



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Overview & Scrutiny

Title:	Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date:	25 January 2012
Time:	2.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Brighton 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:

Powell (Chair), Lepper (Deputy Chair), Bennett, Brown, Buckley, A Kitcat, Pissaridou and Wealls

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

Rachel Travers	Community Voluntary Sector Forum
Mark Price	Youth Services
Liam Dunne	16+ Advisory Council
Rohan Lowe	Youth Council
Azdean Boulaich	Youth Council
Vacancy	Children's Social Care Representative

AGENDA

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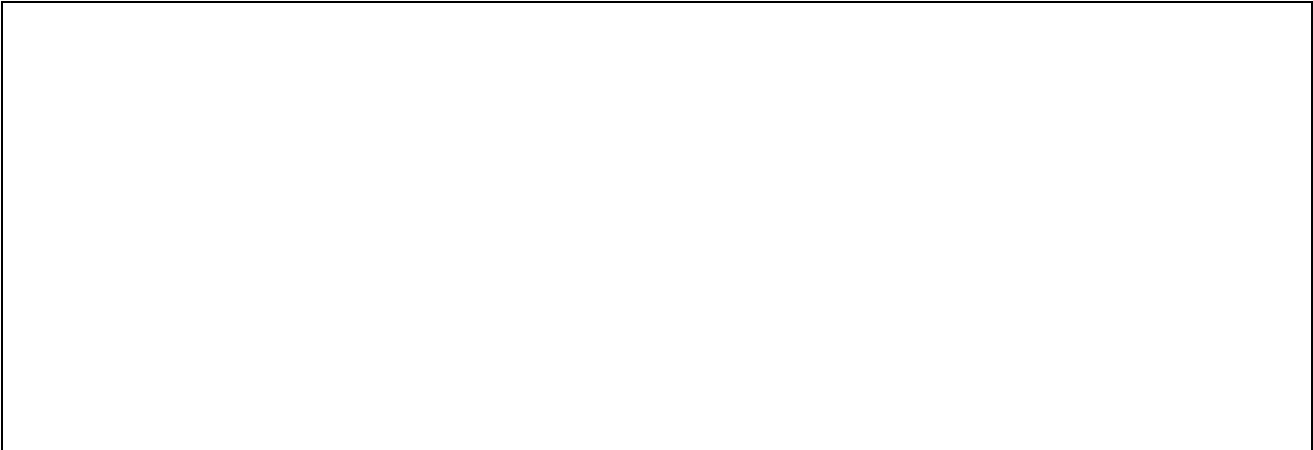
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Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

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

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Date of Publication - Tuesday, 17 January 2012

Agenda Item 27

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 9 NOVEMBER 2011

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Powell (Chair); Lepper (Deputy Chair), Bennett, Brown, Buckley, A Kitcat, Pissaridou and Wealls

Statutory Co-optees: with voting rights: David Sanders (Diocese of Arundel & Brighton) and Amanda Mortensen (Parent Governor Representative)

Non-Statutory Co-optees: Rachel Travers (Community Voluntary Sector Forum) (Non-Voting Co-Optee), Mark Price (Youth Services) (Non-Voting Co-Optee), Liam Dunne (Non-Voting Co-Optee) and Rohan Lowe & Azdean Boulaich (Youth Council) (Non-Voting Co-Optee)

Apologies: Mike Wilson

PART ONE

20. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

20a. Declarations of Substitutions

20.1 Apologies were received from Mike Wilson (Diocese of Chichester). There were no substitutes.

20b. Declarations of Interest

20.2 The Chair declared a personal interest as she works at the Friends Centre which provides careers advice for all age groups.

20c. Declaration of Party Whip

20.3 There were none.

20d. Exclusion from the Press and Public

20.4 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.

20.5 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public not be excluded from the meeting.

21. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

21.1 In respect of :

- Paragraph 15.8 a handout detailing the progress of a user satisfaction survey for Children with Autistic Spectrum Condition was noted.
<S:\Strategy & Governance\Scrutiny\CYPOSC\2011 June-2012 March\111109 November\Final\Progress on satisfaction survey- cyposc 9th nov.doc>
- Paragraph 16.2 (2) the CVSF representative added that the Parent and Carers' Council (PaCC) report on "Parent's views on the future of Special Education Needs (SEN)" had been followed up positively with the involvement of 3 Headteachers and a champion Headteacher had been appointed to take this forward.

21.2 The minutes from the 14 September 2011 were approved by the Committee.

22. CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS

22.1 The Chair informed the Committee that since the last meeting CYPOSC had undertaken a private workshop to input into the draft Youth Services Strategy. An additional meeting had been arranged for the 28 November, 2011 of which the Cabinet Member had been invited to.

22.2 The Committee visited City College to find out about apprenticeship and post 16 educational courses that were being offered to young people. The visit showed what impressive work the College was carrying out which included offering a variety of courses.

22.3 The Chair, Deputy Chair & Councillor Wealls met with the Young Carer of the Year (who was from East Sussex) to discuss their concerns and learn about the issues that families faced.

22.4 The Chair told the Committee that a letter had been sent to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People to advise her of the most salient points of the last meeting.

23. QUESTIONS AND LETTERS FROM THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

23.1 Councillor Mitchell introduced the item, advising the Committee that through her casework an anomaly had been identified in calculating home to school distances for the purposes of school admission and that the issue was now being resolved. The issue was that the computer programme did not recognise private roads. In one particular case an additional 245 meters was added onto the route.

23.2 Other issues raised by Members were :

- that shortcuts through parks were also not considered and in one case 150 meters had been added onto the route
- the front path outside Westdene Primary School was also not recognised.

23.3 CYPOSC agreed that this anomaly may have affected a number of children, especially primary school children and it was important that parents did not lose confidence in the system. The Committee requested a to hear a report at their next meeting which explained how school distances were calculated and how were anomalies addressed accurately.

24. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

24.1 Gina Hutchins – Headteacher of Woodingdean Primary School and Hilary Ferries – Strategic Commissioner Standards and Achievement (SCSA) introduced the Primary School section of the report.

24.2 The Headteacher advised that primary schools were working in partnerships to raise attainment, by sharing good practice, developing the curriculum, challenging each other and moderating and assessing children's work. Partnership work includes regular network meetings with Primary Headteachers, Governors, Business Managers and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCo's). The aim is to work towards a shared agenda for all primary schools within the city.

24.3 The other key priority is closing the gap and the Headteacher highlighted the benefits of using the Every Child Counts (ECC) and Every Child a Reader (ECaR) programmes. These are intensive maths and reading programmes for Key Stage One children.

24.4 Members raised a number of points including:

1. On the current varying and challenging levels of children's school work and whether this was apparent previously? Members were advised that school used to moderate work internally and there were some limited opportunities for schools to work together to level work. Now, schools are working together to do this so that there is a shared understanding and consistent approach to judging standards.
2. The issue of the gap between vulnerable groups and all other pupils was narrowing for maths and reading. It was noted that vulnerable groups were analysed through tracking each child's performance, interventions put in place then impact measured and further action taken.
3. Whitehawk Primary going into special measures, it was clarified that a large percentage of pupils in the school had Free School Meals and that extra support has been put in place. , this includes a National Leader of Education from London and teacher support from other schools. The school is also reviewing its systems.
4. Whether parental support at home for the children was encouraged in schools, Members were told that schools encouraged family learning. Schools offer parents to learn alongside their children and run workshops to give information to parents on teaching practices.
5. The issue of children not engaging at home, Members were advised that there were homework clubs. Whitehawk Library was being used for this purpose too.

