamics of the city.

What is new?

- 3.13. There is no known work which brings together the range of family circumstances and services that illuminate the picture of child poverty in the city. The development of the local Child Poverty Strategy from the evidence within this needs assessment presents an opportunity to use the principles of Intelligent Commissioning to the full, with the potential to help bring commissioning activity together across service or organisational boundaries.

What are the findings?

- 3.14. Key findings in relation to child poverty and associated outcomes for families are:
- Severe financial pressures for families attempting to secure adequate family housing, relevant benefits and balance low incomes against the high cost of living in the city.

- A significant minority of parents have low skills and qualifications. These are compounded by unemployment and low wage employment in comparison to high childcare costs in the city.
- Overall educational attainment is below average, with particularly low attainment for specific pupils, most notably from disadvantaged communities.
- Higher than average numbers of young people not in education employment or training (NEET), and lower than average numbers of young people from disadvantaged communities going on to higher education.
- Higher than average numbers of looked after children, with associated increased risks to life chances and costs to services.
- Higher than average numbers of families with a range of risk factors for child poverty, including disabilities, mental health problems, alcohol and drug misuse, and domestic violence.
- Particularly disadvantaged communities where families are living in intergenerational poverty with associated low aspirations.

The recommendations

- 3.15. The recommendations of the needs assessment suggest three strategic areas with which to frame effective work to reduce child poverty in the city, focused on partnerships, coordination of services, and shared monitoring arrangements.

Partnership commitment and capacity

- 3.16. The needs assessment finds that child poverty can only be reduced once families are doing better as a whole. Child poverty is a single, critical outcome by which success against all of the priority themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy could be monitored.
- 3.17. It is recommended, therefore, that the local Child Poverty Strategy is developed and adopted by partners of the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership in order to embed the commitment to commission services which are proven to improve family circumstances and so too reduce child poverty.

Coordination of Services

- 3.18. The network of advice services should be effectively coordinated across the city and sectors, building on foundations recently put in place by the Advice Partnership. The Child Poverty Strategy should have a communication element to enable frontline staff across agencies to refer parents and carers to relevant advice and support services.
- 3.19. The creation of jobs within the city should focus on helping local residents into sustained employment. This should be linked to efforts to train parents, and young school leavers, with the relevant skills to enter into secure and appropriately paid work. To this end education and skills partnerships in the city

should ensure a coordinated focus on preparing residents for work from childhood through to adulthood.

- 3.20. Education, along with a safe and secure family environment, should frame the personal as well as academic development of children and young people in the city. A focus on aspirations is important too to ensure that all children and young people are encouraged to make the most of the city's social and cultural offer. Efforts should be maintained to deliver more decent family housing through the Housing Strategy and the Strategic Housing Partnership. Intervention should also be coordinated across service and agencies to support families with the most complex needs.

Monitoring Improvement

- 3.21. It is recommended that coordinated and accurate monitoring underpins service delivery to improve family circumstances. Key service indicators should be monitored and shared through common systems such as the Brighton & Hove Local Information Service (BHLIS) and Interplan so that they can be used widely to deliver outcomes beyond service level.
- 3.22. Adult services, and in particular advice services should monitor where clients are parents. This will provide a more accurate picture of the associated risk to children and young people in families where adults require help, alongside the benefits to the whole family of high quality, timely advice.

Next steps

- 3.23. The needs assessment will be presented to the Children & Young People's Trust Board and the Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee in March 2011. It will then follow to the Public Service Board and the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership in accordance with the duty to cooperate in the Child Poverty Act.
- 3.24. The Government is also due to publish a National Child Poverty Strategy in Spring 2011. This will set the national policy agenda for child poverty following the recent independent review of Poverty and Life Chances by Frank Field MP.
- 3.25. This national strategy will frame the context for developing the local Child Poverty Strategy, along with the development of the City Annual Commissioning Plan for 2011/12. It is envisaged that the Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Strategy will be produced by June 2011.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Extensive consultation was carried out with professionals across sectors as part of the needs assessment, as well as a review of a wide body of national and local consultation with children and young people, and families. Professional and public voice form Sections 9 and 10, respectively, of the needs assessment.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 This paper deals with the proposed strategy to identify, monitor and reduce the level of child poverty in Brighton & Hove. Although the paper does not make reference to any specific financial implications resulting from this strategy; appropriate funding will need to be secured before committing to any additional cost to the council.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis Date: 14/03/2011

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Child Poverty Act 2010 commits the Government to eradicate child poverty by 2020. The requirement in the Act to meet the child poverty targets is not subject to any qualification, but child poverty strategies must take into account 'economic and fiscal circumstances'. The Act places statutory duties on local areas to help deliver the national target. The new duties for local authorities in England under Part 2 of the Act came into force on 25 May 2010. This places duties on local authorities and named partners to 'cooperate with a view to reducing and mitigating the effects of child poverty in their areas'. They are also required to prepare and publish local child poverty needs assessments and to develop joint child poverty strategies. In line with the decentralisation and localism agenda, the Coalition Government has decided not to issue formal statutory guidance on Part 2, giving local partners flexibility to meet the duties in a way that best fits their organisations and meets the needs of their local community.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson Date: 14/03/2011

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Life chances for children and young people who are raised in low income families are known to be considerably reduced. The risk of low income for particular groups of families, and so too of child poverty is described in Section 4 of the attached needs assessment. Detail within the needs assessment will provide the basis for an Equalities Impact Assessment to accompany any formal proposals for reducing child poverty that follow once the local Child Poverty Strategy is produced.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The sustainability of local communities is dependent on the local economy and the local environment. The relationship between employment, living costs and housing for families within the city is described within the needs assessment.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The correlation between crime and disorder and child poverty is described within the needs assessment. It includes such issues as the involvement in anti-social behaviour of children and young people, both as perpetrators and victims of crime, and also the impact on families of issues such as domestic violence or drug abuse.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The needs assessment recommends that efforts to reduce child poverty should be included and monitored within the City Performance and Risk Management Framework. There is an opportunity to examine in more detail multi-agency interventions for families with complex needs as part of the local Child Poverty Strategy. The needs assessment provides a range of validated practice that will be considered in the development of the strategy.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The needs assessment has implications for the public, community and voluntary and private sectors within the city, as well as for residents and communities. The needs assessment provides the evidence base for a local Child Poverty Strategy to be developed and adopted by the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Needs Assessment, 2010-11

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None

Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Needs Assessment, 2010-2011

DRAFT 1.0

Produced for: Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 23 March 2011

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Please note that where references are made in this needs assessment to further information held within the Child Poverty Profile, available through the Brighton & Hove Local Information Service (BHLIS) website, this is not yet available. It is anticipated that this online resource will be made available by June 2011.

1. Introduction and background

What is the subject of the Needs Assessment, what are the issues and why are they important?

Approximately 2.8 million children and young people in England live in poverty, roughly one in every five. A family of 2 adults with 2 children are considered to live in poverty if their weekly income is £344 or less, before housing costs. For a lone parent with 2 children this is £263 or less.

In 2008 the Joseph Rowntree Foundation estimated the total cost of child poverty to the UK to be £25 billion per year, in terms of costs to public services, benefits to supplement income and also lost productivity to the country as a whole. A study by UNICEF in 2010 placed the UK nineteenth lowest out of the top twenty-four richest countries for material wellbeing among children.

Outcomes for children raised in poverty are significantly worse than for those who are not. Educational achievement and health and wellbeing are likely to suffer. Lifetime earnings for children raised in poverty are significantly lower, as are their prospects for employment. Therefore children brought up in poverty are more likely to raise their own children in poverty.

Services to reduce child poverty must focus on the circumstances that prevent parents from working, which in some cases are deep rooted or beyond a family's ability to control. It is not, however, only about family circumstances and parental behaviour, but also aspirations within neighbourhoods and the economic context of the city as a whole.

Evidence points firmly to a prevention approach which is therefore the focus of this needs assessment and its conclusions. The picture of services in relation to child poverty must also include protection as well as prevention, where circumstances are compounded to the extent that there are child wellbeing or protection issues.

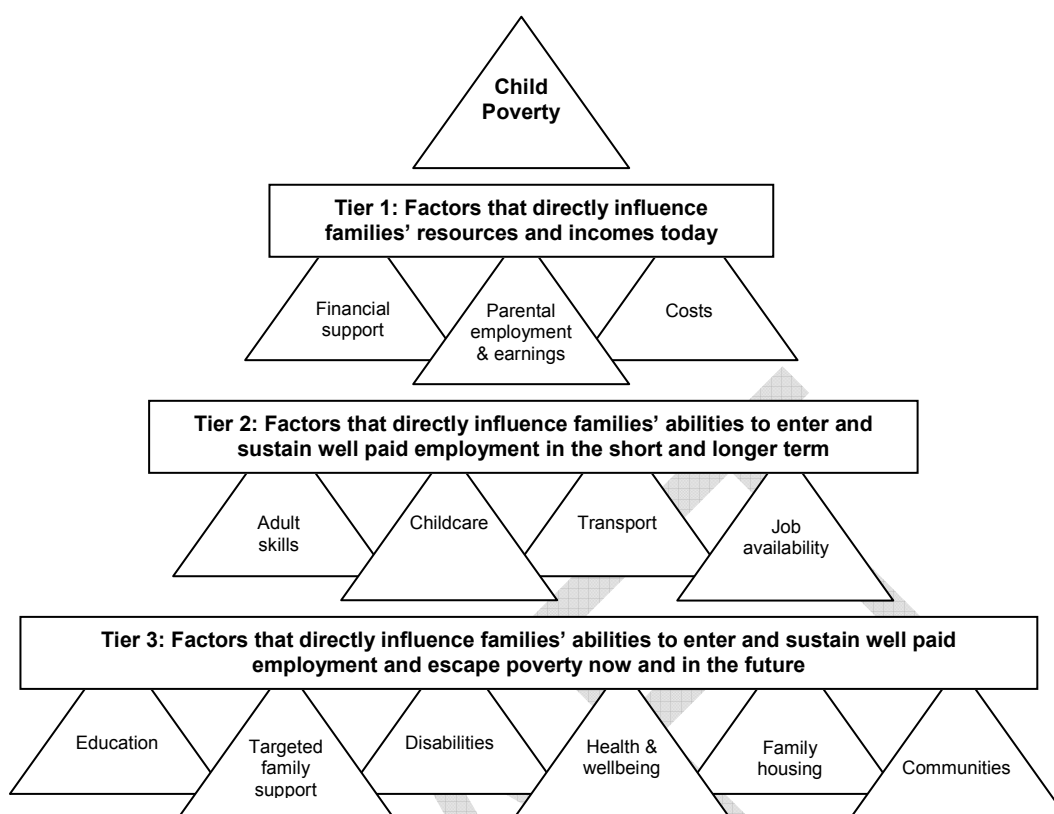
The pyramid in Figure 1, based on a model by the Child Poverty Unit, is a useful way to visualise how support for families is both complex and inter-connected. There are three tiers to the pyramid:

1. Short-term support that provides immediate solutions to day to day issues around financial matters in relation to earnings and costs of living.
2. Medium-term support that meets the needs of parents and carers around skills and training, job availability and childcare.
3. Long-term support that gives children and young people the best chance to prosper as adults, such as education, health, targeted family support and support to communities.

Two case studies demonstrate the range of support required by families on order to move out of poverty and to improve life chances, in relation to the range of factors and circumstances shown in the pyramid.

Appendix 1: Case Studies

Figure 1: Local factors and circumstances that reduce or alleviate child poverty



What are the national and strategic contexts?

The Child Poverty Act 2010 commits the Government to eradicate child poverty by 2020. The Act places statutory duties on local areas to help deliver the national target. Brighton & Hove City Council, as the local authority, is required to cooperate with partners to produce both a local Child Poverty Needs Assessment and also a local Child Poverty Strategy which sets out how they will work together to reduce, and alleviate the impact of, child poverty.

The Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership and the Public Service Board are building on well established partnership arrangements in the city. This includes more effective partnership working, a common approach to citywide needs assessments, shared outcomes and coordinating public sector spending. The development of the Child Poverty Needs Assessment and the local strategy is an opportunity to use the principles of Intelligent Commissioning to the full, putting the outcome before existing service or organisational boundaries.

A partnership task group has been convened specifically to oversee the delivery of the Child Poverty Needs Assessment and the strategy. Representatives are involved from the family of partnerships which constitute the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership, the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the community and voluntary sector.

What is the scope?

This needs assessment is based on the official Government measure of child poverty. This is defined as the number of children in families in receipt of either out of work benefits, or in receipt of working tax credits where their reported income is less than 60% of the average national income.

Specific aims of the Child Poverty Needs Assessment are to determine the following:

Data: to map in detail child poverty data and related service indicators for the city and to draw comparison with other relevant towns and cities.

Risk: to describe family circumstances within the city that may increase the likelihood of child poverty.

Need: to understand levels of child poverty within the city and associated issues and services.

What works: to evidence which types of services are proven to alleviate the effects of poverty and how they might have the greatest impact.

Recommendations: to draw conclusions from the evidence to inform the development of an effective strategy to reduce child poverty.

This needs assessment has also been undertaken as a trial of the new Brighton & Hove template for citywide needs analyses. Due to the breadth of the subject and the strategic nature of this needs assessment certain more detailed elements of the template have not been undertaken, specifically a review of individual service provision, workforce and costs.

Sources

An extensive range of national and local evidence was compiled, arranged by four key themes – Financial Support, Employment and Skills, Life Chances, and Place. These are commonly referred to as the child poverty ‘building blocks’.

The Child Poverty Profile on the Brighton & Hove Local Information Service (BHLIS) website holds a comprehensive list of all the evidence which was reviewed for the Child Poverty Needs Assessment. A summary of key evidence is provided for purposes of reporting.

Appendix 2: Key Evidence

2. Key issues and gaps

Child Poverty Data and Evidence

The latest child poverty data relates to benefit claimant information for 2008. Despite the time delay the data does provide the most complete picture available of child poverty within the city and will be particularly useful as a test of the direction of travel over the long term. The data also allows us to make comparisons both within different areas of the city, based on the detail it gives us at neighbourhood level, and also in relation to other local authority areas.

Family characteristics

Current 2001 census data is extremely out of date. Therefore there is not an accurate up to date picture of the local population, particularly with regard to groups such as Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) families. However the Office for National Statistics estimated that the total BME population for Brighton & Hove had risen from 12 percent at the time of the 2001 census to 16 percent in 2007. Child poverty data does not reflect the ethnicity of families.

In Brighton & Hove there are higher than average incidences of mental health problems, drug and alcohol misuse. Levels of domestic violence are also high, which disproportionately impacts on women and children. These are not reflected in national risk factors for child poverty or the official data but should be considered as part of the local child poverty picture.

Working and out of work poverty

National data shows a trend whereby the numbers of children and young people living in poverty in working families is rising while the number living in families on out of work benefits has fallen. The degree to which this may be true for Brighton & Hove is difficult to measure due to the limitations of child poverty data and the length of time that it has been available.

Families who are entitled to benefits but do not claim are unaccounted for in child poverty data. This is likely to be more true of working families who generally are in receipt of fewer benefits. Exactly how many families this represents in the city will be unknown until the next census data is available in approximately two years time.

We can measure, to a degree, the attainment of children and young people living in families dependent on out of work benefits, based on Free School Meals eligibility. However, currently we do not measure the attainment of children and young people from families living in working poverty.

Long term and persistent poverty

Whilst living in poverty for any period of time may impact upon the outcomes for children and young people and their families as a whole, there is an important distinction between short term income loss, for instance temporary loss of employment, and long term or inter-generational poverty.

Research shows that the longer and more persistent the experience of poverty for families, the more damaging it is in terms of the negative impact on long term life chances for children and young people.

There is a correlation between higher concentrations of child poverty and traditionally more disadvantaged communities, where evidence suggests that child poverty is an intergenerational issue. However, child poverty data does not indicate the length of time or the extent to which families are actually below the 60% income threshold.

Service Data and Evidence

There is good local service level data related to child poverty. However, the main challenge for the needs assessment has been the extent to which data and evidence is available for sharing between services, both within the local authority and also across public and community and voluntary sector organisations.

The aim of the local authority and partners is to move towards a focus on shared outcomes rather than individual services. This Child Poverty Needs Assessment demonstrates that to tackle child poverty there must be a more holistic and outcome focussed approach to gathering and sharing data within local services.

Views of professionals and public

There is excellent understanding at the front line and within services of the issues for families in relation to child poverty, which is summarised in Section 10. The views of children and young people and parents and carers are formally gathered through related service consultations or more generic ones (e.g. the former Place Survey), which have been brought together to inform Section 11.

There is, however, little overall consultation historically on the direct experience of living in poverty for families in the city. This needs assessment originally intended to undertake some new consultation with children and young people and parents and carers, however due to capacity this has not been possible. There is significant national research of common issues related to poverty which has been used to supplement local consultation.

Given the general falling off in attainment of children in the city from primary through into secondary education, consultation would most usefully capture and trace aspirations of local children and young people, with a focus on the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

3. Recommendations for consideration

Partnership commitment and capacity

1. The local Child Poverty Strategy should embed the aim to reduce child poverty as a strategic priority for partnerships within the city.
2. Partners adopt a common strategic approach to commission services which support families as a whole to change their circumstances for the better.
3. A reducing child poverty 'check' is applied against relevant future commissioning to ensure effectiveness and value for money.
4. The Child Poverty Strategy should provide a framework to coordinate the activities of key services and sub-outcomes that are known to reduce child poverty.

Coordination of Services

Tier 1: Financial support for families

5. Accessible, quality advice services for parents and carers.
6. Good quality financial advice for parents and carers in targeted family support.
7. Consistent monitoring of take-up of advice services by parents and carers to determine with accuracy the correlation to child poverty.

Tier 2: Sustained employment for parents

8. Creation of new jobs for the city, delivered through the refreshed City Employment and Skills Plan.
9. Focus on adult skills, particularly for targeted families, and with a focus on family learning.
10. Raise skill levels for parents before and during their children's primary school education, with a focus on lone parents and support around child care.

Tier 3: Improved life chances for children and young people, their families and communities

11. Early intervention for children and young people in educational attainment and personal development, at three core age groups from 0-18 years (as per the Graham Allen review).
12. Raise the overall quality of teaching and effectiveness on attainment in all secondary schools within the city.
13. Focus specific attention on monitoring and raising attainment of children and young people from the most deprived neighbourhoods.
14. Ensure that intervention in school is supported by family intervention to raise parental aspiration and improve the quality of the home environment.
15. Focus on parents through mental health and drug and alcohol services as a preventative tool, before safeguarding becomes an issue.
16. Focus on providing protection and support for children affected by domestic violence and their non-abusive parent, and on early intervention and prevention.
17. Focus on increasing family housing through delivery of the Brighton & Hove Housing Strategy and the Core Strategy to alleviate pressures in the city.
18. Develop a scheme(s) to increase social and cultural engagement and aspiration for targeted children and young people.

Monitoring Improvement

19. Key service indicators and associated outcomes for reducing child poverty are identified and monitored within the new City Performance and Risk Management Framework.
20. Family data should be shared more effectively between sectors, partners and services to coordinate evidence of need in relation to child poverty.
21. The national child poverty measure should be used as an overarching 'test' of evidence of success for the city in improving circumstances for families.

Further Evidence Gathering

Recommendations for further evidence gathering are included in Section 12.

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4. Who's at risk and why?

The national Households Below Average Income (HBAI) survey provides estimates of the percentage of families living in poverty in the UK according to their characteristics. This is based on a selected sample of families known to be below the 60 percent income threshold. It provides a more detailed picture of risk factors than actual child poverty data, but only at the national level.

Of all groups, children and young people with an unemployed parent or parents face the greatest risk of experiencing poverty of all family groups. The influence of other family characteristics in terms of risk therefore largely relates to the extent to which these are likely to inhibit parents' ability to work or maintain a sufficient income to meet their living costs.

The Brighton & Hove Health Profile, 2010 shows that in Brighton & Hove there are higher than average incidence of mental health problems, drug and alcohol misuse. There are also high levels of domestic and sexual violence, according to British Crime Survey data.

These risk factors are not included in child poverty data but, given their impact on ability to work and also the family environment, they must be considered to be a part of the local child poverty picture.

Risk factors by family characteristics

The following list brings together known groups of families who are at increased risk of being in poverty. This is based on a combination of national and local data and therefore it is not possible to produce a clear hierarchy of risk for families in the city. Families will commonly fall into a number of these categories and therefore they should be seen as interrelated. Percentages quoted are based on HBAI national statistics.

Children in out of work families

Children in families without a parent in employment have an 81 percent risk of living in poverty. This is either the cause or a symptom of poverty in most of the specific family risk factors listed below.

Children of a lone parent

After housing costs 50 percent of children in lone parent families nationally live in poverty. The causes centre on a single wage in relation to living costs and the affordability of childcare.

Children with a disability or with parents with a disability

Families with a disabled child or adult have a 42 percent risk of living in poverty. It costs three times as much to bring up a disabled child and parents often take on the role of primary carer which makes employment difficult.

Children leaving care

Young care leavers face significant risks to their life chances with significantly lower academic achievement than their peers. They are more likely to be unemployed, to become homeless and to spend time in prison.

Children of teenage parents

Children of teenage parents have a 63 percent increased risk of being born into poverty in comparison to babies born to mothers in their twenties. Children of teenage mothers are at increased risk of low educational attainment, unemployment, poverty in adulthood, and poor health.

Children of Black and minority ethnic families

Nationally 66 percent of Bangladeshi and Pakistani children and 50 percent of Black and Black British children live in poverty. The degree to which families in Brighton & Hove reflect this is not clear from existing data.

Children from Gypsy and Traveller families have a higher risk of living in poverty with a resultant risk to educational attainment and wellbeing. Children of asylum seekers are also at risk of living in poverty and associated risks to wellbeing. National and local data however provides little information in terms of income or poverty for these marginalised families.

Children with parents and carers with mental health problems

Mental health problems in parents and carers may lead to unemployment and social exclusion for the whole family. Children from households with the lowest 20 percent of incomes have a threefold increased risk of mental health problems themselves.

Children with parents and carers who misuse drugs and/or alcohol

Children with parents and carers who abuse alcohol and or drugs are at an increased risk of poverty and reduced life chances, due to the effects on parenting and difficulty in gaining and sustaining employment.

Children in families experiencing domestic violence

Children growing up in poverty have an increased risk of experiencing domestic violence within their family. Children in families experiencing domestic violence are at risk of reduced life chances, most importantly around wellbeing.

Families with four or more children

Children in larger families have a 40 percent risk of living in poverty, predominantly due to higher associated costs of living and challenges to sustaining employment.

Figure 2 illustrates the various risks and causes that could result in families entering into poverty. This is written from the perspective of family circumstance and therefore does not include wider economic fluctuations, such as the recession, inflation and housing markets, which are also a contributing factor. Those issues in bold are considered to be of particular local importance.

Figure 2: Causal chain why families may enter poverty

1. What causes parents to be unemployed?

- National down turn in employment and subsequent loss of jobs and lack of new job creation
- Transition from benefits to work may mean parent cannot pay essential bills and costs in the short to medium term
- **Low wages where costs of living outstrip income may mean cannot pay essential bills and costs with loss of in kind benefits (e.g. free school meals)**
- **Parent/carer duties make working unaffordable and/or impossible to coordinate with available carer support**
- Cultural traditions that discourage female working outside the home
- **Intergenerational poverty – low aspirations / lack of confidence**
- Language barriers where fluent English is required
- Parents with larger families where childcare costs outstrip work income
- Lone parents where one wage does not cover essential costs
- **Families experiencing domestic violence**
- Chaotic parental circumstances
 - **Drug and alcohol abuse**
 - **Long term mental and physical health problems**
- Low skills and few or no qualifications
 - **Exacerbated where the average qualifications levels are high**
- **Poor educational achievement**

2. What are the causes of poor educational achievement?

- ❖ Low familial aspirations
 - **Intergenerational poverty – low aspirations / lack of confidence**
- ❖ Chaotic or difficult family circumstances
 - **Children taken into Care**
 - Parents/families who neglect or abuse children
 - **Parents with drug and/or alcohol misuse**
 - **Families experiencing domestic violence**
 - **Parents with significant mental health problems**
 - **Parents with significant long term health problems**
 - Young parents without strong supporting structures
- ❖ Environment or culture around a child that exacerbate low aspirations
 - **Poor communities with no culture of aspiration/educational aspiration**
 - **Overcrowded and chaotic home space**
 - Highly mobile families or those excluded from services and society such as gypsy and traveller families and asylum seeker families
- ❖ Specific conditions that hamper a child's ability to learn (a wide spectrum of additional needs)
 - **Where the educational/family support available is not sufficient to narrow the gap in educational attainment**
 - Where a child's condition is so severe as to preclude standard attainment

3. What causes a broader range of families in work to be living in poverty?

- Low wage jobs
 - **Low wage economies and part time casual work in some employment sectors such as catering and hospitality**
 - Parents with low skills and few or no qualifications can only gain low paid low skilled jobs
 - ❖ Challenges for those parents receiving benefits to access and attend essential training
 - **Cost and flexibility of childcare prohibitive**
 - Eligibility to training for those on benefits

5. The level of need in the population

Latest child poverty data for Brighton & Hove shows that 10,555 children and young people are raised in poverty. This represents 22.0% of the total population of children and young people under the age of twenty in the city.

Brighton & Hove is roughly in line with the national England average for child poverty (20.9%) but significantly behind the South East regional average (14.5%). Portsmouth (24%) and Southampton (26.5%), nearby cities within the same region, have slightly higher levels.

Within Brighton & Hove the level of child poverty varies significantly between wards and neighbourhoods of the city. East Brighton is the ward with the highest proportion of children and young people in poverty (46.9%) compared to Withdean, the lowest (6.6%).

Levels of child poverty are compared as a proportion (percentage) of the total children and young people living in an area. Due to variation in the concentration of families living within different wards of the city, a higher percentage does not necessarily mean a higher number.

East Brighton, for example, has a higher percentage of children & young people in poverty than Moulsecoomb and Bevendean but the actual number is lower. Patcham and Westbourne have an identical percentage of children and young people in poverty yet the numbers are significantly different.

Figure 3 gives a breakdown of child poverty for all wards in descending order, ranked by the percentage of children and young people in poverty.

Figure 3: Child Poverty in Brighton & Hove by ward

Ward	Percentage of children & young people in poverty*	Number of children and young people in poverty
East Brighton	46.9%	1,435
Moulsecoomb and Bevendean	44.5%	1,650
Hollingdean and Stanmer	28.7%	800
Hangleton and Knoll	26.3%	935
Queen's Park	26.2%	445
Hanover and Elm Grove	24.3%	590
North Portslade	23.7%	595
St. Peter's and North Laine	22.5%	405
Woodingdean	21.8%	485
South Portslade	21.6%	480
Brunswick and Adelaide	21.2%	175
Central Hove	17.8%	155
Regency	16.3%	115
Goldsmid	16.2%	355
Patcham	13.8%	450
Westbourne	13.8%	230
Rottingdean Coastal	13.3%	275
Wish	13.1%	270
Preston Park	10.1%	305
Hove Park	9.0%	220
Withdean	6.6%	190

* Expressed as a percentage of the total number of children and young people living in the ward

Out of work and working poverty

The majority of children and young people in poverty in the city live in families where parents receive out of work benefits (77.5%). The remaining 22.5% live in families where one or more parents are working. This is very close to the national picture, 76.4% and 23.6% respectively.

Wards in the city with the highest percentage of families in out of work poverty generally also have higher levels of working poverty. There are, however, certain wards where working poverty is comparatively high when compared to lower levels of out of work poverty, Brunswick and Adelaide being one such example.

Figure 4 gives a breakdown of child poverty in out of work and working families for all wards in descending order, ranked by the percentage of children and young people in the ward.

Figure 4: Child Poverty in out of work and working families

Ward	Percentage in out of work families*	Number in out of work families	Percentage in working families*	Number in working families
East Brighton	39.2%	1,200	7.8%	240
Moulsecoomb and Bevendean	37.9%	1,405	6.6%	245
Hollingdean and Stanmer	23.1%	645	5.7%	160
Queen's Park	21.8%	370	4.4%	75
Hangleton and Knoll	20.1%	715	6.2%	220
Hanover and Elm Grove	19.4%	470	4.9%	120
North Portslade	18.7%	470	5.0%	125
St. Peter's and North Laine	17.5%	315	5.0%	90
Woodingdean	17.0%	380	4.7%	105
South Portslade	16.7%	370	4.7%	105
Brunswick and Adelaide	13.9%	115	6.7%	55
Central Hove	12.1%	105	5.2%	45
Regency	12.0%	85	4.3%	30
Goldsmid	11.2%	245	4.8%	105
Westbourne	9.6%	160	4.2%	70
Patcham	9.4%	305	4.3%	140
Rottingdean Coastal	8.9%	185	4.4%	90
Wish	8.7%	180	4.1%	85
Preston Park	6.6%	200	3.3%	100
Hove Park	5.5%	135	3.5%	85
Withdean	4.2%	120	2.6%	75

* Expressed as a percentage of the total number of children and young people living in the ward

Lone parent families

Lone parent families account for the majority of children and young people living in poverty (72.8%) when compared to couple families (27.2%). Again this is similar to the national picture, 68.2% and 31.8% respectively. The Reducing Inequality Review 2007 showed that 90% of lone parent households in Brighton & Hove are headed by women.

Overall picture

- The majority (60.7%) of children and young people in poverty live in lone parent families who are out of work.
- 16.7% of children and young people in poverty live in couple families who are out of work.
- 12.1% of children and young people in poverty live in lone parent, working families.
- 10.5% of children and young people in poverty live in couple, working families.

Further information

The Child Poverty Profile on BHLIS allows users to map all available child poverty data for Brighton & Hove down to Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA). This shows a more detailed and even more varied picture than comparing child poverty by ward level alone. Key maps at LSOA level are provided for purposes of reporting.

Appendix 3: Key Maps

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6. Services in relation to need

This section brings together a summary of key evidence of need in Brighton & Hove in relation to services that support families living in poverty. Further data and evidence can be found in the Child Poverty Profile on BHLIS, as well as reference to a range of strategies which contain actions to address these issues.

Tier 1: Financial support for families

Financial support

- Advice services have experienced a significant increase in enquiries over the past two years since the start of the economic downturn.
- Social Welfare Law advice services received an estimated 17,000 enquiries in 2009/10. The majority of these were related to money matters.
- Calls to the Amaze helpline increased by 40% over the 6 months prior to January 2011 and 50% of calls are primarily related to financial concerns.

Parental earnings and costs of living

- In 2010 average weekly earnings were below the national average for men but above the national average for women.
- In May 2010 the percentage of residents claiming out of work benefits was 13.1%, compared to the England average of 12.4%.
- In June 2010 the percentage of economically inactive people who wanted a job was 7.4%, compared to national average of 5.7%.
- In 2010 the average price of a 3 bedroom home was £314,762, requiring an income of £72,637 to secure a mortgage.
- In 2010 house prices rose by 12.9% compared to 5.2% nationally, making them 33% higher than the national average.
- In 2010 the average monthly rental price for a 3 bedroom home was £1,251. The cost of renting in the city is now the highest in the country after London.
- Of local concern are proposals to reduce the maximum Local Housing Allowance that will leave some families at risk of a shortfall in payments.
- Homelessness applications and acceptances to the Council's Housing Options team have risen over the last two years.

Tier 2: Sustained employment for parents

Adult skills and job availability

- There are high numbers of residents with Level 3 qualifications and a minority of residents, one in twelve, with few or no qualifications.
- Anecdotal evidence suggests significant numbers within this minority have literacy and numeracy problems.
- The percentage of residents with a Level 4 qualification or above in 2009 was 42.6%, compared to the national average of 29.9%
- In recent years overall population growth has outpaced job growth in the city.
- There has been a recent decrease in growth in part-time jobs, which are important for mothers returning to work.

- The number of job applicants outweighed available jobs by four to one in November 2010.

Childcare

- The parent survey of the 2010 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment suggests high levels of satisfaction with the quality and availability childcare.
- Costs of childcare are higher than the national average.
- There is little flexible childcare on offer outside the standard working weekday which is problematic for parents with unsociable work hours.

Tier 3: Improved life chances for children and young people, their families and communities

Education

- Overall attainment at nursery and primary school is the same as, or above, the national average. There is a significant decline by the time that pupil attainment is measured at GCSE.
- GCSE attainment (5 A*-C grades, including English and Mathematics) within schools in 2010 was 49%, compared to the national average of 55.2%.
- In 2010 unauthorised absences from school were 2.1%, compared to the national average of 1.4%. Persistent absences were 6.1%, compared to 4.6% nationally.
- Children and young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) have reduced, from 8.79% in 2010 to 7.46% in 2011, but are still above the national average.
- A steady growth is predicted in pupil numbers over the next 5 years.

Disabilities

- In February 2010 48% of working age people on benefits in the city claimed incapacity benefit compared to the England average of 43% and the south east average of 42%.
- In 2009/10, of 1186 families registered with Amaze, 9% have more than one child with special needs and 1.5% have more than two.
- 29% of the children with disabilities registered with Amaze have a parent or carer who is disabled.
- Of the 246 claims made through the Amaze Disability Living Allowance (DLA) project, 49% of parents and parent carers live on benefits, 45% are lone parents and 23% have mental health problems.

Targeted Family Support

- A minority of families with complex needs require a disproportionate level of service support.
- The city has higher than average numbers of Looked After Children with high associated costs.

Health and Wellbeing

- There are high levels of adult mental health problems compared to the national average.

- Incapacity benefits for mental health problems have remained significantly higher than the England average for the last three years.
- Children from families with the lowest 20% of incomes are almost three times as likely to have a common mental health problem.
- In 2009/10, 3,359 domestic violence crimes and incidents were reported to the police. Eight out of ten of these were against women.
- Domestic violence is identified as the primary reason for a third of child protection plans.
- There are higher than average levels of adult drug and alcohol misuse compared to the national average.
- Hospital stays for alcohol related harm and drug misuse have been significantly worse than the England average for the last three years.
- The percentage of school children regularly misusing drugs or alcohol was higher than both the regional and national averages in 2008, according the Tell Us survey.

Family housing

- In 2010 waiting times for family sized social housing were significantly longer. One and a half years for a 3 bedroom property compared to 9 months for a 1 bedroom property.
- 31% of families on the housing waiting list require a home with 3 or more bedrooms.
- The 2010 Housing Needs Survey highlighted that 31% of housing demand that could not be met through the existing housing stock was for homes with 3 or more bedrooms.

Communities

- Disadvantaged communities and larger areas of family housing are predominantly situated further from the city centre, facilities and employment.
- Evidence from the Place Survey 2008 suggests that residents from the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods participate less in the social and cultural life of the city.
- Research from the Turner neighbourhood indicates the importance of participating in the local community for health and well being.
- The Place Survey 2008 showed that 40% of residents in the 10% most deprived areas reported that they felt safe in their community after dark compared to 62% of residents citywide.
- 35% of residents perceived there to be a high level of anti-social behaviour in more deprived areas compared to 19% citywide.

Further information

Details of all of the evidence collated for this Child Poverty Needs Assessment along with service data and trends in relation to child poverty can be accessed through the Child Poverty Profile on BHLIS.

7. Funding

Cost of poverty

National information on the cost of child poverty is limited, in part due to the newness of the Child Poverty Act but also the complexity and the range of services and family circumstances involved. Locally no analysis has been undertaken of the cost of alleviating child poverty or preventing it.

The main source of national evidence is a study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) in October 2008. They estimated that the cost of child poverty to public services nationally was at least £11.6 billion per annum and as much as £20.7 billion.

JRF also found that being raised in poverty as a child would reduce earnings for an individual by between 15 and 28 per cent on average over their lifetime, and also reduce the probability of them being in employment at the age of 34 by between 4 and 7 percent.

In 2010 the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) estimated that the target to eradicate child poverty could be met through tax and benefit measures alone at a cost of around £19 billion a year at current prices.

The rationale, therefore, is to eradicate child poverty by moving families out of poverty in a sustained way through a full range of preventative intervention along with financial support in the form of benefits that provide incentives for families to work.

In October 2001 16 areas across the UK were announced as pilots for 'Community Budgets', whereby money from Government departments would be pooled and passed down to local agencies in order to rationalise support for families with the most complex needs. It is intended that the programme will be extended nationally by 2013-14.

Value for money case for prevention

The Graham Allen review on early intervention, published in January 2011, emphasises the importance of commissioning services based on proven effectiveness. With the ending of ring fenced Area Base Grant and reduction in pilot funding streams there is an added incentive to move to proven intervention models based not only on their potential to bring about long term improvement in family circumstances but crucially at a reduced cost

Examples are given below for each of the three tiers of the pyramid.

Tier 1: Financial support for families

'Every Pound Counts' was a three year campaign in Lambeth to increase take up of benefits by vulnerable groups. A central referral hub allows benefit advisers to access relevant council databases, with the client's permission, and share the information with partner advice agencies. This helps to identify those who are missing out on benefits and improves the service offered to vulnerable users. The project costs over three years were £672,000 which released £3,750,000 in benefits to 2000 recipients.

Tier 2: Sustained employment for parents

The Tyne Gateway Project trains parents who are living in poverty to become community entrepreneurs. Individuals are targeted and encouraged to attend an awareness raising course to prepare for full time employment as a community Entrepreneur. Support is provided through Jobcentre Plus, local FE colleges and the Family Information Service.

Successful graduates of the course go on to develop projects that focus on tackling child poverty at a local level, using their own knowledge and experience of living below the poverty line. In addition to increased income participants report a shift in their attitudes towards benefits with increased aspirations both for themselves and for their children.

Tier 3: Improved life chances for children and young people, their families and communities

The Family Recovery Programme in Westminster, a Think Family pilot, has an average cost of £19,500 per family with an average cost avoidance of £40,000 in the same year that they are engaged in the programme. For families with complex problems prior to the engagement the estimated savings in services are £136,000 per family.

The Building Bridges project, in various London boroughs, intervenes early to reduce the escalation of a parent's mental health problems. Based on an average cost of £4,000 for early intervention per family it can ultimately prevent a child entering foster care at a potential cost of £25,500 per year.

The Supporting People Programme in Brighton & Hove has a budget of £11.3 million and released Net savings of £36.6 million. For every £1 spent in the city on Supporting People services there is an estimated saving of £3.24 across other budgets. This takes into account reductions in costs for housing and homelessness services, tenancy failure costs, other social costs related to anti-social behaviour and crime, and DWP and NHS costs.

8. Projected service use

Population projection

The current population of children and young people within the Brighton & Hove is lower than the national average. The adult population is younger than the national average with a higher proportion of people aged 20 to 44 years.

The resident population of Brighton & Hove rose by 3.2% between 2002 and 2009, from 248,400 to 256,300 people. This is predicted to increase by 5.0% over the next eight years, from 256,300 in 2009 to 269,000 in 2019. There is a predicted increase in the number of young children.

The 2001 Census showed that Black and Minority Ethnic groups made up 12% of the total population in Brighton & Hove. The Office of National Statistics mid-year estimates in 2007 showed this as having risen to 16%. 2012 Census data will provide a more accurate, up to date picture of the current resident population.

Economic projection

In Brighton & Hove over half of the working age population is employed in business & financial services and the public sector. The other two sectors are hospitality & retail, accounting for 21 percent of the workforce, and creative industries accounting for about 11 percent.

The developing City Employment and Skills Plan for 2011-14 shows that growth in the working age population in Brighton & Hove means that 2,700 more residents need to be in work by 2014 and 6,300 more by 2020 to maintain the current employment rate. An additional 6,000 residents would need to be in work by 2014 to return to the 2004 employment rate and an extra 9,600 by 2020.

Legislative reform and the Comprehensive Spending Review

National policy reform and the Comprehensive Spending Review have implications for child poverty, both in terms of funding for organisations delivering services and also family income. The Government is also preparing a National Child Poverty Strategy, to be published in Spring 2011, which will set the national policy agenda for child poverty following the independent review of Poverty and Life Chances by Frank Field MP.

The grid in Figure 5 below brings together key reforms arranged by the three tiers of the child poverty pyramid.

Figure 5: Key legislation and spending detail for child poverty

Tier 1: Financial support for families	Tier 2: Sustained employment for parents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare Reform Bill • Local Housing Allowance • Housing Benefit • Child Benefit • Education Maintenance Allowance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare Reform Bill • Single Work Programme • Increase in Minimum Wage (CSR)
Tier 3: Improved life chances for children and young people and their families	Tier 3: Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Bill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil Premium • Public Health White Paper • Foundation Years (Frank Field review) • Early Intervention (Graham Allen review) • SEN Green Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localism Bill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning - Community Budgets • Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reform

9. Views of public

A wide range of existing national and local consultation and research with parents and carers and children and young people on the experience of living in poverty has been reviewed for the needs assessment. The Child Poverty Profile on BHLIS includes a comprehensive catalogue which provides details of the sources.

Tier 1: Financial support for families

Financial support

For parents on out of work benefits one of the most common concerns is the degree to which family income drops off at the point at which they move into low paid or part time work. When all out of work subsidies are taken into account some families consider that their income will be higher if they remain on benefits. On entering work many parents find the combination of childcare responsibilities and inflexible or unsociable hours of work unmanageable.

Parental earnings and costs of living

For families living on a minimum income, small fluctuations in the cost of living such as unexpected items of expenditure and changes in circumstances, for example the change from benefits to work or back, are stressful and often mean further hardship. Families can be forced to choose between essentials such as food and fuel, or take on debt.