- 24.5 The SCSA presented Standards and Achievement in Brighton & Hove Schools 2011 – Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 advising :
- Nursery, Early Years and Foundation Stage 1 (EYFS) – 87% are judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding.
 - Action: To prepare all practitioners working in Early Years to be ready to deliver the new EYFS framework in September 2012.
 - Key Stage One – overall standards remained in line with the national average in reading, writing and maths.
 - Key Stage 2 – results had risen 1% but were now 1% below national
 - Action: Support and challenge for schools who are judged to be satisfactory or below the floor standard.
- 24.6 It was asked whether children who seemed to be increasing their attainment year by year lost this over time. Why was it that when they went onto the next cohort this increase was lost? The SCSA would respond back to the committee.
- 24.7 Other points raised by CYPOSC were:
1. Concerns over the changing measuring practices of vulnerable groups and how the gap continued for disadvantaged children. It was advised that these practices were being reviewed and school partnership working and the pupil premium would provide additional support for these pupils.
 2. Why the “Below the Floor” primary schools had similar good grading from Ofsted but were in this category. Members were told that these are two different systems. ‘the ‘floor standard’ was changed in 2011 and applied retrospectively. It sets a measure for attainment and for progress that the DfE uses to judge school performance. Ofsted judge schools against a set of criteria for a range of aspects of school life.. The Ofsted results were of a different framework to the “Below the Floor” protocols.
 3. That it would be useful to also have mapped the areas of deprivation within the “KS2 Results for Brighton & Hove Summer 2011” chart. The group of schools identified as “Below the Floor” tended to always have pupil spaces. Members were advised that in some schools with small cohort sizes, one child could make a huge difference to the figures and ‘bring down’ the achievement of that class.
 4. The Committee agreed to congratulate Westdene Primary School as it was one of the first 100 schools in the country who have been selected to be a Teaching School as part the government’s new education policy.
- 24.8 Members thanked the Headteacher and the Strategic Commissioner for presenting a clear and comprehensive account of primary schools performance and partnership working.
- 24.9 Michael Nix – Partnership Adviser- Secondary, Colleges and Adult Learning presented Education Standards: Secondary & Post 16 Phases advising:
- Key Stage 3 – generally positive “narrowing the gap” progress
 - Work in clusters with primary schools to improve transition and information exchange

- Key Stage 4 – Further improvement in 5+ A*-C including Maths and English by 3.5 points to 52.6%: while this improvement was greater than the average for Statistical Neighbours (2.1%), it was less than the England average improvement (4.8%)
- No B&H secondary schools were below the principal 'floor' target set by the DfE (>35% 5+ A* - C including English and Maths), but performance was less good against the 'three levels of progress' targets for English and Maths, with only two of nine schools achieving all three floor targets
- Schools together and individually strengthening use of data to track pupil progress and set targets at school, subject, class and pupil levels.

24.10 Janet Felkin Head Teacher at Blachington Mill presented the key features and aims of the Secondary Schools Partnership initiative:

- Coalition of all secondary schools including academies and faith schools
- The Raising Achievement Plan (RAP)
- Behaviour and Attendance Partnership (BAP)
- Sustainable partnership- Improved communication amongst all secondary schools
- The use of resources and creative ways of sharing data
- Closing the gap

24.11 Members thanked the Partnership Adviser and Headteacher for their succinct and informative presentations. Members raised the points below:

1. If a Headteacher was identified to support another school who was failing in a particular subject how did they manage this? Members were informed that the Headteacher would have to balance the needs of their own school with the other school and would consider the best way of making expert staff available to the other school whilst maintaining the interests of the home school.
2. Concerns over the increase in the gaps of KS3 pupils with SEN and all other pupils in English, maths and science. Members were advised that there was a genuine improvement however the results were calculated differently in 2011. Equally different cohorts have varying factors which would affect the results. There are some cohorts where their predicted grades would be lower than the previous year due to the range of pupils in that cohort. CYPOSC agreed to receive this data on an annual basis to compare the progress in "narrowing in gap".
3. Whether children in private education achieved better exam results, the Committee were told that not all private schools results were outstanding and that parents and children will have various reasons for choosing private education, taking into account for example their backgrounds and aptitudes. Comparisons between private and maintained schools were not straightforward.
4. The English Baccalaureate figures for 2011 showed Cardinal Newman & Dorothy Stringer had performed well. However, the Headteacher told the Committee that this new measure had been introduced at very short notice and did not take into account the curriculum choices that pupils had already made. She advised the Committee of concerns that the introduction of the EBac could skew pupils' GCSE choices, if it became apparent that the EBac was required for entry to certain university courses.

This could result in pupils making inappropriate curriculum choices, in which they may be less successful. Schools were waiting to hear further on the EBac before considering possible changes to their curriculum.

5. A Youth Council Representative highlighted that they hadn't been asked about planning their careers since they were in Year 9 and now they were in Year 11. CYPOSC were told that career guidance provision was now a responsibility of the schools but that there is currently a service gap in the provision of impartial Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG). The local authority is supporting schools by providing 1.5 Careers Education Information advice and Guidance (CEIAG) Advisers posts to work with schools to improve information available to young people.

24.12 Philip Ward - Service Manager – Youth Employability Service (YES) and Michael Nix - Partnership Adviser- Secondary, Colleges and Adult Learning presented the Post 16 information to the Committee. The Committee were advised of factors such as :

- Raising the Participation Age (RPA): to 17 by 2013 and to 18th birthday by 2015
- developing Apprenticeships and Pre-Apprenticeships
- partnership working between schools and colleges so that all provision was rated as good or outstanding
- the YES team had been in operation for 6 months and were part of the Delivery Service for Children, Youth & Families headed up by James Dougan.
- the team were using sophisticated social media, partnership working with the Voluntary Sector through Aspire and working from city's libraries to promote and publicise the service.

24.13 Jenny Barnard Langston – Chair of Governors – Blatchington Mill introduced the “Raising Standards in Brighton & Hove secondary schools through collaboration between governing bodies” project. The Chair of Governors advised that their expectation was to offer parents and all students equality for an education that offers every student the framework and resources in which to achieve their highest possible potential no matter which school they attend.

24.14 A Youth Council Representative questioned whether the Council were able to offer work experience that could lead to possible permanent employment. Members were informed that the Council was committed to offering apprenticeships wherever possible; one example was a Business and Administration Level 3 apprentice recently appointed to support the Raising the Participation Age project. The Council were looking at further improving these opportunities to young people.

24.15 CYPOSC were told that the current YES Opportunities for You newsletter publicised a range of different level 1 and pre-apprenticeship programmes. The national apprenticeship website was currently advertising over 40 apprenticeship vacancies in the area. This showed that there was no shortage of opportunities, however it was important to find out whether the jobs that were on offer were ones that young people were interested in applying for.

24.16 It was confirmed that leavers with SEN were supported by the YES team. Members requested information on the proportion of 16+ leavers that had SEN.

24.17 In answer to a question on how the YES teams targets were calculated. Members noted that the targets had been calculated locally and not nationally. Members requested further information on this.

24.18 In answer to a question on how leavers were being reached since the reduction in staff, Members were told leavers were contacted by the team via social media, texting or telephoning on a monthly basis to offer support and monitor leavers. The Committee heard how there was a need to join up the different elements of YES provision with schools, teachers and employers.

24.19 Members thanked the Service Manager, Partnership Adviser and Chair of Governor's for their informative introductions.

24.20 **RESOLVED** – CYPOSC requested answers or to follow up on the points below:

- (1) A response on why a yearly increase in attainment was lost when these classes moved up a year.
- (2) Annual feedback on the increase in the gaps of KS3 pupils with SEN and all other pupils in English, maths and science.
- (3) On the proportion of 16+ leavers that had SEN.
- (4) Further information on how the YES team's targets were calculated.

25. CYPOSC WORK PROGRAMME

25.1 Members were informed that the work programme was for noting.

25.2 RESOLVED –

- (1) Members agreed the work programme.

26. ITEMS TO GO TO CABINET, THE CABINET MEMBER OR TO COUNCIL

26.1 There were no items to forward to the Cabinet Member, Cabinet or Council.

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

AGENDA ITEM 31 - B&H Health & Wellbeing Board: Update

The 2011 Health & Social Care Bill requires that all upper-tier local authorities set up a Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB). HWBs are partnership bodies bringing together local authority elected members and officers, GP commissioners, and representatives of patients and the public in order to undertake high-level planning for health, public health and adult and children's social care across the local area.

HWBs must be established in shadow form by April 2012, ready to go live in April 2013.