Many families in poverty are financially excluded and choose legitimate or illegal money lending that entails significantly higher levels of interest and therefore more expense in the long run. Whilst parents and carers often bear the stress of these decisions there is evidence that for children and young people the comparison between their family circumstances and that of other children can often be a source of worry, fear and in some cases shame.

Children and young people in low income families may well go without a range of experiences that many other families would consider a normal part of growing up. Having friends over to play, going on school trips and excursions and celebrating significant occasions such as birthdays and religious holidays.

Tier 2: Sustained employment for parents

Adult skills and job availability

For many parents, particularly lone parents, a lack of skills and learning prevent them from entering work or higher paid work. They report real difficulty in getting appropriate subsidised childcare in order to undertake training and qualifications. They also report a conflict between the class times of courses in colleges and universities and the availability of childcare, most often in nurseries which split payment into fixed half-day sessions.

Childcare

There are parents who struggle to use childcare services even when they are affordable and available. Young parents report feeling unsure about leaving their babies with

strangers and this may also be more widely true for parents whose family have never used professional childcare.

Safeguarding fears are voiced, in particular when talking about home based, unsupervised childcare. In part these fears are no doubt fuelled by media reporting and, in certain cases of more vulnerable parents, by their own childhood experiences. Some young parents report feeling they will be judged by childcare professionals and fear that their baby will form a stronger attachment to the child carer.

Tier 3: Improved life chances for children and young people, their families and communities

Education

National research following cohorts of children from primary school through to secondary school has tracked the trajectory of children's aspirations. In general there is reduction in the scope and ambition of the aspirations of children from poorer families from the end of primary school and then more noticeably through the first part of secondary school.

Children from poorer families report feelings of exclusion from extended school life, mainly as a result of financial costs but sometimes because of social exclusion or because there is no value placed on school activities by family. Other children report a sense of being categorised as under achievers because they are seen as disadvantaged by teachers and professionals.

Disabilities

For families with specific needs the costs of living are greater, for example heating requirements and the costs of specialist equipment and therapeutic support. Children with disabilities are more likely to live in lone parent families in disadvantaged communities and their parents are more likely to be unemployed and to have a disability themselves.

Parents in these circumstances often find dealing with a multiplicity of services and agencies is a challenge in itself. The experience of many parents with children with disabilities is that they are viewed by their employers as difficult employees whose family duties are in competition with their productivity.

Health and Wellbeing

For some parents health conditions and mental health issues in particular present significant challenges to accessing training and work. In some instances parents report insufficient support to enable them to be more independent. Other parents contrast this with the complexity of managing numerous different appointments.

As children grow and become more aware of their circumstances often they develop great empathy for the hardships which their parents endure. They voice feelings of guilt and worry for their parents' health and wellbeing along with frustration and anger at not being able to have the consumer items and experiences enjoyed by others. For families growing up in communities that are generally more affluent this sense of alienation can be acute.

Family housing

For families living in poor quality accommodation, whether it is social housing or private rented accommodation, the impact of their physical environment is often something they articulate when talking about the everyday things that can lead to depression and stress.

Parents voice grave concerns in some cases about the effects of damp and infestations on their children's health, alongside the constant difficulties in winter of keeping fuel inefficient homes sufficiently warm.

Children and young people talk about the shame associated for them with poor quality homes, and these feelings can be so profound that they simply never invite friends home after school or at the weekends.

Members of families living in overcrowded conditions express their frustration at having little or no privacy, no quiet time for work or study. In the worst cases of temporary accommodation, in hostels and bed and breakfast, overcrowded families may in turn share bathroom and cooking spaces with strangers.

Communities

Exclusion from the social and cultural life of their peers is a common issue for many children and young people living in poverty. Often this is financial exclusion but children also talk about their exclusion from places and experiences because of fear and prejudice. Children with disabilities in Brighton & Hove have said where they like to go in their leisure time and other places which they avoid because of their perceived reception.

Families often struggle with the stigma attached to poverty. Whilst the local neighbourhood can have a strong influence on the degree to which they feel poor in comparison to others, for children and young people the place that they spend most time associating with peers is in school.

Children and young people report being subject to teasing and bullying because of their clothes, access to Free School Meals and their absence from events or trips that require payment. Parents on the lowest incomes report school as a source of financial stress, in particular the cost of uniforms and contributions to trips.

Some young people in disadvantaged communities express concerns about socialising outdoors, for example in unsupervised parks and playgrounds, for fear of being a victim of crime. Young people who may have no other option than to socialise outdoors may in turn be viewed as perpetrators of crime by other members of the community.

10. Views of professionals

A wide range of consultation with professionals from public sector organisations and the community and voluntary sector took place to inform the needs assessment. This included themed child poverty workshops as well as discussions at a range of forums and events. Further Information on these discussions and full notes from the child poverty workshops are available through the Child Poverty Profile on BHLIS.

Tier 1: Financial support for families

Financial Support

Professionals feel that the benefits system does not encourage claimants to return to work due to additional costs associated with working and a gap between benefits ending and a new wage coming in. There is felt to be a need for increased tapering of benefits and an acknowledgement that low paid jobs often require subsidy in order for families to survive without increased debt. Tax credits are seen to support families in work but are not always taken up due to concern about inaccurate payments destabilising family finances.

There is concern about the proposed changes to the Local Housing Allowance and the expectation that these changes will have a disproportionate impact in Brighton & Hove with its large private rental sector and higher than average rental costs. For larger, family properties the greater the likely impact between current rental costs and the new level of allowance.

Parental earnings and costs of living

Locally, jobs that pay enough to cover the high costs of housing and living in the city are highlighted as essential to providing the conditions for families to stay in the city. There is a sense that the relationship between income and costs is intensely felt in Brighton & Hove by a wide range of families, including families living in working poverty.

The importance of good quality independent and trusted advice is seen as vital in enabling families to reduce and manage debt and to become financially included with basic bank accounts. The poverty premium is seen to apply most acutely to access to credit. Many of the poorest families are buying their goods at very high interest rates either through high street stores with legitimate repayment arrangements or by turning to illegal loan sharks.

Tier 2: Sustained employment for parents

Adult skills

Professionals are concerned about the numbers of local residents who have literacy and or numeracy problems, as well as basic skills more broadly. There is a clear understanding on the part of many professionals that the families they support are doubly disadvantaged living in a city with such a high proportion of students and graduates and also patterns of migration into the city for seasonal work.

Childcare

Professionals echo families in their concerns about the costs of living for families bringing up children. In particular the relationship between the costs of childcare and low wage work is a key concern, despite the recognised impact of the childcare element of the working tax credit.

The transition between benefits and training or work is also seen as particularly problematic for parents and carers. Childcare deposits, which can total hundreds of pounds, can make returning to work unfeasible for some families.

Tier 3: Improved life chances for children and young people, their families and communitiesEducational attainment

Locally there is recognition from education professionals about the importance of the Early Years Foundation Stage in preparing children in childcare for their reception year in school, and there are high hopes that it will be reflected in the attainment of those children over the years to come and into secondary school.

However there is also recognition locally from a range of professionals that some children do not have a strong enough culture of aspiration and suffer poorer attainment as a result. Concern has also been voiced about the general under performance at GCSE level of young people in Brighton & Hove.

Targeted family support

It is acknowledged that certain families require a significantly higher amount of support and intervention due to multiple or complex needs. These families therefore require a coordinated range of support between services if they are to change their circumstances, as demonstrated for instance through the Family Intervention Project.

Disabilities

Children and families with disabilities are seen as having less opportunity to access the cultural and social life of the city. In part as a result of financial concerns but also in terms of expertise in including children and young people with special needs.

Costs for housing adaptations, heating and specialist equipment are seen as a significant additional expense for families with children with disabilities. In addition, for some parents, there is neither the funding nor the expertise available for someone else to care for their child while they train, work or take a break.

Health and wellbeing

Nationally there is evidence that the impact of ongoing health conditions, and in particular mental health problems, on a parent's ability to work, train or raise their children is widespread amongst some of the poorest families.

Locally the following conditions and behaviours are seen by professionals to be priorities:

- Mental health problems
- Chronic health conditions
- Families experiencing drug and/or alcohol misuse
- Domestic violence

Family housing

A key concern for professionals is the difficulty of finding decent quality accommodation that is appropriate for families in the city. Overcrowding is seen as a common problem in both social housing and the private rented sector, and also to some degree in the home owner market too. The reduction in the numbers of family homes as a direct result of the growth in multiple occupancy housing has also been raised as an issue in some areas of the city.

Communities

There is a perception among professionals that within some communities there is a poverty of aspiration, and that the experience of belonging to such a community can also affect aspirations within families. Low level skills and unemployment within families is also seen as contributing to low aspirations.

Professionals also talked about the sense that there are two aspects to the city, the cultural and social centre and clusters of deprived communities on the outskirts. This isolation is seen as being both due to material considerations and the degree to which some residents feel uncomfortable outside their immediate community.

This links closely to a broader perception that families from the poorer neighbourhoods participate less in the general cultural and social life of the city. In this context the work of schools and community organisations around events such as the Children's Parade and the Children's Festival are considered of high importance in enabling marginalised children and young people to have a greater sense of belonging.

11. Expert opinion and evidence base

There is a growing body of evidence of initiatives that are proven to change and improve circumstances for families. This section provides the basis for a menu of good practice to inform development of the local Child Poverty Strategy and also future Intelligent Commissioning activity.

The following are a selection of projects which are either locally evaluated, are validated as examples of best practice through the Centre for Excellence in Outcomes for Children (C4EO) or are used as evidence in the Graham Allen review. The Child Poverty Profile on BHLIS provides access to further evidence of good practice.

Tier 1: Financial support for families

Financial Support

Children's Centre Moneywise Project, Kirklees

Citizen's Advice Bureau advisors staff work alongside children's centre staff focusing on uptake of unclaimed benefits and managing debt payments. For an annual cost of £100,000 in 2008 this project secured £602,000 in incomes gain and debt management for 556 families.

Parental earnings and costs of living

Housing Options Brighton & Hove

Staff had refresher training on debt, benefit advice and preventing homelessness due to mortgage arrears. As a result homelessness prevention for mortgage arrears cases increased by 140% and the number of households having to make homeless applications due to mortgage repossessions has decreased by 27%

Tier 2: Sustained employment for parents

Adult Skills

Family Learning Programme, Brighton & Hove

Parents are supported to improve their children's learning and are also supported into adult training and skills. It is particularly effective in engaging parents with basic skills training. This externally evaluated programme supports a number of key outcomes for reducing child poverty and also importantly impacts on 'Tier 3' educational achievement.

Early Years Excellence Centre working with Job Centre Plus, Blackburn with Darwen

Joint working between Jobcentre Plus (JCP) and Early Years Excellence services delivered through children's centres. A simple referral form enables initial contact between the JCP and the Children's Centre Network. It has been adopted Borough wide and resulted in high numbers of referrals between Jobcentre Plus and the Children's Centre Network. It has increased uptake of children's centre services and engaged adults with back to work initiatives and tax credit take up.

Childcare

The focus is on the impact of good quality childcare to improve training and employment prospects for parents and carers. Making childcare affordable via subsidies for targeted families, such as the Care2Learn national programme of subsidies for young parents in training, has been evaluated as successfully enabling parents to gain skills and qualifications.

Less targeted subsidy via the childcare element of the working tax credit makes childcare more affordable for families working on low incomes. Whilst these programmes and benefits can be evaluated in terms of their immediate impact on work or training, there is little evaluation of the medium to long term impact on outcomes for family income and child poverty.

Tier 3: Improved life chances for children and young people, their families and communities

Education

Educational achievement is seen as the most vital component in enabling children and young people out of poverty. The importance of emotional resilience and aspirations to improve attainment is highlighted throughout the C4EO validated programme of practice.

Families and Schools Together (FAST) pilot, National and Brighton & Hove

This is one of the few programmes that shows an impact on a wide range of outcomes both in terms of engaging parents with their children's education and raising attainment and improving behaviour in school. Targeted families are supported to engage more confidently with school and their children's learning and to create an informal support network between parents.

My Future, My Choice, Bristol

Imaginative shows and workshops are used to extend and increase young peoples' ambitions for themselves and their careers. It is shown to raise aspirations and improve knowledge and awareness of future life opportunities in order to inform the choices that they make for study at the end of Key Stage 3.

Targeted Family Support

Family Recovery Programme, Westminster (Think Family pilot)

The Family Recovery Programme (FRP) consists of a multi-agency team around the family who work with and support families who are most at risk of losing their homes, having their children taken into Care, or face prison.

The Team Around the Family (TAF) devises a single care plan that takes into account the varying needs and problems of each family member. Typically, the TAF works with families for 6 to 12 months and support and services are phased to avoid overloading the family. The care plan uses intensive outreach work to create a possibility of change. The family is involved with the process throughout.

The FRP is groundbreaking because agencies who usually only work with adults are part of the core team around the family working alongside agencies who usually focus on children. There are two lead workers for each family: one for the adults and one for the children to co-ordinate services involved.

Think Family pilot, Brighton & Hove

Think Family aims to improve outcomes for families experiencing risk factors such as parental mental health issues, parental substance misuse, domestic violence, long term intergenerational unemployment, and poor housing. In November 2010, 130 families in Brighton & Hove were registered with the project.

The project has provided training for over 250 members of staff from both adult's and children's services, in both the statutory and voluntary sector, in using the think family approach. It has widened the scope of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) which has enabled staff to better assess whole family support (now called Family CAF).

Family Nurse Partnerships (FNP) Pilots, National

This programme is proven to improve antenatal health, child health and development and economic self sufficiency of the family. The FNP is a voluntary programme offered to young mothers having their first baby. The programme consists of frequent structured home visits until the child is 2 years old

Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Brighton & Hove

An assertive outreach model that works with difficult to engage families, where there are high levels of conflict/distress and a young person is likely to be involved in offending or at risk of becoming looked after. Providing FFT to 100 children and young people as a successful alternative to foster care costs £200,000 annually against an estimated saving of £3.5 million in looked after costs.

Triple P Programme, Brighton & Hove

Triple P is a system of easy to implement, proven parenting solutions that helps solve current parenting problems and prevents future problems before they arise. It has been delivered extensively in Brighton with well evidenced results.

Disabilities

Amaze Disability Living Allowance (DLA) project, Brighton & Hove

The Amaze DLA project provides volunteers to support the City's most vulnerable families complete the difficult Disability Living Allowance claim form. The project costs £59,000 and In 2009/10 generated £2m of DLA benefit and £1m of other passported benefits, so for every £1 spent generates £51 for households with disabled children.

Health and Wellbeing**The UK Resilience Programme, Hertfordshire**

An 18 lesson programme that is aimed at 11-13 year olds which enables them to develop skills in emotion control and emotional awareness, problem solving, assertiveness, peer relationships, and decision making.

'Building Bridges', Family Action, London Boroughs

The service meets the needs of families where parents have severe and enduring mental health problems. It aims to intervene early so as to reduce the escalation of an adult's mental health problems, reduce the need for acute hospitalisation of adults and care orders for children, and improve the safeguarding and development outcomes for children

'Changing Trax', Newcastle

A crisis intervention model working with families where there are serious child protection concerns related to parental substance misuse. The crisis intervention programme provides intensive time-limited work with families where there are problems with substance misuse that may lead to the child becoming looked after or becoming subject to a child protection plan.

Youth Alcohol Partnership Intervention, 'Operation Park', Brighton and Hove

Operation Park uses multi-agency identification and tiered intervention for young people. This project aims to identify and intervene more effectively to lead children and young people away from problem alcohol use and support families.

Family Housing**Turning the Tide, Brighton & Hove**

The Turning the Tide pilot reshaped housing management services to use resources more effectively. Through early identification and building staff capacity they are able to address the needs and behaviours of individuals and families whilst retaining a focus on housing and tenancy management. Evaluation of the pilot shows increased levels of resident satisfaction in relation to anti-social behaviour, increased referrals to service and increased time in the community for housing officers.

Under-Occupations Officer, Brighton & Hove

This role has increased the number of family sized homes available in the city by supporting and incentivising tenants to move from a property that is larger than their needs. In 2008/9 this work released more than 80 family sized homes.

Communities**'Coo-I' prepaid card, Tower Hamlets**

Tower Hamlets funds 300 prepaid cards with £25 a month that can be used at a variety of venues in the area and in London. The cards are given to young people aged between 9 and 11 who are referred by youth workers.

Amaze 'Compass Card', Brighton & Hove

The Compass Card provides over 30 offers of free and discounted access to local leisure and cultural opportunities and sports facilities and activities. It is available to children and young people registered on the Amaze disabled children's database and is highly valued by 1,400 families using it. This is due in part to the significant financial savings it provides and also because they know that the organisations which accept the card will provide a safe and inclusive welcome to their children.

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12. Recommendations for further evidence gathering

- i. Identify parents and carers registering for adult services in the following areas:
 - Advice services
 - Mental health services
 - Drug and alcohol services
 - Domestic violence
- ii. Determine with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) access to local data on persistent poverty in out of work families, which is defined as children and young people in families who are living in poverty for 3 out of 4 years.
- iii. Identify families in out of work and working poverty as part of the current work being developed by children's services to track educational attainment for the most deprived families in the city.
- iv. Research with lone parents to identify the particular barriers and challenges to moving out of poverty, as the largest family group in the city.

13. Timeframe and key contacts

The Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Needs Assessment reported to the following boards:

- The Brighton & Hove Children & Young People's Trust Board, 21 March 2011
- The Brighton & Hove City Council Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 23 March 2011
- The Brighton & Hove Public Service Board, 10 May 2011
- The Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership, 24 May 2011

The Child Poverty Needs Assessment and accompanying Child Poverty Profile is published on the Brighton & Hove Local Information Service (BHLIS)

An annual refresh of the data profile is intended subject to comparable data being made available.

For more information about the Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Needs Assessment please contact:

Sarah Colombo, Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager, Brighton & Hove City Council, sarah.colombo@brighton-hove.gov.uk, 01273 294218

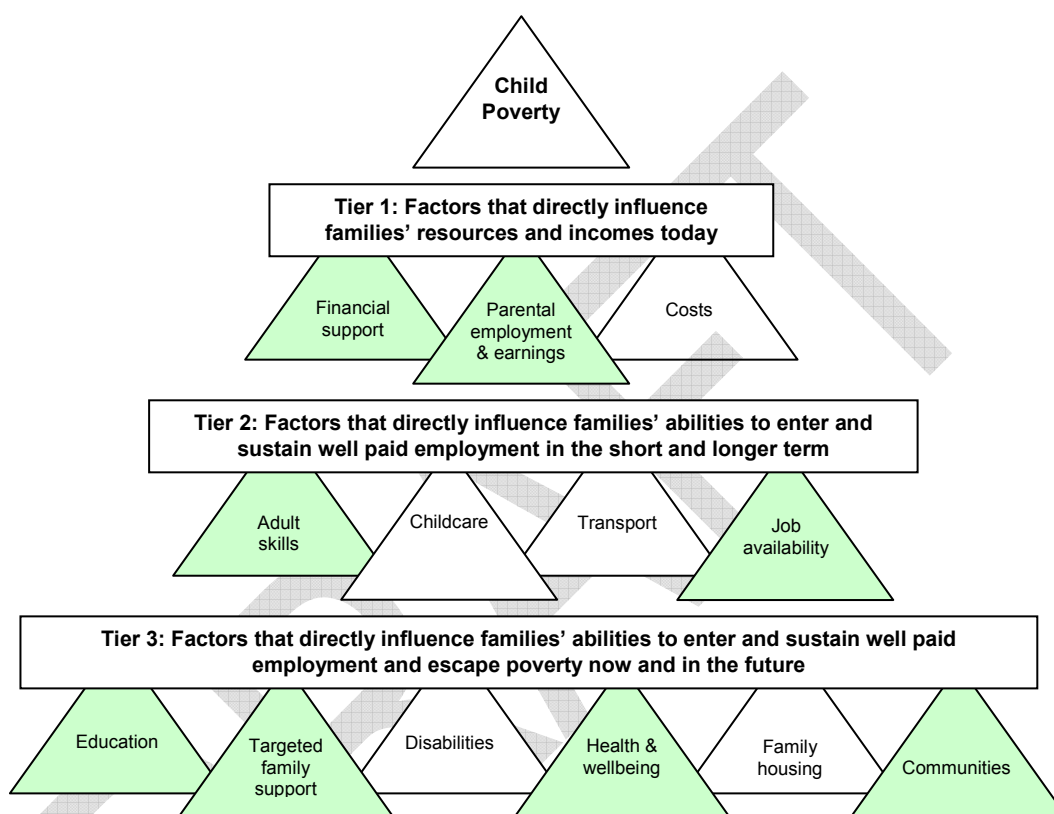
Matthew Wragg, Acting Central Policy Development Team Manager, Brighton & Hove City Council, matthew.wragg@brighton-hove.gov.uk, 01273 293944

Appendix 1

Case Study, Child Protection Risks

This case study is taken from *Redesigning Provision for Families with Multiple Problems*, Department for Education, 2010.

Shaded triangles within the pyramid below highlight the services that would be involved to support the family in the case study.



This family consisted of a mother, the mother's partner of 10 years, and three boys aged 15, 13, and 11. There was a history of family difficulties: conflict within the family, financial and housing difficulties, early participation in antisocial behaviour, attachment issues and aggressive behaviour. The family was very hard to engage and had been known to services over a number of years. The case went to a Child Protection Strategy Meeting because of the physical violence between the two younger boys.

Family focused support involved:

Parenting support

The mother accepted there was a problem with boundary setting and agreed to undertake a Triple P parenting course. The partner did not take any role in parenting the boys due to being refused admission to a family meeting 10 years ago. The family received support from the lead practitioner, as well as an NSPCC anti-bullying project. The mother and partner signed a contract outlining that they would spend quality time with the children: the partner would take them fishing; and the mother agreed to attend an art and crafts course with the 13 year old to help develop attachment.

Peer relationships

The 13 year old physically bullied the 11 year old. The practitioner referred the 11 year old to a NSPCC anti-bullying project to help raise his self-esteem. He is now much more positive about his relationship with his brother and is attending a young carers' project to access additional support and positive activities. The junk room downstairs has been turned into a bedroom for the oldest son, meaning each boy has their own bedroom, which has reduced fighting and bullying. A contract has been drawn up between the two younger boys and if they adhere to it they will be rewarded with a meal of their choice. The 13 year old has completed workbooks on bullying and anger management with support from a teaching assistant at school. The practitioner also liaised with the local community police officer for the oldest son to be engaged in a restorative justice programme to address his behaviour when the NSPCC work finished.

Debt issues

A benefit check consent form was completed and Pathfinder staff worked with the family on budgeting.

School attendance

The 11 year old was truanting from school. The mother now takes him to and from school. Communication between parents and the school has improved dramatically.

Mental health

The practitioner accompanied the mother to a GP appointment to address her depression and support from a therapist was accessed.

Education/training

The mother wanted to complete a computer course and had an interview but could not afford the £350 course fees. She successfully applied to become a volunteer at the learning centre (and consequently will get the course free of charge); and is awaiting CRB checks.

Engagement in positive activities

The practitioner provided information on football courses and karate sessions for the boys for the summer holidays. The practitioner also supported them to complete an application form to the Family Holiday Association to provide them with a break away and enable them to engage in positive activities as a family.

Outcomes identified include

- Child Protection: the six weekly review meeting brought a unanimous decision to reduce the level of concern on the family. Consequently, the case was not referred up to the Child Protection team.
- Improved attendance at school. The Education Welfare Officer is no longer involved with the family.

- Reduction in bullying and fighting by the 13-year old.
- Improved self-esteem for the 11-year old.
- Mother's partner is now taking an active role in parenting the boys.
- The boys have clear boundaries around behaviour at home and within the family.
- A reduction in anti-social behaviour which made the tenancy more secure and prevented legal action being taken by the housing provider.
- The family are learning to manage their finances.
- The mother is working as a volunteer and is going to complete a computer course.
- The boys are engaging in positive activities.
- There has been an improvement in attachment between the mother and her 13-year old son.

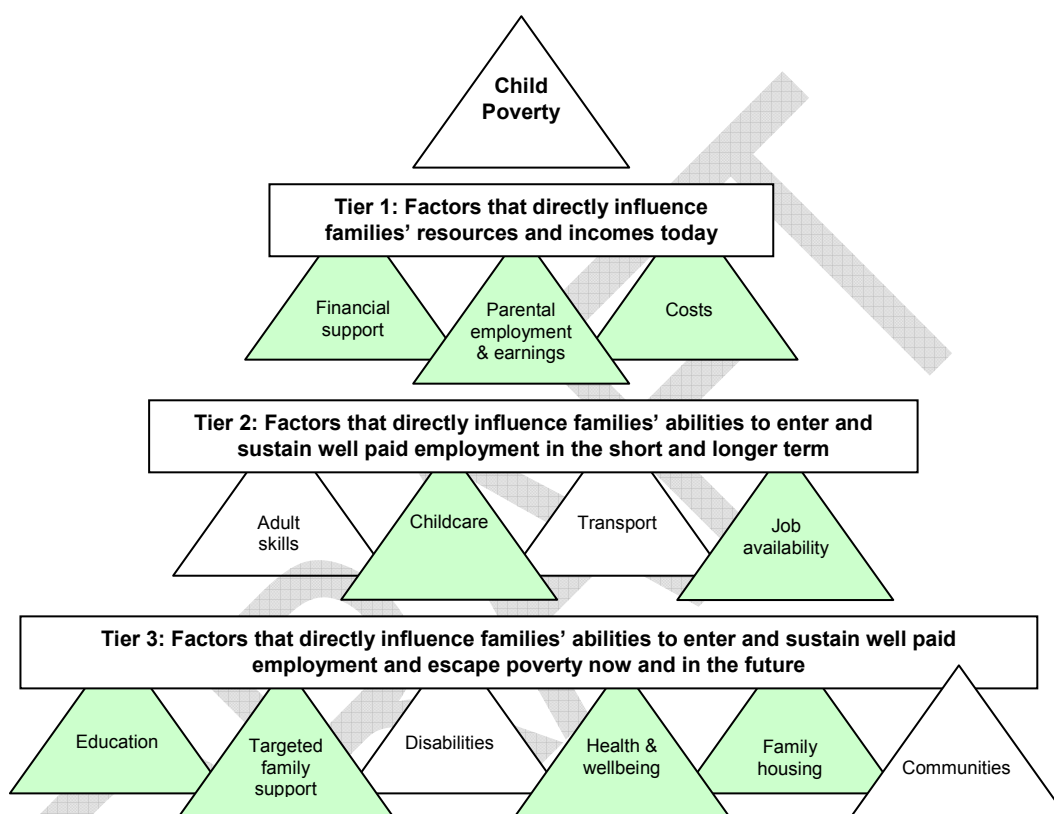
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Appendix 1

Case Study, Domestic Violence

This case study is provided by Rise, a local charity which supports women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse in Brighton & Hove and across West Sussex.

Shaded triangles within the pyramid below highlight the services that would be involved to support the family in the case study.



Family

Jane – Mother

John – Father

Jim – Son (aged 7)

Jen – Daughter (aged 3)

Issues at time of initial assessment at Rise

Jane was referred to Rise in July 2008 and reported since discovering that her partner John (also the children's father) had been convicted of rape against a 14 year old girl about 15 years previous, he had become physically and emotionally abusive towards her. John was arrested for an incident where he physically assaulted Jane and was given bail conditions not to contact Jane or the children however proceeded to breach the bail conditions. A restraining order was issued however John continued to breach the order on numerous occasions. Jane and the children were very frightened of John and did not want any further contact from him. John was persistent in his attempts to contact Jane and the children despite a court order that issued no contact along with a Child Protection Plan in

place that prevented John from having any contact with the children as a result of the risk to children (Schedule One Offender) and because of the domestic violence he perpetrated against Jane and the children. Throughout the past two years, John has made several applications to the Family Court for supervised visits and continues to breach the restraining order against him. Both criminal and family proceedings court cases are ongoing with the family.

Rise Intervention

Jane received one to one support from an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate and from an Outreach Caseworker and was advised on available housing options, welfare benefits, criminal and civil remedies, safety planning and risk management.

Rise advocated with other professional agencies such as the police, solicitors, probation, courts, social services and Housing Options in an attempt to ensure that Jane and her children's safety needs were prioritised by the agencies supporting the family.

Economic Impact on the family

Jane and the children were made homeless as Jane could no longer keep herself and the children safe if they continued to live in the family home as a result of John's continued harassment and abuse. One of Jane's options was to move in to refuge accommodation, which is a safe house where Jane and her children could remain temporarily until they find somewhere more permanent. Jane would have had to quit her job so that the risk of John tracking her down at the refuge was significantly reduced. Jane decided to keep her job and instead gave up her current tenancy and moved to a new accommodation in the private sector, which she described as being in poor condition and felt the area was unsafe to raise her children but was her only option as the rent was significantly cheaper and affordable. Jane and the children's standard of living had decreased significantly as a result of the move. In order for Jane to afford the rent, she took a two bedroom flat and the children had to share a room. Jane had to pay half the deposit to secure the property and was supported by the council to pay the remaining half.

The loss of John's income meant that Jane had to apply for welfare benefits to top up her income. They could no longer afford to keep the family pet and had to give their dog to a family friend to look after. In addition to having already lost their father, Jane described this as another traumatic loss for the children.

Jane could no longer afford to keep the children in after school sports and needed instead to pay for a child minder to look after the children after school while she was at work. Jane expressed frustration that there was no financial support to help parents on low incomes pay for child care. The children could no longer access extracurricular activities which Jane felt denied the children the opportunity to develop confidence, learn social skills and build healthy relationships during a time when they needed this most. Jane felt that the children blamed her for the loss of their father and dog and also for taking away the activities they previously enjoyed and her relationship with the children was affected negatively.

Jane's mental health suffered as a result of her experiences. She identified feeling depressed and stated that the financial difficulties they faced living as a single parent household further exasperated the issues she was already dealing with as a result of the domestic violence.

Despite the fact that she had fled from her partner, she continued to be harassed by John and was living in an area where she did not feel it was safe to bring up the children. She had to work more hours in order to bring in enough income to support the family but still couldn't provide the standard of living that they had when John was a part of the household. Since leaving, John has not contributed any financial support to the family for the children.

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Appendix 2

Key Evidence

The following is a selection of key national and local evidence used to complete the Child Poverty Needs Assessment.

National

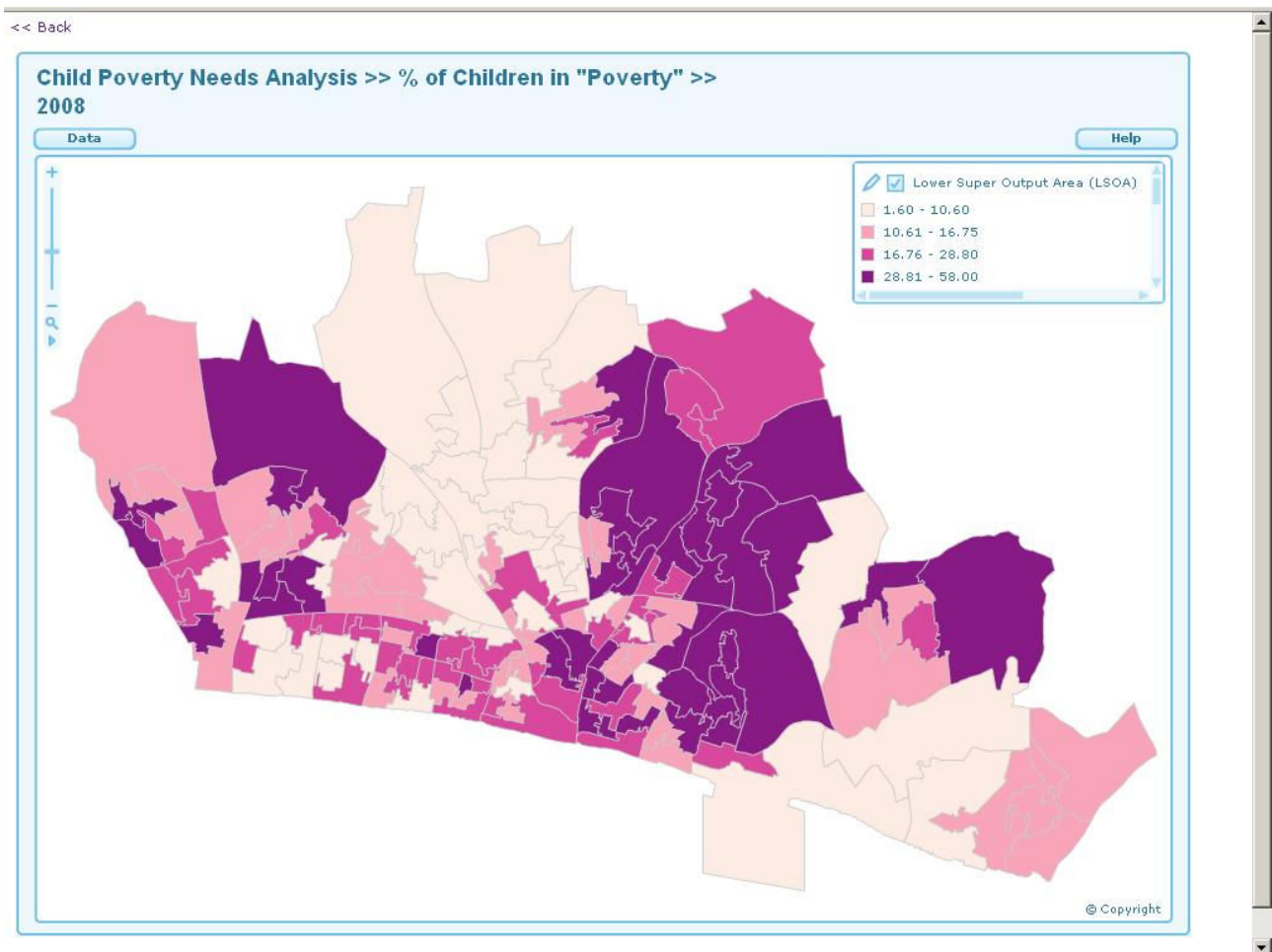
- HM Revenue & Customs (for official child poverty data), <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/index.htm>
- Child Poverty Unit, <http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/childpoverty>
- Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services, <http://www.c4eo.org.uk/themes/poverty/default.aspx?themeid=7&accesstypeid=1>
- Child Poverty Action Group, <http://www.cpag.org.uk/publications/>
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation, <http://www.jrf.org.uk>
- Office for National Statistics, <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp>
- *The Foundation Years: preventing poor children becoming poor adults*, Frank Field MP, HM Government, 2010
- *Early Intervention: The Next Steps*, Graham Allen MP, HM Government, 2010

Local

- Brighton & Hove Sustainable Community Strategy; 'Creating the City of Opportunities'
- Brighton & Hove Children & Young People's Plan, 2009-2012
- Annual Report of the Director of Public Health, NHS Brighton and Hove, 2009
- City Employment & Skills Plan, City Employment & Skills Steering Group, 2011-2014 (to be published, 2011)
- Brighton & Hove 14-19 Strategy Update, Brighton & Hove Learning Partnership, 2010-2015
- Brighton & Hove Adult Learning Strategy, Brighton and Hove Learning, 2007-2009
- Brighton & Hove Housing Strategy, *Healthy Homes, Healthy City, Healthy Lives*, 2009-2014
- Brighton & Hove Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy, 2008-2011 (revised 2010)
- Brighton & Hove Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Summary, 2011
- Developing Appropriate Strategies for Reducing Inequality in Brighton and Hove (Reducing Inequality Review), OCSI/Educe Ltd, 2007
- Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Profile, Brighton & Hove Local Information Service (to be published, 2011)

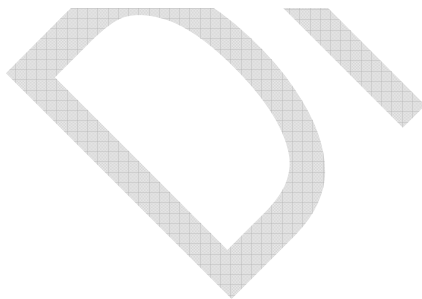
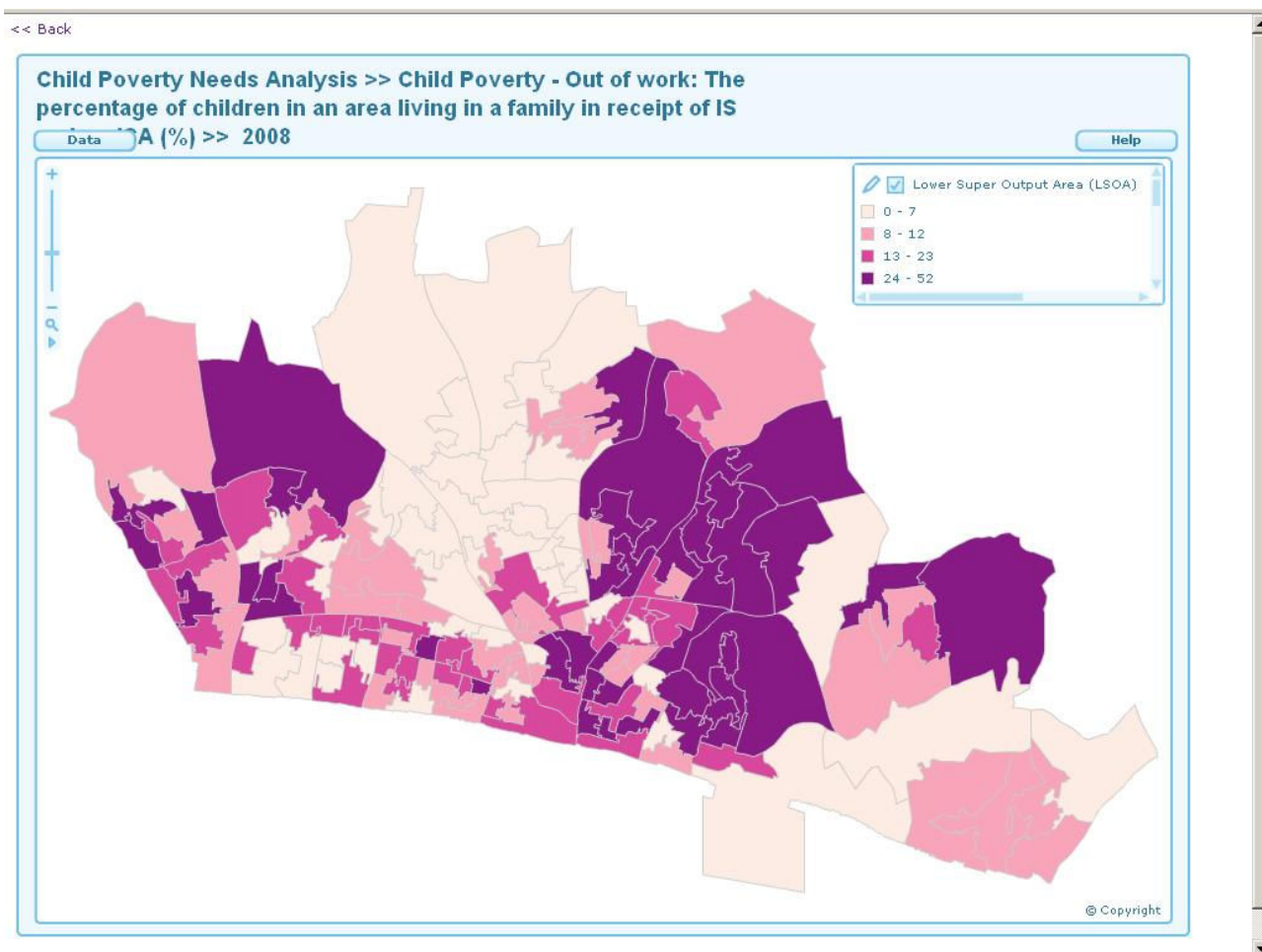
Appendix 3

Map: The percentage of children & young people living poverty in Brighton & Hove by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)



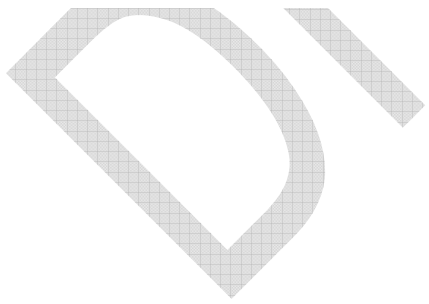
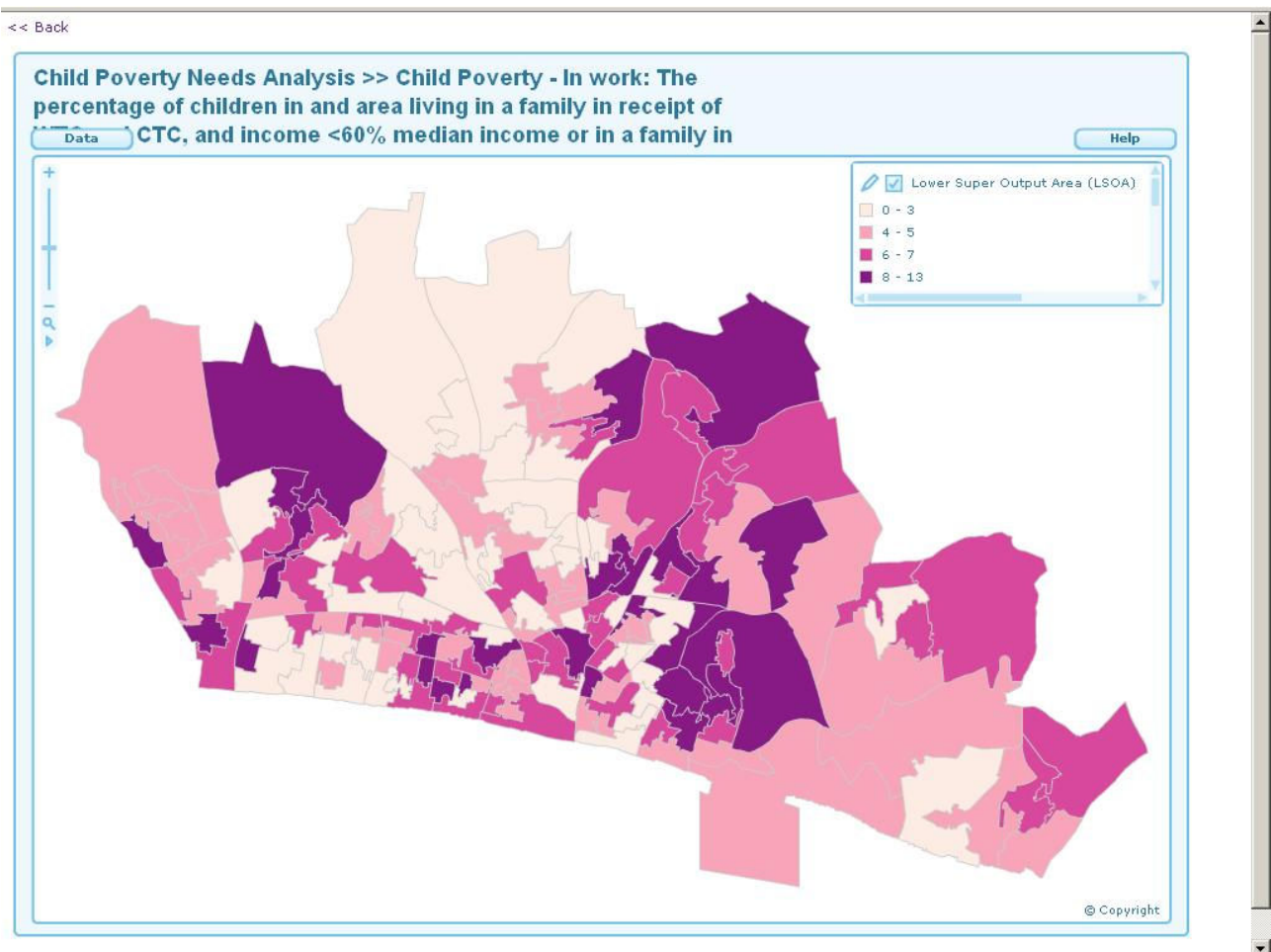
Appendix 3

Map: The percentage of children and young people living in poverty in out of work families by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)



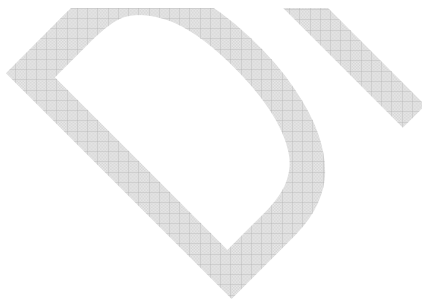
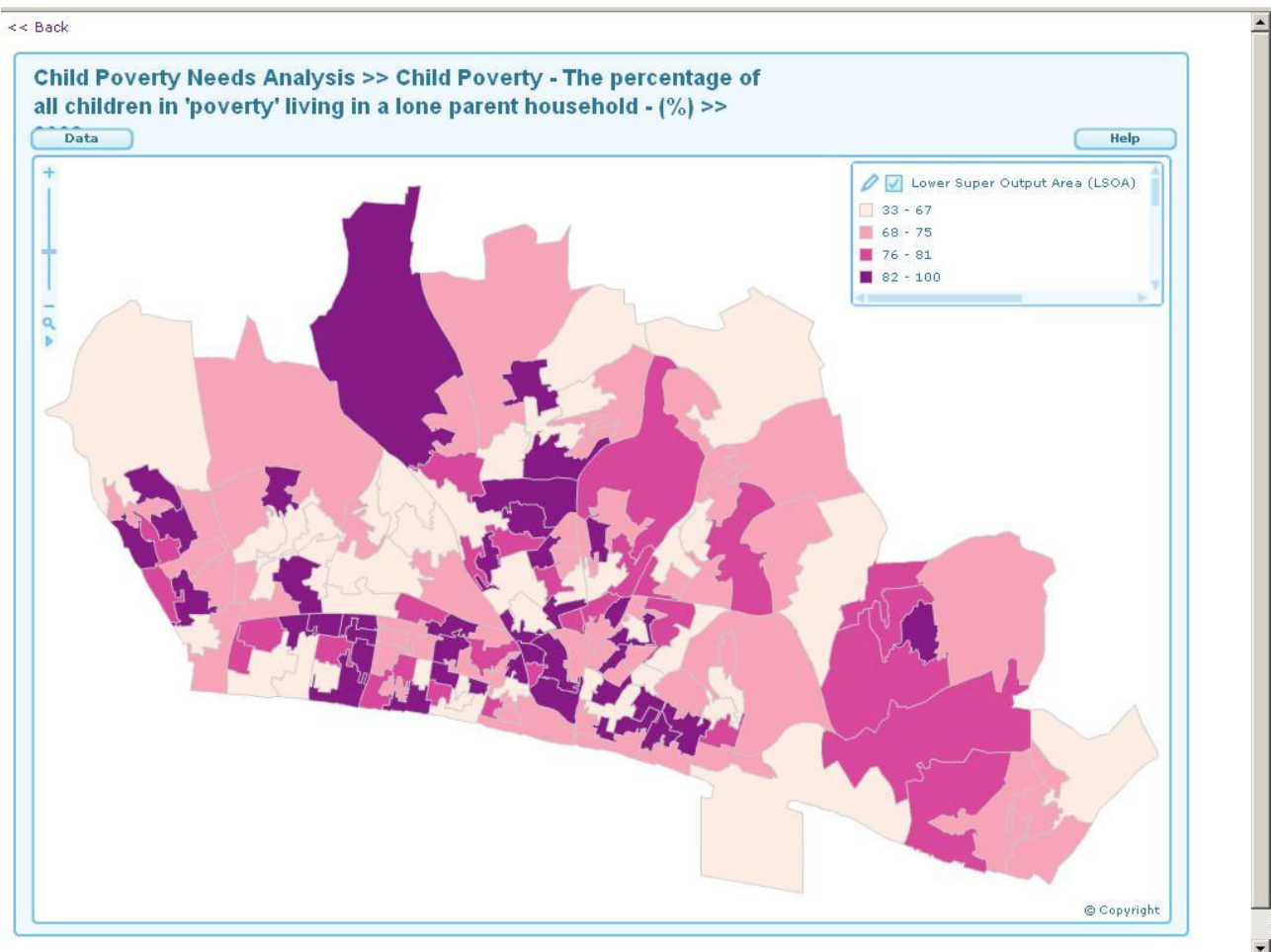
Appendix 3

Map: The percentage of children and young people living in poverty in working families by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)



Appendix 3

Map: The percentage of children and young people living in poverty in lone parent families by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 50

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Corporate Parenting Strategy		
Date of Meeting:	23 March 2011		
Report of:	Strategic Director, People		
Contact Officer:	Name:	James Dougan	Tel: 295511
	E-mail:	james.dougan@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Scrutiny carried out a consultation in July 2010, via which suggestions were elicited from members of the public, Councillors and Officers. This report was one of the ideas put forward through the consultation.
- 1.2 On 17th May 2010, the Trust Board agreed to the proposal for the development of a Corporate Parenting Strategy for Brighton & Hove.
- 1.3 Corporate Parenting describes the collective responsibilities that members and officers of Brighton & Hove City Council and its partner organisations have towards children and young people in care of the local authority. These include children accommodated by voluntary agreement with their parent/s, those on statutory orders, those in shared care arrangements, those remanded into care and unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The duties extend to those young people who have left care up to the age of 21 (or 25 if remaining in further or higher education).
- 1.4 This is a Council-wide and partner agency responsibility and individuals at every level across all service areas in Brighton & Hove must as the Corporate Parent, achieve these tasks. Corporate Parenting responsibilities will be exercised by:
 - The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Director of Children's Services
 - The Corporate Parenting Board in terms of accountability and governance
 - Children & Young People's Participation groups
 - The Brighton & Hove Pledge
 - The Corporate Parenting Working Group and Report Card and
 - Council-wide responsibilities

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To note and comment on the attached Corporate Parenting Strategy for Brighton & Hove (See Appendix '1').

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 In spite of considerable attention over recent years, the gap between the outcomes for Children in Care and their peers has continued to widen. The Government nationally has responded over the years by having a number of initiatives to improve the outcomes of Children in Care. The last major initiative was Care Matters which was designed to ensure the effectiveness of the state's responsibility and the role of local authorities in discharging their duties as corporate parent.

Some of the corporate parenting initiatives that have been achieved in Brighton & Hove are:

- Priority access to health services including Morley Street dental service
- 16+ Nurse providing a personalised and flexible service including sexual health and contraception
- Listen Up card ensures free access to swimming and other leisure activities
- Dedicated pathway for access to Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Joint Protocol with Housing Department ensures that the corporate responsibility for meeting the diverse accommodation needs of young people who have been Looked After by B&HCC are met.
- Pan Sussex 'Missing from Care' Protocol with Sussex Police
- Entry2Learning partnership with Sussex Central YMCA
- Partnership with Aim Higher Sussex
- Appointment of Headteacher of Virtual School for Children in Care
- Tickets for shows at B&H venues
- Development of Listen Up Care Council (LUCC) and 16 Plus Advisory Group participation groups for Children in Care and care leavers
- Offers of B&HCC-wide opportunities from taster days to apprenticeships
- Extension of support post-18 (Supported Lodgings and Supporting People) so that care leavers move to their own accommodation when ready and able

3.2 Brighton & Hove has been engaged for sometime in corporate parenting developments. It was a pilot area for the Who Cares Trust Equal Chances Project in 2000 and since then has implemented the national government improvement programmes of Quality Protects, Every Child Matters and Care Matters, the latter incorporated into the Children Act 2004. As a result there has been a continuous strengthening of work to bridge the gap between the outcomes for Children in Care and those of the general population of children when compared to both our comparator authorities and to the national average. Some examples from the data for 2009/10 are detailed below:

Outcome %	Result	Comparator Av	National Av
CiC reaching Level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	60	44.9	46
CiC reaching Level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2	53	43	46
CiC missing 25+ days of schooling for any reason	8.2	13.6	11.5
Care leavers at 19 years in education, training, employment	69.8	63.6	62.9
Care leavers at 19 years in suitable accommodation	93	82.9	88.8
Young Offenders who are CiC	1.8	2.34	2.1
Stability of placements for CiC (number of moves)	10.4	9.4	10.4

Note: For CiC reaching Level 4 in English at Key Stage 2, the % for the B&H population as a whole and for the population nationally was 80%.

For CiC reaching Level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2, the % for the B&H population as a whole and for the population nationally was 79%.

For young offenders who are CiC, the % for the B&H population as a whole was 2.2% and for the population nationally 1.8%.

The other 4 areas of data are collected solely for children in care and are not collected for the B&H population or nationally as a whole.

- 3.3 The strategy will provide members and officers with the opportunity to make significant improvements by looking in more detail at some of the factors which impact on the outcomes for Children in Care. It will help take forward positive and definitive action and will build on the improvements undertaken and continuing in Brighton & Hove. The strategy is about ensuring that these children and young people are safe, secure and healthy, are encouraged and supported to achieve their potential and aspirations, are encouraged to lead fulfilled lives and are successfully prepared for a future where they will be valued and involved citizens who are economically independent and able to contribute positively to the communities in which they live.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Children and young people who are in care and care leavers have been involved in the development of the strategy. As a council and as a partnership we have been committed to listening to children and young people in our care and providing them with a range of opportunities to enable them to make the decisions about how they want to get involved. These opportunities afford the children and young people the ability to effect change in services. But they also provide the young people with opportunities to develop their skills and levels of understanding in areas most relevant to their own interests and personal development. We have two formal processes within the care system which are the 16 Plus Advisory Board for young people and the Listen Up Care Council Group for children up to 16 years. The new strategy will advance a whole range of consultative and involvement initiatives.
- 4.2 The Brighton & Hove Pledge (Appendix '3') which is a set of promises that set out the support and care we will provide to children and young people in care and care leavers was produced and led by consultation with a significant number of service users. It is one mechanism by which the Council and its partners can be held accountable by children, young people and their carers on the levels of service provided.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are currently no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. If additional costs arise as a result of the future development of the corporate parenting strategy then it would be necessary to identify appropriate funding.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore Date: 21st February 2011

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Corporate Parenting Strategy will assist the partners to the Children & Young People's Trust in meeting their duties to Children in Care and care leavers. It mirrors the Every Child Matters agenda and reflects the duty to promote the well being of children contained in Sect 10 of the Children Act 2004. The Board will be aware that no child can be Looked After without either the consent of their parents or by way of an Interim Care Order (ICO) sanctioned by the Court. An ICO can only be made where the threshold criteria that the child is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm is proved to the satisfaction of the court AND the court are satisfied that such an order is necessary to secure the welfare of the child.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson Date: 21st February 2011

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The Corporate Parenting Strategy is critical to the implementation of Brighton & Hove Council's Equalities Policy and to the achievement of the priorities set out in the Children & Young People's Plan 2009-12

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are no immediate sustainability implications

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The Corporate Parenting Strategy aims to support young people to engage in law abiding and socially acceptable activity and behaviour

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The Corporate Parenting Strategy will assist the partners of the Children & Young People's Trust in meeting their duties to Children in Care and care leavers and this includes the management of significant risks, including risk to self, to others and to reputation and financial risk.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The Corporate Parenting Strategy describes the collective responsibilities that members and officers of Brighton & Hove City Council and its partner organisations have towards children and young people in local authority care.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy meets a statutory duty upon Brighton & Hove City Council in respect of Children in Care and care leavers

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To meet Brighton & Hove City Council's statutory duty in respect of Children in Care and care leavers

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Brighton & Hove City Council Corporate Parenting Policy and Strategy
2. Corporate Parenting Directorate Offers
3. The Brighton & Hove Pledge
4. [Appendix 1 – Report Card included \(March 2011\)](#) This is also on the [Wave Performance](#) site.

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING POLICY and STRATEGY

1. Introduction

1.1 Corporate Parenting describes the collective responsibilities that members and officers of Brighton & Hove City Council and its partner organisations have towards children and young people in the care of the Local Authority. These include children accommodated by voluntary agreement with their parent/s, those on statutory orders, those in shared care arrangements, those remanded into care and unaccompanied asylum seeking children. These duties extend to those young people who have left care at 18 years up to the age of 21 (or 24 if remaining in higher education).

1.2 The children and young people for whom we are responsible as corporate parents are talented, resourceful, articulate, have huge potential and many will lead successful adult lives. However, as a result of their early life experiences, they are often less successful in attaining their full potential and this contributes to them being over-represented amongst:

- Adults with no formal educational qualifications
- People who are homeless
- The prison population
- Unemployed people
- Adults using mental health services
- Teenage parents
- Those involved in anti-social behaviour
- Those who are not, on leaving school engaged in employment, education or training.

Research from Professor Mike Stein and his team from York University undertaken between 1984 – 2009 shows that from poor starting points, children and young people in care fall into three distinct categories:

- The 'Movers' – these are the young people who will successfully move on from a stable care experience with relatively low level but consistent support
- The 'Survivors' - these are the young people who will do well in adult life with skilled, intensive support
- The 'Strugglers'- these are the vulnerable minority of young people who will continue to need targeted support well into adulthood

It is useful to be mindful of these three distinct groups when commissioning and monitoring services to children in care and care leavers.

1.3 Effective Corporate Parenting needs a commitment from all Council employees and Elected Members, in a Council-wide approach. Corporate Parenting

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involves the whole Council and its partners acting as a good parent, committing resources and working together to improve the lives of all children and young people in care and care leavers. It is about prioritising their needs, caring about what they want to and supporting them to make the most of their lives.

As Corporate Parents, members, officers and partners need to ask two questions:

“If this was my child, would this be good enough for them?”

“If I was that child or young person, would this have been good enough for me?”

(DfES 2003 “If it were my child .A councillor’s guide to being a good corporate parent.”)

There is no link for this publication as it was a DfES document and it is not listed on the DfE website. However a PDF attachment is available by email if requested.

- 1.4 The purpose of this strategy is to outline a Council-wide vision of our role as Corporate Parents and to ensure that we are all working together to achieve common goals and ambitions for our children and young people in care and care leavers.

The Children and Young People’s Trust is collectively accountable for Corporate Parenting duties but responsibility extends beyond it to include:

- All Brighton & Hove City Council services such as Housing, Culture & Enterprise and Environment and partner agencies
- The Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority and Brighton and Hove City Primary Care Trust who should actively promote the health of Children in Care
- The Community Safety and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships will need to consider whether Children in Care are being supported in avoiding offending behaviour
- Sussex Police
- Sussex Probation Service
- Governing bodies of maintained schools and Further Education colleges
- Voluntary, community and independent organisations

- 1.5 The Corporate Parenting Strategy builds on earlier work and intends to re-invigorate the way Brighton & Hove City Council meets the needs of its children and young people in care and care leavers. The commissioning and delivery of services for these groups of children and young people is underpinned by the Every Child Matters initiative and Children Act 2004 and more recently by the Care Matters Implementation plan 2008 and the Children and Young Person Act 2008.

- 1.6 Responsibility and accountability for the well-being and future prospects for children and young people in Brighton & Hove’s care and its care leavers rests with their Corporate Parents. A good Corporate Parent must offer everything that a good parent would offer and improving the role of the Corporate Parent is key to improving their children’s outcomes. This

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improvement relies on addressing both the difficulties which children and young people in care experience and the challenges of parenting within a complex system of different services. Equally it is important that the children and young people themselves have the opportunity to shape and influence the parenting they receive.

- 1.7 The concept of Corporate Parenting is inherently paradoxical. Good parenting demands continuity and organisations by their nature are continuously changing. Officers and elected members move on, and structures, procedures and partnerships are modified, refined and transformed. One challenge of being a good corporate parent is to manage these changes while giving each individual child and young person a sense of stability.

2. Our Vision, Key Principles and Underlying Values

- 2.1 The Brighton & Hove vision will mirror that of “Care Matters: Time to deliver for children in care” DCSF 2008:

“Our aspirations for children being cared for reflect those aspirations we would have for them as if they were our own. We know that children in care are often in much greater need than other children and we must ensure they obtain all the help they require. We aim to create a home and community environment that provides every child with a safe, happy, healthy, secure and loving childhood, nurturing their aspirations and enabling them to fulfil their full potential”

- 2.2 Our vision and priorities for children and young people in care and care leavers are based around the five national outcomes of Every Child Matters and drive our Corporate Parenting Strategy. These five outcomes are universal ambitions for every child and young person whatever their background or circumstances. They build upon the broad vision detailed in the Children & Young People’s Plan 2009-12 that has been agreed with partners and with children and young people themselves through their consultative forums. This vision is that:

“Brighton & Hove should be the best place in the country for children and young people to grow up. We want to ensure all children and young people have the best possible start in life, so that everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential, what ever that may be”

- 2.3 “A key commitment of Care Matters was to put the voice of the child in care at the heart of the care system. All parents take children’s wishes and feelings into account when making day to day decisions about their lives and corporate parents need to do so too. Research also shows that when children are involved in the development and operation of services, provision is more likely to be what children want and need, leading to more placement stability and better outcomes for children”
Care Matters Ministerial Stocktake Report 2009

- 2.4 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child became international law in 1990. It provides an internationally agreed framework of

minimum standards necessary for the well being of all children and young people. These principles need to apply to children in care and care leavers but will also need to be championed by their Corporate Parent.

3. Aims and Objectives of the Strategy

3.1 Corporate Parenting operates at strategic, operational and individual levels and the 3 key elements are:

- A statutory duty detailed in the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 on all parts of a local authority to co-operate in promoting the welfare of looked after children and young people and a duty on other partners and agencies to co-operate in fulfilling that duty
- Co-ordinating the activities of the many different professionals and carers who are involved in a child or young person's life and taking a strategic, child-centred approach to the delivery of services
- Shifting the emphasis from 'corporate' to 'parenting' which means doing what a good parent would do to promote and support the physical, emotional, social and cognitive development of a child from infancy to adulthood

3.2 The specific objective of this Strategy is to ensure the Corporate Parenting responsibilities for all Elected Members and Council employees are clearly outlined in order that:

- Elected Members have a clear understanding and awareness of the needs of Brighton & Hove's Children in Care and care leavers and ensure their responsibilities as Corporate Parents are reflected in all aspects of the Council's work;
- All services improve their ability to deliver to the Corporate Parenting agenda, and have mechanisms in place to continually monitor and review the means by which their services contribute to positive outcomes for Children in Care and care leavers. (See Appendix '2' 'Corporate Parenting Directorate Offers')
- The Corporate Parenting commitment leads to measurable improvement in the life chances of Children in Care and care leavers, enabling them to succeed in line with their peers.
- Communication between Elected Members and Children in Care and care leavers enables participation and inclusion, ensuring children and young people have a say in how decisions are made about services affecting them and are able to influence those decisions.
- Partnership working and joint planning and commissioning is promoted as a pre-requisite to delivering effective services to Children in Care and care leavers.
- Effective monitoring and accountability of Corporate Parenting duties is in place.

3.3 Responsibilities as corporate parents require everyone working with or on behalf of our children and young people in care and care leavers to

ensure that the five Every Child Matters outcomes are addressed either directly and indirectly.

3.3.1 Being Healthy

While promoting physical and sexual health and emotional well-being are obvious priorities, preventative strategies including education to encourage healthy lifestyle choices and leisure interests are key elements of our work. Children and young people in care may have additional health needs caused by earlier abuse or neglect and these must be taken into account under the key aim of ensuring their life chances are improved by promoting their of health and well being.

To ensure the life chances of children and young people in care and care leavers are improved by promoting of health and well being, Corporate Parents will:

- Promote their health and well being and leisure activities
- Ensure every child and young person is registered with a GP and dentist and optician (if appropriate)
- Monitor and challenge to improve performance in relation to health and well being eg Statutory Health Assessments, emotional and behavioural well being, Sex and Relationship Education
- Ensure a dedicated access pathway for mental health, substance misuse and teenage parent services
- Advocate across health agencies on the needs of children and young people in care and care leavers and ensure all health agencies and partners understand and deliver services promptly and effectively
- Encourage and support all children and young people to access leisure, play, sports, educational and cultural activities

3.3.2 Staying Safe

Most children and young people who come into care do so as a result of not being safe from physical and sexual harm and neglect while living at home. Robust arrangements need to be in place therefore to ensure that they live in safe, secure and nurturing placements that provide continuity and stability. As they move towards adulthood we must ensure that they have access to safe, secure and affordable permanent accommodation.

To ensure the life chances of children and young people in care and care leavers are improved by ensuring they live in safe, stable homes that provide stability, Corporate Parents will:

- Ensure a Care Plan is in place for every child and young person that is regularly reviewed by their Independent Reviewing Officer
- Monitor performance on placement stability and distance placed from home

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- Monitor the quality of care of in-house foster care and agency foster and residential homes providers and how they meet diversity needs
- Ensure that 'unregulated' placements are governed by robust service level agreements
- Ensure robust arrangements are in place for children and young people who are missing from care
- Ensure formal arrangements are in place to meet the housing and support needs of care leavers

3.3.3 **Enjoying and Achieving**

The main focus is on improving the educational attainment of children and young people in care. This is the single most important contribution those involved in corporate parenting can make because it is about investing in their future. It must be acknowledged that children and young people in care have significantly poorer educational outcomes than their peers. However, we must move away from the assumption that this is an inevitable consequence of their often disadvantaged and disadvantaged backgrounds. What it does mean is that we need to invest in specific and targeted additional support to improve these outcomes.

To enable children and young people in care and care leavers to access and achieve educational opportunities, Corporate Parents will:

- Monitor performance of educational attainment at Key Stages 2, 4 and 5 to the completion of university education and completion of Personal Education Plans
- Monitor School Attendance, Exclusions (fixed term and permanent) Special Educational Needs and admissions
- Ensure that Designated Teachers are established in all schools
- Ensure pathways are in place to key initiatives such as early years and extended services, out of school activities, Integrated Youth Support and 14-19 providers
- Ensure appropriate support is in place to ensure smooth transition to Further and Higher Education

3.3.4 **Making a Positive Contribution**

Participation and engagement of children and young people in care is key to the success of any corporate parenting strategy. This outcome area is about more than just involving them in the development of services. We must support them to: engage in law abiding and socially acceptable activity and behaviour; develop positive relationships by choosing not to bully or discriminate; develop self-confidence and learning to deal successfully with significant life changes and challenges.

The key aim is to ensure that all children and young people in care have the opportunity to be listened to and heard, are involved and participate in the planning and development of services they receive.

To ensure all children and young people in care and care leavers have the opportunity to be listened to and heard and are involved and participate in the planning and development of services they receive, Corporate Parents will:

- Monitor the participation of children and young people in their statutory reviews
- Encourage the development of the Listen Up Care Council and 16 Plus Advisory Board
- Ensure that the views and opinions of children and young people are gathered and that it can be evidenced that these have an impact on and influence the development of service delivery
- Ensure that children and young people know how to make a complaint and are able to easily access an Advocate
- Ensure that the promises in the Pledge are delivered

3.3.5 Achieving Economic Wellbeing

Children and young people in care find it more difficult than their peers to attain a good standard of living when they become adult and independent. We must promote and provide work experience, taster days, training and employment opportunities with all employers and employer organisations in the city and to continue to ensure that these care leavers are fully supported to move positively into adulthood.

To ensure all children and young people in care and care leavers receive appropriate support to be able to move positively into adulthood, Corporate Parents will:

- Monitor the performance of education, employment and training status and suitability of housing of 19 year old care leavers
- Develop partnerships to improve access to and support in Further and Higher Education
- Advocate for and provide work experience and employment opportunities within Brighton & Hove City Council and its partner agencies
- Promote the needs of care leavers for work experience, training and job opportunities with employers and employer organisations in the city
- Ensure that care leavers have access to safe, secure and affordable accommodation

4. Getting it Right – How we will take the Strategy forward

4.1 Responsibility for ensuring that the Corporate Parenting Strategy will be implemented and be effective in its aims and objectives has six key elements:

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The role of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Director of Children's Services who will provide leadership across the authority in safeguarding and in monitoring the welfare of children in care and care leavers

The role of the Corporate Parenting Forum in terms of accountability and governance. The Forum consists of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, an elected member from the Conservative, Labour, Green and Liberal Democrats groups, the Director of Children's Services, two children and young people representatives from the participation groups, representatives of Brighton & Hove Foster Carers Association, and the Head of Children & Families Delivery Unit.

The Forum acts as the advisory consultation body to the Council to enable the effective discharge of the duty of corporate parent. The role of the Forum is to monitor and review services and establish the objectives and priorities for looked after children by council departments and partner agencies. The central role is to achieve continuing improvements for looked after children and care leavers. The forum will oversee the implementation of the strategy.

Children & Young People's Participation ie the Listen Up Care Council for children in care up to age of 16 and the 16 Plus Advisory Board for young people in care and care leavers aged 16-21 years. These groups will develop mechanisms by which views and opinions from a wide range of children and young people can be gathered. It was agreed at the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Forum that elected members would meet with these participation groups at regular intervals throughout the year.

The Brighton & Hove Pledge (See Appendix '3') This set of promises that set out the support and care we will provide to children and young people in care has been hand delivered to all Brighton & Hove children in care and care leavers with an accompanying letter from 'Clive' and 'Stacey' from the participation groups. It has also been distributed to all Brighton & Hove foster carers, independent fostering agencies and residential children's homes providers, partner statutory agencies and voluntary sector partners. Social work staff have also been briefed on its purpose and how we must be held accountable to the promises we have given. The Pledge was communicated to a wider audience in Brighton & Hove as it was featured in a special Corporate Parenting edition of 'Children First' magazine in July.

The Corporate Parenting Working Group and Report Card The working group, chaired by the Assistant Director, Integrated Working consists of senior managers from Children's Social Care operational teams, Fostering & Adoption Team, Agency Placements Team, Youth Offending Service, Children in Care Education Team, Nurse Consultant for Children in Care, Southdowns Health Paediatrician, Independent Reviewing Officer and Performance Management Team representatives.

In developing the new strategy a comprehensive audit and self assessment has been undertaken using the Ofsted Framework for Inspection. This has

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been benchmarked against inspections that have taken place in other local authorities under the new framework and has highlighted very good and outstanding areas of practice as well as identifying areas for development and will help shape and strengthen the next phase of the strategy.

The group has also examined management information from the Performance Team which evidences how Brighton & Hove is performing against its local authority statistical neighbours as well as all authorities in England on the National Indicators for outcomes for children in care and care leavers., Actions to improve performance, summaries of initiatives eg participation.

The Report Card is not intended just to be a technical document to be used strategically. It is designed so as to be accessible to all corporate parents and any professionals from other organisations and services that have, or potentially have a role in supporting our children and promoting their life chances. Everyone who receives this report will have the opportunity to feed back on how to improve outcomes for our children.

The full Report Card is currently being developed by the Performance Team. Some examples to give a flavour of what will be included are:

1. Stability of placements:
 - The % of children in care who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years improved from 63% in October 2009 to 68% in September 2010
 - The % of children in care who had more than 3 placement moves in 12 months was 10.4%, the same as the England average.
2. Adoption:
 - The % of children in care who were placed for adoption within 12 months of decision being made that the child should be adopted. B&H 79%, LA comparator average 73% and England average 72%
3. Education:
 - The % of children in care achieving 5 A*- C GCSE's (inc English & Maths) B&H 7.8%, England average 9.8%
 - The % of children in care achieving 5 A*- G GCSE's B&H 42%, England average 44%

Council-wide responsibilities. The offers made by the corporate parenting champions of Brighton & Hove Council Directorates and detailed on the attached Action Plan (Appendix '2') will be followed up by the designated leads as detailed.

4.2 **Shared Responsibilities**

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APPENDIX 1

Responsibilities for ensuring improved outcomes for children in care and care leavers are wide ranging amongst elected members, officers and carers.

Elected members council-wide have to ensure that public services used or needed by children in care are of a high quality, integrated and take account of their needs. They will ensure that they are fully informed of the issues facing children in care by understanding the characteristics of children in care and by knowing how well services are performing in meeting their assessed needs. This requires an awareness and understanding of the:

- Care and placement arrangements
- Child protection and safety policies and procedures
- Education performance and achievements
- Responsiveness of health services
- Preparation for leaving care arrangements and housing needs
- Arrangements to prevent children in care from getting into trouble.

Elected members will be supported in meeting their responsibilities by Brighton & Hove officers. They will provide leadership that will encourage and support partnership and joined-up working. This will ensure that funding, commissioning and priority setting deliver the best combination of services for children and young people in care and care leavers.

Foster Carers will be assessed, approved, supervised and supported in the following:

- Providing a safe and comfortable home for children and young people in their care
- Giving children and young people time and attention and clear boundaries
- Providing encouragement and motivation to help the child or young person meet their potential
- Working positively with birth parents and other family members.
- Working as part of a team with others who share responsibility for the child or young person's care, welfare and development
- Providing care that support and promotes the child or young person's culture, race, religion, language, disability and sexual orientation.

Social Workers and other social work staff have responsibilities in the following areas:

- For ensuring that the child and young person's needs are properly assessed and that these are properly represented in their Care or Pathway Plans.
- Having the key role in setting and establishing plans for children and young people in care and care leavers. First consideration will be given to returning the child or young person to their parent's care where this is safe to do so, or other family members. Where this is not

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achievable efforts will be made to secure the child's placement within an alternative family setting such as adoption or foster care. Where a child or young person remains in care, plans will also address leaving care arrangements.

- In care planning social work staff will listen to the views and wishes of the child or young person and those of their family members. The views of others engaged in providing services to children in care will also be sought.
- Ensuring the child or young person is healthy and their health needs are appropriately assessed and met.
- Ensuring the child or young person is safely and securely accommodated within family situations or in other appropriate caring environments
- Ensure they have access to and are supported in a full range of educational services, whether this is in schools, colleges or other specialist alternative provision
- Ensure they have access to leisure and sporting facilities which enable their interests, skills confidence and self esteem to develop.
- Ensure that they make a smooth and successful transition from living in care to independent adulthood.

The Virtual School for Children in Care The Virtual School Headteacher in Brighton & Hove is responsible for developing and establishing a "Virtual School", providing strategic direction and securing successful educational outcomes for all children and young people in care. The headteacher will lead and manage the work of the members of the former Children in Care Education Team consisting of Education Support Workers, an Information and Support Officer, an Educational Psychologist and Education Welfare Assistant.

The Virtual School will:

- Support children and young people in care in school Years 1-11 which will include working with Carers, Social Workers, Schools, SEN Team, Children in Care Contracts, other Council teams and external agencies
- Facilitate and monitor Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings
- monitor attendance
- commission home tuition
- provide transitional support over school summer holidays for those children moving from primary to secondary school
- provide training for Carers and for Designated Teachers
- and above all, improve the attainment of children and young people in care.

Teachers and Education Staff All staff working in education, whether based in schools or local authority services have responsibilities towards looked after children and young people in care. These responsibilities are clearly defined within 'The Education of Young People in Public Care (DoH/DfES, 2000) and

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APPENDIX 1

Statutory Guidance on the Duty on Local Authorities to Promote the Education of Looked After Children under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004' (DfES 2005). These responsibilities cover the following range of activities:

- Admissions to schools
- School transport
- Special Educational Needs and Inclusion
- School Improvement
- School Exclusions
- Education Welfare
- Educational Psychology
- Educational Support to Schools

The statutory duty does not directly apply to schools and their staff. However, there is an expectation, clearly stated within the duty, that schools and their staff will 'take a proactive approach to co-operating with and supporting local authorities in discharging this duty' (DfES 2005). All Brighton & Hove schools have an allocated Designated Teacher for Children in Care and a Headteacher, Virtual School for Children in Care is now in post.

Health Sector Managers and Clinicians

The Department of Health in 'Promoting the Health of Looked After Children' (2002) sets out the particular responsibilities health workers have towards looked after children and young people in care.

Chief Executives of Primary Care Trusts (PCT's) are charged with ensuring that health sector children's services are planned, commissioned and delivered in collaboration with other partner agencies, taking account of the particular health needs of children and young people in care and that priority is given to them.

5. Conclusion

There is no single or simple answer to improving outcomes for all children and young people in care and care leavers and there is a need for thorough knowledge of the characteristics of the care population and a range of appropriate strategies. The aim should be to ensure concern for children and young people in care and care leavers becomes fully and permanently embedded in the culture of children's services. There are few other specific issues of higher priority for the local authority than caring for the children and young people for which Brighton & Hove has a degree of parental responsibility.

6. Evaluation and Review of the Strategy

This strategy will be evaluated and reviewed by the Corporate Parenting Forum and Corporate Parenting Working Group with the participation of children and young people from the participation groups. The strategy will be

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APPENDIX 1

closely monitored over the next 12 months and a progress report will be made to the Board towards the end of 2011.

Corporate Parenting Directorate Offers within Brighton & Hove City Council

Note; these offers and subsequent discussions were made and progressed under council structure in place spring and summer 2010. Some revision and renegotiation may need to take place resulting from the Council's change programme implemented from November 2010.

Directorate	Proposed Contribution to Corporate Parenting	Support to Contribution from Children & Families	Progress
Housing, Culture & Enterprise	<p>Housing</p> <p>1. "Agreed that foster parents can be included in the C&F nominations quota to Band 'A' for Homemove and have increased the quota accordingly. This means that foster parents who need accommodation, can be given priority or social housing. C&F currently has 15 nominations each year which are mainly for families with children at risk of going into care if they don't have better accommodation. We have expanded this provision to include foster carers"</p>	<p>1. This has not been a problem for mainstream foster carers who are unrelated to the child and in recent years there has been just one case where a B&H carer needed to take up one of the 15 per annum C&F nominations.</p> <p>1. With potential Family & Friends (Kinship) carers, housing is a challenge when they take on caring for children with little notice or planning, have limited accommodation available and are often not 'well-off' financially. In the interim it is usually accepted that there will be overcrowding and pressures on the placement will result. The Family & Friends Team (Fostering & Adoption) have had some success in finding solutions ie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being included in the 15 per annum C&F nominations • negotiating for a family to move to Band 'A' • moving temporarily into private rented accommodation so there is more room for the children. 	<p>1. No further action required</p> <p>1. Further clarification is required about Family & Friends (Kinship) carers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - being 'priority need' and therefore placed in 'Band A' - clarity in relation to calculations and entitlements to housing benefit vis-à-vis foster care allowances <p><u>Lead:</u> Sharon Donnelly (C&F) and Steven Hird (HB)</p>

	<p>2. "We are targeting families who are overcrowded and moving them into private leased accommodation which alleviates pressures on the households and contributes towards avoiding family break down and children having to be looked after"</p> <p>3. "The full implications of the Southwark judgment have yet to be assessed but it is likely that it will result in an increase in the number of young homeless people (16-17 years old) being Looked After rather than housed under Homeless legislation.</p> <p>4. "We have a joint protocol for looked after children who are leaving care to move into their</p>	<p>1. There are sometimes barriers to rehabilitation plans from high cost and scarce Parent & Baby foster placements due to difficulties in identifying suitable move-on accommodation.</p> <p>2. The increased use and availability of private leased accommodation alongside other targeted multi-agency interventions can reduce the need for some children to come into care.</p> <p>3. The implementation of the implications of the Southwark judgement *are currently subject of discussion and negotiation between C&F & Housing. Revised guidance from DfE & CLG on how LA's should provide accommodation for homeless 16/17 year olds which clarifies corporate responsibilities has recently been issued. This will assist clarification of thresholds for 'care' to be agreed with Legal Services.</p> <p>4. The Joint Protocol between C&F and Housing ensures that the corporate responsibility for meeting the diverse accommodation needs of young people who have been Looked After by</p>	<p>1. Further work required to identify suitable move-on accommodation to provide a considerable corporate saving. <u>Lead:</u> Sharon Donnelly (C&F) Jugal Sharma (Housing)</p> <p>2. On-going multi-agency interventions.</p> <p>3. Social Worker attached to housing advice completes Initial Assessments on 16/17 year olds presenting as homeless. <u>Lead:</u> Andy Whippey (C&F) Sylvia Peckham (Housing) Natasha Watson (Legal)</p> <p>4. The Protocol will be updated and revised to take account of the Southwark judgement and</p>
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<p>own accommodation and there are already pathways to help them access work and/or learning.”</p> <p>5. Apprenticeships for Care Leavers in new repairs service.</p> <p>Culture</p> <p>6. “Tickets to shows at Brighton Centre and Hove Town Hall”</p> <p>7. “Tickets to Children’s events as part of the Brighton Festival”</p> <p>8. “Tickets to gain free entry to exhibitions in Museum Service or</p>	<p>B&HCC are met. This has been cited by DCSF & CLG as excellent Corporate Parenting practice</p> <p>5. The 10 year partnership with Mears for housing repairs that started on 01.04.10 includes a commitment to 200 apprenticeships. Care leavers will have an opportunity to access these through a care pathway linked to the Community Social Responsibility Group of the partnership. The commissioning process has emphasised the need for tenants to benefit from the partnership. As many children in care and care leavers originate from council properties and some care leavers are tenants in their own right this should assist their access to apprenticeship opportunities.</p> <p>6. Funding of this scheme administered by Arts & Cultural Projects is currently capped at £500 pa (£15 per event maximum) and so limits the numbers of children in care who can benefit. Currently this is administered by manager of Independent Visitors scheme (F&A, C&F)</p> <p>7. Further discussion from C&F with Arts & Cultural Projects to take place on how this might apply to Brighton Festivals from 2011</p> <p>8. Free entry for exhibitions at B&H museums and art galleries and free entry to Royal Pavilion and Preston Manor is available for all B&H Children in</p>	<p>will be in place by April 2011. <u>Lead:</u> Dermot Anketell (C&F) Sylvia Peckham (Housing)</p> <p>5. Follow up Spring 2011 when apprenticeship element of service established. <u>Lead:</u> Nick Hibberd (Housing) Dermot Anketell (C&F) Mike Eaton (Strat & Gov)</p> <p>6. Investigate whether any additional funding for this scheme is available. <u>Lead:</u> Lucy Jefferies (Arts & Culture) Dermot Anketell (C&F)</p> <p><u>7.Lead:</u> Lucy Jefferies (A&C) Dermot Anketell (C&F)</p> <p>8. <u>Lead:</u> Janita Bagshaw</p>
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	Royal Pavilion”	Care up to age 18 wherever they are resident.	(Head of Museums & Royal Pavilion)
Adult Social Care & Health	<p>9. “Offer of apprenticeships e.g. Information Support Assistant post”</p> <p>10. “Volunteering/inter-generational opportunities”</p>	<p>9. Initial discussions have taken place within Adult Social Care about offering work ‘taster’ days and work experience opportunities to children in care and care leavers. Specific opportunities with Care Crew in residential settings to be explored that could develop into apprenticeships.</p> <p>10. Further work with ASC identified to explore ‘grandparenting’ experiences within the Community Support Team and the Buddy Scheme within Day Services</p>	<p>9. Follow up required to determine these potential opportunities. Lead: Karin Divall (ASC), Anne Hagan (ASC), Mike Eaton (Strat & Gov)</p> <p>10. Follow up required to determine these potential opportunities. <u>Lead:</u> Karin Divall (ASC) Dermot Anketell (C&F)</p>
Finance & Resources	11. “ICT is the main area with E-safety training for children & carers, advice on assistive technologies for children in care and care leavers with special needs and basic training and support in website, PC hardware and fault fixing”	11. Greg Austin, Business Systems Manager has been nominated lead officer for Corporate Parenting within ICT. He suggested the most appropriate online guide to ‘E-safety’ for children and carers to be www.microsoft.com/protect/familysafety/default.aspx which covers guidelines for social networking including age-based safety tips for children, a sample family contract for Internet rules at home, 4 steps parents or carers can take to help protect children online and basics to teach children about the Internet.	11. <u>Lead:</u> Dermot Anketell (C&F) to follow up any further identified needs with Greg Austin (ICT & E – Government)

		<p>For children in care and care leavers with special needs he identifies software products dependant on need eg users who have difficulty using a keyboard could use software such as Dragon Naturally Speaking and the leading software for users with sight disabilities is ZoomText Magnifier / ScreenReader which also includes an audio reader.</p>	
<p>Environment</p>	<p>14. Partnership between B&HCC and DC Leisure Mangement currently provides a "Listen Up"</p>	<p>Detailed discussion has taken place between Kevin Kingston and Dermot Anketell and the following potential opportunities have been identified.</p> <p>Public Safety 12. Provide work experience in Environmental Health Teams, covering all services including food hygiene inspections, health & safety work, animal welfare, pest control, etc. Provide work experience with the Trading Standards service Provide work experience with the Environment Improvement Team</p> <p>Sport & Leisure 13. Sports Development – helping with sports sessions/events – Festival of Sport Sports Facilities – operation/helping set up a new activity</p> <p>14. Look into feasibility of extending this scheme to include care leavers up to the age of 21.</p>	<p>12. <u>Lead:</u> Dermot Anketell (C&F) to follow up with respective Heads of Service - Tim Nichols, Jo Player Jonathan Fortune</p> <p>13. <u>Lead:</u> Dermot Anketell (C&F) to follow up with respective Heads of Service - Ian Shurrock, Jan Sutherland</p> <p>“ “</p>

card for all children in care which entitles them to free swimming (and free gym for over 16's) at Prince Regent, King Alfred & St Lukes.