The Government is not being particularly prescriptive about HWBs – the intention is that local areas develop an HWB appropriate to their circumstances. However, the Health Bill does set out some mandatory minimum functions and membership requirements.

Functions. The local HWB will be responsible for:

- Agreeing the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- Agreeing a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the local area (and holding commissioners to account – e.g. ensuring that their plans accord with the Strategy)
- Holding local GP commissioners to account for their commissioning plans
- Encouraging effective joint working between health and social care
- Encouraging public involvement in health and social care decision-making

These are minimum functions; HWBs can have other functions, such as themselves commissioning health, public health and social care. HWBs can also have a broader remit than core health and social care concerns – e.g. looking at services which affect the broader determinants of health, such as housing, air quality, worklessness etc.

Membership. The local HWB must include:

- Director of Public Health
- Director of Adult Social Services
- Director of Children's Services
- Representative of Clinical Commissioning Group (GP commissioners)
- Representative of Healthwatch (statutory organisation facilitating patient and public involvement in health and social care)
- Representative of NHS Commissioning Board: NHSCB (NHSCB is national NHS organisation responsible for national policy and for commissioning specialist and primary care health services)
- Elected member (i.e. local Cllr)

This is a minimum membership: HWBs can include other members.

Local Action. The Council has set up a Public Health and Wellbeing Project Board (PHWB), an officer group (led by Terry Parkin/Tom Scanlon/Denise D'Souza and including local GPs and NHS commissioners). The PHWB, after extensive consultation with stakeholders, has developed a draft model for the local HWB. We are now beginning consultation on this model – with elected members, GPs, key partnerships etc – with the intention of getting a final draft model signed off by Cabinet, Governance Committee and Full Council in early 2012.

Draft Model. The draft model we have developed is fairly close to the statutory minimum outlined above. This reflects the opportunities offered by the shadow year (2012-2013) to fine-tune the HWB – it's generally easier to add to a minimal model than it is to subtract from a maximal one. It also reflects the fact that the city has a history of effective partnership working across health and social care: we won't need to use the HWB to re-invent the wheel in terms of health and social care related partnership working.

Function. In terms of function, this is reflected in a decision to concentrate on 'core' health, public health and social care issues. The HWB will seek to engage with the broader determinants of health (e.g. housing quality, air quality, worklessness), but the primary focus will be on core services. Again, this is largely a pragmatic decision: the aim is to set achievable short term goals for the HWB rather than risk failing to hit over-ambitious targets.

We are clear, also, that the HWB should be a high-level group concerned with strategic planning across the local health economy. The HWB will not itself be a commissioning body, although it will hold city commissioners to account for working in line with the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy and for delivering outcomes. The HWB will therefore hold no budget of its own.

Membership. In terms of membership, the choice is essentially between a minimal membership well-suited to getting work done, but not necessarily representative of particular interest groups; or a broader membership which better reflects views from across the city, but is more unwieldy in terms of decision-making.

We have opted to keep membership to a manageable level, and in addition to the mandatory members detailed above, propose to include:

- An additional representative from the CCG (the statutory minimum is 1). This will allow the CCG to be represented by both a clinician (the CCG Chair) and a commissioner (the CCG Chief Operating Officer), fully utilising their specialist knowledge.
- A member from each of the two main opposition groups in addition to the Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Public Protection. This will help ensure that the HWB is able to represent the whole range of political views across the city.

- A young person – to represent children and young people’s views on health and social care matters. Although public engagement will be principally via Healthwatch, it is currently unclear whether Healthwatch will have a remit which includes children’s social care: the current statutory vehicles for public engagement in health and social care, Local Involvement Networks (LINKs), do not. Additionally, whilst the LINK remit does include children’s health services, few LINKs have been effective at engaging with young people.

HWB meetings will be held in public and will be ‘open’ – providing an opportunity for non-members to participate. It will therefore be possible for local people or stakeholder groups to engage with the work of the HWB without themselves being HWB members.

Scrutiny Involvement. The draft model went to HOSC for consultation in November 2011. There was also an opportunity for members to attend an HWB member seminar in late November 2011.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MEETING

Agenda Item 32

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Strategy 2012-2015		
Date of Meeting:	25.1.12 CYPOSC 30.1.12 CYPTB 9.2.12 Cabinet		
Report of:	Strategic Director for People		
Lead Cabinet Member:	Children and Families		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Sarah Colombo	Tel: 29-4218
	Email:	sarah.colombo@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	Yes/No	Forward Plan No: <i>To be inserted by Democratic Services</i>	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The council, with partners, is required to produce a local Child Poverty Needs Assessment and a Child Poverty Strategy under the Child Poverty Act 2010. A city wide needs assessment was completed in June 2011. The Child Poverty Strategy responds to both the findings of the Needs Assessment (approved by the Public Service Board June 2011) and the subsequent public consultation on the Child Poverty Strategy.
- 1.2 Based on the findings of the needs assessment and subsequent public consultation the strategy recommends a focus on:
 - Lone parents because this is the majority family type living in poverty
 - Children and families with disabilities because they have a high risk of living in poverty and a greater risk of reduced income as a result of recent benefit changes
 - Families with a complex range of problems because the impact on children's life chances is great as is the cost of intervening to support those families
 - Investigating further the extent to which Black and Minority Ethnic families are living in disadvantage in Brighton and Hove
- 1.3 Accompanying the strategy is an action plan that contains existing good practice and strategies/plans contributing to reducing child poverty as well as new activity required to make a difference.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the Child Poverty Strategy as presented in appendix 1.
- 2.2 That Cabinet approves the progression of the Child Poverty Strategy to the Public Service Board and the Local Strategic Partnership for their approval.
- 2.3 That the Children and Young People's Trust Board approve the Child Poverty Strategy as presented in Appendix 1
- 2.4 That the Children and Young People's Trust Board approve the progress of the Child Poverty Strategy to Cabinet.
- 2.5 That CYPOSC notes the progression of the Child Poverty Strategy to the Children and Young People's Trust Board, Cabinet, the Public Service Board and the Local Strategic Partnership.
- 2.6 That CYPOSC notes the Child Poverty Strategy as presented in Appendix 1.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 This is the first Child Poverty Strategy for Brighton & Hove. It is produced in response to the unacceptable level of child poverty in the city – 22% of all children and young people – and the detrimental effect that poverty can have over the full course of their lives, as well as to the legal requirement placed on the authority by the Child Poverty Act 2010.
- 3.2 The strategy describes the outcomes we want to achieve through collective effort of all partnerships/partners in the city; from alleviating the impact of poverty on day to day family life, particularly in the harsh current economic climate, to reducing levels of poverty overall and tackling the inequality that it creates.
- 3.3 In 2010-11 a Child Poverty Needs Assessment was undertaken for Brighton & Hove, overseen by the city's Public Service Board (PSB). This was a first effort to bring together a full range of evidence around such a broad and far reaching outcome, using the new citywide needs assessment process.
- 3.4 The completed draft Child Poverty Needs Assessment was presented to the Children and Young People's Trust Board and to the Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee in March 2011. The needs assessment was signed off by the PSB in line with the statutory partner organisations named in the Child Poverty Act in June 2011.
- 3.5 The needs assessment covered individual family circumstances as well as wider economic and social circumstances, and also the interaction of services that are provided to support and influence these. The findings and recommendations of the needs assessment have directly influenced the strategy.