15. Seafront Operation – going on patrols or Volks Railway (trains/engineering)
 Events – input into staging a particular event or helping with location filming

City Planning

16. Planning managers would like to set up a programme of short experiences to give young people a sense of the different career options available within Planning made up of some, if not all, of the following:

- An hour on the front desk getting some idea of the range of questions people ask.
- An hour in Development Control learning to read plans.
- A site visit with Building Control staff - ideally one with cranes and heavy plant.
- Some time at a consultation event – similar to the London Road one.
- Site visit with Conservation staff to an “at risk” property – ideally a special opportunity to see something like the roof of the Royal Pavilion.
- An hour in Planning Strategy with a “taster” of how computers are used to update listed building information.

15. Lead: Dermot Anketell (C&F) to follow up with Toni Manuel re seafront operations and Volks Railway opportunities in March 2011.

16. Lead: Dermot Anketell (C&F) to follow up with Rob Fraser, Head of Planning

		<p>City Services 17. To provide work experience in Cityparks including Stanmer Nurseries where an apprenticeship may be possible. Use the ranger service to do some 'fun' activities.</p> <p>Sustainable Transport 18. General ideas that have been suggested and will require detailed follow up are traffic management centre activity, enforcement activity, cycle training and cycle demo town project and road safety site visits.</p>	<p>17. <u>Lead:</u> Dermot Anketell (C&F) to follow up with Robert Walker, Head of City Parks</p> <p>18. <u>Lead:</u> Dermot Anketell (C&F) to follow up with Mark Prior, AD Sustainable Transport – meeting arranged for April 2011</p>

* The 'G' V LB Southwark Judgement – a brief explanation:

“This House of Lords judgment (May 2009) concerned the relationship between the duties on local authorities under the Children Act 1989 (Section 20) and under the Housing Act 1996 (Part 7) in the case of children aged 16 or 17 who require accommodation. It has restated and clarified the established legal position that the Children Act has primacy over the Housing Act in providing for children in need who are homeless. In practice this means that 16 and 17 year old young people must be regarded as children under the Children Act. However it does not necessarily mean that all young people in need of accommodation will become Looked After (Section 20). What it does mean is that Children’s and Housing Services need to work much more closely together to meet these duties and a protocol to clarify these joint responsibilities is currently being finalised”



The Brighton & Hove PLEDGE...

Children and Young Peoples Trust

Translation? Tick this box and take to any council office.

ترجمة؟ ضع علامة في المربع وخذها إلى مكتب البلدية. Arabic

অনুবাদ? বক্সে টিক চিহ্ন দিয়ে কাউন্সিল অফিসে নিয়ে যান। Bengali

需要翻譯? 請在這方格內加剔, 並送回任何市議會的辦事處。Cantonese

ترجمه؟ لطفاً این مربع را علامتگذاری نموده و آن را به هر یک از دفاتر شهرداری ارائه نمایید. Farsi

Traduction? Veuillez cocher la case et apporter au council. French

需要翻译? 请在这方格内划勾, 并送回任何市议会的办事处。Mandarin

Tłumaczenie? Zaznacz to okienko i zwróć do któregoś z biura samorządu lokalnego (council office). Polish

Tradução? Coloque um visto na quadrícula e leve a uma qualquer repartição de poder local (council office). Portuguese

Tercümesi için kareyi işaretleyiniz ve bir semt belediye burosuna veriniz Turkish

other (please state)

This can also be made available in large print, Braille, or on CD or audio tape

3013 design by www.graphicdesignteam.org.uk



Brighton & Hove
City Council

This is the Brighton & Hove Pledge to children and young people in care and to care leavers.

All councils in England have made a Pledge (a set of promises) that set out the support and care they will give children and young people in their care. These promises also make clear what can be expected in return. The Brighton & Hove Pledge has been drawn up with the help of young people from the Listen Up Care Council and the 16 Plus Advisory Board. The success of the Pledge will be checked during care and pathway plan reviews of children and young people in care and care leavers.

Everyone has talent!

We will recognise your strengths & interests by:

- Watching how you are doing
- Knowing what's going well for you
- Looking at your options with you
- Providing you with good role models
- Respecting your culture and beliefs
- Supporting you to do things you enjoy in your free time

Everyone needs encouragement

We will encourage you to aim high by:

- Knowing what your strengths and interests are
- Knowing what you do well
- Knowing what you need to improve on
- Helping you achieve what you are aiming for
- Being involved in planning your education

Everyone needs help... sometimes

We will support you to succeed, by helping you to have:

- good childcare when you are little
- help at home and school
- extra help with school work from a tutor if you need one.
- help with computers
- good quality assistance

Everyone needs to feel good

We will recognise your achievements by:

- Appreciating what you have done
- Providing a small reward
- Helping you build on your success
- Holding an awards ceremony

Everyone can give their views

We will make sure you can say what you want to say:

- Listening carefully to your opinions, wishes and feelings
- Seriously considering your ideas
- Explaining our decisions

It's your life... it's your Review

We will make sure you are able to take part in meetings about you by:

- Helping you to chair meetings about yourself
- Asking you beforehand what you want to say and how you want to say it.
- Making sure that an Independent Reviewing Officer meets with you to plan your Review.

Making a complaint should sort it out!

We will make sure you have help if you have a suggestion or want to make a complaint by:

- Making it easy to tell the council what you think
- Making it easier to make a suggestion or a complaint
- Making it easy to ask for an Advocate to help you make your opinion heard
- Properly investigating your suggestions and complaints and telling you what we are going to do about them.

Help the bosses understand

We will make sure you can tell those people in charge what you think about the services you receive by:

- Inviting you to take part in the Listen Up Care Council and the 16 Plus Advisory Board
- Giving you the chance to put your ideas to councillors and the Director of Children's Services

Everyone needs to feel secure

We will try to keep you safe by:

- Helping you understand what a social worker does.
- Making sure you have a social worker and you know how to contact them
- Making sure your social worker visits you regularly and has time to listen to what you want to say
- Making sure you have an up to date Care Plan that spells out what you need
- Finding carers for you who will look after you if you can't live with your family

Everyone can feel healthy

We will support you to be fit and well by:

- Talking about any health worries you may have
- Knowing what you need and making plans for improving your health
- Offering advice and support
- Offering health appointments when you need them
- Keeping a record of how your health improves

Everyone needs support at times

We will support your emotional health and well being by:

- Helping you keep in touch with people who are important to you
- Helping you understand your life story and what has happened to you in the past
- Listening to your worries
- Making sure you have the support you need
- Supporting you to take part in sport, activities and outings that you enjoy



And when you are older...

Everyone has questions

We will support you into adult life by:

- Guaranteeing you have your own Personal Adviser who will help you move from living in care to adult life
- Ensuring you have good information, advice and guidance
- Helping you consider job, training, apprenticeship, college and university opportunities

Your place or mine?

We will help you to move on to a place that is right for you by:

- Helping you find a suitable place to live
- Helping you to find somewhere of your own when you are ready

Everyone can make good choices

We will try to help you be healthy as you become older and more independent by:

- Helping you to use health services
- Providing you with information and practical help on how to keep yourself well
- Supporting you with sexual health advice and contraception
- If you smoke, helping you to stop
- Work with you if you use alcohol or drugs to find the help that you need to stop

Give us a wave!

We will continue to support you by:

- Making sure you have a Pathway Plan that sets out what help and support you need as you become an adult and move out of care
- Making sure you have a named worker who will be there to support you up to 21. Contact will depend upon the level of support you need.
- Staying in your care or supported housing accommodation until you are ready and able to move on.

If you are a child or young person in care and have anything to say about these promises then please talk about it with your social worker or carer. This Pledge will be reviewed regularly and your views will be important at these times



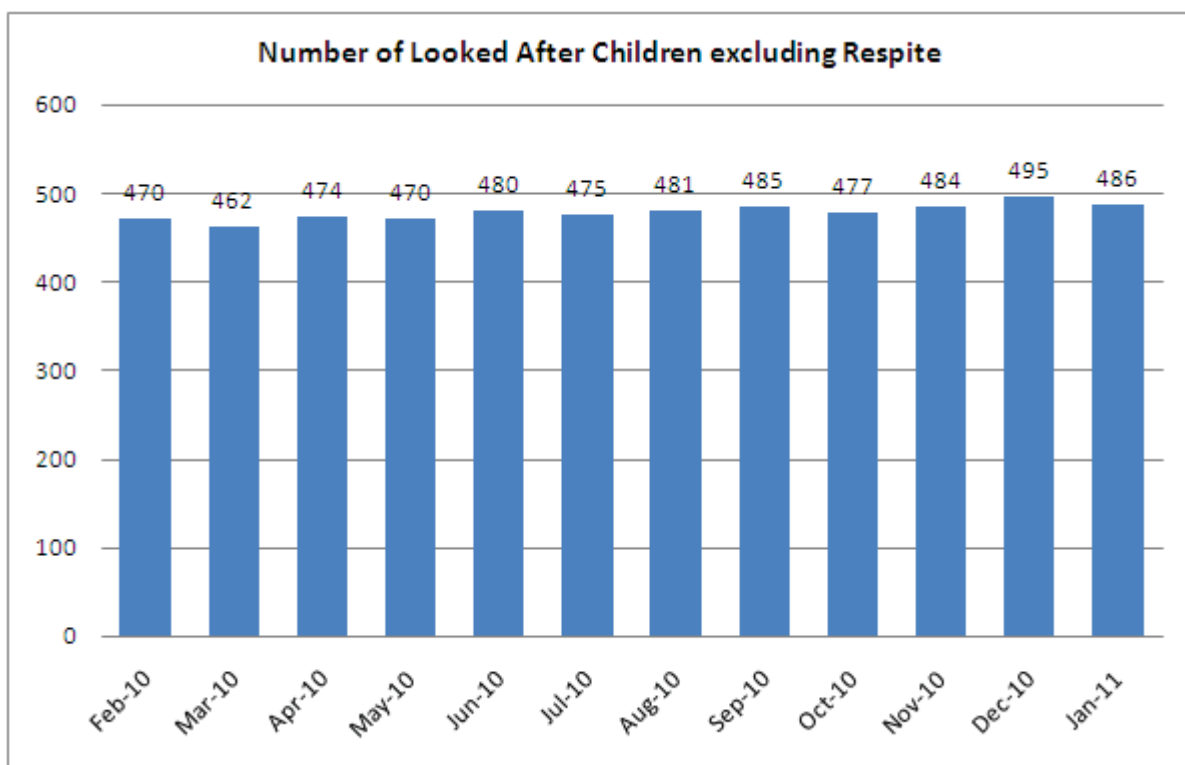
Corporate Parent Summary Report

March 2011 – External Version

Looked After Children (Excluding Respite) as at 31st January 2011

To ensure that no individual can be identified, conventions for the suppression of very small numbers are used. In accordance with DfE rounding and suppression rules, numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive have been suppressed. Please note that some of the commentary from the Improving Educational Outcomes section of this report has been removed from the external version of this report.

Figure 1: Number of Looked After Children (excluding Respite)



Source: Monthly Monitoring Social Care Data January 2011

There were 486 Looked after Children (excluding respite) as at 31st January 2011, a slight fall from 495 as at 31st December 2010. The number of Looked after Children has been relatively stable over the last 12 months, ranging from 462 at the end of March to 495 at the end of December.

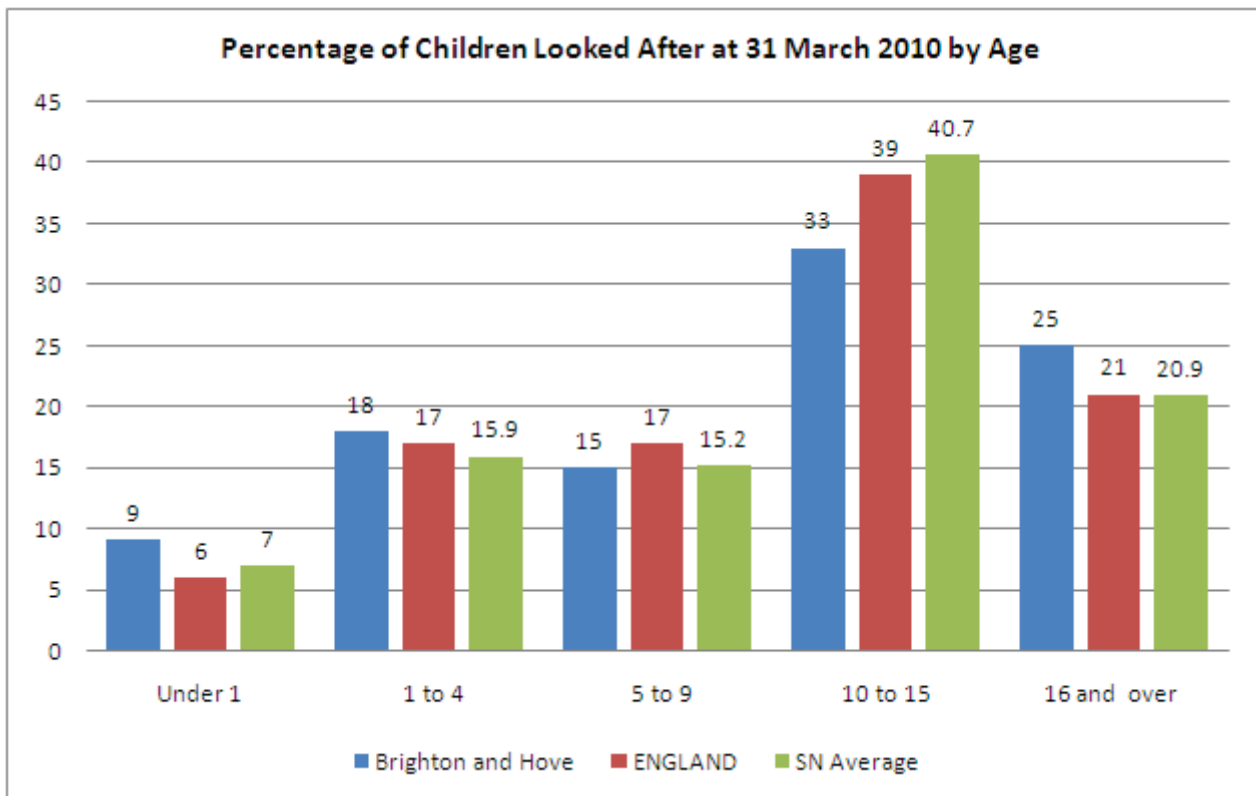
Children Looked After Year Ending 31 March 2010

An analysis of the Children Looked After Statistical First Release (SFR), which provides information about looked after children in England for the year ending 31 March 2010, has been provided in this section of the report to illustrate how the profile of Looked After Children in Brighton and Hove compares with the national average and our statistical neighbours. The figures are based on data from the SSDA903 return collected from all local authorities.

Please note that:

- Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5
- Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
- Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
- The Statistical Neighbour¹ Average (SN Average) has been calculated by averaging the percentages for the 10 local authorities in our statistical neighbour group.

Figure 2: Percentage of Children Looked After at 31 March 2010 by Age

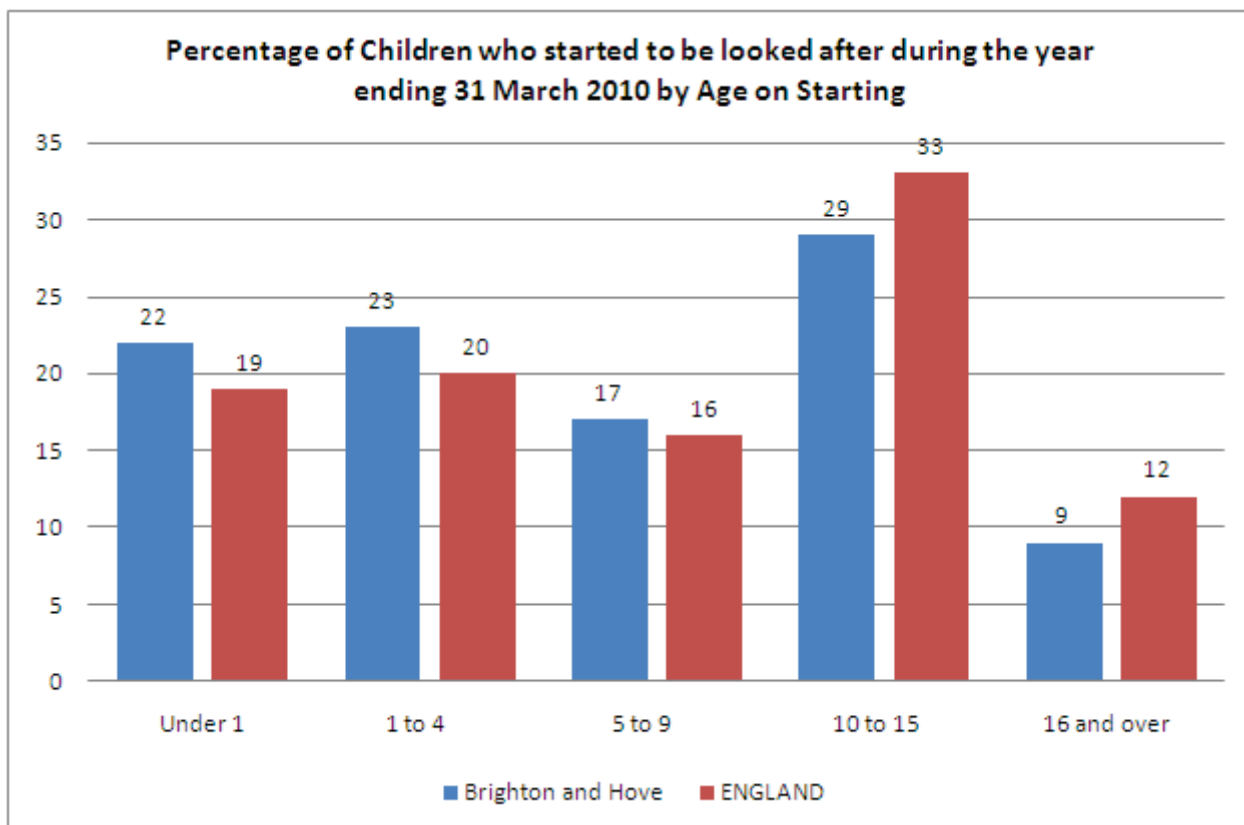


Source: SSDA903

The data in Figure 2 illustrates the percentage of children who were looked after at 31st March 2010 by age band and reveals that Brighton and Hove is above the national and statistical neighbour average in the Under 1 and 1 to 4 age bands. It is interesting to note that the percentage of Children Looked After in the 10 to 15 age band is lower than both the national and statistical neighbour average but is higher in the 16 and over age band.

¹ Statistical Neighbours (SN) are ranked in order of statistical closeness, with the top SN being closest: Bristol, Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Reading, Sheffield, Southampton, Bath and North East Somerset, Southend-on-Sea, York and Plymouth
Corporate Parent Summary Report - Mar 2011 External Version Final Version Page 2 of 28

Figure 3: Percentage of Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2010 by Age on Starting



Source: SSDA903

Figure 3 identifies the percentage of children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31st March 2010 by their age on starting². The data illustrates that the percentage of children in the Under 1, 1 to 4 and 5 to 9 categories is higher than the national average and is below the national average in the 10 to 15 and 16 and over categories. It is not possible to calculate a statistical neighbour average as the percentages for some local authorities have been suppressed due to the small numbers involved but a breakdown of our statistical neighbours has been provided in table 2 below.

² Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.

Table 1: Percentage of Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2010 by Age on Starting

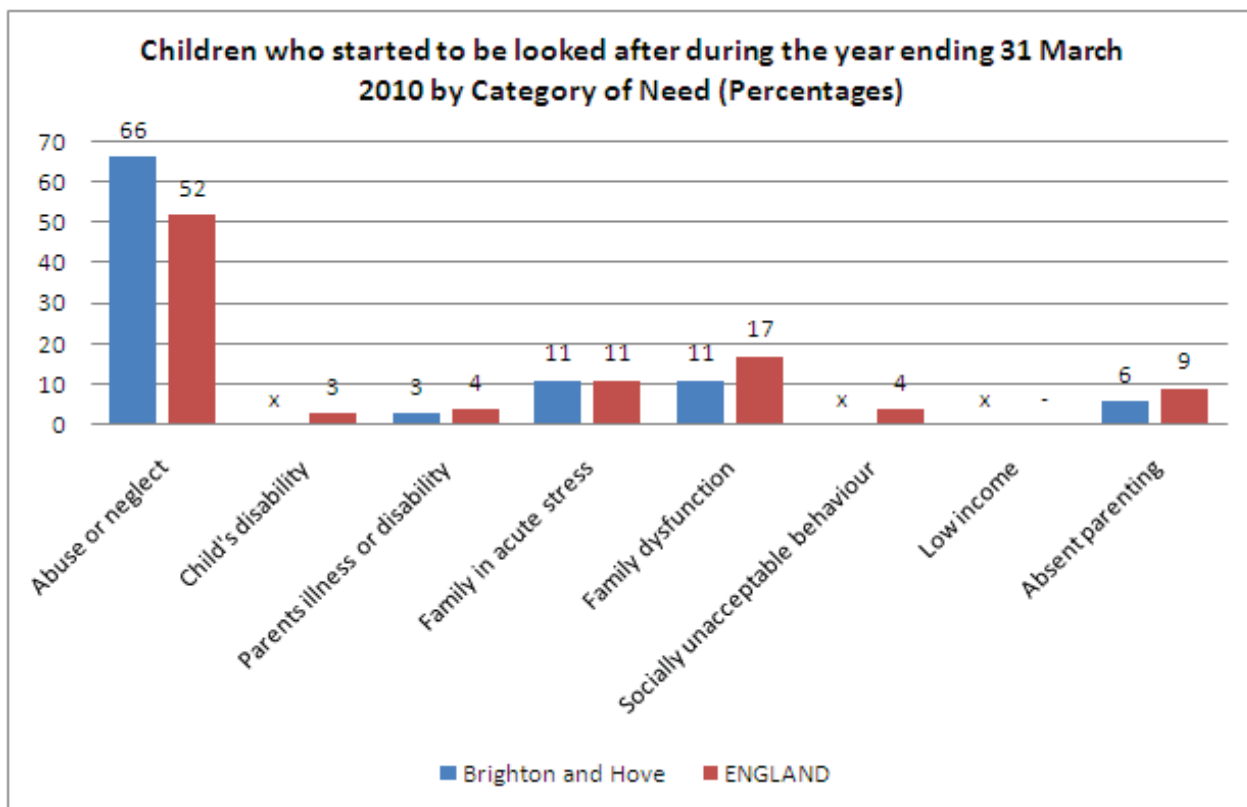
	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 15	16 and over
Brighton and Hove	22	23	17	29	9
Bristol, City of	19	22	16	36	6
Bournemouth	36	13	9	32	10
Reading	26	22	14	26	13
Portsmouth	21	22	12	32	14
Sheffield	24	25	16	29	6
Southampton	20	19	18	36	7
Bath and North East Somerset	x	x	12	59	12
Southend-on-Sea	21	23	x	35	x
York	22	x	21	33	x
Plymouth	19	15	12	25	30
ENGLAND	19	20	16	33	12
SN Average	x	x	x	34.3	x

Source: SSDA903

The percentage of children in the 10 to 15 age band (29%) is below the statistical neighbour average of 34% and is the joint third lowest among our statistical neighbours with Sheffield and behind Plymouth (25%) and Reading (26%).

x Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality.

Figure 4: Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2010 by Category of Need (Percentages)

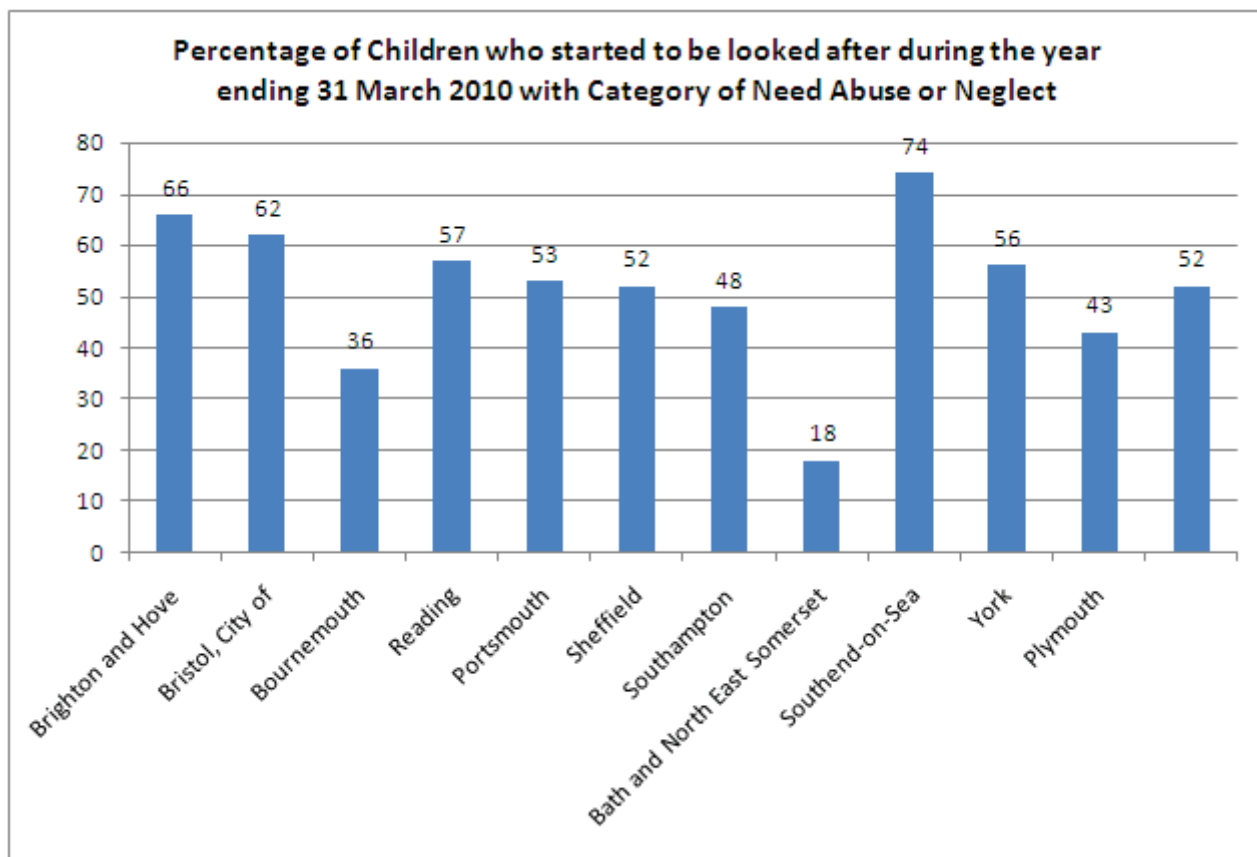


Source: SSSA903

Figure 4 provides an analysis of the Category of Need for children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31st March 2010. Category of Need codes ‘record the main reason why a child is being provided with services’ and ‘provides a further insight as to why a particular child is being looked after’.³ The data shows that 66% of children who started to be looked after in Brighton and Hove had a Category of Need code of Abuse or Neglect, compared to 52% nationally. However, this data should be viewed with caution as there is anecdotal evidence of data quality and reliability of recording issues associated with Category of Need codes.

³ http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/datastats1/guidelines/children/docs/2010-03/SSDA903_GuidanceNotes_2009-10_v1.1.pdf p34
Corporate Parent Summary Report - Mar 2011 External Version Final Version

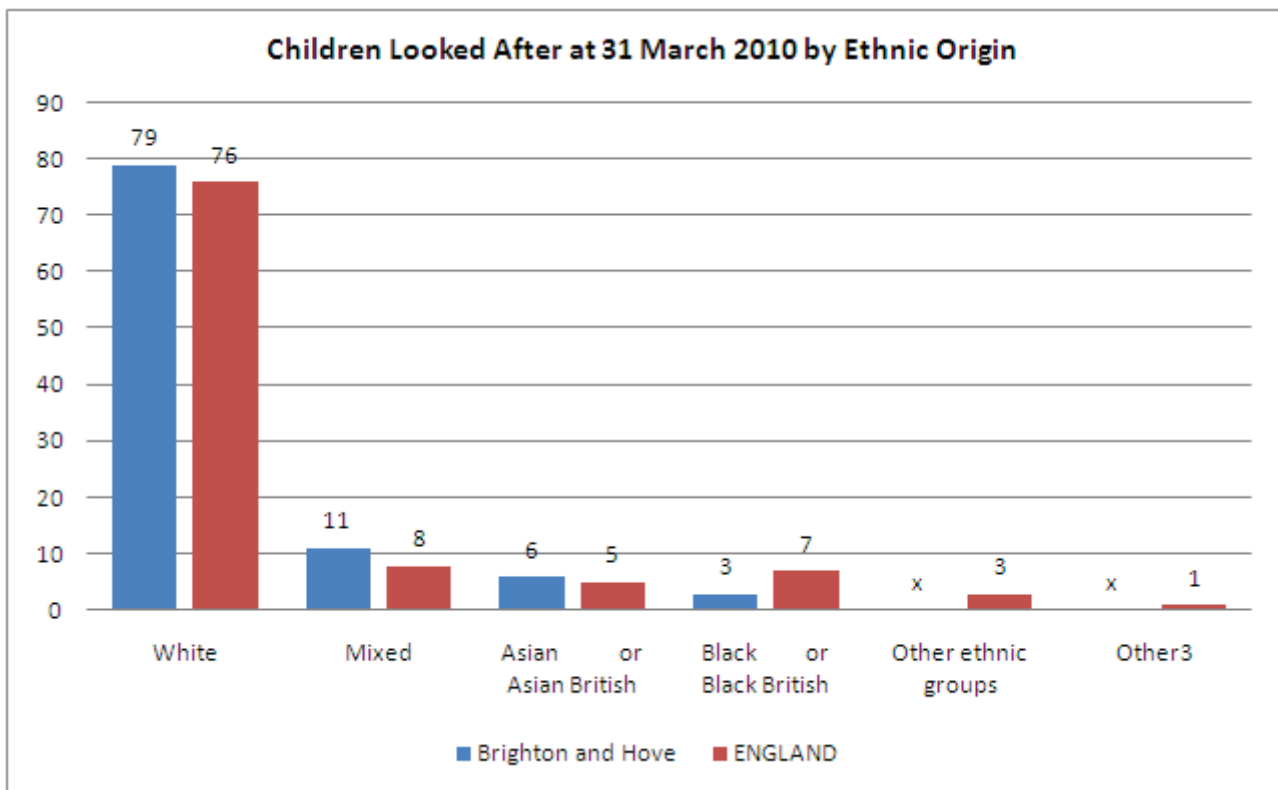
Figure 5: Percentage of Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2010 with Category of Need of Abuse or Neglect



Source: SSDA903

Figure 5 provides a breakdown of the percentage of children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31st March 2010 with a Category of Need code of Abuse or Neglect by our statistical neighbours. The data shows that Brighton and Hove has the second highest percentage (66%) behind Southend-on-Sea (74%).

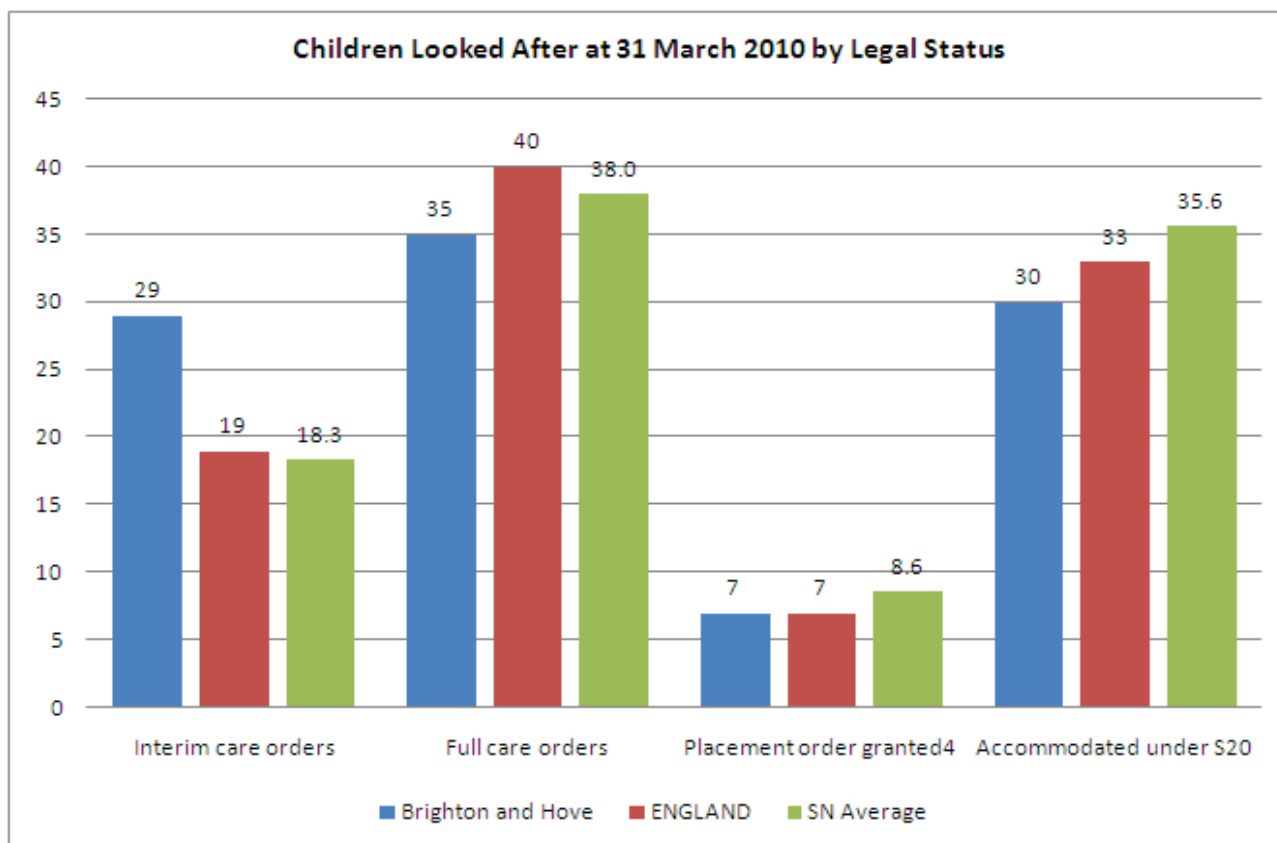
Figure 6: Children Looked After at 31 March 2010 by Ethnic Origin



Source: SSDA903

Figure 6 illustrates that Brighton and Hove is broadly in line with the national average of children looked after at 31st March 2010 by ethnic origin, with a slightly higher proportion of children with an ethnic origin of 'White' and 'Mixed and a lower proportion of children with an ethnic origin of 'Black or Black British.'

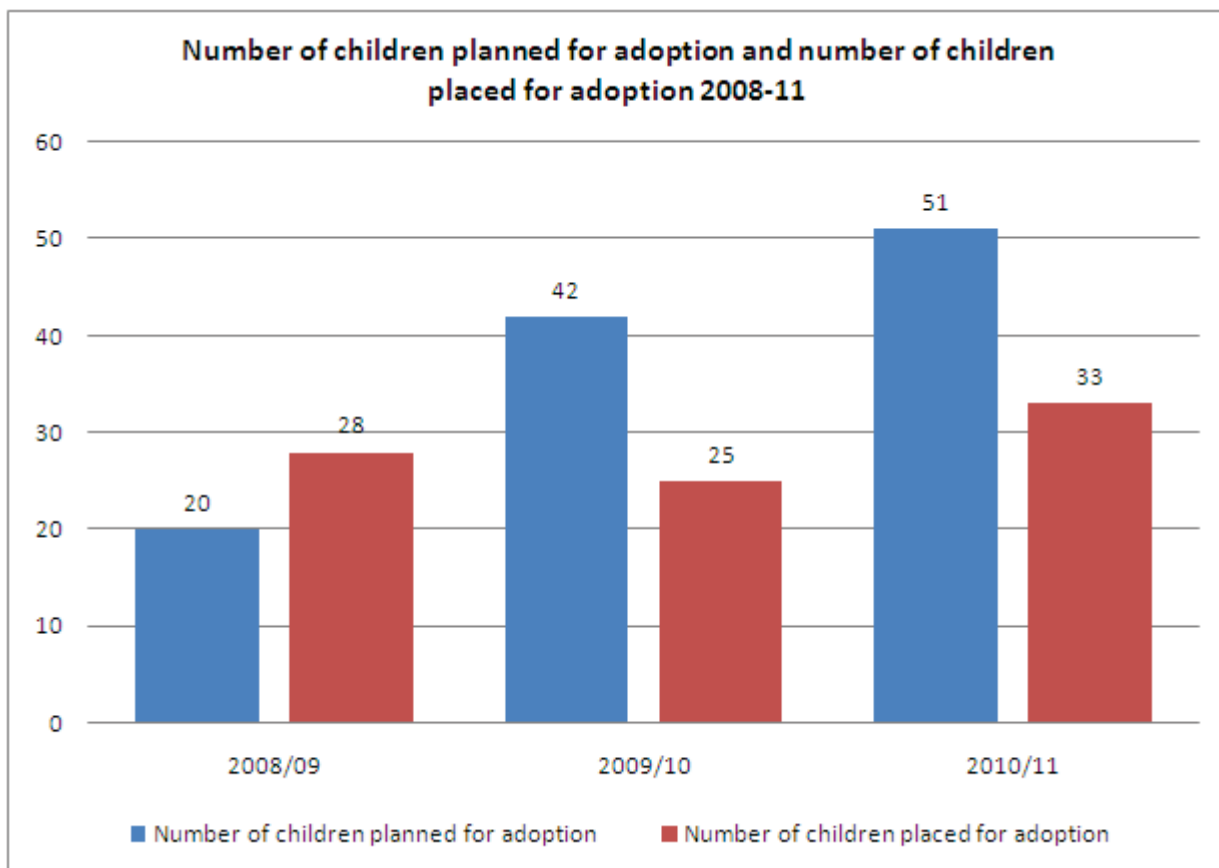
Figure 7: Children Looked After at 31 March 2010 by Legal Status



Source: SSDA903

Figure 7 reveals that Brighton and Hove has a higher percentage of children looked after on interim care orders than the national and statistical neighbour average, and a lower percentage of children accommodated under section 20 and on full care orders. Please note that other legal statuses have not been included in figure 7 as the data has been suppressed for many local authorities due to the low numbers involved.