- 3.6 Following approval by the PSB and LSP the strategy will be made available on-line and will provide direct links to good practice already within the city and existing strategies contributing to reducing child poverty in the Brighton & Hove.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Extensive consultation was carried out with professionals during the needs assessment process, as well as a review of a very wide body of national research and local consultation with children, young people and families. Appendix 2 contains the summary of the needs assessment and the full needs assessment contain details about the consultation available on request.
- 4.2 A public consultation was undertaken on the findings of the Child Poverty Needs Assessment and on draft strategic recommendations for reducing child poverty. Appendix 3 contains details of this consultation.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no financial implications directly resulting from the recommendations of this report. The action plan detailed in the strategy and any new activities suggested need to be fully costed and funding identified and agreed. Any new investment requested should be assessed within the value for money context and a business case drawn up and approved before any financial commitments are made.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis Date: 11/01/12

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 For CYPOSC - No legal implications are required for this report at this stage, as the report is for noting

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The Child Poverty Needs Assessment is the equalities impact assessment for the Child Poverty Strategy. The strategic outcomes and objectives in the Strategy flow from the findings of the Child Poverty Needs Assessment and the subsequent public consultation.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The relationship between a range of factors within the city such as employment opportunities, living and housing costs, and wider quality of life issues as the basis for sustainable and prosperous communities, and the impact that these

may have on families, is described within the Child Poverty Needs Assessment upon which the Child Poverty Strategy is built.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The correlation between crime and disorder and child poverty is described within the Child Poverty 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 Child Poverty Strategy recommends that work to reduce child poverty should be monitored by a cross cutting Child Poverty Task Group in order to better coordinate efforts by services to reduce child poverty and improve life chances for children and young people. There is a risk to the local authority and partners of the costs associated with multi-agency interventions however the Child Poverty Needs Assessment identifies interventions and services which are proven to be effective.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 Mitigating the effects of child poverty and reducing it are key drivers of improving children and families' health and wellbeing. Action on child poverty has short, medium and long term health benefits for parents and carers now and for children and young people throughout the course of their life. There will be strong links between this Strategy and the developing Health and wellbeing Board for the City.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 The Child Poverty Strategy has implications for the public, community and voluntary and private sectors within the city as well as residents and communities. The Child Poverty Needs Assessment provides the evidence base for the Child Poverty Strategy which will be adopted by the Brighton & Hove Local Strategic Partnership.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The Child Poverty Needs Assessment and the Child Poverty Strategy are a statutory requirement for the Local Authority and its partners.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Agreement by the Council and its partners of this Child Poverty Strategy will full fill the statutory requirement as detailed in the Child Poverty Act 2010

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Strategy 2012-2015
2. Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2011 - Summary
3. Child Poverty Consultation Report 2011 – to follow
4. Brighton & Hove portfolio of good practice – to follow

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. Brighton and Hove Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2011 - Full

Background Documents

1. Full catalogue of evidence and information used to complete the Brighton and Hove Child Poverty Needs Assessment

Appendix 1

Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Strategy 2012-2015

Introduction

This is the first child poverty strategy for Brighton & Hove. It is produced in response to the unacceptable level of child poverty in the city – 22% of all children and young people – and the detrimental effect that poverty can have over the full course of their life.

The strategy describes the outcomes we want to achieve through a collective effort between partnerships in the city; from alleviating the impact of poverty on day to day family life, particularly in the harsh current economic climate, to reducing levels of poverty overall and tackling the inequality that it creates.

In 2010-11 a Child Poverty Needs Assessment was undertaken for Brighton & Hove, overseen by the city's Public Service Board. This was a first effort to bring together a full range of evidence around such a broad and far reaching outcome, using the new citywide needs assessment process.

The needs assessment covered individual family circumstances as well as wider economic and social circumstances, and also the interaction of services that are provided to support and influence these. The findings and recommendations of the needs assessment have directly influenced this strategy.

This child poverty strategy with the needs assessment meets the statutory requirements placed on the local authority and its partners as laid out in the Child Poverty Act 2010. This initial strategy will form the basis for a final strategy which will go to Council Cabinet in February 2012 followed by the Public Service Board and final sign off with the Local Strategic Partnership in March 2012.

Key Findings of the Child Poverty Needs Assessment

Child poverty is defined as children and young people in families living on less than 60% of national median income. This equates to £344 pw for a two parent family with 2 children and £263 pw for a one parent family with 2 children before housing costs (both figures before housing costs)

The Needs Assessment shows that over the three years from 2007 to 2009 the percentage of children and young people in families living in poverty in Brighton and Hove has remained around 22% of all children. This is in line with the national average but significantly above the regional South East average.

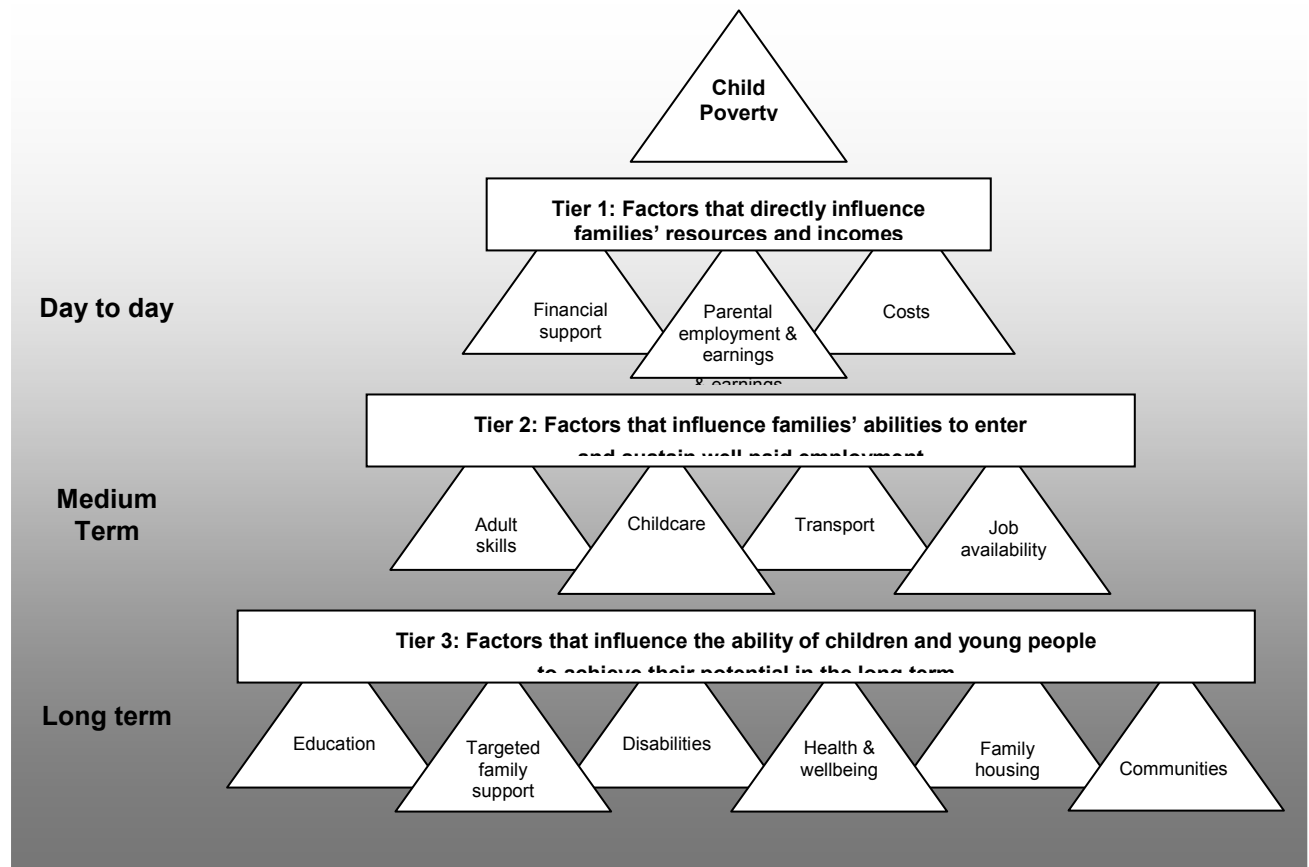
A high percentage of those children live in single parent families, predominantly headed by women, and the majority of all families living in poverty are not in work.

There are wide discrepancies between rates of child poverty across the communities that make up Brighton and Hove. Unsurprisingly some of the deepest pockets of child poverty are in the poorest communities, where just under 50% of all children live in poverty.

It is also clear that families with disabilities and Black and Minority Ethnic families are also more likely to live in the most disadvantaged communities. Single parent families living in poverty are, however, scattered across the City.

The full Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Needs Assessment can be read online at the Brighton & Hove Local Information Service [link to BHLIS]

The Pyramid below shows the factors that combine to reduce child poverty in three layers from day to day issues through to long term prevention. It is only by working on all layers through the key factors that we can impact upon child poverty over the long term.



Conclusions

The Child Poverty Needs Assessment and the Consultation that followed reached the following conclusions:

1. We need immediate measures to provide information, advice and support to families whose incomes are reducing as a result of reductions in a range of benefits
2. We must focus on:
 - Lone parents because this is the majority family type living in poverty

- Children and families with disabilities because they have a high risk of living in poverty and a greater risk of reduced income as a result of recent benefit changes
 - Families with a complex range of problems because the impact on children's life chances is great as is the cost of intervening to support those families
 - The extent to which Black and Minority Ethnic families are living in disadvantage in Brighton and Hove
3. Recognising the importance of and ensuring the capacity of community based organisations because they are:
- effective and trusted
 - delivered with and for local residents; and
 - act as essential gateways to local and national initiatives and services

A note on families

Families is used here to describe a range of family circumstances including young adults such as care leavers and young carers and it also describes extended families.

A Child Poverty Strategy for Brighton and Hove - Strategic Outcomes

The following Strategic Outcomes require a systemic approach that addresses the short, medium and long term causes of child poverty.

Timescales for change

The impacts of the objectives outlined here will be felt across a range of timescales from the immediate impact of gaining benefits or managing debts to the long term benefits of young children getting the best possible start in order to better their chances of becoming resilient adults

Strategic Outcome 1

Four strategic child poverty outcomes provide an overarching theme for the Local Strategic Partnership and reducing child poverty is a Council standard priority for tackling inequality

Objectives

- 1.1 Four strategic outcomes for reducing child poverty to be agreed by:
- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Brighton and Hove City Council | February 2012 |
| Public Service Board | February 2012 |
| Local Strategic Partnership | February 2012 |

- 1.2 Formation of a Child Poverty Task Group lead by the Council with the responsibility for driving forward actions to mitigate the effects of and reduce child poverty over the short, medium and long term
- 1.3 The Task Group to deliver an annual monitoring report comprising a core set of reducing child poverty measures to the Local Strategic Partnership from April 2012
- 1.4 The Council to introduce a reducing child poverty priority to its Equalities Impact Assessments by April 2012
- 1.5 Ensuring reducing child poverty is a priority within the emerging Health and Well Being Board's strategic plans

Strategic Outcome 2

Families have the resources to enable them to meet their day to day needs and to make positive choices to ensure their family's wellbeing

Objectives

2.1 More families managing debt through:

- Easy and timely access to high quality advice services
- Increased Credit Union membership by families living in poverty
- Increased number of families living in poverty have basic bank accounts
- Reduced use by families living in poverty, of high cost credit options

2.2 More families taking up benefits through:

Targeted take up campaigns using frontline staff across services and organisations to raise awareness with an emphasis on:

- Working poor families
- Families eligible for disability benefits
- Black and Minority Ethnic families living in poverty

2.3 Families with reduced income as a result of current welfare policy changes are supported to mitigate further poverty through:

- Timely prioritised high quality advice and support
- In this high cost city a specific lobby of Government by the Local Strategic Partnership on the effects of national welfare changes

2.4 More families having reduced costs of living through:

- Increase in affordable family homes in the City
- Increased internet access to counter the poverty premium
- Increased access to affordable good quality food
- Decrease in the impact of fuel poverty on families

Brighton and Hove Child Poverty Strategy 2012-15

- Child poverty awareness campaign for schools to reduce school related costs for families
- A review of the relative cost of transport for families living in poverty in outlying disadvantaged communities

Strategic Outcome 3

More parents, carers and young adults living in poverty gain the skills, training and qualifications they need to get decently paid jobs and more families earn, as a minimum, a living wage for Brighton and Hove

Objectives

- 3.1 Increased number of parents, carers and young people paid a living wage for Brighton & Hove with the emphasis on:
 - Increased pay levels in job sectors with part time jobs traditionally occupied by women
 - Lone parents gaining employment
 - Parents and carers with disabilities gaining employment

- 3.2 More parents and carers and young adults gaining skills, training and qualifications that will increase their opportunities to get decently paid work with the emphasis on:
 - Improving literacy and numeracy for targeted families through an increased programme of family learning
 - Skills and qualifications for parents and carers tailored to local job sectors
 -

- 3.3 More families living in poverty accessing affordable and accessible childcare through:
 - In this high cost city with higher than average childcare costs, a specific lobby of Government by the Local Strategic Partnership for a rise in the maximum childcare element of the working tax credit to 100% of costs
 - Targeting of current and additional 2 yr old early education places to the most disadvantaged families
 - The Council and East Sussex Credit Union to deliver a childcare deposit scheme
 - Continuation of the Council's At Home Childcare service offering flexible childcare in the home

Strategic Outcome 4

Children and young people grow to adulthood and achieve their potential in safe and nurturing families and communities

Objectives

- 4.1 More children living in poverty and in areas and communities of disadvantage gain the City average early years foundation stage result
- 4.2 More young people in poverty and in areas and communities of disadvantage gain the City average GCSE's with the emphasis on:
 - Narrowing the gap in achievement of children at risk of or living in poverty
 - Improving the preparedness of the most vulnerable children to enter secondary school
- 4.3 Parents and carers at risk of or living in poverty are supported to improve their resilience and that of their children through:

Routine identification within adult services of families living in poverty and at risk of poverty and targeting of services to them with emphasis on:

 - Adult mental health
 - Drug and alcohol misuse
 - Intergenerational poor families
- 4.4 To ensure the capacity of the community and voluntary sector to provide advice, information and support to lone parents across the City
- 4.5 Expansion of proven project work which builds parent networks of support such as the Families and Schools Together (FAST) programme
- 4.6 Delivery of the Supporting Families in Multiple Disadvantage commission
- 4.7 Continued delivery of health promotion and sports promotion services for children, young people and their families
- 4.8 Children and young people are valued participants in their family, their school, their community, and their city through:
 - A comprehensive programme of youth participation in community and City wide decision making
 - Undertaking a review of the affordability of transport for children and young people in the City
 - Investigating the feasibility of a youth participation card scheme to enable disadvantaged young people to access the cultural and social life of the City

Child Poverty Strategy Indicative Action Plan 2012-2015

Outcome 1 - Four strategic child poverty outcomes provide an overarching theme for the Local Strategic Partnership and reducing child poverty is a Council standard priority for tackling inequality	Responsibility	Strategies/Plans	By When
Objectives			
1.1 Four strategic outcomes for reducing child poverty to be agreed by:	B&H Council Public Service Board Local strategic Partnership	Child Poverty Strategy 2012-15	Feb 2012 Mar 2012 Apr 2012
1.2 Formation of a Child Poverty Task Group lead by the Council with the responsibility for driving forward actions to mitigate the effects of and reduce child poverty over the short, medium and long term	B&H Council – Strategic director for People	“	Apr 2012
1.3 The Task Group to deliver an annual monitoring report comprising a core set of reducing child poverty measures to the Local Strategic Partnership from April 2012	Child Poverty Task Group	“	Annually from May 2012
1.4 The Council to introduce a reducing child poverty priority to its Equalities Impact Assessments by April 2012	B&H Council	“	Apr 2012
1.5 Ensuring reducing child poverty is a priority within the emerging Health and Well Being Board’s strategic plans	Health and Well Being Board/Task Group	Joint Health & Well Being Strategy	

Strategic Outcome 2 - Families have the resources to enable them to meet their day to day needs and to make positive choices to ensure their family's wellbeing	Responsibility	Strategies/Plans	By When
2.1 More families managing debt	B&H Advice Partnership B&H Council East Sussex Credit Union	B&H Council Corporate Plan 11- 15 Chapter 8 Sustainable Communities Strategy 2009	Oct 2012 onwards
2.2 More families taking up benefits	B&H Council Children and Families Unit Advice Partnership	“	Oct 2012 onwards
2.3 Families with reduced income as a result of current welfare policy changes are supported to mitigate further poverty	Advice partnership B&H Council LSP - Lobbying	“	Oct 2012 onwards
2.4 More families having reduced costs of living	B&H Council B&H Housing Partnership Schools Brighton & Hove Food Partnership	Food Strategy Housing Strategy 2008-13 Transport Plan	April 2013