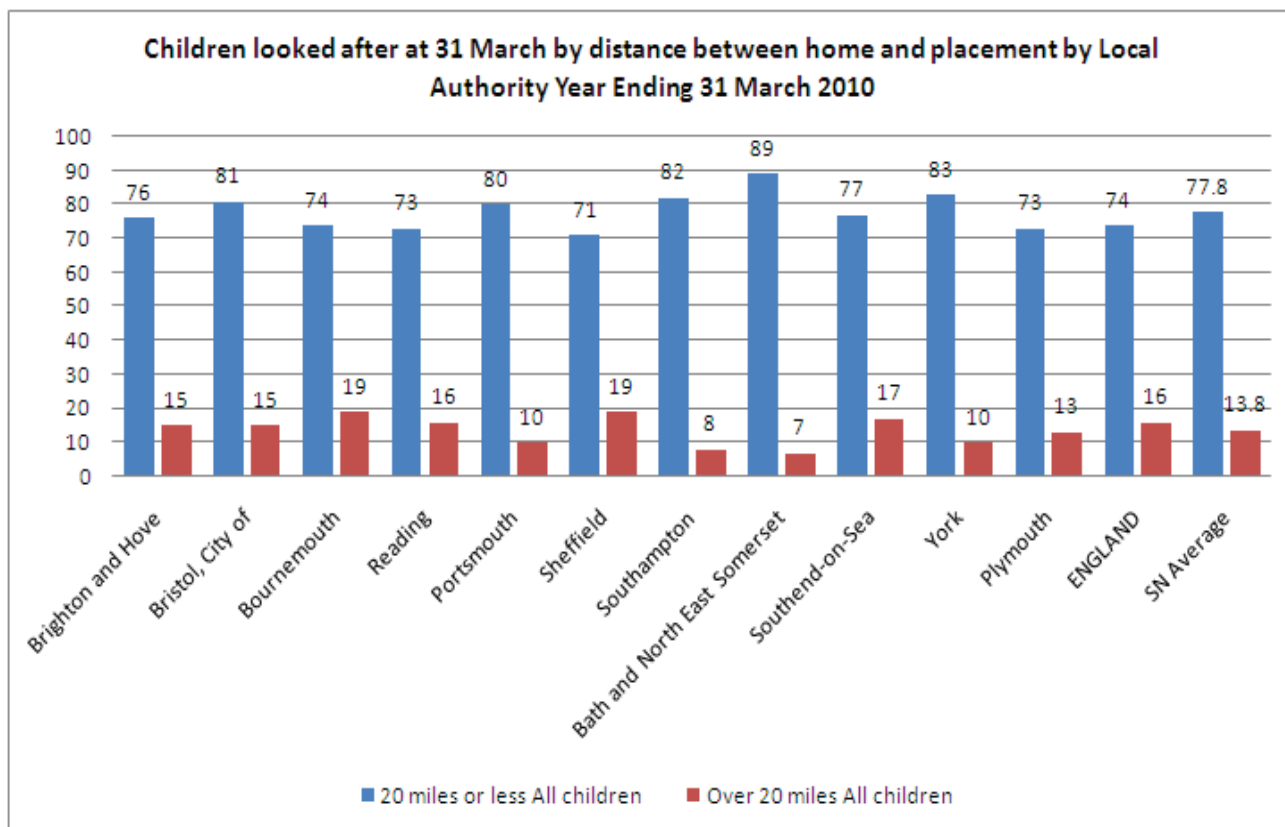
Figure 8: Number of children planned for adoption and number of children placed for adoption 2008-11



Source: Fostering and Adoption Service

Adoption activity has continued to rise in Brighton & Hove in line with the rise in numbers of children in care and reflects the high number of children under 5 in the care system. In Brighton and Hove, the percentage of children who ceased to be looked after during 09/10 who were adopted is 16% compared to the England average of 13%. Figure 8 provides information on the numbers of children with plans for adoption and children that have been matched with adopters in 2010/11.

Figure 9: Children looked after at 31 March by distance between home and placement by Local Authority Year Ending 31 March 2010



Source: SSSA903

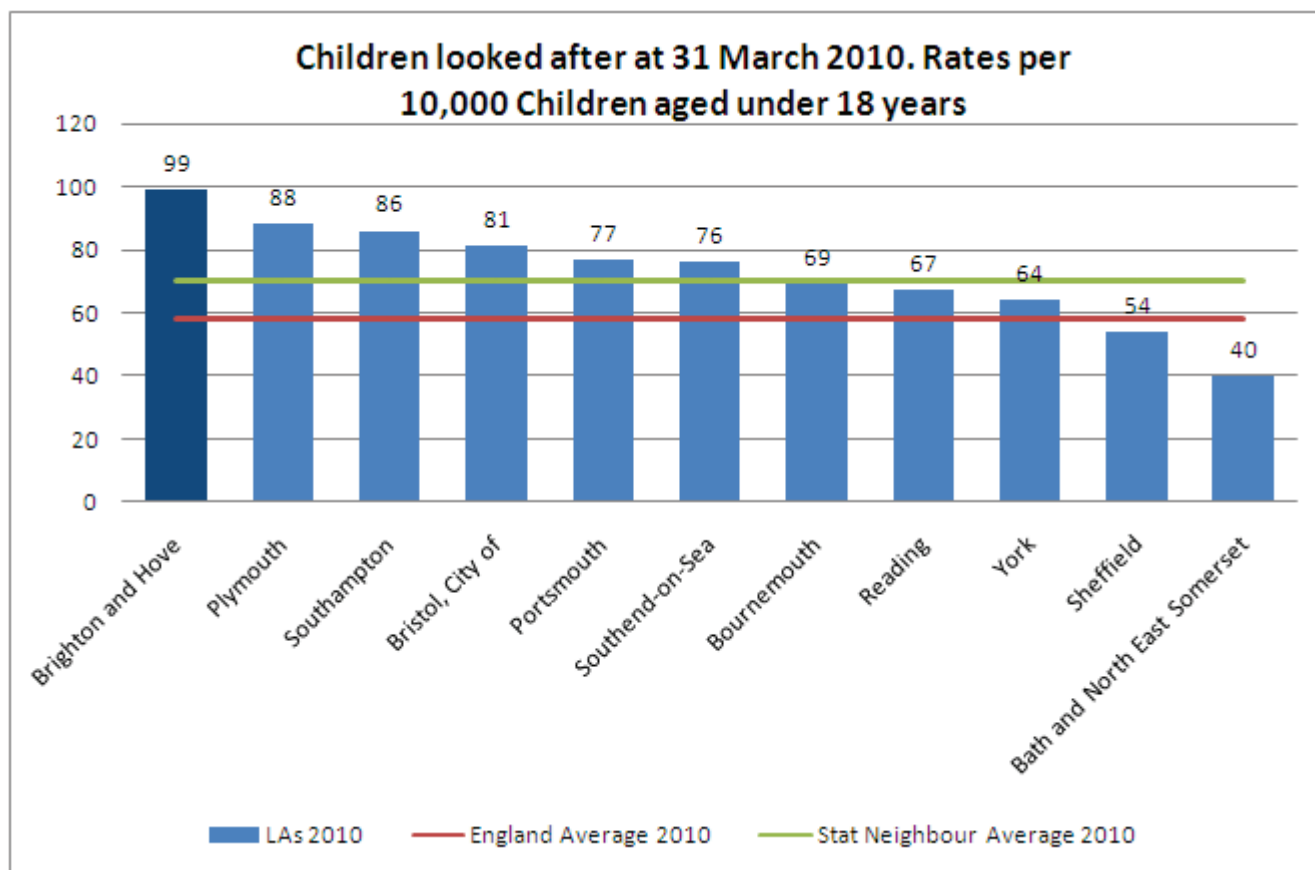
Figure 9 reveals that 76% of children looked after in Brighton and Hove at 31st March 2010 were placed 20 miles or less from their home address, with 15% placed over 20 miles (6% were not known and 3% were not recorded). These figures are in line with both the national and statistical neighbour averages. In Brighton and Hove, 39% of children were placed inside the local authority boundary and 52% were placed outside of the boundary. Nationally, 58% of children were placed inside the local authority boundary and 33% were placed outside with 6% not known and 4% not recorded. The percentages for Brighton and Hove are likely to be skewed given the size of the geographical area.

"Home" address unknown or unavailable may occur with Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children or children missing from main placement.

For reasons of confidentiality distance is not recorded for children who were placed for adoption.

Placement locality denotes whether or not the placement at 31 March is within the geographical boundary of the responsible local authority.

Figure 10: Children looked after at 31st March 2010. Rates per 10,000 Children aged under 18 years⁴



Source: SSDA903

The rate of children looked after per 10,000 children aged under 18 has increased from 86 as at 31 March 2009 to 99 as at March 2010. The rate for 2010 is higher than the national average (58 per 10,000) and the average for our statistical neighbours (70.2 per 10,000). Furthermore, the rate is the highest among our statistical neighbour group, followed by Plymouth (88 per 10,000) and Southampton (86 per 10,000). There were 465 children looked after as at 31 March 2010 in Brighton and Hove, an increase of 17.7% from the number at 31 March 2009 compared to a 6% increase nationally. The number of children looked after at 31 March 2010 has increased by 22.4 % from the number at 31 March 2006 in Brighton and Hove, compared to a 7% increase nationally.

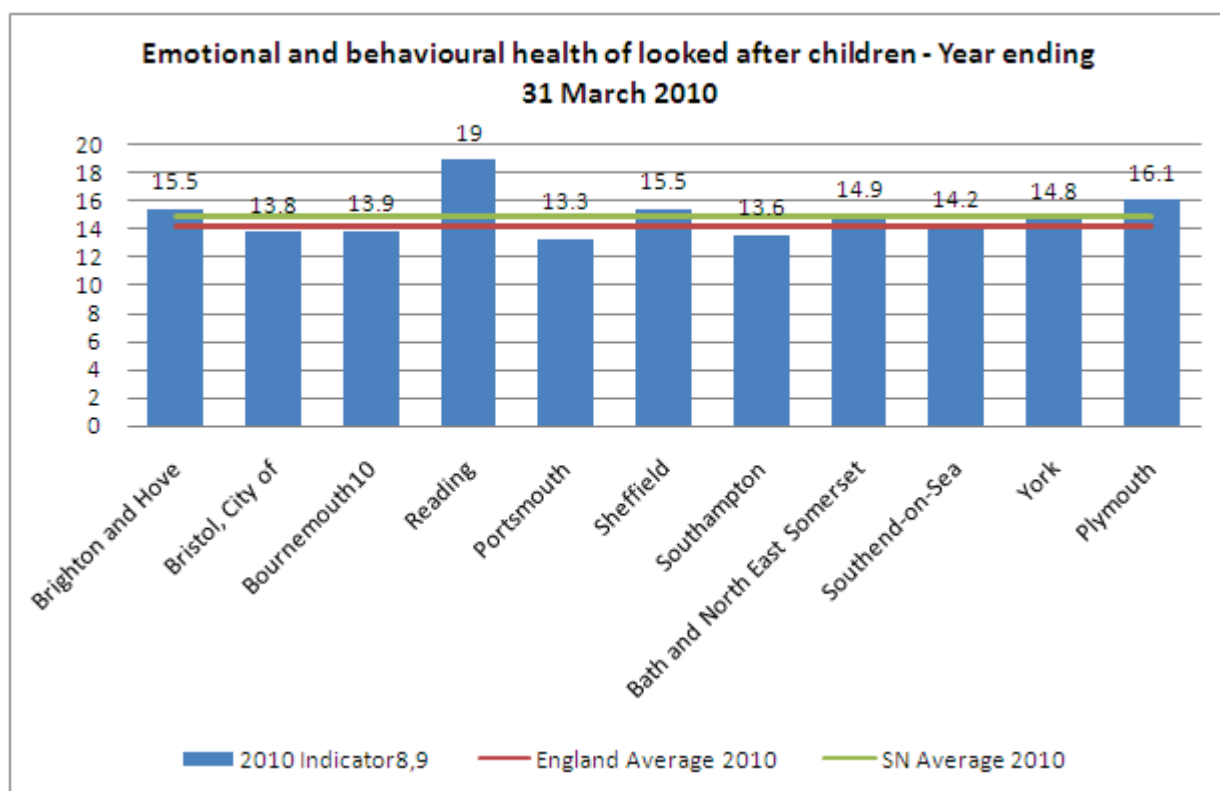
⁴ The rates per 10,000 children under 18 years have been derived using the mid-year population estimates for 2009 provided by the Office for National Statistics.

Health of Children Looked After

NI 058 Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children

Definition: Since 2008, central government have required each local authority to ask carers to complete a 'Strength & Difficulties' Questionnaire for every child looked after at 31st March who has been in care continuously for one year or more and who is aged 4-16 years. The questionnaire produces a score from 10 (no indicators of difficulty or stress) to 40 (extremely high indicators of stress & difficulty) and good performance is indicated by a low number.

Figure 11: Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children – year ending 31st March 2010.



Source: SSDA903

Summary

In Brighton & Hove, the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire is administered by the LAC Health team and an 88% return was achieved for 2009/10, compared to a national average of 68%. Children with Disability can be excluded and so we would not expect to achieve 100% return.

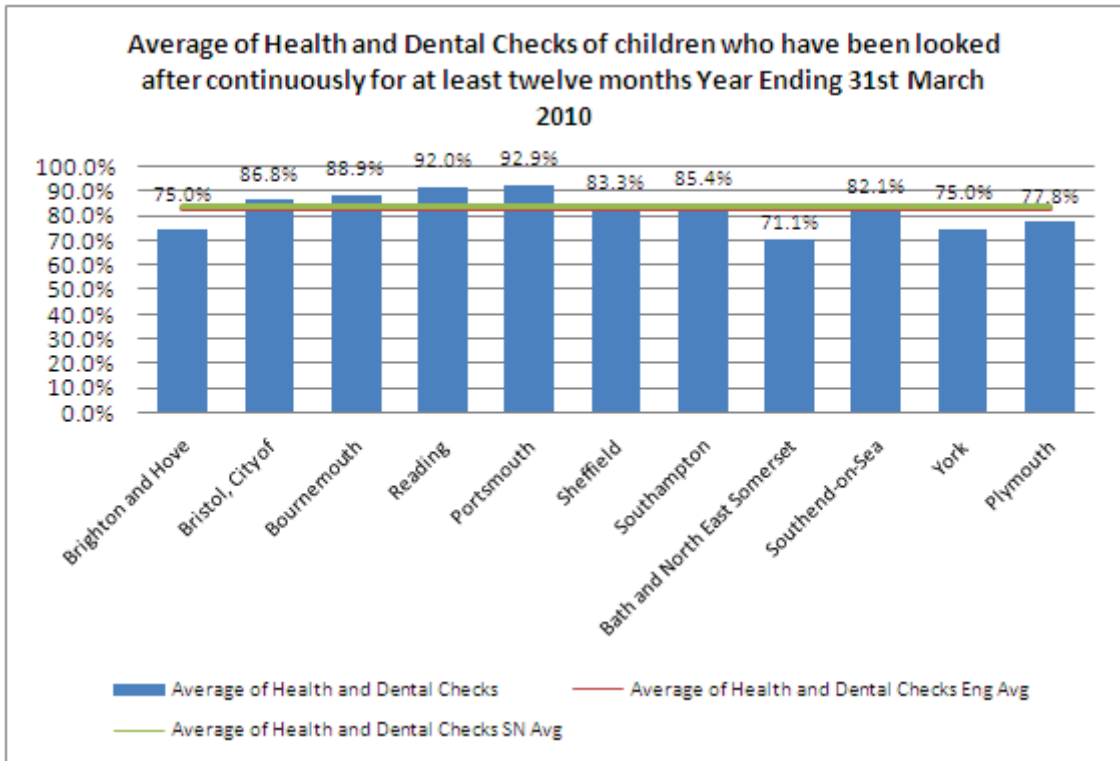
The score for 2009/10 is 15.5 and is the average score gained by Brighton and Hove children and young people in care. This is a slight increase from 15.2 last year and above the target of 14.5 and the national average (14.2), although it should be noted that the difference from last year is minimal and not statistically significant. Furthermore, there are multiple factors involved in the emotional state of children and the cohort of children from year to year is not exactly the same, and these factors should be considered when making year-on-year comparisons. However, the latest Ofsted Performance Profile has rated Brighton and Hove's performance for 2009/10 as Red for this indicator – the lowest banding.

The LAC Health Team follow all high scores up with carers, young people, the Virtual School for Children in Care and Social Workers to ensure that they are receiving the right support. If the child or young person is not receiving the right level of support, the LAC Health would make or suggest a new referral to CAMHS or other agency.

Health and Dental Checks for Children Looked After

Definition: The average of Health and Dental checks recorded for children looked after continuously for at least the previous 12 months

Figure 12: Average of Health and Dental Checks of children who have been looked after continuously for at least twelve months Year Ending 31st March 2010

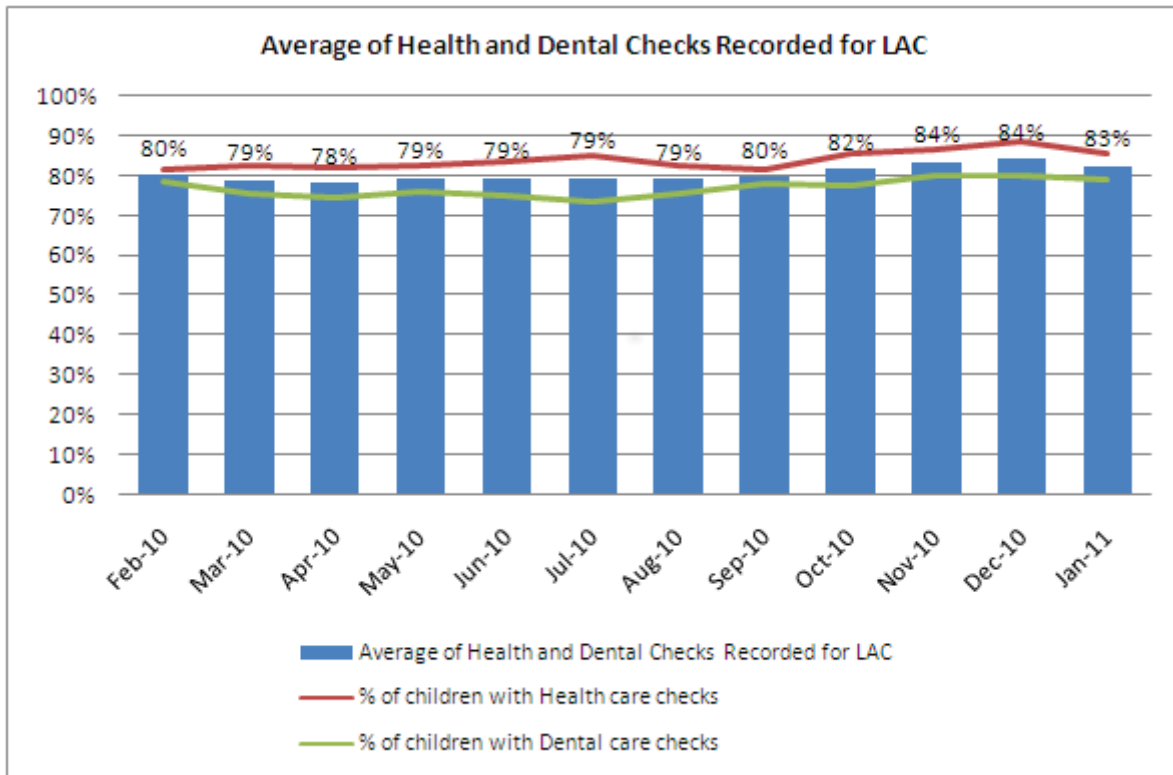


Source: SSDA903 2009/10

Summary

Timely health and dental checks recorded for children who have been looked after continuously for 12 months year ending 31st March 2010 has is 75% for Brighton and Hove, below the national average of 82.9% and statistical neighbour average of 83.5%. Furthermore, Brighton and Hove’s performance is the joint second lowest among our statistical neighbour group, with Bath and North East Somerset at 71.1%.

Figure 13: Average of Health and Dental Checks Recorded for LAC



Source: Monthly Monitoring Social Care Data January 2011

Summary

Timely health and dental checks recorded for LAC is at 83% for January 2011, up from 79% as at August 2010. Performance for dental checks is 79%, with health care checks at 86%.

Performance Issues

The capacity of the health team has been under pressure due to the increase in the number of children looked after. There has been no increase in the team’s resources and it has not been possible to maintain the previous high performance. There is a statutory requirement to assess all children newly looked after which is not reflected in the performance indicator as it is not reported to DfE.

The fieldwork teams have taken on the responsibility to record completed checks on Carefirst and this has caused some difficulties, particularly for the West Area and post 16 Support teams, although both teams have shown improvement over the last few months. The percentage of health and dental checks recorded in the 16 Plus Support and Asylum Teams has also been affected by the number of refusers.

The majority of outstanding assessments are for children placed outside of Brighton & Hove, which requires health colleagues in different health trusts to complete this work. There are very few children who have not had their assessment completed on time by our Brighton & Hove health professionals.

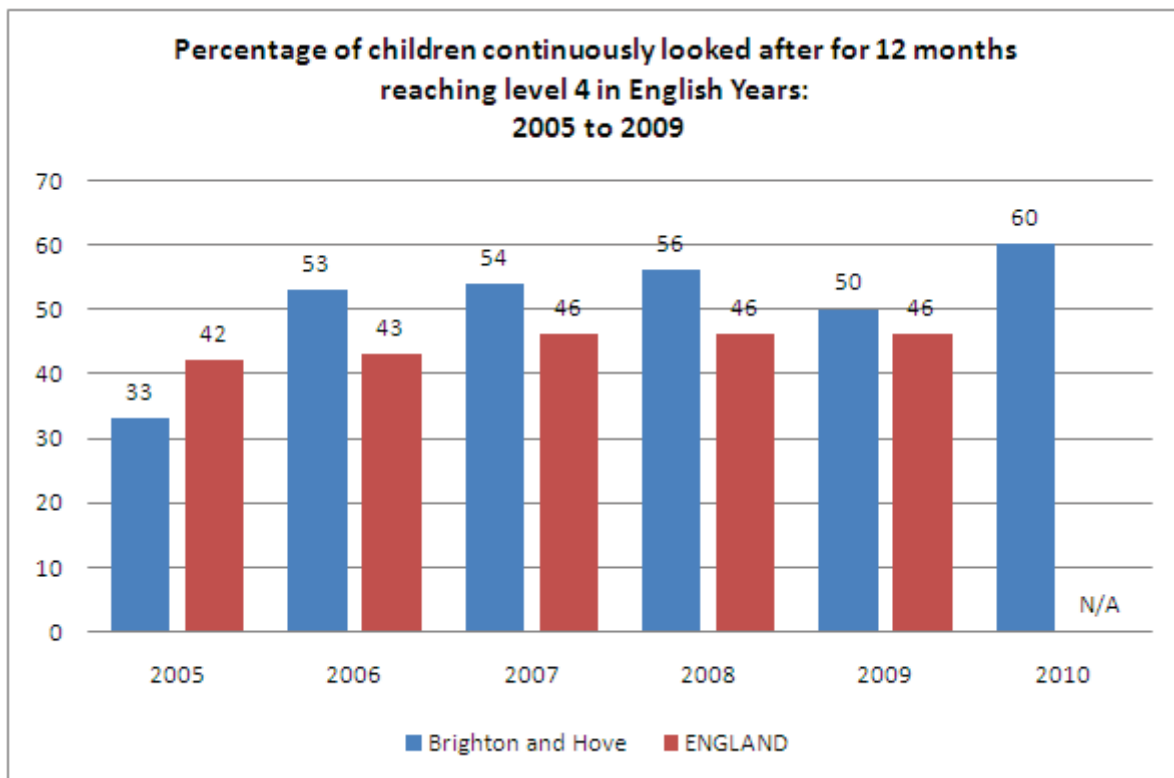
Improving Educational Outcomes

NI 099 Percentage of children in care reaching level 4 English at Key Stage 2

Definition: All children are expected to make two levels of progress between Key stage 1 and 2. The bench mark for pupils at the end of Key Stage two is Level 4 in the SATs and 80% of pupils will achieve this nationally. It must be noted that with a comparatively small cohorts in B & H, individual successes and failures will have a demonstrably bigger impact on outcomes. This is relevant for the following national indicators in the education section of this report.

Summary and Issues

Figure 13: Percentage of children continuously looked after for 12 months reaching level 4 in English



Source: OC2 2009 for 2005-2009 data. 2010 data provided by the Virtual School for Children in Care.

Please note that the KS2 data for 2010 has been provided by the Virtual School for Children in Care and has not been taken from the DfE Statistical First Release (SFR) for 2009/10. This is because pupils known to be in schools which participated in the boycott have been removed from both the numerator and denominator for all calculations in the SFR.

There were 15 pupils in the Y6 cohort. 60%, 9 pupils achieved Level 4 in English. This is an improvement on last year and compares very well against the national figure for Children in Care which was 46% in 2009 (2010 figure not available until December 2010). These achievements were consistent with our expectations for pupils based on the Key Stage 1 data available.

While this figure is below the national figure for all children (80%), it remains a significant achievement in light of the number of children identified as having special needs. Ten pupils were identified as having special educational needs (SEN).

There were 8 boys in the cohort and 7 girls with 9 pupils achieving Level 4. 13 pupils, 86%, attend maintained schools in B & H. This has a positive impact on results as tracking and monitoring arrangements by the Virtual School are more secure

The Virtual School prioritises PEPs to ensure they are up-to-date and relevant; this has had a positive impact on partners having higher aspirations for CiC.

Performance improvement activity

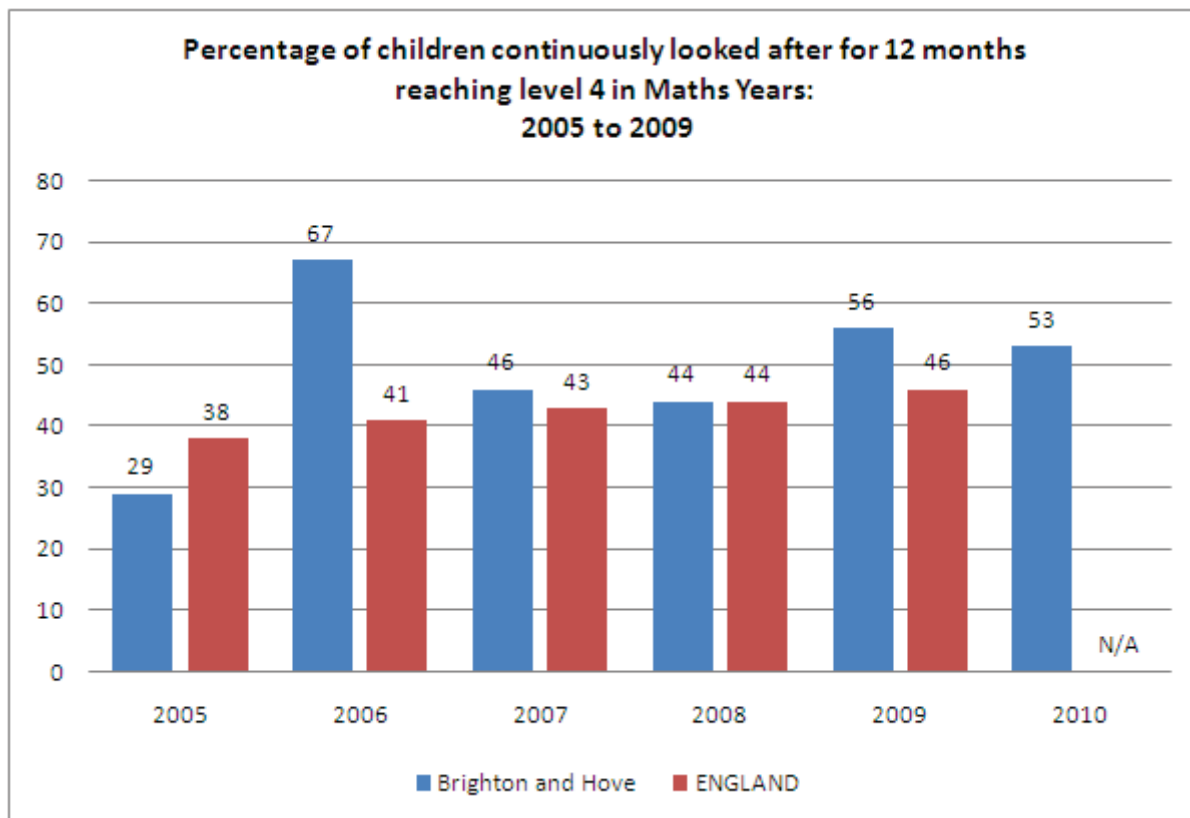
Ensure interventions supported by the Virtual School such as the Personal Education Allowance, 1 – 2 – 1 tuition and the letter box club are tracked to evidence impact on pupil performance. The letter box club is a national scheme arranged the Book Trust which provides monthly packages for children in care in years 3 to 5 between May and October. The packages contain reading material and maths games which are appropriate to the individual child's attainment level with the aim of improving their literacy and numeracy skills.

Training programme for social workers and designated teachers to ensure they set consistently aspirational targets for children in care, which is then monitored through quality assurance protocols for all Personal Education Plans.

NI 100 Percentage of children in care reaching level 4 Maths at Key Stage 2

Definition: All children are expected to make two levels of progress between Key stage 1 and 2. The bench mark for pupils at the end of Key Stage two is Level 4 in the SATs and 80% of pupils will achieve this nationally.

Figure 14: Percentage of children continuously looked after for 12 months reaching level 4 in Maths



Source: OC2 2009 for 2005-2009 data. 2010 data provided by the Virtual School for Children in Care.

Summary and Issues

There were 15 pupils in the Y6 cohort. 53%, 8 pupils achieved Level 4 in Maths. This is in line with last years' achievement and continues to compare very well against the national figure for Children in Care which was 46% in 2010 figure not available until December 2010). These achievements were consistent with our expectations for pupils based on the Key Stage 1 data available.

While this figure is below the national figure for all children (80%), it remains a significant achievement in light of the number of children identified as having special needs.

Ten pupils were identified as having special educational needs (SEN).

There were 8 boys in the cohort and 7 girls, of the 8 pupils achieving Level 4 in Maths.

13 pupils, 86%, attend maintained schools in B & H. This has a positive impact on results as tracking and monitoring arrangements by the Virtual School are more secure

The Virtual School prioritises PEPs to ensure they are up-to-date and relevant; this has had a positive impact on partners having higher aspirations for CiC

Performance improvement activity

Ensure interventions supported by the Virtual School such as the Personal Education Allowance, 1 – 2 – 1 tuition and the letter box club are tracked to evidence impact on pupil performance

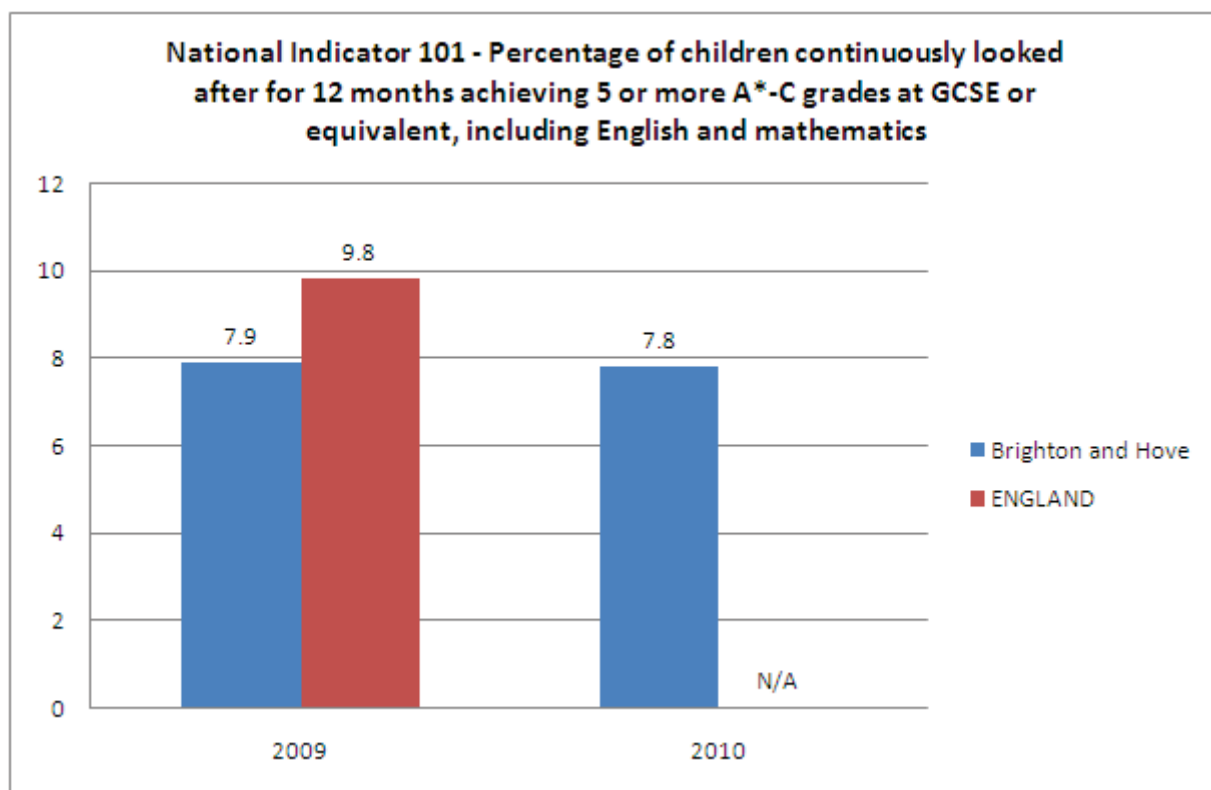
Training programme for social workers and designated teachers to ensure they set consistently aspirational targets for children in care; which is then monitored through quality assurance protocols for all Personal Education Plans.

N101 % of Children in Care achieving 5 A* - C GCSE (or equivalent) at KS4 including English and Maths

Definition: Nationally 53% of children will achieve 5 'good' GCSEs that include English and Maths. This national bench mark has been used since 2009 as a Performance Indicator for Children in Care. Prior to that five plus GCSEs A* - C in any subject and 1 or more GCSE A* - G were used as performance indicators.

Summary and Issues

Figure 15: Percentage of children continuously looked after for 12 months achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent, including English and Mathematics.



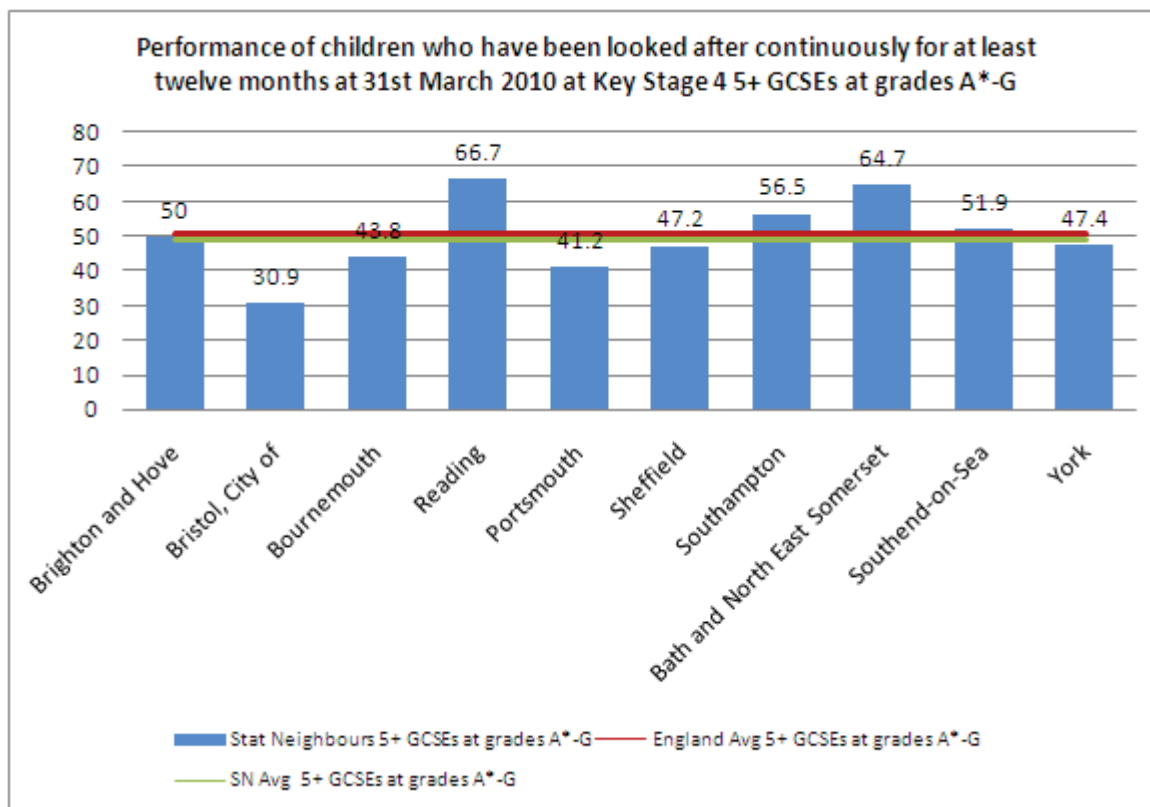
Source: OC2 2009 Data, 2010 data supplied by Virtual School for Children in Care

Please note that the KS2 data for 2010 has been provided by the Virtual School for Children in Care and has not been taken from the DfE Statistical First Release (SFR) for 2009/10. This is because much of the data in the publication has been suppressed due to the small numbers involved.

It was predicted that five pupils would achieve the target of 5 plus A* - C (including English and Maths). If this target had been met it would have brought B & H figures close to the National Average of 14% (2009 average)

8% of the Year 11 cohort achieved this target. The results are stable when compared to last year's figures; they do not demonstrate an increase.

Figure 16: Performance of children who have been looked after continuously for at least twelve months at 31st March 2010 at Key Stage 4 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-G⁵



Source: CLA-NPD matched data

The new publication on outcomes for children who have been continuously looked after by a Local Authority for at least 12 months as at 31 March 2010 in England includes information on the attainment, absence and exclusions of this cohort of children. This is taken from the matched administrative data taken from the Children Looked After database and the National Pupil Database (CLA-NPD).

Of the children who were eligible to sit GCSEs, 88.9% sat at least one GCSE or equivalent in Brighton and Hove, compared to 77.6% nationally. 50% of eligible children were entered for at least five GCSEs or equivalent, compared to 58.9% nationally. 50% of children who were eligible to sit GCSEs achieved 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-G, which is in-line with the national average (50.6%) and the statistical neighbour average of 49.3%. Nationally, 12 per cent achieved 5 or more GCSEs or the equivalent including English and mathematics at grades A* to C and 26.1% achieved 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C.

Performance improvement activity

- Improved targeting of home tuition to support learning outcomes
- Support for pupils narrowly missing exam targets to enable resits to be taken
- Educational Psychologist support for KS4 Personal Education Plans
- Improved monitoring arrangements for 'agency placements' to ensure provision is meeting need and to educate within B & H when ever appropriate

⁵ 1. Children looked after continuously for at least twelve months as at 31 March excluding those children in respite care.

2. Number of eligible children based on those aged 15 at the start of the academic year i.e. 31 August.

3. Includes equivalent qualifications.

Local – Percentage of Children in Care with an up-to date Personal Education Plan (PEP)

Definition: Personal Education Plans (PEPs) are a statutory requirement for all school age children in care. A PEP a personalised plan for each child that records their learning needs and identifies strategies and support to enable them to make progress in line with their peers. They are reviewed every six months. There are no national indicators for this target; however other LAs do use this indicator, including some of our statistical neighbours.

Summary and Issues

94% of children on the register of the Virtual school have an up to date PEP in place. This demonstrates a significant improvement on the figures from 2008 when approximately 62% of children in care had an up to date PEP in place

Where PEP data from one of our statistical neighbours was available, the figures for B & H compared well; 94% compared to 70%

Ensuring an up-to-date PEPs is in place is a priority for the Virtual School Team who undertake a audit three times a year. The team prioritises attendance at PEP meetings where a child is new into care, has had a change of placement or has been allocated a new social worker

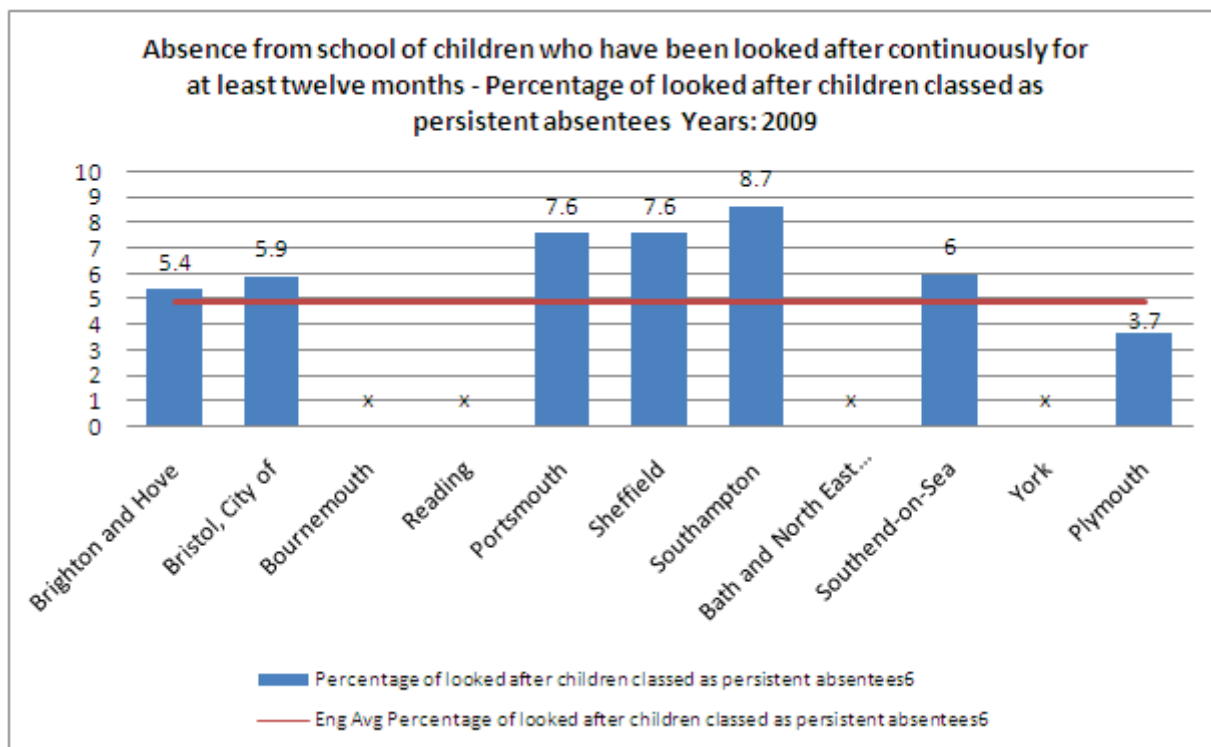
While the virtual team will endeavour to improve on this figure for the next period, the transient nature of our cohort will ensure that achieving 100% for this indicator remains a real challenge.

Performance improvement activity

Further develop the quality assurance of PEPs through a moderation process that involves the Virtual School, Designated teachers and Social Workers

Provide additional and on-going training and support to develop the knowledge and skills of social workers to enable them to coordinate/manage PEPs that are of high quality.

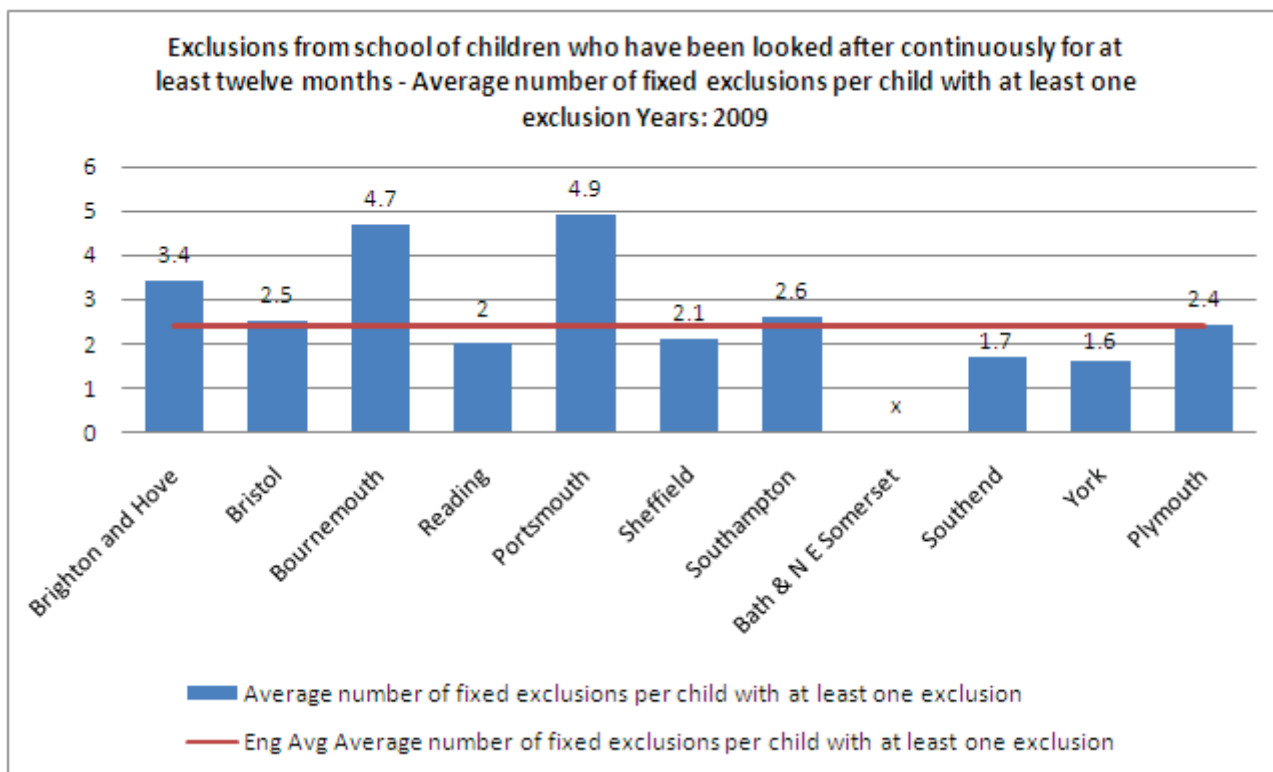
Figure 17: Absence from school of children who have been looked after continuously for at least twelve months - Percentage of looked after children classed as persistent absentees Years: 2009



Source: CLA-NPD matched data

According to the publication, the overall absence rate for Brighton and Hove is 6.4% (4.7% authorised and 1.7% unauthorised), slightly above the national and statistical neighbour average of 6.2%. The percentage of looked after children classed as persistent absentees is 5.4% - above the national average of 4.9%. It is not possible to calculate a statistical neighbour average as the figures have been suppressed for some authorities; however figure 17 illustrates that Brighton and Hove’s percentage is below six of our statistical neighbours with published results for this indicator.

Figure 18: Exclusions from school of children who have been looked after continuously for at least twelve months - Average number of fixed exclusions per child with at least one exclusion Years: 2009



Source: CLA-NPD matched data

There were no children permanently excluded in Brighton and Hove in the 2008/09 school year. According to the publication, 17.1% of the children looked after continuously for at least twelve months as at 31 March 2009, received at least one fixed exclusion in the school year compared to 12.2% nationally, Furthermore, 10% received multiple fixed period exclusions compared to 6.4% nationally. The average number of fixed exclusions per child with at least one exclusion was 3.4% in Brighton and Hove which is above the national average of 2.4%. Again, suppression rules mean that it is not possible to calculate a statistical neighbour average, although figure 18 illustrates this is the third highest percentage among our statistical neighbours with published figures.

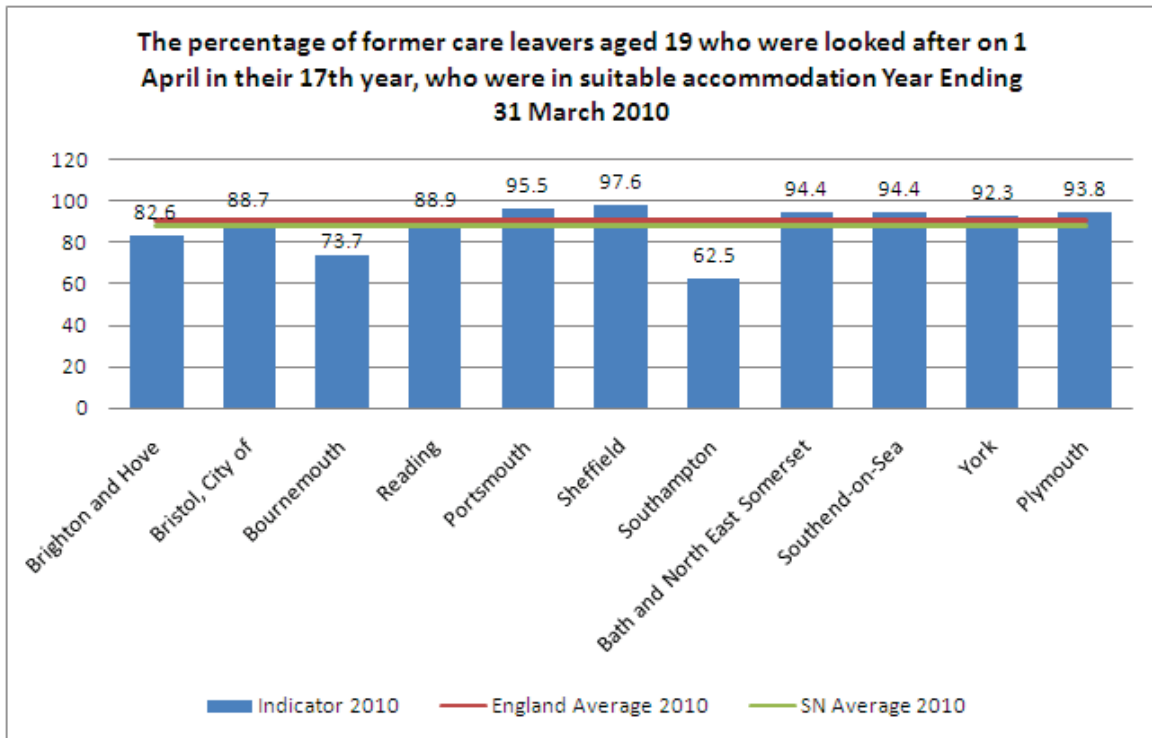
Increasing the number of care leavers in ‘settled, safe accommodation’

NI 147 Care leavers at 19 - Suitable accommodation

Definition: The percentage of former care leavers aged 19 who were looked after under any legal status on 1 April in their 17th year (other than V3 or V4), who were in education, employment or training.

Summary

Figure 19: The percentage of former care leavers aged 19 who were looked after on 1 April in their 17th year, who were in suitable Accommodation.



Source: SSDA903

The outturn figure for 2009/10 is 82.6% (Denominator: 46 Numerator: 38) which is a drop from 97.3% last year and below the target set for 2009/10 (95%) It should be noted that there is a discrepancy with the figure that was submitted to GOSE for this indicator.

GOSE	SSDA903
Numerator: 40	Numerator: 38
Denominator: 43	Denominator: 46
NI 148: 93.02%	NI 148: 82.6%

Three care leavers included in the SSDA903 cohort were excluded from the cohort submitted to GOSE as it was felt that they did not meet the criteria set out in the guidance. However, it has been confirmed that the three care leavers should be included in the cohort for this indicator.

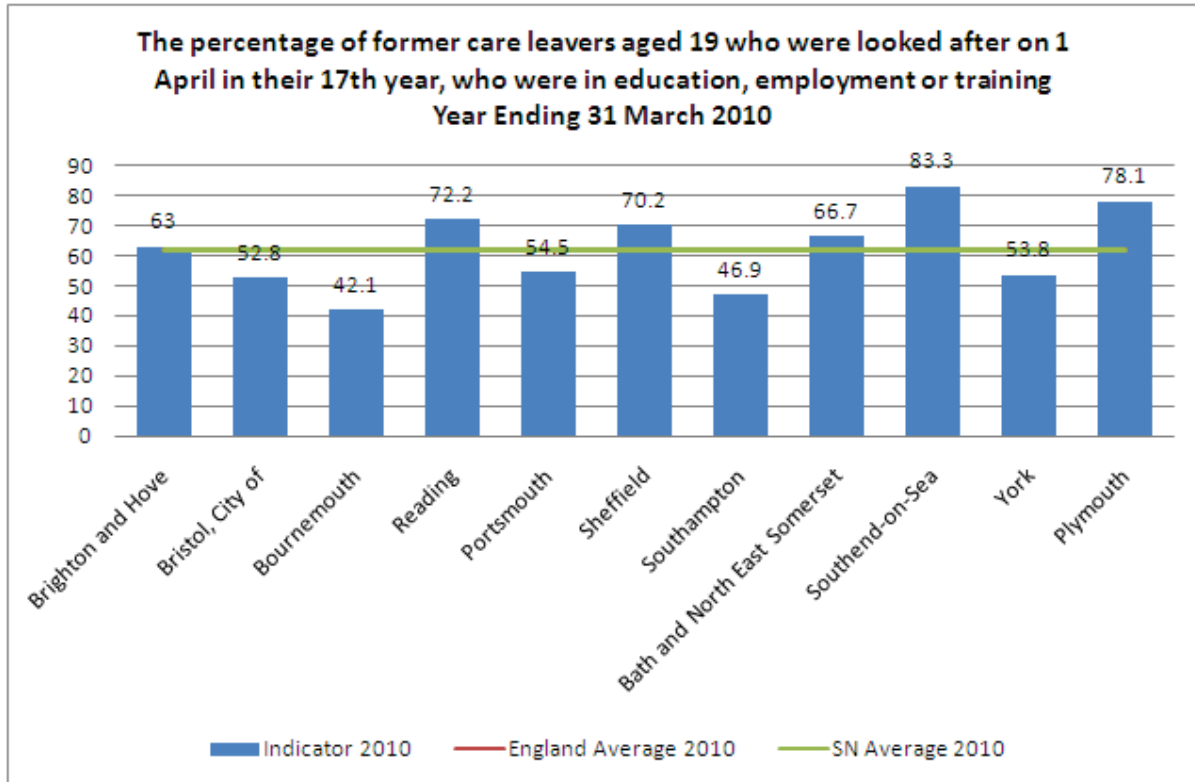
Due to entry errors on CareFirst that were only identified retrospectively and not at the time of reporting, a further two care leavers were classified as being in ‘unsuitable’ accommodation. If the two CareFirst entry errors are corrected, then the outturn for 2009/10 would be 87% (numerator: 40/ denominator: 46).

NI 148 Care leavers at 19 - in education, employment and training

Definition: The percentage of former care leavers aged 19 who were looked after under any legal status (other than V3 or V4) on 1 April in their 17th year, who were in suitable accommodation.

Summary

Figure 20: The percentage of former care leavers aged 19 who were looked after on 1 April in their 17th year, who were in education employment or training.



Source: SSDA903

The 2009/10 outturn figure is 63% which is above the national and statistical neighbour average of 62.1%. The 2009/10 figure is below last year's outturn of 67.6% and below the target of 66%. However, there is a discrepancy with the figure that was submitted to GOSE for this indicator.

GOSE	SSDA903
Numerator: 30	Numerator: 29
Denominator: 43	Denominator: 46
NI148: 69.8%	NI148: 63%

Three care leavers included in the SSDA903 cohort were excluded from the cohort submitted to GOSE as it was felt that they did not meet the criteria set out in the guidance. However, it has been confirmed that the three care leavers should be included in the cohort for this indicator.

There was also a duplicate care leaver record on Carefirst and the record submitted for the SSDA903 Return did not contain the relevant care leaver information and so was not included in the numerator. This would change the outturn figure from 63% to 65% for this indicator but the DfE has confirmed that the outturn figure cannot be changed.

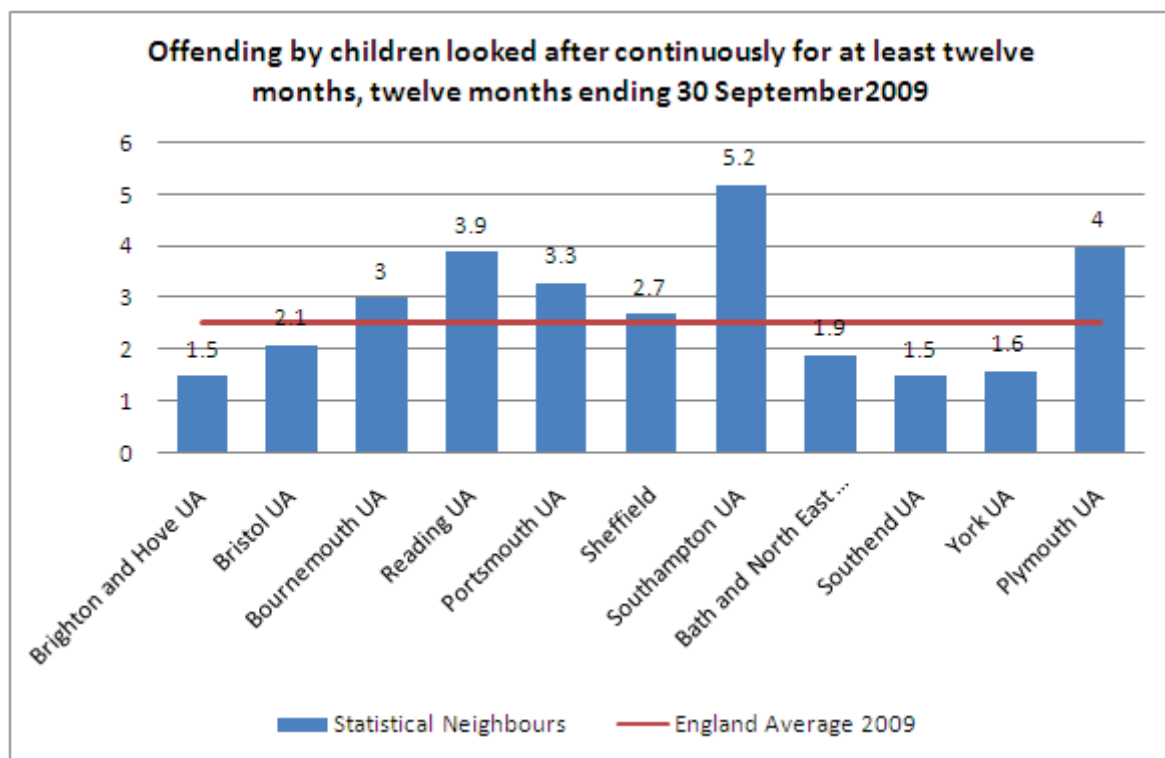
Young Offenders who are LAC

Offending by children looked after continuously for at least twelve months, twelve months ending 30 September

Definition: The proportion of children (aged 10 or over) who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months, who were cautioned or convicted during the year for an offence committed whilst they were looked after, expressed as a ratio of the proportion of all children and young people convicted of or cautioned for an offence in the police force area.

Summary

Figure 21: Offending by children looked after continuously for at least twelve months, twelve months ending 30 September 2009



Source: OC2

Brighton and Hove LAC are one and half times as likely to receive a final warning, reprimand or conviction compared to all children. However, the ratio of Brighton and Hove LAC who have received a final warning, reprimand or conviction is lower than the national average of 2.5 and is lower than or equal to all of our statistical neighbours. However, the Youth Offending Team has provided a caveat with this indicator as the offending history for children who are placed out of area is not recorded on the local system. As a result, the data provided to DfE will only include young people who have been LAC for 12 months or more who have offended whilst living in Brighton & Hove. The Youth Offending Team is now looking to record data on LAC offenders who are placed out of area on Carefirst.

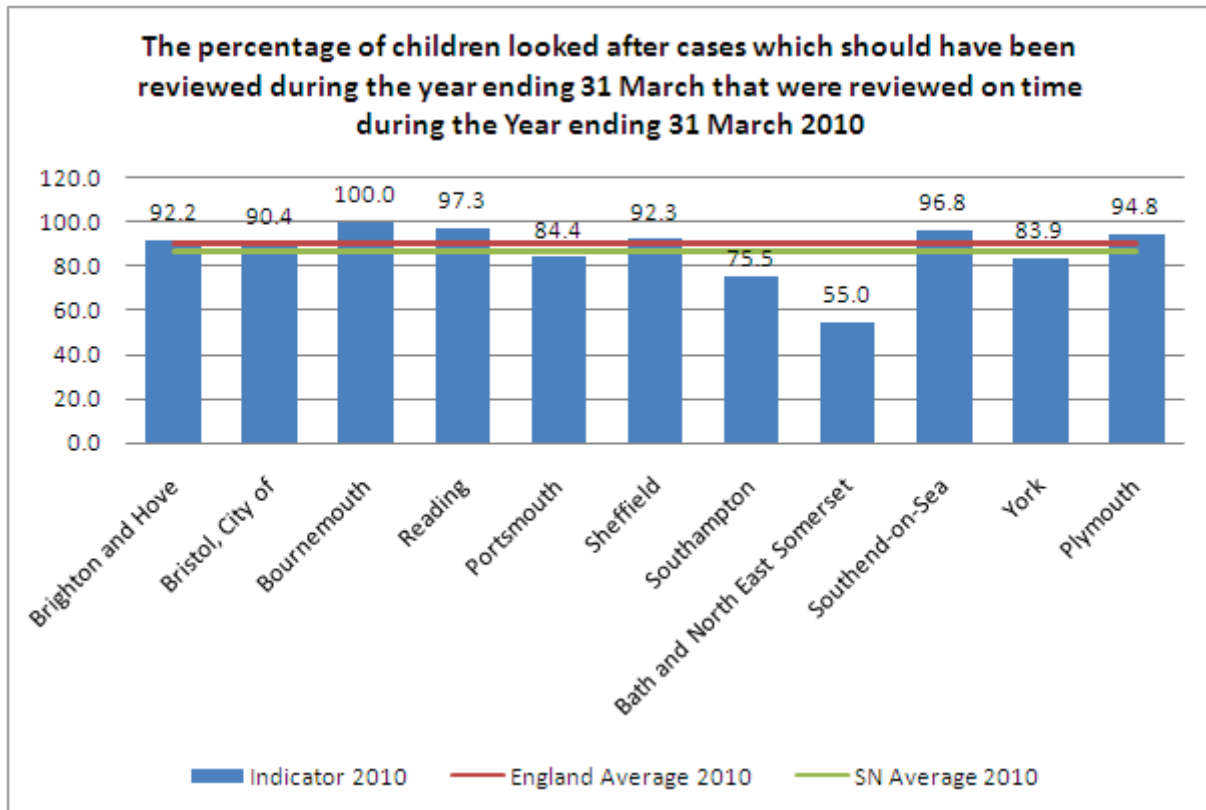
Corporate Parenting Processes

NI 066 Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales (%)

Definition: The percentage of children looked after cases which should have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March that were reviewed on time during the year.

Summary

Figure 22: The percentage of children looked after cases which should have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March that were reviewed on time during the Year ending 31 March 2010



Source: SSDA903

The outturn figure for 2009/10 is 92.2% and is above the national average of 90.5% and the average of 87% for our statistical neighbours. This 2009/10 figure remains almost unchanged from the outturn figure for 2008/09 (92.1%), which was rated amber by Ofsted, and is in-line with the target of 92%.

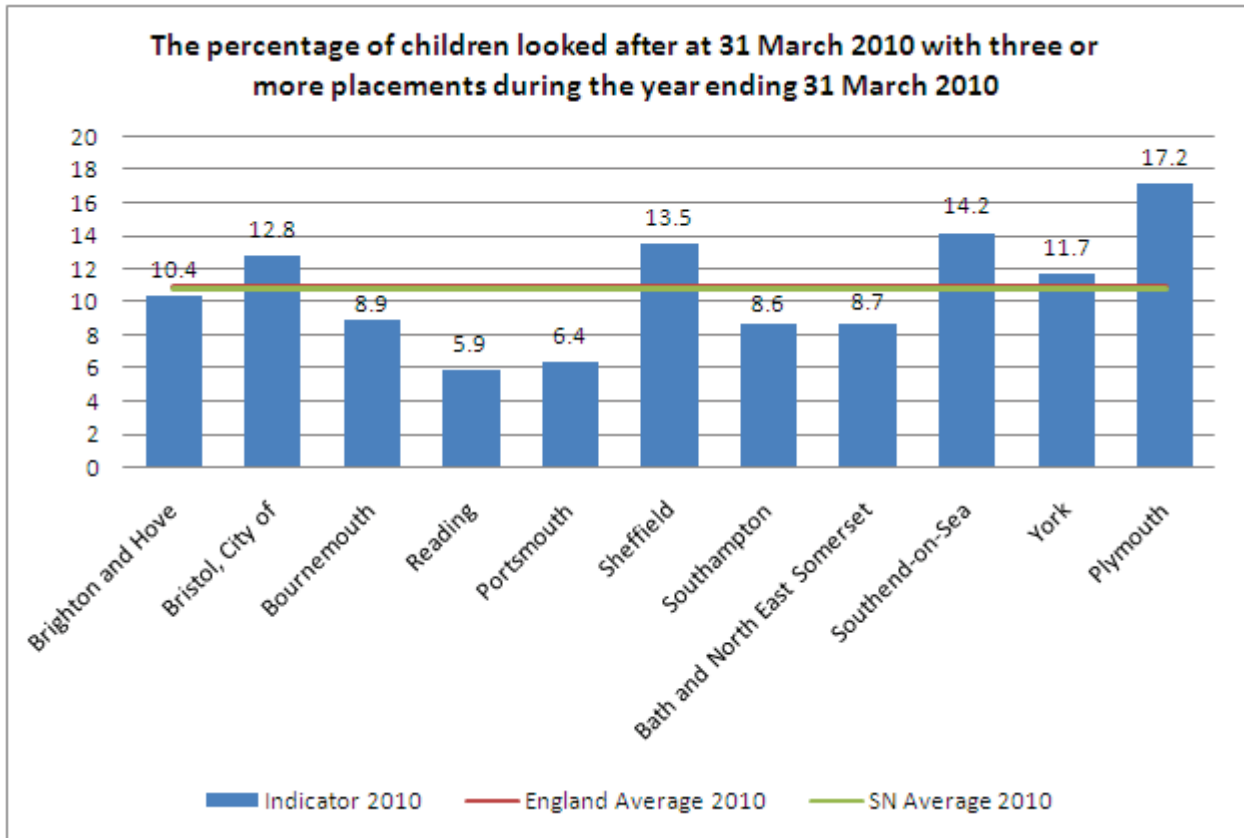
The percentage of Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales has been consistently good over the last 12 months and has remained above 91%. Current performance (92% as at 31st January 2011) is slightly below the target of 94% for 2010/11.

NI 62 Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements

Definition: The percentage of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year.

Summary

Figure 23: The percentage of children looked after at 31 March 2010 with three or more placements during the year ending 31 March 2010



Source: SSDA903

The outturn figure for 2009/10 is 10.4%, which exceeds the target of 12% and represents an improvement from 13.7% last year. This figure is below the England Average of 10.9% and 10.8% for our statistical neighbours. Performance has improved recently from 13% as at September 2010 to 10% as at January, which is exceeding the target of 11% for 2011. However, there are data quality issues with this indicator, with concerns being raised that not all missing placements are being recorded.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 51

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) Annual Report for 2009-10		
Date of Meeting:	23rd March 2011		
Report of:	Local Safeguarding Children Board		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Sharon Healy	Tel: 29-0728
	E-mail:	sharon.healy@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE/NOT FOR PUBLICATION

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 introduced a requirement for Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs) to produce and publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010 (the statutory guidance) says "It should recognise achievements and progress as well as providing a realistic assessment of the challenges that still remain." They are to be submitted to the Children's Trust which in turn needs to take it into account in any new or updated Children and Young People's Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That CYPOSC should consider the report and determine if there are any issues to communicate to the LSCB, the Children's Trust Board or to include in future work programmes.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT) and LSCB work closely together and a protocol for that joint work has been agreed. The CYPT chair attends the LSCB and several CYPT board members, including the Strategic Director People / Director of Children's Services and Chair, sit on the new LSCB Executive. The LSCB chair has attended and presented at the LSCB. This report particularly describes work to get the structure and ways of working in place. The key task going forward and which will be covered more in the 2010-11 Annual Report, is to ensure very robust processes are in place to identify and improve the quality of local performance.

- 3.2 As the report is produced late in the year following 2009-10 it gives brief updates on progress in 2010-11.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 A preview of the format and content of the 2009-10 report was given to the CYPT board on 1.11.10. The draft was shared with the LSCB board on 28.2.11 and approved subject to comments made at the meeting. Organisations represented on the CYPT therefore had an opportunity to contribute to the final report.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no financial implications directly resulting from the recommendations of this report. The financial information presented in the LSCB Annual report is accurate and a true reflection of the LSCB financial position within Brighton & Hove City Council's accounts.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis

Date: 3 March 2011

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The report must be considered in compliance with the requirement of the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 as set out in the body of the report. In considering the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area the members to the Board will have a better understanding as to the extent to which they are meeting their statutory safeguarding duties.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 7 March 2011

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The LSCB annual report is very important to the implementation of Brighton & Hove Council's Equalities Policy and to the achievement of the priorities set out in its annual business plan. The board champions our most vulnerable young people and as such the board needs to ensure that every child irrespective of their age, disability, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation is safeguarded in the city. One of the key objectives of the LSCB is to improve outcomes for children and young people from diverse communities and groups, and for those who live in deprived geographical communities.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 This report does not directly address sustainability issues but it is linked to the priorities in the CYPP which supports the council's sustainability strategy.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The LSCB aims to support young people to engage in law abiding and socially acceptable activity and behaviour. There are no specific implications in the report in relation to crime and disorder but as the board is concerned with children who are at most at risk in Brighton and Hove they may be at increased risk of becoming known to the criminal justice system.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The LSCB will assist the partners of the CT in understanding safeguarding and child protection in Brighton and Hove and assist in meeting their duties to children in need of protection.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The LSCB annual report describes the collective responsibilities that members and officers of Brighton & Hove City Council and its partner organisations have towards safeguarding children and young people.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. LSCB Annual Report 2009-10.

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. None.

Background Documents

1. None.



**BRIGHTON & HOVE
LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
BOARD**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2009 - 10
&
Update to December 2010**

**Prepared by:
Sharon Healy, LSCB Business Manager and Alan Bedford, LSCB Independent Chair**

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1 INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

I am pleased to present the Brighton & Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report 2009-2010 with an update to December 2010. The report outlines the work and achievements of the Board over the period April 2009 to March 2010.

The LSCB has a statutory requirement to produce an Annual Report by 1 April 2011, to be presented to the Brighton & Hove Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT) Board. As this report is being put to the LSCB in February 2011 and the CYPT Board in March, we have decided to include an "update" in most sections on work done to the end of 2010 to make the report more topical, but there will be a full 2010 -11 report produced later this year and then annually for each financial year.

Following the sad events around Baby Peter, safeguarding has been under considerable scrutiny, and the work of LSCBs in helping local services work together well, and in being sure proper standards of service are achieved, has never been more important. The organisations which make up the LSCB are committed to safeguarding work as a priority, but that is easier said than done in the context of growing referrals and tightening resources.

I started work as independent chair in June 2009. The first year or so has focussed on strengthening the LSCB itself so that it can meet these challenges, and in developing further a culture of mutual openness and challenge so that we make no assumptions that all is well, but actively seek continued assurance. By the end of 2010-11 this initial work will be concluded and we hope that 2011-12 will be a year focussed on developing stronger services and working arrangements. The catch up work in 2009-10 means that this report is not as full or detailed as we would expect in future reports.

The year under review was one of considerable attention to safeguarding children as the learning from the Baby Peter inquiry was still to the forefront and Lord Laming's "The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report" had just been published. This spoke strongly about the need for LSCBs to be independent and perform a robust scrutiny role. Most areas of the country, and Brighton & Hove was no exception, were experiencing significant increases in referrals and children with a child protection (CP) plan. A National Safeguarding Delivery Unit (NSDU) was set up to oversee and encourage the improvements necessary, and special training was designed to make sure those overseeing and writing serious case reviews (SCRs) were fully prepared for their important tasks. A new edition of the national guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children" was published in March 2010, which incorporated post Baby Peter learning.

As this introduction is written in early 2010, there is yet more review of how safeguarding should be conducted. The NSDU was disbanded

immediately after the election, the national SCR training put on hold, a new policy of publishing SCRs introduced, and indeed alternatives to SCRs are being piloted. Professor Eileen Munro is reviewing social work and child protection, and how child protection works in general, and from her early reports is proposing a different, less managerial, less prescriptive, approach in major reports of only the previous year or so; for example Laming. "Working Together", not yet a year old, may be radically revised. And in 2010-11, White Paper proposals, now going through Parliament, change fundamentally the organizations which have been overseeing safeguarding in the National Health Service (NHS) and have created new uncertainties, however well the changes might work in the end. 'Working Together' is likely to be revised substantially following the Munro Review.

For front line staff and their managers, handling child protection work is very emotive and stressful work. The ever changing political context of safeguarding, and resulting policy changes, become for them yet another complexity to be borne in mind and negotiated. LSCBs are one part of the system to continue unaltered (maybe even strengthened) so it is very important that LSCBs are robust, scrutinize well, and have the ability to stand a little apart from the change, to try and ensure high standards and continuity are maintained.

Alan Bedford
Independent Chair
Brighton & Hove LSCB
February 2011

2 GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2.1 Role and Responsibility of LSCB

This section goes into more detail than we would expect to do each year, but we thought it would be helpful if the legal requirements were fully set out in the first of the new style reports.

2.2 Objectives of an LSCB

The Children Act 2004 placed a duty on every local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) by 1 April 2006. The LSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how member organisations within Brighton & Hove co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do. The guidance is set out in *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010)*, the statutory guidance. These duties are very extensive and it is clearly not possible to achieve all fully. Indeed the guidance is clear that ensuring the coordination and effectiveness of child protection is the core priority, and other work comes after that core is achieved.

The functions of an LSCB are set out in primary legislation and regulations. The core objectives of the LSCB are as follows:

- to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority;
- to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

The LSCB will therefore ensure that the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is carried out in such a way as to contribute to improving all five Every Child Matters outcomes. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children includes protecting children from harm. Ensuring that work to protect children is properly co-ordinated and effective remains a primary goal of LSCBs. When this core business is secure, however, LSCBs should go beyond it to work to their wider remit,

which includes preventative work to avoid harm being suffered. This will help ensure a long-term impact on the safety of children.

2.3 LSCB Scope

This is defined as:

- activity that affects all children and aims to identify and prevent maltreatment or impairment or of health or development, and ensure children are growing up in circumstances consistent with safe effective care;
- proactive work that aims to target particular groups;
- responsive work to children who are suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm.

2.4 LSCB Functions

These are defined as:

- developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This includes issues such as setting out thresholds for intervention, inter-agency procedures, the common assessment framework, training, the recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children, the investigation of allegations concerning people who work with children, and the safety of children in private fostering;
- communicating the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising awareness of how this can best be done, and encouraging it;
- monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the local authority and Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve;
- producing an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area;
- participating in the local planning and commissioning of children's services to ensure they take safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child into account;
- collecting and analysing information about the deaths of children in its area.

2.5 Accountability

The accountability of an LSCB is not straightforward. The majority of this section is taken from Working Together 2010 guidance. The LSCB is not accountable for the operational work of member agencies. Board members retain their own lines of accountability for safeguarding children, and the LSCB does not have the power to direct other organisations. However, the LSCB needs to be seen as 'independent'. The chair is now presumed to be independent of member agencies, and is required to secure an independent voice for the LSCB. The LSCB must be able to form a view of the quality of local activity, to challenge organisations as necessary, and to speak with an independent voice. Local authority members and non executives on other bodies should hold their officers to account for their contribution to the effective functioning of the LSCB.

Despite the LSCB members retaining their organisational accountability, the guidance is clear on their duties when acting as LSCB members. The individual members of LSCB's have a duty as members to contribute to the effective work of the LSCB, for example, in making the LSCB's assessment of performance as objective as possible, and in recommending or deciding upon the necessary steps to put right any problems. This should take precedence, if necessary, over their role as a representative of their organisation. This means that members must feel free to contribute as they think fit as members, regardless of agency views.

The local authority has a duty to set up an LSCB. The Director of Children's Services (DCS) has statutory duties in relation to ensuring that the LSCB functions well, and the LSCB Annual Report is submitted to the Children's Trust. However, the guidance is clear on the independence of the LSCB.

An LSCB is not an operational sub-committee of the Children's Trust Board; which in Brighton & Hove is known as the Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT) Board. Whilst the work of the LSCB contributes to the wider goals of improving the wellbeing of all children, it has a narrower focus on safeguarding and promoting welfare. The LSCB should not be subordinate to nor subsumed within Children's Trust Board structures in a way that might compromise its separate identity and independent voice. There must be a clear distinction between the roles and responsibilities of the LSCB and a Children's Trust Board. A protocol defining the relationship in Brighton & Hove was agreed by the LSCB in December 2010 and will hopefully be agreed by the CYPT Board in early 2011. An LSCB has a duty to assess the effectiveness of the Children's Trust, and to refer onwards if local discussions do not lead to improvement. Children's Trusts and the LSCB have to work together on a strategic understanding of needs, understanding the effectiveness of current services, ensuring that priorities for change are implemented in

practice, and approaches to understanding the impact of specialist services on outcomes - and challenging any lack of progress.

2.6 LSCB Team

The following staffing changes affected the infrastructure of the LSCB during 2009-10:

Independent Chair:

Following a review of the LSCB during a developmental day in August 2008, the LSCB appointed its first Independent Chair (Alan Bedford). He commenced work in June 2009. He previously held a number of chief executive posts in the NHS, following a career in social work mainly with the NSPCC. The post was initially for 12 days but was increased later in the year to 24 days, closer to the national norm.

Business Manager:

In order to support the work of the Independent Chair and wider LSCB, the LSCB also appointed its first dedicated Business Manager (Sharon Healy) with effect from January 2010. Elements of this role had been previously undertaken by the former CYPT Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Project Manager who left in July 2009. The Business Manager is accountable to the chair but is supported on a day to day basis by the Head of Safeguarding.

Head of Safeguarding:

A new permanent Council Head of Safeguarding (Jane Doherty) took up post in April 2010. This role had previously been undertaken by two part-time interim Heads of Safeguarding from September 2009-April 2010. The duties of this post are primarily for Brighton & Hove Council but include facilitating and advising the work of the LSCB.

LSCB Training Manager:

The LSCB Training Manager (Michael McCoy) assumed responsibility for developing and managing the LSCB multi-agency training programme in June 2005 working for 18 hours per week. His hours increased to 25.5 per week in September 2009. The Training Manager has been line managed by the LSCB Business Manager since September 2010.

2.7 Membership

The statutory membership of LSCBs is set out in Section 13(3) of the Children Act 2004 and in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010, Chapter 3. Member organisations are required to co-operate with the local authority in the establishment and operation of the Board and have a shared responsibility for the effective discharge of its functions.

LSCB members should have a strategic role in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their respective organisations.

They should be able to:

- speak for their organisation with authority;
- commit their organisation on policy and practice matters;
- hold their organisation to account.

The LSCB membership in Brighton & Hove evolved from the former Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) and consists of senior representatives from statutory and voluntary sector agencies as follows: Agency attendance has been consistently good.

- Brighton & Hove City Council
- Children and Young People's Trust
- Adult Social Services
- Education Services
- Youth Offending Services
- Sussex Police
- Surrey & Sussex Probation Trust
- South East Coast Strategic Health Authority
- East Sussex Fire and Rescue Services
- NHS Brighton and Hove
- Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust
- South Downs Health NHS Trust
- Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- South East Coast Ambulance
- Community and Voluntary Sector Forum
- CAF/CASS
- NSPCC

Update

During 2010, the LSCB membership was reviewed in line with Working Together 2010 in order to ensure manageable meetings and the effective conduct of LSCB business, along with a reconsideration of the respective roles of the Board and the Executive Group. There was also clarification as to who is a member and who is a professional adviser. Also in 2010, three schools representatives joined the Board as required in Working Together 2010.

A paper regarding a restructure of the full Board and Executive Group went to the December 2010 LSCB. The proposal was for the full Board to have more of a consultative/advisory role and delegate its authority to a new top level Executive Group, with membership at the highest level, with sufficient authority to agree actions and commit to joint decisions and resources. This model is mirrored in certain London Boroughs, and has been effective as chief executive involvement has given a powerful focus to the mutual holding to account. The Board agreed for the

Executive to take a strong role on behalf of the Board and the new arrangements are effective from January 2011.

The LSCB itself will continue to meet regularly, with a large attendance of members and professional advisers. It will fulfil a consultative and advisory role to the Executive and will identify key issues for consideration. Members will take an individual and collective responsibility for the implementation of any decision made by the LSCB or Executive.

2.8 LSCB Budget

The 2009 -10 budget is as follows. There was an underspend mainly due to the contingency for an SCR not being required, and contributors other than Brighton & Hove City Council agreed to their pro rata share being carried forward. Work has been needed to simplify budget management.

Brighton & Hove City Council - £73,500
Brighton & Hove PCT - £32,000
National Probation Service - £4,000
Sussex Police -£9,000
CAFCASS - £600
Total: £119,100

An end of year budget statement is attached at appendix A.

Update

From 2010-11 there is a dedicated operational budget managed by the LSCB Business Manager. Quarterly statements have been provided to the LSCB since June 2010 and are available at any time on request by Board members. Partner contributions for 2010-11 are as follows. Expenditure will be reported in the next Annual Report

Brighton & Hove City Council - £72,300
Brighton & Hove PCT - £32,000
National Probation Service - £4,000
Sussex Police - £9,000
CAFCASS - £600
Partners Carry Forward from 2009-10 - £6,702
Total: £124,602

2.9 Business Plan

An LSCB Business Plan for 2009-10 was not produced to guide that year. However, progress of the 2008-09 Business Plan was reviewed at the December 2009 Board. Actions progressed from the 2008-09 Business Plan during 2009-10 include the following:

- An independent chair was appointed to the LSCB, commencing in June 2009.
- Child Death Overview Panel of East Sussex and Brighton established, with Annual Report to the December 2009 LSCB.
- Private Fostering report to March 2009 LSCB.
- Quality Assurance stock-take of LSCB functioning for the March 2009 Board.
- A cross agency child protection file audit and the 2008-9 thematic audit on the safeguarding pathway were reviewed in June 2009.
- Major item at June 2009 Board on Substance Misuse and Teenage Pregnancy.
- LSCB conference, with wide ranging attendance, in June 2009 contributing to the Children's and Young Peoples Plan priorities.
- Major reviews of post Laming progress, and resource issues, by agency, at the September and December 2009 Boards.

Update

The 2010-11 Plan was presented to the March 2010 Board and agreed. Each member of the Board and its Executive Group received a progress report in December 2010. Sub group chairs have particular responsibility to take forward the objectives.

A copy of the 2010-11 Business Plan as at November 2010 is attached at appendix C. A report on the outcome of this plan will be in the next Annual Report.