Strategic Outcome 3 - More parents, carers and young adults living in poverty gain the skills, training and qualifications they need to get decently paid jobs and more families earn, as a minimum, a living wage for Brighton and Hove	Responsibility	Strategies/Plans	By When
Objectives			
3.1 Increased number of parents, carers and young people paid a living wage for Brighton & Hove	B&H Council Living wage Commission	B& H Council Corporate Plan 11-15	
3.2 More parents and carers and young adults gaining skills, training and qualifications that will increase their opportunities to get decently paid work	B& H Council – Family Learning City Employment and Skills Group B&H Economic Partnership 14-19 Partnership City Sustainability Partnership	City Employment and Skills Plan (2011 refresh) Economic Strategy 2008-16	
3.3 More families living in poverty accessing affordable and accessible childcare	Brighton & Hove Council Lobby role Children and Families Unit East Sussex Credit Union	B&H Council Corporate Plan 11-15 Children and Young People’s Plan	April 2013 Onwards (2 yr old places)
Outcome 4 - Children and young people grow to adulthood and achieve their potential in safe and nurturing families and communities			
Objectives			

4.1 More children living in poverty and in areas and communities of disadvantage gain the City average early years foundation stage result	Brighton and Hove Council Early Education Providers	“	Nov 2012 Annual increase thereafter
4.2 More young people in poverty and in areas and communities of disadvantage gain the City average GCSE's	Brighton & Hove Council- Education Education Commission Schools	“	Nov 2012 Annual increase thereafter
Outcomes – Objectives			
4.3 Parents and carers at risk of or living in poverty are supported to improve their resilience and that of their children	B&H Council Health Promotion Health and Wellbeing Board	Health Inequalities Strategy Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Domestic Violence	
4.4 To ensure the capacity of the community and voluntary sector to provide advice, information and support to lone parents across the City	B&H Council Advice Partnership CVSF City Inclusion Partnership	Child Poverty Strategy	April 2012 onwards
4.5 Expansion of proven project work which builds parent networks of support such as the Families and Schools Together (FAST) programme	B&H Council – Children and Families Schools	Community Safety Crime Reduction & Drugs Strategy 8- 11 (await refresh)	
4.6 Reference to overarching objective of the Supporting Families in Multiple Disadvantage commission when the brief is clarified	B&H Council	Children and Young People's Plan	TBC
4.7 Ensuring continuity of targeted health promotion services for children, young people and their families (further detail on sports promotion/ development and play for children and young people)	B&H Council Healthy City Partnership Health Promotion	Health Inequalities Strategy Active Living Strategy 2006-12	TBC

	Health & Wellbeing Board Schools City Sports Forum	City Sports Strategy and Action Plan 2006 -12	
4.8 Children and young people are valued participants in their family, their school, their community, and their city	B&H Council CVS Youth Services Stronger Communities Partnership Transport Partnership Arts Commission City Inclusion P Crime and Disorder Reduction P	Youth Services Review Local Transport Plan	

Child Poverty Accountability Diagram

Dialogue with:

Young people and parent's consultative panel

Public Service Board

Strategic Leadership Board (Brighton & Hove City Council)

Child Poverty Task Group

Meets every 6 months

Role of Task Group:

- Establish baseline monitoring and 6 monthly reporting
- Read across commissioning activity (City Commission Plan) identify gaps and recommending additional commissioning
- Oversee degree to which thematic partnership are contributing to the reducing child poverty

Chair of Task Group: Terry Parkin

Membership:

- City Employment & Skills Steering Group
- Major Providers Group
- Lead Commissioner Housing
- Senior Commissioner for Health Prevention
- Lead Commissioner for Young People
- Advice Partnership
- Lead Commissioner Families in multiple disadvantage
- Head of Partnerships (local Strategic Partnership liaison)

Reports to:

Local Strategic Partnership

Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Commission

Children & Young People's Trust Board/Health & Wellbeing Board

Child Poverty Strategic Outcome 1:

We will make reducing child poverty an overarching theme for the Local Strategic Partnership and a Council standard priority for tackling inequality

Child Poverty Strategic Outcome 2:

Families have enough money to enable them to meet their day to day needs and to make positive choices to ensure their family's wellbeing

Child Poverty Strategic Outcome 3:

More parents, carers and young adults living in poverty gain the skills, training and qualifications they need to get decently paid jobs and more families earn, as a minimum, a living wage for Brighton & Hove

Child Poverty Strategic Outcome 4:

Children and young people grow to adulthood and achieve their potential in safe and nurturing families and communities

Thematic Partnership work programmes

Appendix 2

Brighton and Hove Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2011 Executive Summary

1. What is child poverty?

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.

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.

2. Why is it important to Brighton & Hove?

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.

3. The local duties

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.

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.

4. Intelligent Commissioning

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.

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.

5. What is a Needs Assessment?

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.

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 was reported to the Public Service Board.

5.1 How was the assessment conducted?

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.

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

6. What is new?

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.

7. What are the findings?

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.

8. The recommendations

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.

8.1 Partnership commitment and capacity

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.

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.

8.2 Coordination of Services

The network of advice services should be effectively coordinated across the city and sectors, building on foundations 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.

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.

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 services and agencies to support families with the most complex needs.

8.3 Monitoring Improvement

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) so that they can be used widely to deliver outcomes beyond service level.

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.

Appendix 3

1. Brighton and Hove Child Poverty Consultation 2011

1.2 Following the completion of the Brighton and Hove Child Poverty Needs Assessment in June 2011 a consultation was undertaken on the findings of the assessment and on draft strategic recommendations for reducing child poverty. Between June and November a range of professionals, organisations, parents and carers and young people replied to the consultation using a variety of methods. The formal consultation is over but information, responses and intelligence from children, young people and families will continue to inform the delivery of the strategic outcomes through the development of a consultative group alongside the proposed Child Poverty Task Group.
(Please see the Accountability Diagram at the end of the Brighton and Hove Child Poverty Strategy 2012-2015)

1.3 Consultation methods

- Consultation Portal open September/October 2011
50 responses
- Survey Monkey by SPIN the Single Parents Information Network
17 responses
- Community and Voluntary Sector Forum Consultation workshop
24 attendees from 21 CVS organisations
- Mosaic AGM presentation and question and answer session –
approximately 25 participants
- Child poverty workshop delivered by Brighton Unemployed Centre
Families Project (BUFCP) advice team
- Two discussion groups facilitated by the Trust for Developing
Communities with young people from Queen's Park ward and
Bevendean community respectively.

1.4 Key messages from the consultation

The biggest general drivers of poverty in families in Brighton and Hove are seen as -

- Low wages and high cost of living
- The cost of housing

2. Looking in more detail at the short, medium and long term needs of families

2.1 Day to day pressures

- The cost of living was rated first as a driver of poverty in the electronic consultation followed by debt problems.
- In all the types of consultation responses housing costs was a strong theme. Single parent respondents identified in particular the costs of essential maintenance of the home.
- Everyone taking part in the BUCFP workshop had been made homeless or suffered the threat of homelessness.
- Housing insecurity combined with the financial pressures associated with caring for children with disabilities can produce extreme hardship and stress for families.

'The difference to the standard of living my family enjoyed before and after having a second, disabled child has been immense. The high number of hospital appointments I have to attend has cost me my career due to employers not being flexible. I continue to work on contract but I have lost my home as I was not able to secure a mortgage. My family has had to move several times due the fact that landlords in this city operate in a thoroughly unscrupulous manner, for example putting houses up for sale within a couple of months of us moving in - I have spent thousands of pounds on moving costs, and lived in 7 homes in 7 years.'

- Single parents identified rental costs in relation to benefits/low wages as very difficult and fuel inflation as a specific pressure. Food inflation was picked out by both single parent respondents and participants at the Mosaic AGM as of real concern and causing hardship.
- Cost of school uniforms, trips and activities was a common theme for both young people and parents and carers.