3 KEY ISSUES ADDRESSED IN 2009-10

The new chair has introduced a process by which all member organisations are asked to report on their performance or specific issues in writing in advance of meetings and then have those responses as the subject of discussion and mutual scrutiny at Board meetings. This identifies important issues and where member organisations can assist each other. This process was used in September 2009 on progress against the Laming Report, in December 2009 on resource issues and in March 2010 on domestic violence. This proved to be a productive way of sharing information and highlighting issues of concern. The main issues the Board looked at during its meetings are as follows.

3.1 Post Laming Reviews

Scrutiny on this identified a number of current or potential resource issues and it was agreed to have a special item on this. The need to increase the LSCB awareness of CQC reports on local services was identified. Brighton and Sussex University NHS Trust (BSUH) shared a number of service and resource issues which have been followed up at subsequent meetings. The discussions identified a number of areas where issues in one organisation might affect another.

3.2 Resources

BSUH continued to share issues with the LSCB and this led to special support to the Trust from the LSCB in March 2010 (which was followed up again by the LSCB and PCT in November 2010). The Trust board has been monitoring progress regularly. The vulnerability of some third sector safeguarding services to funding constraint was identified. No planned service reductions which would lessen statutory safeguarding services were identified. The robustness of domestic violence services was raised several times and a special item was agreed.

3.3 Domestic Violence

This mutual scrutiny item identified weaknesses in NHS links with the domestic violence (DV) infrastructure in the city such as the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, and action was put in place to improve this. The need for DV policies and agency leads for DV in some organisations was identified. Problems with an SCR recommendation on DV were also spotted and revisions made in due course to that plan to make the process more practical

3.4 Third Sector

A third sector safeguarding audit was discussed at the Executive Group and the council children's services agreed to work with the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum on key recommendations. The debates at the LSCB on the issues in 3.1-3.15 in this report gave the third sector a platform to identify where their contribution could help or was vulnerable.

3.5 Audits

The LSCB thematic audit for 2008-9 was on the impact of service reconfiguration on the safeguarding pathway. It identified speedier response times, but also the pressures from increasing referrals, children subject of child protection plans and caseloads. An inter-agency bi-annual audit of case note files was also considered and actions agreed.

3.6 Performance Management

Key reports and trends around child protection cases are considered at each meeting.

3.7 Working Together 2010 revision

The LSCB contributed to the consultation on proposed changes to the national guidance, eventually published in March 2010.

3.8 Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The LSCB received the Annual Report from the CDOP, and its chair reported good engagement from member agencies on both child death rapid response processes and the overview of deaths. There was a pan-Sussex CDOP conference in November 2009.

3.9 Private Fostering

The LSCB Executive received the annual private fostering report for 2008-9 and the LSCB chair was present when this was discussed at the CYPT Board. There were no actions for the LSCB. A 2009-10 report has not been produced for the LSCB.

3.10 Strategic Health Authority

Members wanted to understand better the health service overview of safeguarding and the PCT and SHA made a joint presentation on this.

3.11 E Safety

The Board had a special presentation by the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency on e-safety, and it was agreed the Staying Safe sub-group would take forward key issues. There are positive areas of work being undertaken in the city: i.e. via the healthy schools programme (anti-bullying guidance) and via training to schools which has been widened out to foster carers. However there are capacity issues to do anything further at present. It was therefore agreed at the October 2010 Executive Group meeting that with current resource issues and more pressing matters such as domestic violence, additional e-safety work is not a top priority for the LSCB this year.

3.12 Duty and Assessment Thresholds

LSCBs have a duty to be sure threshold arrangements are working well and the CYPT presented proposed changes. The process for gaining agency sign up was clarified and any inter-agency concerns discussed.

3.13 Children and Young People's Plan

Key conclusions from the 2009 annual conference were incorporated in the 2009 Children and Young People's Plan.

3.14 Inter-agency Issues

From time to time issues emerged in discussions where there seemed to be blocks to joint working. Where this occurred, efforts were made to identify the best manager/s to take forward resolution.

3.15 Serious Case Reviews

Most of the detailed scrutiny is done in the LSCB Executive Group but the full LSCB is briefed on progress. There were no new SCRs in 2009-10.

3.16 Update

Among the main issues discussed to December 2010 have been: the child sex offender disclosure scheme, safeguarding children with disabilities, NHS White Paper implications, restructuring the LSCB to sharpen accountability and focus, and regular updates on resource issues and domestic violence, CDO and training. Progress and improvements at BSUH have also been reported.

4 LSCB SUB-GROUPS

During 2009-10, the following 9 LSCB sub-groups were operating within Brighton & Hove:

- Child Death Overview Panel
- Child Protection Liaison and Safeguarding
- Education Safeguarding Child Protection Strategy
- Health Advisory
- SCR Standing Panel
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Pan Sussex Procedures
- Staying Safe
- Training

Summaries of the key activity of the sub groups are covered in sections 5.1 - 5.9 below.

Update

In line with the 2010-11 Business Plan, each of the LSCB sub-groups were reviewed to ensure each has a clear remit and transparent reporting mechanism to the LSCB. The Terms of Reference for each

group and membership were subsequently updated in December 2010.

4.1 Child Death Overview Panel

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is an inter-agency forum that meets regularly to review the deaths of all children normally resident in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. It acts as a sub-group of the two Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) for Brighton & Hove and East Sussex and is accountable to the two LSCB Chairs if, during the review process, the CDOP identifies the following:

- any cases requiring an SCR;
- any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in the area;
- any wider public health or safety concerns arising from a particular death or from a pattern of deaths in the area; a specific recommendation would be made to the relevant LSCB(s) for them to consider.

During 2009-10 the joint CDOP panel developed specialist panel processes to consider neonatal deaths and has achieved specialist representation from both East Sussex and Brighton & Hove to enable the panel to review neonatal deaths comprehensively.

A conference was held in November 2009 with West Sussex CDOP for members of the three LSCBs - East Sussex, Brighton & Hove and West Sussex - that enabled some of the key themes and learning from the panels activity to be disseminated giving agencies the opportunity to consider their responses to emerging trends.

The CDOP held 10 meetings during 2009-10 (including 3 neonatal panels). The main work of the panel continues to be the reviewing of all child deaths across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove on behalf of the two Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs). Between April 2009 and March 2010 the council was notified of 59 deaths of children who were resident in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. The CDOP has reviewed a total of 45 deaths during 2009-10. There is always a delay between the date of a child's death and the CDOP review being held, however the above data indicates that most deaths are now reviewed within a six month period. Achievements through the year include establishing arrangements for reviewing neo-natal deaths and establishing systems for parents to contribute to CDOP reviews within East Sussex.

Update

Plans for the future include:

- rolling out parental involvement to all areas covered by the CDOP;
- developing systems for lay person input to the CDOP panel meetings;
- improving data collection systems so extracting data for reports is simpler.

4.2 Child Protection and Liaison and Safeguarding Group

The Child Protection Liaison and Safeguarding Group (CPLG) is a multi-agency forum that meets on a monthly basis. Its main purpose is to review and improve joint working practice in respect of multi-agency child protection processes; including analysis of examples of operational practice within the context of child protection enquiries and investigations. The CPLG also acts as an additional quality assurance and audit mechanism on behalf of the LSCB.

In 2009-10 the CPLG was very well attended by a range of agencies including health, social care and the police and the following issues were discussed and addressed:

- There continued to be an analysis of current child protection enquiries and processes by detailing particular cases that had been subject to some scrutiny by the group because they had not gone as well as the LSCB would have liked.
- General inter-agency and resource issues for each agency. Clear evidence was presented that shortfall in resources does impact on quality of child protection investigation and process.
- Detailed discussions of investigations involving injuries to very young children where strategy meetings may not have been sufficiently robust and discharge decisions not truly joint agency.
- Wide ranging pressures on child protection and looked after children reviewing process with increasing numbers in both and a number of agencies expressing concerns about the level of requests to attend reviews. There is also a problem of late notice and lack of information about subjects of the review.
- Concerns over lack of communication between general practitioners (GPs), midwives and health visitors (HVs) in respect of pregnant women who may present child protection concerns due to their history, with examples of some cases being missed.
- Development of a checklist for midwives and HVs. Agreed that midwives would routinely inform GP and HV. Letter sent to GPs emphasising the importance of informing social worker's when a pregnant mother has had previous children in care.

Update

In 2010-11 the Child Protection Liaison Group strengthened its links to the LSCB by being chaired by the Head of Safeguarding. During this period there were concerns expressed about strategy meetings not including the wider multi-agency group and therefore the group is currently working on how this can be achieved.

4.3 Education Safeguarding Strategy Group

The purpose of the Education Safeguarding sub-group is to share information, consider best practice and implement a clear plan of action for child protection and safeguarding for all children's services' education and school-based staff. The group also ensures that all education and school services are clear of their responsibilities and follow agreed procedures.

The group met regularly in 2009-10 and was well attended. A major piece of work undertaken by the group was a new self-evaluation safeguarding audit which was promoted for schools' use during July - November 2009. The purpose of the self-evaluation audit is to:

- Support schools to review their current safeguarding and child protection practice against the most recent national guidance.
- Support schools to involve a wider range of staff and governors in reviewing their current practice.
- Support schools in identifying their strengths and areas for improvement.
- To provide evidence for headteachers when reporting to governors.
- To provide information during Ofsted inspections.
- To inform the Local Authority about how safe the practice is in their schools.
- To provide information to the CYPT to inform future guidance, training and support to schools.

Schools that undertook the evaluation reported that it enabled them to thoroughly review their safeguarding practice and identify areas for improvement it also provided evidence of practice for Ofsted inspections and could be used as the basis of the head teacher's report to governors about safeguarding within the school.

Other major areas of work include the development of a 'train the trainer' pack which was disseminated to headteachers in order to cascade

safeguarding and child protection training to other school staff. Also, the implementation of education- based actions emerging from the G SCR Action plan such as developing and issuing guidance regarding designated child protection leads in schools.

Update

Issues discussed in 2010-11 have included information sharing, use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), tiered interventions and training for schools-based staff and safety.

4.4 Health Advisory Group

The Health Advisory Group is a forum where health professionals who have a specific role in safeguarding children meet regularly. The group's purpose is to consider and influence best working practice within healthcare organisations and enhance joint working across the health economy in respect of safeguarding children and child protection.

In 2009-10 the group was very well attended. Key areas discussed and addressed include:

- Protocol for 'managing infants in injuries' within Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals (BSUH) – revised from age under 1 to pre-mobile children.
- Safeguarding implications for women who fabricate pregnancy – process reviewed.
- South East Coast Strategic Health Authority safeguarding children governance review – all trusts across the health economy participated in this review by completing a self-assessment tool and attending focus groups. A follow up audit was subsequently undertaken.
- Child Death and Rapid Response – work to improve process involving audits and reviewing paediatric input into the process.
- Pan Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures – section on concealed pregnancies revised.
- Input into NICE clinical guideline 89 regarding 'when to suspect child maltreatment'.
- Fabricated and Induced Illness - consultation group set up and guidance produced for Pan-Sussex Procedures.
- Adult Mental Health – links between Sussex Partnership Trust and Health Visitors strengthened.

- Training – particular training needs across the health economy have become more joined up.
- Domestic Abuse – ongoing developmental work to strengthen policies and links to other agencies.

Update

In 2010-11 work has been done on developing the care pathways for children with enhanced Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) involvement, continuing to enhance the health links between domestic abuse and safeguarding children and influencing the developing draft Performance Indicators for Care Quality Commission (CQC) registration regarding safeguarding outcomes. There has been preparation for an Ofsted/CQC announced inspection, including a half day workshop. As a single agency group, a decision was taken at the October 2010 Executive Group to transfer it from the LSCB to the PCT.

4.5 Monitoring and Evaluation sub-group

This sub-group is responsible for initiating and undertaking both multi-agency and single agency audits and reviews of safeguarding activities on behalf of the LSCB to ensure compliance to the child protection and safeguarding procedures. Following the departure of the former chair of this sub group in July 2009, there was a delay in the LSCB audit programme during 2009-10.

Update

In April 2010, the Head of Safeguarding became chair of this group and has initiated the following audits during 2010-11:

An audit of how agencies within Brighton & Hove are complying with their safeguarding responsibilities under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 was undertaken between June - September 2010. The LSCB appointed an independent consultant in order to assist with the analysis of the individual audit reports. The overview report was presented to the January 2011 Executive Group.

A thematic audit of domestic violence was undertaken to monitor the effectiveness of working practices across agencies. A final report was presented to the January 2010 LSCB Executive and went to the February full Board, with a number of recommendations for improved practice.

4.6 Pan-Sussex Procedures sub-group

The Pan-Sussex Procedures sub-group meets six times per year and comprises members from across Brighton & Hove, East and West Sussex LSCBs and Sussex Police. Its main purpose is to act as a

steering group for the development and publication of procedural guidance this includes reviewing and updating the Pan-Sussex child protection and safeguarding procedures regularly in response to lessons learned from SCRs. The group addresses local and national issues, changes in legislation and any gaps emerging from practice.

The 2009-10 work plan identified the following procedures for review:

- Missing children
- Fabricated or induced illness
- Hostile parents
- Known offenders
- SCRs

Update

The Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures are in the process of being amended in line with Working Together 2010 changes. It is envisaged that the revised version, which will be available on-line only, will be published in April 2011.

4.7 Serious Case Review Standing Panel

There has not been an SCR in Brighton & Hove since 2008, but actions are still being followed up. From January 2010, the LSCB Executive has fulfilled the role of standing SCR Panel, and for a portion of each meeting the Executive sits as that panel. At the first meeting, it concluded that the G case SCR recommendations were too unwieldy, and changes were agreed. It agreed a single agency Individual Management Review on a CYPT (now Children's Services) case rather than a full SCR, and identified procedural issues in the linkages between a neighbouring LSCB SCR and Brighton & Hove and which will be resolved for future overlapping cases.

4.8 Staying Safe sub-group

The Staying Safe sub group was established in 2006, to strengthen links between the CYPT, Community Safety Team and Community and Voluntary Sector in order to promote a safer environment for children and young people in Brighton & Hove and to protect them from harmful risk and improve their personal safety.

The group met a number of times in 2009-10 and developed a plan to work on issues such as bullying and substance/alcohol misuse, However, the group did not run as effectively as we would have liked, leading to a review referred to below.

Update

The group has been without a permanent chair since 2009 and the remit has become rather ambitious and unclear. Therefore, during 2010-11 efforts have been made to strengthen this sub-group and identify a permanent chair. The LSCB in December confirmed the need to maintain and revitalise this group to ensure the LSCB focussed on preventative issues and not just immediate child protection matters.

4.9 Training sub-group

The Training sub-group meets on a quarterly basis. It is responsible for ensuring that single agency and multi-agency training on safeguarding and promoting welfare for children and young people is provided at different levels in order to meet local needs in accordance with the Safeguarding Children and Development Strategy 2007-2010 and Working Together 2010. The group assists the LSCB Training Manager in the identification, planning, delivery and evaluation of multi-agency training to ensure all those coming into contact/working with children are competent and up to date with current legislation.

The Training sub group also monitors levels of attendance broken down by respective organisations. An evaluation report on training attendance for the above level two courses from April - September 2009 was presented to the training sub group in February 2010. Key findings showed an increased demand from some groups (e.g. schools and newly qualified social workers) resulting in a need to increase available places. In contrast, low attendance from some other agencies; such as probation and the police, required the need for better engagement and promotion of courses. Overall evaluation data was based on the recognised 'Kirkpatrick' four level model. A full copy of the report is available on request from the LSCB Business Manager.

Update

An evaluation report on training attendance for the below level two courses from October 2009 - March 2010 was presented to the training sub group in November 2010. A full copy of the report is available on request. The Training sub group will continue to promote and encourage greater attendance with regard to respective agencies where necessary. It is intended that the 2010-11 Annual Report will be able to identify the degree to which staff in member organisations have received required training.

In line with the 2010-11 LSCB Business Plan, the 2009-10 Training Programme has been reviewed during 2010 to consider whether it is fully meeting the requirements of the children's workforce across Brighton & Hove. A revised programme will be available in 2011-12.

4.9.1 Training and Development Strategy 2007-2010

The Safeguarding Children Training and Development Strategy 2007-2010 sets out the levels of safeguarding training and development needed for the workforce of Brighton & Hove children's integrated services. The LSCB multi-agency training programme derives from the Strategy and includes the following multi-agency courses that were delivered in 2009-10:

Level two:

- Developing a Core Understanding x11
- Assessment, Referral and Investigation x 7
- Child Protection, Conference and Core Groups x 5

Level three:

- Domestic Violence and Abuse x 6
- Working with Parents who have a Learning Disability x 2
- Mental Health and Parenting Capacity Day 1 x 2
- Mental Health and Parenting Capacity Day 2 x 2
- Risk and Men Who Commit Sexual Offences x 2
- Substance Misuse and Parenting Capacity Day 1 x 3
- Substance Misuse and Parenting Capacity Day 2 x 3
- Undertaking Safeguarding Assessment Workshops x 6

A total of 950 training places were available with 83% overall attendance. A summary of 2009-10 LSCB training activity is attached at appendix B.

Update

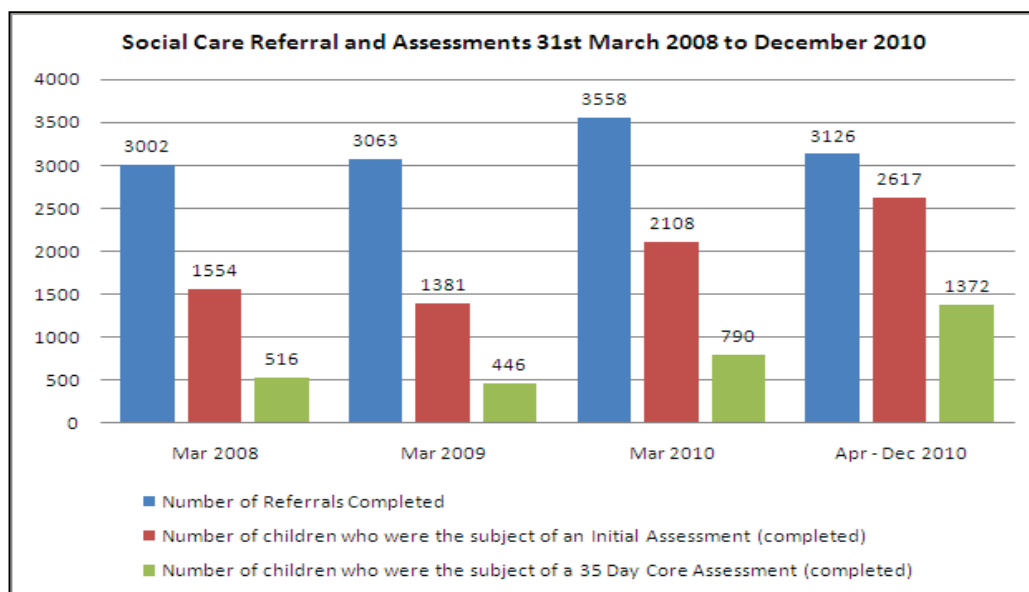
The 2007-10 Safeguarding and Children Development Strategy was due for review in December 2010. It is intended that this Strategy will remain in place as an interim measure until 31 March 2011. The Training Sub Group will work to develop a new Training and Development Strategy which will run from April 2011 - March 2014.

5 PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

5.1 Child Protection Activity

Please note that the data shows the figures which are predominantly figures from April 1st 2009 to 31st March 2010. There is some additional information from April to December 2010 in some of the charts to provide a more up to date picture.

Referral and Assessments 31st March 2008 to 31st December 2010



Initial contacts

In this report the activity of social workers is used as a proxy for multi-agency activity. In the period under review (2009-10) the amount of initial contacts into children's social care increased by approximately 18% and there was been a sharp increase especially since 2008. This evidently coincides with the Baby Peter case which saw a rise in referral rates in an unprecedented manner in many local authorities.

In Brighton & Hove there has been an increase in referrals between 2008 and 2010 of just less than 20% which has had a significant impact on resources and workloads.

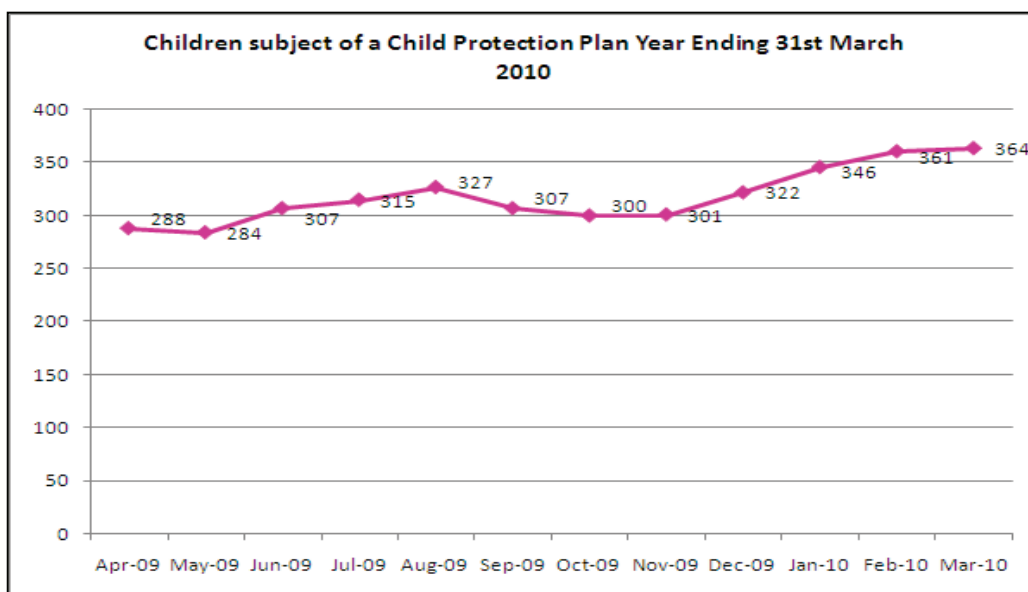
Assessments

The number of initial assessments completed has increased by over a third and core assessments increased by 53% in the same period. The data for the period April to December 2010 reveals that the number of assessments completed (initial and core) has already exceeded the yearly totals for the previous three financial years.

In an attempt to deal with this increase there has been an improvement in the number of assessments undertaken under the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), (currently around 65 per month) to try and redirect some of the lower level work to more appropriate resources. Whilst this is a reasonably successful strategy the increase in statutory work still represents a significant increase in the volume of work being undertaken by the multi agency groups represented on the LSCB.

Child Protection Plans

Children & Young People Subject of a Child Protection Plan Year Ending 31st March 2010



The number of children subject of a child protection plan increased from 288 as at April 2009 to 364 as at 31st March 2010, an increase of 26%.

- In view of the increase in referrals described above it is perhaps unsurprising that the number of children subject of a child protection plan rose by a quarter in 2009-10. This is line with the increase that other local authorities have seen since the Haringey SCR but the number with child protection plans is considerably higher than those of the council's statistically comparable neighbours.

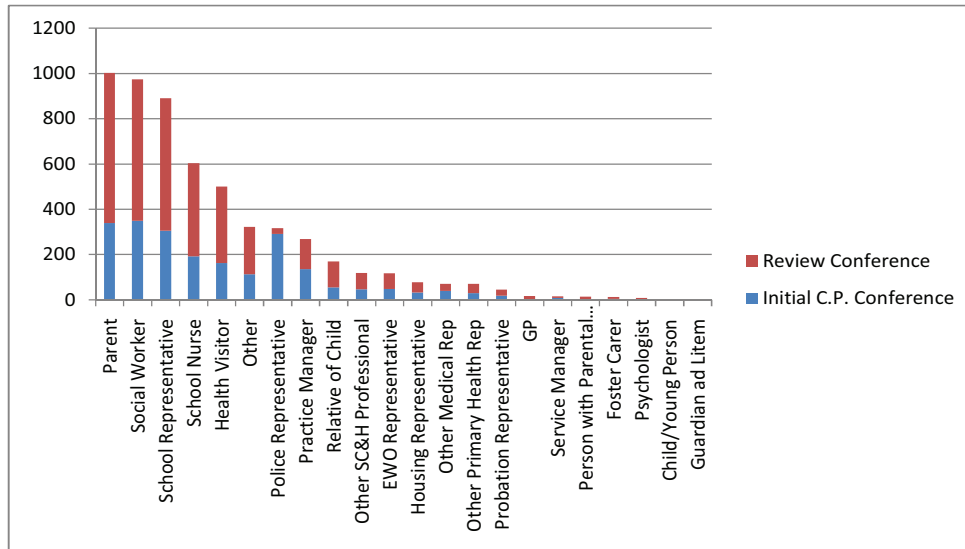
Despite the increase in numbers, there are some encouraging performance figures. For example, 100% of child protection conference reviews took place during the period under review (2009-10). Children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time was also in line with national and comparator boroughs at 13.4%. This indicates effective child protection planning and more crucially that the critical protective activity is happening and perhaps that agencies are reaching more children in need of protection at an earlier stage.

Regular auditing activity takes place by the senior independent reviewing officer and this has not resulted in a view that children are made subject to plans inappropriately.

The number of children remaining on a child protection plan for two years or more has remained stable at 5.6% (although this has increased to 6.7% in 2010-11).

The majority of children continue to be subject to child protection plans under the categories of neglect and emotional abuse and the major contributory factors are domestic violence, drug and alcohol misuse and adult mental health. These are familiar themes in comparator boroughs.

Attendance at Child Protection Conferences Year Ending 31st March 2010



The above chart illustrates recorded attendance at initial and review child protection conferences from 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010. There were a total of 1024 conferences during this period, and the chart represents a count of the attendees at each conference, which means that it is possible to have a count of more than 1024 for an attendee. For example, two parents may attend a conference.

The chart illustrates that there is very good representation from parents and carers and the high numbers demonstrate that there were two parents present at over half the conferences that took place. The relatively low attendance from the police indicates that the police are present at initial child protection conferences but do not attend reviews unless there is an on going police investigation in relation to the family. The police however always provide a report for conferences. There is also good representation from education and health (although very low from GPs).

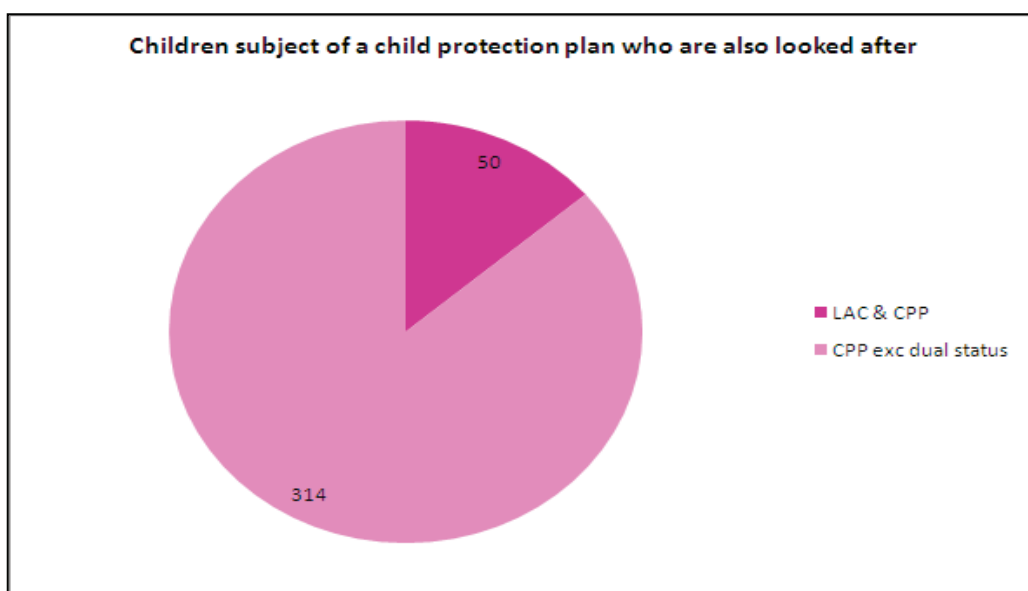
In the remainder of 2010-11 there needs to be a concentrated effort on encouraging young people to take a more active role in the child protection process and for them to attend a greater proportion of conferences.

Referrals by Source and No Further Action Outcome January to December 2010

Referral Source	No. Referrals	Referral No further action	% NFA
Police Referrals	1180	58	4.9%
GP	82	0	0.0%
Health/Hospital	472	23	4.9%
Education	595	13	2.2%
Individual	484	24	5.0%
Local/Central Gov't Agency/Dept	601	18	3.0%
Emergency Duty Service	146	7	4.8%
Independent/Voluntary	40	0	0.0%
Other Source	605	17	2.8%
Total Referrals	4205	160	3.8%

There were 4,205 referrals completed in this period, with 28% from the police, 14.3% from Local/Central Government Agency or Department (Housing Department, Probation, Other Local Authority etc), 11.2% from Health, 14.1% from Education and 11.5% coming in from individuals (Relatives, Carers, Anonymous etc).

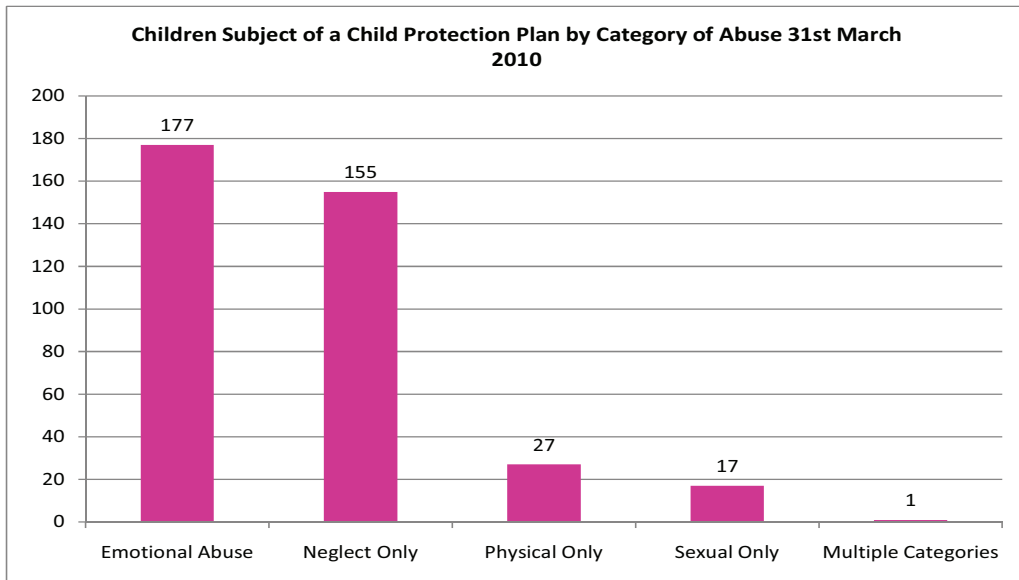
Children Subject of a Child Protection Plan who are also Looked After as at 31 March 2010



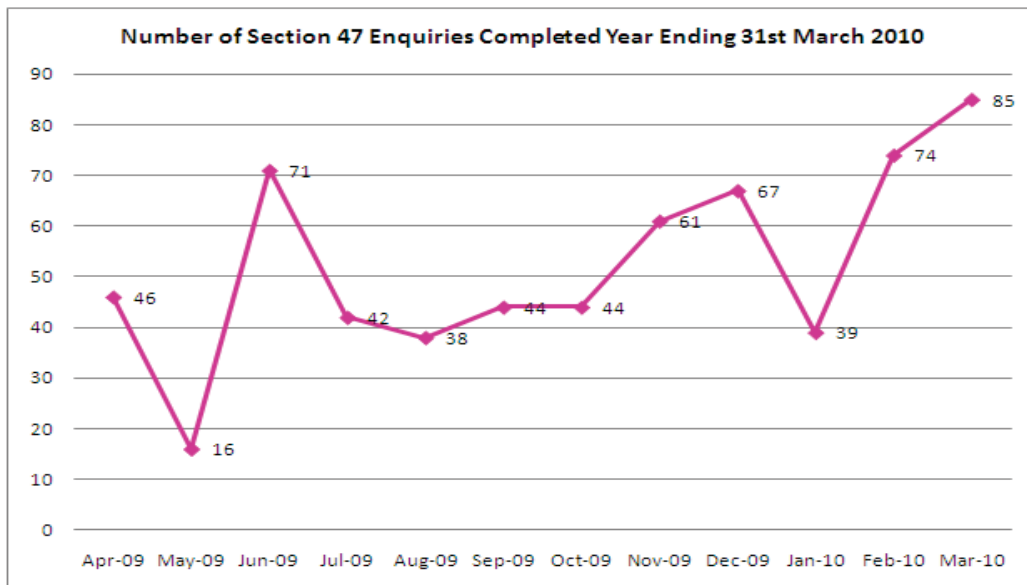
Of the 364 children subject of a child protection plan at 31st March 2010, 50 (14%) were also looked after. The number of children subject to child protection and looked after processes was much higher than average

during this period and reducing this figure was a priority action for 2010-11.

Category of Abuse Year Ending 31st March 2010



Number of Section 47 Enquiries Completed - Year Ending 31st March 2010



There were 627 Section 47 Enquiries during the year ending 31st March 2010. The number completed has been variable during the last 12 months, ranging from 16 in May 2009 to 85 in March 2010.

5.2 Inspection Outcomes

There were no unannounced or announced inspections during 2009-10.

Update

In 2010-11, Brighton & Hove children's services received its unannounced Inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements on 7 and 8 July 2010 by Ofsted. The inspection sampled the quality and effectiveness of contact, referral and assessment arrangements and their impact on minimising any child abuse and neglect. The inspection identified areas of strength and satisfactory practice, with some areas for development. The LSCB will be monitoring actions arising from this, which will be covered in the 2010-11 Annual Report.

6 CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST

In 2006 the Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT) was launched. The Lead Member for Children's Services is a member of the city council Cabinet and, with the Chair of NHS Brighton and Hove, co-chairs the CYPT Partnership Board. The CYPT Board is the top decision making body for the partnership around children's services, with powers to make decisions concerning the commissioning and provision of services on behalf of the three parties to a Section 75 Agreement (the city council, NHS Brighton and Hove and South Downs Health NHS Trust -now known as Sussex Community NHS Trust).

The CYPT Board is also the senior forum for the discussion of policy and strategy across the partnership as a whole and is responsible for setting the strategic direction for these services. The CYPT Board is supported, and where necessary challenged, by the Chief Officers Group, the LSCB, and the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Director of Children's Services is its Chief Officer and is accountable for the commissioning, provider and governance arrangements that underpin the partnership. The partnership aims to provide high quality education, health and social care.

Paragraph 2.5 above refers to the formal relationship between the CYPT Board and the LSCB. In summary, it is one of mutual support and challenge. The LSCB chair, the Lead Member and Director of Children Services (DCS) met on a number of occasions in 2009-10, and the lead member has been a regular participant observer at the LSCB and also attended the LSCB annual conference. The LSCB chair has attended CYPT meetings and in November 2010 presented a preview of this report. The LSCB and CYPT have also agreed a protocol setting out the relationship and how this works in practice.

Following events surrounding Baby Peter in Haringey and the resulting review of national safeguarding policy, a series of reports and presentations were given to the CYPT Board by the DCS during 2009 regarding safeguarding and

child protection practice. A number of measures were taken to strengthen safeguarding and child protection arrangements in order to meet the recommendations from Lord Laming's report "The Protection of Children in England". This included a review of management and leadership arrangements within the CYPT and strengthening the relationship with the LSCB.

One of the responsibilities of a Children's Trust (CYPT) has been to produce a Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). Recommendations from the LSCB 2009 annual conference were considered in the creation of the 2009-12 CYPP. The LSCB Business Plan is linked to the CYPP Strategic Improvement Priority 1 regarding strengthening safeguarding and child protection, early intervention and prevention across the City. The safeguarding priorities have been informed by dialogue with the LSCB and include the following:

- Reviewing supervision arrangements to ensure all staff working on safeguarding have time for supported reflection.
- Establishing a CYPT Safeguarding Unit which will also support and complement the LSCB.
- Targeted services for the most vulnerable children: especially early planning for babies at risk, improving services for vulnerable families (for example with domestic violence or substance misuse), and children/young people at risk for example from teenage pregnancy or alcohol/substance misuse.
- Raising the profile of the LSCB.

Update

The new supervision policy has now been finalised and will be launched with social care staff on the 2nd February 2011 along with a new Quality Assurance Framework which has been developed as part of the improvement plan for children and families.

The safeguarding unit (Safeguarding and Quality Assurance) has now been established comprising a newly appointed Head of Safeguarding, a Business Manager for the LSCB and an Audit and Advocacy Manager. These three posts have joined two existing posts to form the unit which are the Manager for the Independent Reviewing Officers and the Clinical Service Manager for the Clermont Child Protection Unit.

Work is ongoing regarding targeting our most vulnerable children including training for practitioners involved in pre-birth assessments. The recent domestic violence audit has resulted in a multi-agency action plan that will be monitored by the LSCB.

The LSCB now has its own dedicated web site and held its 2nd annual conference in July 2010. More sustained efforts are needed from 2011 to establish a robust communication strategy.

There will be a fuller update in the 2010-11 Annual Report.

NB: Until late 2010, the title "CYPT" was used to describe the integrated health, education and social care services for children as well as for the CYPT Board which had a wider remit. "CYPT" is now only used in relation to its Board, and the operational, integrated services are known as "Children's Services".

7 NHS BRIGHTON AND HOVE

Shortly before this report was concluded, NHS Brighton and Hove (the Primary Care Trust (PCT)) produced an Annual Report, also covering April 2009 to December 2010. This covered not only the PCT's work but summarises the progress being made in each of the NHS Trusts that are commissioned by the PCT. NHS Brighton and Hove has statutory responsibilities both for setting standards of safeguarding in its specifications but also, on behalf of the NHS, to take an overview of how well NHS safeguarding is working. The LSCB Annual Report will not repeat the detail which can be seen in the PCT report, but below are some examples from their report. There will be further reference in the LSCB 2010-11 Report.

- It identifies the pressure from reported child protection incidence being higher locally than nationally.
- The introduction of a multi-agency meeting at BSUH to review the management of self harm by young people.
- A new case review meeting on fabricated or induced illness being led by the designated doctor.
- The formation of a PCT safeguarding committee in March 2010.
- The recruitment of an additional senior nurse to support the BSUH named nurse, especially with training, and increased named doctor sessions. New policies including supervision and domestic violence.
- A special assessment of BSUH safeguarding capability by the LSCB chair in response to the Trust sharing its concerns openly with the LSCB.
- The report identifies the safeguarding challenges with expansion of South Downs Health NHS Trust (now Sussex Community Trust) to include West Sussex.
- In 2009-10 the overlap of named and designated professional roles within South Downs Health was finalised.
- Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust introduced a new trust-wide safeguarding group with links to locally based groups, and an integrated safeguarding children action plan. It also ensured all child protection referrals across its wide catchment area were centrally monitored.

The PCT report describes a substantial amount of work during 2010-11 which will be referred to further in our next Annual Report. This includes NHS involvement in a wide range of audits, (including the LSCB's Section 11 and case file audits, and a case file audit on young people's alcohol misuse). The designated doctor and nurse now report to the PCT (through the Director of Public Health) as required in Working Together guidance. It describes the positive progress at BSUH and its close Board scrutiny of its action plan.

The LSCB has found this NHS report very helpful in monitoring progress, and will be discussing with members how it would be useful for each agency to do an annual safeguarding report (where not done already) which could be used as building blocks for the LSCB's own annual assessment of safeguarding.

8 CONCLUSION: CHALLENGES FOR 2010-11

2009-10 was a year of taking stock for the LSCB, with a new independent chair and two key new supporting posts: the LSCB Business Manager, and the council Head of Safeguarding. Work, which has continued into 2010-11, has been undertaken to strengthen the sub-groups, get a Business Plan in place, and more recently to clarify membership and create a chief officer-led Executive Group.

The 2010-11 Business Plan, stemming from thinking in 2009-10, continues the theme of strengthening the LSCB, and making more people aware of its purpose. It plans to formalise the relationship with the CYPT Board, and strengthen the oversight of SCR actions. It gives special attention to auditing work with domestic violence. Much of this has been done by this report's publication, and will be reported on fully in the 2010-11 Annual Report.

However, the LSCB structure and way of working is only a means to the end of being satisfied that safeguarding work is to the right standard, and to facilitate joint steps to produce any necessary improvements. The priority for the LSCB, having revised its own arrangements, must be to move to a more thorough process of mutual scrutiny, more tangible measures of success, and of improving the quality of direct work with children families. In other words, on what makes a difference in keeping children safe, and on helping its member organisations achieve the highest standards. This will be reflected in the Business Plan for 2011-12 which is to be prepared shortly.

9 APPENDICES

- A. LSCB Budget Statement 2009-10
- B. LSCB Multi-Agency Training Attendance Data 2009-10
- C. LSCB 2010-11 Business Plan

LSCB Budget Statement 2009-10
as at financial year end 31st March 2010

Detail	Budget	Spend to Year End	
<u>Staffing</u>			
Independent Chair	15,000	20,434	
LSCB Business Manager/Interim	54,900	44,256	
Staff Advertising	0	8,748	
Staff Training	0	195	
<u>Other Costs</u>			
Venue Hire	500	1,182	
Transport Costs	200	826	
Printing	11,500	1,221	
Telephone/Computer Costs	2,000	306	
Office Stationery	0	0	
Conferences	5,000	41	
Hospitality/Catering	300	581	
Reserve for Serious Case Review	10,000	232	
Communications	0	0	
Total LSCB Expenditure	119,100	101,602	-- 17498
<u>Funded By:</u>			
Brighton & Hove City Council - Core Funding	-73,500		
Brighton & Hove PCT - Contribution	-32,000		
National Probation Service	-4,000		
Sussex Police	-9,000		
CAFCASS	-600		
			-
Total Funding	119,100		
<u>Carry Forward to 10-11:</u>			
PCT, Probation, Police, CAFCASS	6,702		
Returned to B&H Council on request	-10,796		

Note: The Chair's overspend relates to the mid year increase in days. The underspend is largely related to (fortunately) having no SCR, no requirement to re print procedures and staff vacancies.

Training Attendance Data 2009-10

Course Title	No. of Course run 2009/10	Total Number of Attendees Each Service						Health/SD	Police	Probation	SPT	CVS	Private	Total
		BHCC	BSUH	CYPT	Education	Police	Probation							
Level Two														
Developing a Core Understanding	11	25	2	90	37	15	3	2	5	15	3	197		
Assessment, Referral and Investigation		17	0	47	19	7	0	2	7	111	3	111		
Child Protection, Conference and Core Groups	5	18	0	26	14	5	0	2	2	77	3	77		
Sub Total	23											385		
Level Three														
		BHCC	BSUH	CYPT	Education	Police	Probation	SPT	CVS	Private	Total			
Domestic Violence and Abuse	6	12	0	41	1	13	4	4	5	13	0	93		
Working with Parents who have a Learning Disability	2	7	1	22	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	37		
Mental Health and Parenting Capacity Day 1	2	1	0	12	0	4	0	0	12	2	0	31		
Mental Health and Parenting Capacity Day 2	2	1	0	12	0	4	0	0	11	2	0	31		
Risk and Men Who Commit Sexual Offences	2	2	0	12	1	5	3	0	2	3	0	28		
Substance Misuse and Parenting Capacity Day 1	3	2	0	25	0	5	0	9	5	2	0	48		
Substance Misuse and Parenting Capacity Day 2	3	2	0	25	0	5	0	7	5	2	0	46		
Undertaking Safeguarding Assessment Workshop Day 1	2	0	0	18	0	10	0	0	0	2	0	30		
Undertaking Safeguarding Assessment Workshop Day 2	1	0	0	11	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	17		
Undertaking Safeguarding Assessment Workshop Day 3	1	0	0	11	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	17		
Undertaking Safeguarding Assessment Workshop Day 4	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	8		
Undertaking Safeguarding Assessment Workshop Day 5	1	0	0	11	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	16		
Sub Total	26											401		
		43 courses x 20 places = 860												
		6 courses x 15 places = 90												
		BHCC	BSUH	CYPT	Education	Police	Probation	SPT	CVS	Private	Total			
		(860 + 90)	87	3	370	93	10	26	55	61	9	786		
Grand Total		950 available												
		LSCB TRAINING 2009 to 2010 TOTAL ATTENDANCE 786 (82.7%)												

- Key
- BHCC – Brighton & Hove City Council
 - BSUH – Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust
 - CYPT – Children and Young People Trust
 - Education – School staff in Brighton & Hove
 - Health/SDT – South Downs Health NHS Trust
 - Police – Sussex Police
 - Probation – Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust
 - SPT – Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
 - CVS – Community and Voluntary Sector

Brighton and Hove LSCB Business Plan 2010/11

As at November 2010

LSCB Objective 1: TO KEEP UNDER REVIEW THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ARRANGEMENTS TO SAFEGUARD AND PROTECT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE				
ACTION	OUTCOME	LEAD	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS
<p>I.1 Review progress on delivery of following developmental targets from 2008/09 business plan and provide update reports to the LSCB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Childhood neglect - Management of FII cases - e-safety strategy 	<p>Information will be presented to the LSCB to ensure that members are satisfied that arrangements for safeguarding children in B&H are satisfactory.</p>	<p>Health Advisory Group Health Advisory Group Staying Safe Sub Group</p>	<p>December 2010 September 2010 September 2010</p>	<p>December 2010 now agreed.</p> <p>Group provided update in May 2010 on previous work undertaken (former report to LSCB in Sept 08). Working group met in June 10. Feedback given to Sept LSCB. October executive agreed no additional priority – see minutes.</p>
<p>I.2 Ensure there is a robust audit programme in place to monitor and</p>	<p>Effective safeguarding recruitment and workforce practices are in place</p>	<p>Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>SI 1 audit tool completed by respective partner agencies in</p>

<p>evaluate partners' compliance with Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) requirements and implementation of their duties under section 11 of the Children Act 2004.</p> <p>1.3 In order to monitor the effectiveness of working practices across agencies undertake a thematic audit of Domestic Violence.</p>	<p>across all services responsible for working with children and young people.</p> <p>Focused attention on identified areas of concern within the City to help improve outcomes for particular vulnerable groups of children and young.</p>	<p>Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group</p>	<p>December 2010</p>	<p>October 2010. Analysis being undertaken and will be discussed at January LSCB Executive.</p> <p>Multi-agency audit completed August 2010. Final report to go to December 2010 LSCB.</p>
<p>LSCB Objective 2: ENSURE CLEAR GOVERNANCE OF ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN PLACE FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN</p>				
<p>ACTION</p>	<p>OUTCOME</p>	<p>LEAD</p>	<p>TIMESCALES</p>	<p>PROGRESS</p>
<p>2.1 Review Working Together guidance for LSCB duties and make any changes required as necessary.</p> <p>2.2 Produce a local statement on the relationship between the CYPT and LSCB, incorporating guidance from the new Working Together.</p> <p>2.3 Review the terms of reference for each sub group to include leadership and reporting arrangements.</p>	<p>LSCB members are aware of new guidance and implement changes as required.</p> <p>Clarity about the respective functions of the LSCB and CYPT and roles and responsibilities of members.</p> <p>Each sub group will have a clear remit, terms of reference and transparent reporting mechanism to the LSCB in line with Working Together.</p>	<p>LSCB Chair</p> <p>DCS/LSCB Chair</p> <p>LSCB Business Manager</p>	<p>September 2010</p> <p>September 2010</p> <p>December 2010</p>	<p>New guidance discussed at March and June Boards and annual conference in July 2010.</p> <p>Draft considered and agreed by October executive. Final version needs to relate to any revised CYPT arrangements under discussion. Now January 2011.</p> <p>Paper presented to October 2010 executive committee. ToRs revised in Nov 2010. December LSCB to agree on future remit of staying safe sub group.</p>

<p>2.4 Prepare a statement setting out the duties of Board members for agreement by members. The Chair to assess the Board's performance against these requirements annually.</p> <p>2.5 The LSCB will ensure that reports of external evaluations and inspections relating to Safeguarding in Brighton and Hove are presented to the Board and resultant action plans are monitored.</p>	<p>Each member of the LSCB will be clear about their role and responsibilities within the LSCB arena.</p> <p>Relevant partners and professionals are aware of recommendations affecting their areas of work and are able to effectively respond as necessary.</p>	<p>LSCB Chair</p> <p>LSCB Business Manager</p>	<p>September 2010</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Statement on duties of members agreed in principle at September LSCB. The October executive also agreed an approach to tightening membership for agreement at December LSCB.</p> <p>Ofsted unannounced inspection reported in July 2010. A major item at September LSCB with action plan progress due for December LSCB. Also discussed at CT Board on 1.11.10.</p>
<p>LSCB Objective 3 TO OVERSEE SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS, ENSURE ACTION IS TAKEN AND LESSONS ARE LEARNED</p>				
<p>ACTION</p>	<p>OUTCOME</p>	<p>LEAD</p>	<p>TIMESCALES</p>	<p>PROGRESS</p>
<p>3.1 Ensure that the LSCB has clear arrangements to disseminate the learning from SCRs including provision of necessary training.</p> <p>3.2 Monitor the completion of action plans and ensure that actions are completed.</p>	<p>Partners are fully aware of learning and improved safeguarding and child protection processes are put in place.</p> <p>Necessary recommendations are being implemented in a timely fashion.</p>	<p>LSCB Business Manager</p> <p>LSCB Business Manager/Standing SCR Panel</p>	<p>September 2010</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>No SCR in B&H since 2008. LSCB executive committee now sits as SCR Panel and monitors updates and reports to LSCB. September LSCB agreed for major SCR learning workshops by March 2011.</p> <p>G action plan monitored by SCR Panel meetings throughout 2010. Completed version to be signed off by December 2010 LSCB.</p>

LSCB Objective 4: PROMOTE SAFE RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, STAFF SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT					
ACTION	OUTCOME	LEAD	TIMESCALES	PROGRESS	
4.1 The LSCB will review and evaluate the provision and availability of single and multi-agency training to ensure training reaches all relevant staff arranging provision where agreed by members.	Training programme continues to be of a high standard and fully meets identified needs and outcomes.	Training Sub group	December 2010	Business Manager has reviewed programme with HoSG and LSCB Training Manager. Recommendations discussed with CYPT Workforce Development and LSCB Training Sub Group in Nov 2010. Revised programme to be available by 2011/12.	
4.2 The LSCB will, with the CYPT, review and supervision arrangements to ensure all staff receive the guidance and support they need.	Staff feel supported and are given adequate opportunities to reflect regularly on their safeguarding work.	Head of Safeguarding	March 2011	Currently in development.	
LSCB Objective 5: RAISE THE PROFILE AND PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE LSCB AND PROMOTE THE ROLE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE CITY'S SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS					
ACTION	OUTCOME	LEAD	TIMESCALES	PROGRESS	
5.1 Progress an effective communication strategy for the LSCB.	Better understanding of role of the LSCB; particularly amongst members of wider community.	Staying Safe Sub Group	December 2010	Commitment for £12.5K communications grant withdrawn by new government. Aim to have strategy by end of FY	

<p>5.2 Development of a dedicated Brighton & Hove LSCB website that is of benefit to both professionals and local people and families.</p> <p>5.3 Arrange conference for LSCB and partners including voluntary and community organisations.</p>	<p>Children, young people, their families, communities and professionals have up to date information and know what to do if they have concerns.</p> <p>Opportunity for relevant professionals to learn more and share information regarding safeguarding issues.</p>	<p>LSCB Business Manager</p> <p>LSCB Business Manager</p>	<p>July 2010</p> <p>July 2010</p>	<p>2010/11.</p> <p>LSCB website launched in September 2010.</p> <p>Annual conference held at Slaugham Manor on 5 July 2010. Agenda items include: WT2010; Inspection Process and Regulatory Issues; Tiered Interventions and Duty & Assessment Thresholds; DV and raising profile of LSCB.</p>
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ⁱ End Note

The chair of respective sub groups will have responsibility for ensuring actions are completed. The Head of Safeguarding and LSCB Business Manager will assist those sub groups where neither of them is acting as chair if necessary.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 52

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Children and Families Social Work Improvement Plan		
Date of Meeting:	23rd March 2011		
Report of:	Head of Children and Families		
Contact Officer:	Name:	James Dougan	Tel: 01273 295511
	E-mail:	james.dougan@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:			
Wards Affected:			

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 Summary

1.1.1 The report is to update the CYPOSC of the Children & Families Social Work Improvement Plan.

The Improvement Programme is a result of the work undertaken following the unannounced two day Ofsted inspection to initiate a significant step change in quality of social work services provided to children, parents and carers in Brighton & Hove.

1.1.2 The improvement plan has four key elements which sit alongside the Value for Money Programme:

1. Areas for development plan (improving practice)
2. Management and delivery structure
3. Quality Assurance Framework
4. Workforce Development

1.1.3 The aims of the improvement programme are:

- i. Promote an effective management culture throughout Brighton & Hove Children & Families Children's Social Work Service
- ii. Focus on performance and delivery of high quality services
- iii. Develop the talents and skills of the workforce and fully engage staff in the strategic development and operational work of the service
- iv. Ensure VfM by effective control and the most efficient use of the funding and resources
- v. Take account of national developments in social work

- 1.1.4 Social workers have a unique and pivotal role alongside their professional colleagues in the Police and Health Visiting, in the task of protecting the most vulnerable in our society.
- 1.1.5 Whilst systems and procedures play an important role in the protection of children, the protection of children fundamentally relies on sound professional practice by social workers equipped with skills in assessing risk, skills in working directly with families and most importantly in a spirit of respectful scepticism, with these skills and confidence in these skills to make inherently difficult judgements. To do this difficult task social workers need to be supported with the necessary resources alongside professional supervision, training, management and leadership.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To inform the CYPOSC of the progress of the improvement programme.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Children's social work milestone planner which details the milestones for the improvement programme (Appendix 1)
- 3.2 The Areas for Development Plan (Appendix 2)

4. Consultation

Not applicable

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

There are a number of activities outlined in the report. As these develop and detailed proposals become available specific costings will need to be calculated in order to understand the full financial implications of the proposals.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis

Date: 9th March 2011

5.2 Legal Implications:

The actions outlined in the Development Plan directly address core statutory functions of the Local Authority in relation to child protection and therefore form an important and integral part of meeting the legal duties imposed by statute. By definition the Human Rights [as enshrined in the Human Rights Act 1998] of children and families

affected by the exercise (or not) of these statutory duties must be taken into account by the Local Authority.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson Date: 9th March 2011

Equalities Implications:

5.3 None

Sustainability Implications:

None

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 None

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 None

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 None

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 None

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 To comply with the Areas for Development as outlined in the Annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within Brighton and Hove children's services

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Children's Social Work Milestone Planner
2. Areas for Development Plan

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None

						Milestone baseline and progress reported to Project
Milestone Completed	Milestone on Target	Milestone overdue / missed	Milestone at Risk	Date TBC	Milestone on hold	

Children's Social Work – Milestone Planner 2010 / 2011 – Version 09.03.11

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Activity	Owner	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2011	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
City Wide reorganisation		10 th Sept Di Smith leaves organisation		1st Nov Terry Parkin (Strategic Director of Children) starts. 1st Nov City Wide reorganisation takes place. Children &											
Area Development Plan		Area Development Plan completed	1 st Oct Workshops with manager about implementation of development plan		10 th Dec CMM				1 st Review						
Restructure Phase 1						11 th – Consultation meeting with Trade Unions 11 th – Informal meeting with staff 12 th - Formal Consultation starts 17 th – 21 st – Individual consultation meetings	2 nd – End of formal consultation period 9 th – Publish post consultation response By end of Feb – Confirmation of	By end of March – Proposed date for implementation of new structure Beginning of phase 2 – priority to be given to work stream around the 'front doors'							
Restructure Phase 2							8 th Feb - Phase 2 Themed Workstream Groups Agree TOR			Framework of Transfer Phase 2 Scoping of Themed Workstreams Groups 3 rd May AM meeting Phase 2 themed working groups taking place on dates: 10 th & 18 th May Children in Need LAC Front Door Buildings	Presenting proposals from Themed Workstream groups - 8 th June AM/SM/PM meeting Implementation of restructure. Phase 2 themed working groups completed. Children in Need LAC Front Door Buildings		Front Door move to Whitehawk		
QAF						Team impact plans : Themed issues : Individual plans : Coaching in Place Any area of Development defined & included in plan following Audit findings.	1 st Feb – Launch of QAF to AM/SM/PM's Second audit findings	Quarterly Impact Report Baseline SM roll out of QAF AM roll out of QAF IRO challenge report quarterly findings	IRO review of staffing & structure						

Activity	Owner	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2011	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
LADO Arrangements									▲ Union Consultation	▲ Recruitment to Permanent LADO post					
Supervision					▲ Discussion with Unions ▲ Final Changes		▲ 6 half day roll out sessions ▲ New supervision and training policy	▲ SM start undertaking supervision audits							△ 1 st Review
Review of Workload Weighting							▲ Start of review Stage 1 – Preparation for focus groups.	▲ Stage 1 – 3 focus groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information Officer's ▪ Practice Manager's ▪ Service Manager's 	△ Completion of Stage 1 by 5 th April △ Work on Stages 2 & 3 →	△ Completion of review by mid May					

The Areas for Development Plan

The Areas for Development Plan attached is a result of the Annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within Brighton and Hove children’s services. The letter was previously presented to the Children & Young People’s Trust Board on 1st November 2010.

The Areas for Development Plan covers 7 areas:

Table 1

	Summary of Areas for Development	Lead responsibility
1.	Review the role of Social Work Resource Officers	Richard Hakin
2.	Review of thresholds for S47	Nigel Hancock
3.	Review of Initial Assessments process	Andy Whippey
4.	Review quality of Child Protection plans and outcomes	Jane Doherty
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Review embedding of CAF in the social work care pathway b. Development of Children in Need Pathway 	Andy Whippey/Ellen Jones
6.	Improve quality of Initial and Core Assessments and to develop the Quality Assurance Framework	Andy Whippey/Jane Doherty
7.	Areas of Development ongoing from the Quality Assurance Framework Audits	All

March 2011

<p>Area Of Development</p>	<p>1. Review of the role of Social Work Resource Officers - Initial & core assessments being undertaken by unqualified staff (ie SWRO's). - Not compliant with Working Together or with Ofsted unannounced inspection of BHCC 2010 or JAR inspection findings 2006.</p>
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<p>Source</p>	<p>Ofsted Unannounced Inspection</p>
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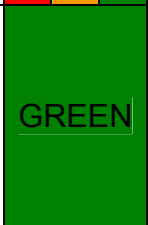
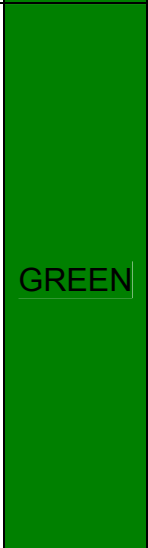
<p>Aim</p>	<p>1) – To review options to respond to the above development area regarding concerns about assessment work done by non-social work qualified staff by producing an options paper for senior management discussions. 2) – To use this to agree a way forward to respond to this concern either by amending current assessment work allocation processes or by entirely changing them. 3) – To then implement this new agreed plan in earliest possible timescales.</p>
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<p>Measurable Success</p>	<p>1) – Proper informed consideration of the opportunities and risks of all options for change, how it might be achieved and whether new processes are sustainable in context of long term fluctuations in availability of qualified social workers. 2) – Senior social work managers seek agreement for our direction which allows common approach and agreed timescales for implementing. 3) – Plan of implementing change then set out and agreed. This is then followed through successfully. Seek to both maintain or improve assessment quality and also meet national required standards and have a successful plan recognised in 10 day inspection as no longer requiring development.</p>
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<p>Owner</p>	<p>Richard Hakin</p>
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March 2011

Area Of Development	1. Review the role of Social Work Resource Officers - Completion of assessments by qualified social workers/SWRO's
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No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones	Rag Rating	Lead
1)	First discussion & options paper 14-09-10	Discussed at area managers meeting of 15-09-10	Agreed further work to be done on some options areas	 <p>GREEN</p>	RH
2)	Second addendum paper 11-10-10	Discussed at area managers meeting of 13-10-10	Decision made to 1) - pursue business case for additional qualified social worker posts to carry out all IA's & 2) – Look at overall staff and team	 <p>GREEN</p>	Head of Service and all AM's

March 2011

No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones	Rag Rating	Lead
			structure/ configuration & potential within this for duty SWRO's to transfer to child in care and complex cin case work		
3)	1) – Business case regarding qualified posts to carry out IA's 2) – Review structure and alternative role for duty SWRO's	Submitted October 2010 Ongoing – end date to be confirmed	Agreement to recruit	AMBER	Head of Service & all AM's

March 2011

Area Of Development	<p>2. Review the thresholds for Section 47 and the comparatively low numbers resulting in ICPC.</p> <p>Although significant progress has been made in reducing the caseloads of social workers, the high numbers of section 47 enquiries and their prioritisation is impacting on the management of children in need assessments. The council has yet to review the thresholds for section 47 enquiries and the comparatively low numbers of these resulting in initial child protection conferences</p>
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Source	Ofsted Unannounced Inspection Chandler IMR
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Aim	To ensure that we establish a view on section 47 thresholds and to build a work programme that will enable us to respond to the findings.
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Measurable Success	A service which is more responsive to children in need but ensures effective safeguarding. Improvement is seeing the appropriate children in a timely fashion within a CIN process which can demonstrates case planning.
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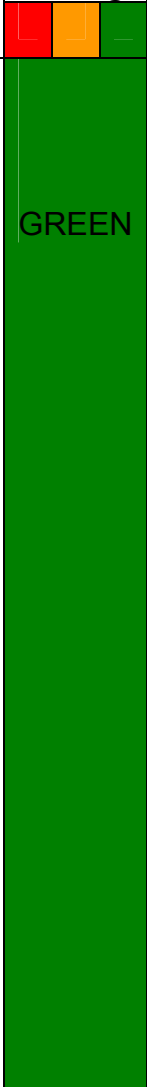
Owner	Nigel Hancock
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March 2011

Area Of Development	2. Review the thresholds for section 47 and the number of section 47 investigations resulting in ICPC and a protection plan
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No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones	Reg Rating	Lead
					
1.	<p>Explore the hypothesis by</p> <p>Looking at the process and determining what percentage of Sec 47 Investigations lead to ICPC's and in turn what percentage do not lead to a Child protection Plan</p> <p>Seek comparative data on the drop our rate in other LA</p>	<p>One year Sept 2009 to the end of July 2010.</p> <p>711 Sec 47 Events led to 406 ICPC and 352 plans</p> <p>57% of section 47 events led to ICPC</p> <p>86% of ICPC's led to a Child Protection Plan. Drop out rate is therefore 14%</p> <p>There is a very variable national picture. Drop out rates :</p> <p>Milton Keynes 1.4%</p> <p>Surrey 7%</p> <p>East sussex 12.5%</p> <p>Southampton 28 %</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	NH

March 2011

No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones	Rag Rating	Lead
	<p>Audit 30 section 47 Events to satisfy that the threshold criteria Are met</p> <p>Evaluation: .</p>	<p>Ten section 47 Cases from each team were audited and did not indicate any significant problem</p> <p>This authority seems to be tracking in the middle of the comparator band and no discernable problem was identified in this area. In order to future proof this area of work the author would make some recommendations that will carry forward into other Areas for development</p> <p>If there were to be a tendency to put too few or too many assessments into a section 47 process too many would be the safest place to be. The evidence of continuing progress collected from the ten best authorities reflected on prompt action to investigate concerns and ensure that children are safeguarded.</p> <p>I recommend that we future proof this process using the other areas for development.</p>	<p>Completed</p>	 <p>GREEN</p>	

March 2011

No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones	Rag Rating			Lead
				Red	Orange	Green	
2.	The current Initial Assessment process needs to be reviewed in the light of the inspectors comments. If we can demonstrate that CIN cases are getting an adequate and timely response then any issue in this area of work would not be particularly relevant.	See Area for development: CIN Planning and IA's	Completed	GREEN			
3.	It is necessary to demonstrate that there is a CIN planning process which provides a sound alternative to a CP planning process. I would recommend that we use the CP planning area for development to produce a more robust planning process for CIN cases.	See Area for development CP Planning	Ongoing	AMBER			
4.	Continue to Audit and performance manage the system		Ongoing	GREEN			
5.	Further development of the CAF/TAF process is essential to reduce the input into Social Work Duty Teams and to help make referrals	See the appropriate area for development	Ongoing	GREEN			EJ

Area Of Development	<p>3. Review of Initial Assessment process</p> <p>To address the issues within the Ofsted unannounced relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are unacceptable delays in seeing some children in need. This delay results in potential risk to children • in order to meet conflicting priorities and manage the pressure of work, a significant number of Initial Assessment are being signed off by managers as complete before the child, or young person, has been seen • because of drift and delay in completing Initial Assessments, Core Assessments are being started and used inappropriately to complete what could be clearly be an Initial Assessment
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Source	Ofsted Unannounced Inspection
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Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to redefine the process of Initial Assessments and duty referrals to ensure that each Initial Assessment has a visit to the child • to agree that no cases will be moved from Initial Assessments to Core Assessments unless the level of need/risk necessitates a Core Assessment <p>to redesign Duty Teams to ensure more activity is devoted to ensuring more initial contacts can be seen through to a conclusion within a 24 hour period</p>
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Measurable Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of IAs where child is seen • number of IAs completed within the statistical definition • number of ICs completed • number of ICs completed within the statistical definition • reconfiguration of duty services to ensure more resources are devoted to a first response front door, enabling Initial Contacts to be dealt with within 24 hours rather than needing to become an Initial Assessment
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Owner	Andy Whippey
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Area Of Development	3. Review of Initial Assessment Process
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No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones	Rag Rating	Lead
1	Redesign of duty front door	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> number of workers on duty front door on any given day number of Initial Contacts being processed within 24 hours 	Workshops on 15 th & 22 nd March	AMBER	AW
2	IA process redesign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> number of IAs where children seen (1002) number of IAs completed within statistical definition within 10 days 	Completed	GREEN	AW
3	Audit of IAs/Cores	To identify whether any Core Assessments are being started unnecessarily as a means of trying to hit the numerical indicators	Completed	GREEN	AW

Area Of Development	4. Review the quality of child protection plans and outcomes
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Source	Ofsted Unannounced Inspection
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Aim	To improve services to children subject to a Child Protection Plan
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Measurable Success	<p>Develop standards for CP plans and what they should contain e.g.</p> <p>Child Protection Plans are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed • Child centred, • Outcome focused • Properly recorded on ICS <p>Child Protection Plans should contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear actions, timescales and person responsible • contingency plans if change not achieved • the person responsible for ensuring the actions are completed, • the time-scale within which the changes must be effected, • the services to be offered, by whom and for how long, in order to promote the changes, • the work to be covered in the core or specialist assessment,
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Owner	Jane Doherty
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Area Of Development	4. Review quality of Child Protection Plans and outcomes
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No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones	Rag Rating			Lead
				R	A	G	
1.	Improve the quality of child protection plans Plans to be child centred and outcome focused	<p>Sessions with IROs planned for 22nd September to address quality of Child Protection Plans Develop standards for child protection plans by end of November</p> <p>Discussion with IROs about CP plans to raise the issue of plans needing to be outcome focused and child centred.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior IRO to audit/review CP plans with HoS and identify strengths and areas for development By end of November 2010 • Develop 'model' CP plans for IROs by end of November • Complete team self assessment by end of November • Implement QAF by end of November 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>In progress</p>	GREEN			JD

March 2011

No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones		Lead
2.	Provide refresher training to SWs and their managers to ensure compliance with ICS recording	Initial meeting with Jo D'arcy 5.11.2010	In Progress	AMBER	JD
3.	Progress of CP plans to be reviewed at Child Protection Conferences	To be evidenced in minutes of CPCs Information from audit to be collated by end of November		AMBER	CP/JD
4.	Core groups to develop and review CP plan (to be evidenced in core group minutes)	To be evidenced in core group minutes Information from audit to be collated by end of November		AMBER	JD/Area Managers
5.	Review and monitor child protection plans systematically over a period of three months	Introduce monitoring form for IROs to complete from 1 st September Advocacy and audit manager to analyse initial results by October Advocacy and audit manager to analyse initial results by November	Complete Complete In progress	GREEN	CP/JD
6.	IROs and responsible PMs/SMs to review cases of children subject to CP plans over 18 months and over 2 years	Management information about these cases to be produced by performance team and sent to senior IRO to distribute Senior IRO to analyse cases once identified.	Complete In progress	AMBER	JD and Area managers

March 2011

No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones		Lead
7.	As part of QAF CP to audit 3 CPCs per month and feedback to individual IROs on progress	Results to be analysed by A&A Manager to identify areas of good practice and areas for development	Ongoing	AMBER	JD/TJ
8.	Interim arrangement to be put in place to ensure CP plans are recorded on ICS Improve consistency between the area teams	When the IRO opens the Child Protection care Plan on the day of Child Protection Conference (or the next) the TA will cut and paste the decisions of the conference into the essential safeguarding needs section of the ICS Child Protection Plan directly from the conference report. This can then be taken as a word document for the first core meeting and the amendments taken back to the ICS document.	Ongoing	AMBER	All

Area Of Development	5a. Review embedding of CAF in the social work care pathway and the development of Children in Need pathway
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Source	Ofsted Unannounced Inspection
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Aim	To increase numbers and quality of Family CAF and TAF plans, ensuring cost effective early intervention to improve outcomes and reduce the need for higher tier services
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Measurable Success	<p>Increase in CAF numbers from July 2010 baseline. Improve % of CAF's completed on time</p> <p>Increase quality of CAF's and TAF's as measured by regular audit</p> <p>Reduce the numbers of referrals to social care where appropriate early intervention and preventive services, as measured by CAF and TAF plans have not been offered.</p>
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Owner	Ellen Jones
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March 2011

Area Of Development	5a. Review embedding of CAF in the social work care pathway and development of Children in Need Pathway
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No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones	Rag Rating			Lead
1.	Increase in CAF activity	Targets have been set for an increase in numbers of CAF's from approximately 60 in June and July 2010 to 100 per month from August. Each service has individual targets set and monitored by service managers. CAF activity and progress monitored for each professional by their manager. CAF activity is monitored by worker type and team to monitor progress against targets.	CAF numbers have increased over the last year and compare well to other LA's however, the target has not been reached and will remain in place	AMBER			Ellen Jones
2.	Increase in CAF quality, plus improved action planning	Audit timetable established. Each Service Manager auditing random selection of CAFs, Action Plans and Reviews against practice standards. Excellent and poor practice fed back in performance reviews and supervision. Target is increase in percentage of good or excellent judgements plus reduction in poor judgements from first audit baseline.	Quality still very mixed, but progress is being made. We have demonstrated that ongoing audit of quality and	AMBER			Ellen Jones

March 2011

No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones	Rag Rating	Lead
			oversight by managers can drive up quality- see Under 5's service		
3.	Provide appropriate training to skill up the workforce to undertake good quality CAF's and Team around the Family plans	Provision of ongoing training to meet identified skills gaps in needs analysis, action planning, chairing TAF meetings. Ensure good multi agency representation by monitoring take up and targeting agencies not represented.	Regular Think Family training planned for a further 6 months plus additional focussed workshops to meet identified need	GREEN	Ellen Jones
4.	Embed a family based approach to ensure holistic and systemic approach to needs assessment and planning across children's and adults services	Launch of Family CAF on 23 rd November	Event was very well attended- 150 attendees from 60 different agencies including schools and colleges and	AMBER	Ellen Jones

March 2011

No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones	Rag Rating			Lead
				Red	Yellow	Green	
			adult services. Family CAF still new and we are working to embed				
5.	Clarify thresholds for CAF and TAF in order to reduce inappropriate referrals to social work, NFA's and re referrals	Launch Brighton & Hove Continuum of Needs 23 rd November Monitor impact through numbers of inappropriate referrals to social work and referrals to social work with an existing CAF & TAF	Slow increase of numbers of referrals to SW with CAF. SW redirecting cases to CAF as appropriate	AMBER			Ellen Jones

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Area Of Development	5b. Development of CiN Pathway
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Source	Ofsted Unannounced Inspection
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Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To clarify the processes by which Children in Need receive service provision. i. To clarify the routes by which Children in Need move in and out of the Social Work Pathway. ii. To develop a Child in Need protocol/process within the Social Work Pathway.
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Measurable Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in number of children the subject of a CAF. • Increase in number of children with Action Plans/Reviews as a result of the CAF process. • Numbers of children increasing who are the subject of a Child in Need Plan. • Decrease in the number of children re-referred into Children's Social Care. • Decrease in the number of children reregistered in terms of a CP Plan.
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Owner	Andy Whippey
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Area Of Development	5b. Development of CiN Pathway
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March 2011

No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones	Rag Rating	Lead
					
1.	Launch event for CAF being the referral route into Children's Social Care planned for 23.11.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance at event Attendance at training events Number of CAFs being completed 	Increase in number of CAFs by 01.01.11	AMBER	AW/EJ
2.	Development of clear CIN Planning framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear CIN framework with Action Plans/review processes Numbers of children subject to formal CIN process 	% in number of children subject to formal CIN process 01.01.11	AMBER	AW/EJ
3.	Development of document entitled support for Brighton and Hove families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarity re levels of intervention and the service provision at each level 	Increase in number of CAFs 01.01.11	AMBER	AW/EJ
4.	Clarity re how children move in and out of the Children's Social Work framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear pathway to be produced in conjunction with the continuum of need document entitled supporting Brighton and Hove families 	Pathway produced by 01.01.11	AMBER	AW/EJ

Area Of Development	<p>6. Improve quality of Initial and Core Assessments and develop the Quality Assurance Framework</p> <p>Assessments are of variable quality and some Initial Assessments are poor as the views of parents/children/young people are not sufficiently evidenced.</p>
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Source	Ofsted Unannounced Inspection
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Aim	<p>To ensure the quality of assessments is improved with greater clarity of the views of parents/children/young people evidenced. To ensure assessments contain sufficient detail and analysis as a basis on which to make future decisions.</p> <p>To improve services to children, young people and their families by developing a comprehensive QAF</p>
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Measurable Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - % of IAs/Cores identified by internal auditors as good - numbers of Core Assessments identified by IROs as good - % of IAs where the views of children/young people/carers are clearly recorded - Sustained measurable improvements in: improved KPIs and improvements in practice and therefore outcomes for young people
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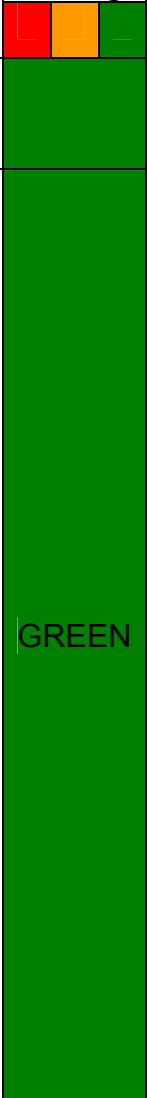
Owner	Andy Whippey/Jane Doherty
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March 2011

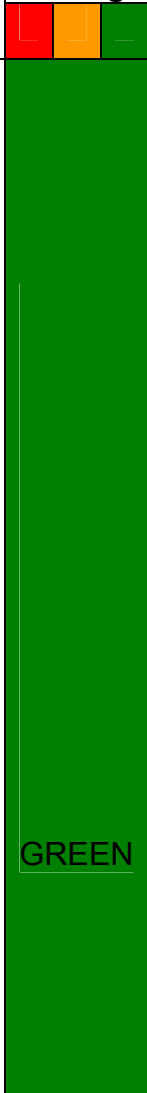
Area Of Development	6 Improve quality of Initial and Core Assessments and develop the Quality Assurance Framework
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No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones	Rag Rating	Lead
					
1	Workshops to be held in every Duty Team re addressing issues of quality and clarity as to the level of detail/analysis which needs to go onto an Initial and Core Assessment	Dates for workshops to be set	1.12.10	 GREEN	AW
2	PMs/SMs not to sign off IAs until they are satisfied that view of parents/children/young people are sufficiently evidenced	Audit of completed Initial and Core Assessments	1.12.10	 GREEN	AW
3	Thematic audit re the view of children/young people/carers	Numbers of IAs/Core Assessments which have views clearly recorded, as well as level of detail/analysis	1.12.10	 AMBER	AW
4	Content of Quality Assurance Framework	The Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) should include the following 1. Specificity about the areas of practice / activity / business process that are being audited. 2. General auditing activity	End of November 2010	 GREEN	JDoh


No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones	Rag Rating	Lead
		<p>3.The choice of what to focus on is likely to change over time : once we are satisfied as an organisation that a particular area of activity is working well, the focus of auditing activity should be shifted to another area.</p> <p>4. In terms of the focus of auditing, the outcome of local Serious Case Reviews or locally known areas of concern could help determine the focus; for example, areas of joint concern identified by inspections.</p> <p>5. The responsibility for the QAF needs to be comprehensive and ensure that managers at all levels are involved – from front line managers to senior managers, DCS, LM, and CEO.</p>			
5	Auditing schedule	Children’s Services need to agree an annual programme of audit priorities which link with those of the LSCB and other partners		GREEN	
6	Standards	There needs to be a set of standards and criteria against which the areas of practice etc are being measured. Many of these can be drawn from existing sources: the Pan Sussex		GREEN	

No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones	Rag Rating	Lead
		Safeguarding/Child Protection procedures, Working Together, NSF, performance indicators etc.			
7	Methods	<p>A range of methods can be used for auditing, and which method is used will in part be dependent on the content being audited.</p> <p>For some agencies and in some areas of child protection work, the auditing of case files held by agencies is an effective method and one referred to in Working Together.</p> <p>Other methods include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of audit tools • Scrutiny of key processes and requirements e.g. for safe recruitment checks to have been made, training to be delivered, procedures in place. • Focus groups of practitioners involved in a particular case. • Observations of practice. • Feedback from service users. 			

No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones	Rag Rating	Lead
8	Time-scales / frequency / extent	<p>There needs to be clarity about how frequently auditing is done and the scale of auditing activity.</p> <p>This is to ensure there is a proper balance between resources allocated to auditing and resources allocated to “doing the work”.</p> <p>Planning a time-table for auditing is essential to ensure it does happen: there is always a tendency for auditing work to not get done because of the pressures of day-to-day work.</p>		 GREEN	
9	The auditors	<p>Consideration needs to be given to who does the auditing in terms of expertise, authority and capacity</p>		 GREEN	
10	Governance and reporting arrangements	<p>The outcomes of auditing activity needs to be reported to the individuals / boards/services who have an overall responsibility for the quality of service in an agency / across agencies.</p> <p>These individuals / boards/services need to be specified so that receipt of auditing findings is built into their work programme in a systematic way.</p>		 GREEN	

No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones	Rag Rating	Lead
11	Staff involvement, Communication, Loop into practice / business and process development	<p>One of the key reasons for undertaking auditing activity is to ensure that where areas for development are identified, appropriate action is taken. This might take various forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shaping of training programmes • The development of new procedures • New working arrangements / methods. <p>Therefore, auditing activity should result in clear action plans which specify what needs to be done, and which are then monitored by those with governance responsibility.</p> <p>A key element of this on-going learning idea is to keep all staff concerned involved in the auditing activity so they understand why it is happening, where possible help to shape the standards and methodology, and are informed about the outcome and any changes arising.</p> <p>Auditing is often perceived as being a negative and critical process; in fact, it frequently highlights good practice, and</p>			

March 2011

No	Action(S)	Milestone(S)	Evaluation Against Milestones	Rag Rating	Lead
		part of the communication plan should be the sharing of good practice within and between agencies			

**AGENDA ITEM 53 - Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny
(CYPOSC) Work Programme June 2010- March 2011**

Issue /Topic	Date	Reason for the agenda item	Outcome and Monitoring
Letters from a member of the public and Cllr Davis on Primary School Places	16 June 2010	Standing Items on the Agenda	CYPOSC agreed to forward the concerns of the member of public to the CMM and a report was requested to answer Cllr. Davis' concerns
New Council's responsibilities for 16-19 Education and Training	16 June 2010	Suggested by the Directorate	Considered and commented on the report.
Schools Exclusions Scrutiny Report	16 June 2010	CYPOSC to endorse the report before it goes to any other committees	Endorsed and refer the recommendations to the council's Executive and to the appropriate partner organisations
Arrangements for the governance, commissioning and provision of children's services	16 June 2010	Important changes to the governance and working structure of CYPT – in response to legislative changes and emerging best practice	Youth Services Review to be timetabled into the work programme. CYPOSC to ask the CYPT to seek the views of the Parent Carers' Council when looking at issues with parent carer interest
Understanding Intervention	16 June 2010	Suggested by the Directorate	Considered and commented on the presentation
Performance Update for CYPOSC	15 September 2010	Standing item	Noted the report and requested that the information be presented in a different format next time
In-Year Grant Savings	15 September 2010	From Full Council 15/7/2010	Agreed to have a short report summarising the main points of the connexions savings and it's impact on services
Primary School Places	15 September 2010	In response to Cllr Davis' letter	CYPOSC noted the proposals and statistical information
Strategic Director (SD) of People	10 November 2010	CYPOSC invited	Noted the priorities of the SD
Youth Council 3:1 Campaign	10 November 2010	YC put forward	To receive an update on the progress of the campaign
Next steps of Academies	10 November 2010	Suggested by the Directorate	Noted the information

**AGENDA ITEM 53 - Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny
(CYPOSC) Work Programme June 2010- March 2011**

Issue	Date	Reason for the agenda item	Outcome and Monitoring
Youth Services Commissioning Review - Update	10 November 2010	Report requested from the 16/06/2010 meeting	Recommended that the cultural Provision for Children and Young People Scrutiny Report should be considered by officers when they revise the Youth Services Commissioning Strategy
Commissioning Review of Services for Disabled Children	10 November 2010	Suggested by the Directorate	Agreed to receive an update
Ofsted unannounced inspection	10 November 2010	Requested by the Chair	Agreed to have a report on the Child Protection Improvement Programme
CYPT Budget proposals	26 January 2011	To feed into the budget proposals	The Committee requested additional information on the restructuring of Education Welfare service, partner performance regarding welfare assessment referrals, staffing information of social worker assessment times, a report on how Children's Services were engaging with the local 3 rd sector and "Outcomes" to be added to the "menu of service interventions options – Prevention activities"
School examination and test results	E-mailed 12 January 2011	Suggested by the Directorate	
Local Safeguarding Children Board	23 March 2011	Suggested by the Directorate	
Corporate Parenting Strategy	23 March 2011	From the July 2010 scrutiny consultation	
Child Protection Improvement Programme	23 March 2011	Report requested from the 10/11/2010 meeting	
Child Poverty Task Group	23 March 2011	For consultation	