'The cost of uniform, trips, sports activities were so prohibitive that she and her 5 siblings learnt just to lose notes or invent reasons why they couldn't participate'

2.2 Medium term challenges to families

- Low paid work and unemployment are rated highest as drivers of poverty in the electronic consultation closely followed by the cost and affordability of childcare and skills and training.
- Childcare was identified in the BUCFP discussion as a critical plank for reducing poverty along with secure housing.
- The cost of working was identified as a significant barrier for parents and carers, in particular the cost of travelling to work.

'Often going to work cost so much that work was not worthwhile as a result of expensive private rents and travel; bus fares have just gone up and many

cleaning jobs mean travelling in early hours, at the most expensive time of the day'

'Communities in Woodingdean and Moulsecoomb were especially disadvantaged. One pregnant woman, working for an agency as a cleaner, described how she had to walk to Woodingdean and back to keep in touch with her family.'

2.3 Long term prevention

Parents with low aspirations and intergenerational poverty were the top two long term challenges from the electronic consultation followed by poor educational achievement and poor family health and wellbeing. Respondents were generally less willing to rank the areas of change that would reduce child poverty over the long term but rather felt that it was the interconnectedness of issues that was important.

Support for parents

Supporting parents to develop high aspirations for their children and supporting those families with complex problems rated the highest as positive drivers of change. Access to full disability benefits, being free of domestic violence, managing health conditions and managing addiction were also identified as important.

Support for children

This section of the consultation was much more evenly ranked across all areas of support with the emphasis on children and young people achieving in training/work, being free from violence, achieving in their early years and through their education and developing excellent aspirations.

Single Parent Survey

The SPIN survey asked slightly more detailed set of questions of single parents registered with the Network. Given single parent families are such a high proportion of all family types living in poverty in the City, this survey, although small warrants a specific mention.

The survey showed a high percentage of parents responding feel stressed as a result of ill health with consequent impacts on their children.

Specifically -

35% Reported having experiencing violence previously

23.5% Reported experiencing violence from a parent who no longer lives with them.

When asked what makes it difficult for children and young people to do well at school-

35% Reported no place to do homework and quiet study

- 82% Struggle to provide the money for school trips and activities
- 53% reported a need for money to help with study aids
- 47% reported a need for money to help with computers and internet access
- 47% reported a need for extra help with homework clubs in different locations or youth centres.

3.0 Young people's discussion

Two discussion groups facilitated by the Trust for Developing Communities discussed in particular the pressures impacting upon educational achievement.

When asked what makes it harder to do well in school the young people reported –

3.1 Emotional Issues

- Bullying in school effects education and confidence. School need stricter bullying strategies.
- Media and Teachers put too much emphasis on doing well. i.e. using the current difficulty of getting a job/job prospects as a reason, which worries young people

3.2 Costs of education

- Bus fares too expensive. Some children have to walk along way and leave very early to get there/ Already tired after walking to school early/
- Poor families/children miss out on educational opportunities because the school trips are too expensive – can lead to bullying as poorer children are 'singled out' by what they can afford.
- School uniforms too expensive especially if more than one child needing constant uniform.
- Celebrities/media portraying bad/mixed signals to young people i.e. girls think they can grow up and be a 'celebrity' and that is a job!

3.3 Teaching

- Mixed signals from teachers 'swearing' in front of pupils – better role models.
- When there are too many people in your classroom it's hard to ask for/get help
- When your teachers don't give you any feedback/boring teaching styles

3.4 When asked their top five things which would help children living in poverty in Brighton & Hove one group listed –

1. *Cheap or free clubs and activities*
 2. More decently paid jobs for parents and young people
 3. Cheaper transport to get about the City and get more involved in leisure and culture
 4. Better housing and better outdoor spaces in your neighbourhood
 5. Safer families and communities
- 3.5 When asked what would help pupils do better at school one group identified
- Zero tolerance on bullying with more mediation and support for victims
 - More access to affordable educational trips
- 4.0 Child Poverty Consultation Community and Voluntary Sector Forum Workshop
- 4.1 Much of the workshop response follows the priorities identified above with the exception that workers from the community and voluntary sector were more likely to identify drug and alcohol misuse as a driver of poverty than those responding in the electronic survey.
- 4.2 The third sector professionals however spent some time thinking about how services can better support children and families living in poverty. They identified a number of actions to improve service outcomes the key ones of which are listed here –
- The importance of services for young people
 - We need a better way to measure long term impacts and a funding structure that recognises and values long term outcomes
 - We need better sharing of best practice and learning from existing services to counter the emphasis on always chasing the latest innovative project – locally regionally and nationally
 - Lack of recognition of the importance of getting grass roots support for work with families in the community
 - The importance of not losing services for young people
 - The benefits system doesn't always give claimants the whole picture for what they may be eligible
 - Lack of coordination between adult services to parents (and their needs as parents) and their children's needs

- Lack of data sharing and joint planning of services between the Department for Work and Pensions and partners
- Need to connect health services more firmly to Council/benefits services/community and voluntary sector services around families
- Better connections between schools and teachers and the broader approach around the family – specific issues around families with disabilities and schools.
- More support between the time when children and young people are identified as children in need and the point at which they (often) return to social/health services as adults and parents.
- Schools finding alternative education options for young people who are disengaged following the pupil.
- Better use of community and voluntary sector organisations to ensure the best outcome in the preventative stages before statutory services need to get involved
- Children and young people's voice in the delivery of services around families
- Adult education settings and schools could make entering education a more attractive prospect for parents with better connections to things like family learning in schools

Brighton and Hove Child Poverty Strategy 2012-2015 Report

Appendix 4

Portfolio of Good Practice

1. The Child Poverty Strategy focuses on the outcomes and actions that will best both alleviate the effects of poverty on children and young people and, ultimately help to reduce the numbers of families living in poverty.

This indicative portfolio shows some of the excellent work already happening in the City. This is work that has evidence to show it is effective. Most of these services and projects are working towards more specific outcomes than the reduction in the number of families living in poverty, but all of them are contributing positively to this complex overarching outcome.

- 1.2 This is by no means an exhaustive list and inevitably there will be omissions. What the portfolio is intended to do is offer a window into effective services operating within the three tiers of the child poverty pyramid. The three layers of which are;
 1. Services supporting families struggling with day to day pressures around debt, benefits and financial inclusion
 2. Services supporting parents, carers and young people around skills, training and employment over the medium term
 3. Services supporting families over the long term and in crisis that are contributing to improve the long term life chances of children and young people

The following service and project descriptions are ordered similarly across the three layers.

2. Day to day pressures

Brighton & Hove Advice Partnership

Comprising a wide range of organisations from the national, Citizens Advice Bureau to local organisations such as Brighton Housing Trust and the Money Advice Service 'MACS'. The collective work of the Advice Partnership is wide ranging covering advice legal, housing and homelessness, money and debt, benefit take up and employment rights. It also comprises specialist advice such as support for families with disabilities. In 2010 it was estimated that 17,000 enquiries were made to 15 organisations in the city providing social welfare law advice. More should be done to evidence the impact of receiving high quality advice and information; however there is no doubt that such services are required to an even greater degree during periods of economic downturn and low employment.

Welfare Rights Group – Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project

Helps over 500 families per year to access benefits, deal with debt or housing problems, to access health and healthy living opportunities and services. The Welfare Rights service helps families to maximise their income by take up of appropriate benefits as well as helping them to prioritise and negotiate repayment of debts. The Centre services provide emotional and practical support as well as providing volunteering opportunities. Families can access a range of much needed services including, childcare, cheap laundry facilities, advice and advocacy, access to computers and phones. They also supply free good quality clothing, bedding and nursery equipment. Families using the centre regularly report finding the services excellent and it provides critical financial and emotional respite for families suffering great hardships.

E-benefits and financial health check for new tenants on housing benefits - Brighton & Hove City Council

Enables housing benefit claims to be processed within two days of receipt of information. It offers advice around credit union, bank accounts, utilities, budgeting, and low cost furniture and goods.

This service minimises rent arrears at the start of a new tenancy.

All the information needed is provided at the e-benefits interview so it saves double handling by Housing staff and Housing Benefit staff as all the evidence and information is entered onto the system once only.

Under-Occupations Team - Brighton & Hove City Council

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.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) project - Amaze

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 £2million of DLA benefit and £1million of other passported benefits, so for every £1 spent it generates £51 for households with disabled children. An average of £8-12 thousand pounds of extra disposable income per family helps lift these children out of poverty and the family out of fuel poverty.

3. Medium term issues of skills, training and employment

Whitehawk Inn

A community led organisation providing information and advice about learning and work, and a range of support activities for adults. For those who are looking to go back to work the service offer careers advice, employment support and a range of tailored resources. The service works with approximately 700 people a year and is accessible and rooted in the local community. In recent years, the service has increased its focus on supporting those who have experienced long term unemployment, providing additional support beyond statutory provision. Between 2007 and 2010, it supported 200 people back to work. (See Case Studies)

The Bridge Community Education Centre

Provides a centre of learning and support that offers individuals and their community. The centre offers a programme of adult education and a gateway team of advisors who offer support to local residents to gain confidence, skills and training and volunteering and paid work. At a time when funding for adult education is dwindling and the funding focus is on apprenticeships this community based facility with a drop in café and dedicated support services provides an essential first step towards learning and work for those most likely to be living in poverty.

Extratime

This organisations runs after school clubs and holiday schemes to 500 children and young people. Two thirds of children and young people attending have disabilities and special needs and significant numbers have complex needs and very challenging behaviour. By providing childcare to a group of children and young people who would not be able to access it anywhere else, Extratime is helping those families take up training and/or work which in turn helps raise their families income and standard of living. These families are financially already some of the most disadvantaged because of the additional costs of raising a disabled child or young person.

Extratime has meant the difference between a disabled child being able to stay in the family home as opposed to full time residential care - for one child with complex needs this can equate to £200,000 p.a. for a residential place.

HaKIT – Hangleton and Knoll Project

The project supports residents to improve their skills, increase their qualifications and enables them to access the internet free. The Hangleton and Knoll project support two fully equipped Community IT rooms. One is located at St Richards Community Centre and the other at Hangleton Community Centre. The Hangleton and Knoll project delivers free IT and Adult education courses from these rooms.

The project also runs three drop-ins a week one at Hangleton Library and two at St Richards. These allow people to get the help they need to use technology and residents often turn up with phones and laptops and the tutor and volunteers help them get started.

Healthwalks Training and Volunteer Programme - Brighton and Hove City Council

Healthwalks Volunteer Walk Leader training provides the knowledge and skills to lead the 14 weekly healthwalks and to encourage and support other local people to walk more. The one day training is free and 50 local people are trained each year. This programme increases volunteer opportunities for residents in the city and provides opportunities for residents to gain experience that will support their future employability.

4. Long term life chances for children and young people

Early Years Foundation Stage Programme – Brighton & Hove City Council and Early Years Education Providers

The Early Years Foundation Stage profile describes a child's development and learning achievements at the end of the academic year in which they reach the age of five. It is based on ongoing observation and assessment in six areas of learning. The pupils in Brighton and Hove continue to achieve much higher than the national outcomes for all pupils. This is a result of the high quality of provision across the city as evidenced in the outcomes from the Ofsted reports.

Targeted support is offered to schools and individual children who are at a risk of underachieving. There are specialist services for children with additional needs and English as an Additional Language. Crucially for pupils living in the 20% most deprived areas the gap between their attainment and that of all pupils is reducing markedly.

Family Learning Programme - Brighton & Hove City Council

Parents are supported to both improve their children's learning and to engage in adult training for their own progression. This externally evaluated programme supports a number of key outcomes for reducing child poverty. It has both a focus on early intervention to support children's learning and a focus on developing adult skills for parents.

Families and Schools Together (FAST) - Brighton & Hove City Council & Schools

This is one of the few programmes that show an impact across 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. In the local pilot of the FAST programme based at Fairlight Primary school the improvements in attainment of children whose families engaged in FAST were marked.

Functional Family Therapy (FFT) - Brighton & Hove City Council

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.

On average the programme is estimated to have a benefit to cost ratio of 7.5:1 to 13:1

Triple P Programme - Brighton & Hove Council

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. Evaluation of the Triple in Australia shows that Triple P has the potential to avert at least 26% of cases of conduct disorder with one case of conduct disorder estimated to cost from £75,000 to £225,000 in large lifetime costs.

The Compass Card – Amaze and participating partner services

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.

The Active for Life Project - Brighton & Hove City Council

The project develops and delivers affordable sport and physical activity opportunities within communities to increase participation levels and improve the health and well being. Community need is reflected and specific programmes are tailored accordingly. This programme includes:

Fit and Fun Families Sessions - providing low cost physical activity opportunities to local families, giving the parents the skills & confidence to play games with their children and to encourage young people between the ages of 5-11 to take part in an after school physical activity with their parents.

Football Fun - For 3 – 5 year olds and their parents.

Soup & Stomp - Free half term holiday health walks for parents with their children, which also includes making a healthy soup before the walk with the food partnership.

Holiday referral places – subsidised places for children on holiday courses

Safe and Sorted - Sussex Central YMCA

A youth advice drop-in for 10-25yr olds based in Moulsecoomb

The service works with young people requiring support on a range of issues including; health, education and employment, sexual health, substance misuse and housing. In 2010 the service worked with 243 young people requiring intensive support and had 1880 contacts with young people.

Detailed evidence shows this service is effective in supporting young people to stay safe, improve their health and improve their opportunities to progress in life. (See Case Studies)

Youth Offending Service - Brighton and Hove City Council

The service works with young people and their families from the prevention end through to custody in order to reduce offending behaviour and all the problems associated with that. At least 90% of the young people the service works with have experienced some form of loss in their lives, including: death of a parent, parents emotionally unavailable, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, being taken into care, exclusion from school etc. Often what is underpinning these factors is poverty – both material and emotional. Where parents are involved we work with them on their parenting and help them develop strategies to cope.

The shorter term outcome from the service is less young people coming into the Criminal Justice system: first time entrants have reduced from 611 in 2006 – 7 to 171 in 2010 – 11. This is a tribute to the strong partnership work between the police and the YOS.

Family Link - Safety Net

A personalised support package for approximately 80 families a year delivered through the early intervention home visiting service working in partnership with primary schools across east Brighton. Identifying a family's needs and developing an action plan to address these. Needs include finance debt and supporting families in accessing specialist dept management, benefits advice as well as a range of other issues impacting on family life. Alongside this intensive support the service also supports approximately 500 families a year with disabilities to resolve problems related to benefit, housing and education via a telephone service.

In a 2011 external evaluation the project interviewed 26 families. 73 % said they felt better off 50% said they had taken up volunteering, 26% had taken up training, and 25% entered work

RISE

An independent, registered charity providing services for women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse. Every year RISE supports over 800 women and their families through a range of services offering crisis support, community and therapeutic support and specific services for children and young people. Parents and children experiencing domestic violence can face severe poverty issues with major disruptions to housing, work and family. Providing support to both enable a parent and their children to survive the violence and rebuild their lives, saves lives, reduces poverty in the short and medium term and supports the long term life chances of children and young people. (See case studies)

AGENDA ITEM 33

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10 January 2012

Mr Terry Parkin
Strategic Director of People Services
Brighton and Hove City Council
King's House
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BN3 2LS

Dear Mr Parkin

Annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within Brighton and Hove City Council children's services

This letter summarises the findings of the recent unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within local authority children's services in Brighton and Hove City Council which by agreement with you was conducted as part of the pilot ILACS inspection on 22 and 23 November 2011. The inspection was carried out under section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. It will contribute to next year's annual review of the performance of the authority's children's services, for which Ofsted will award a rating. I would like to thank all of the staff we met for their assistance in undertaking this inspection.

The inspection sampled the quality and effectiveness of contact, referral and assessment arrangements and their impact on minimising any child abuse and neglect. Inspectors considered a range of evidence, including: electronic case records; supervision files and notes; observation of social workers and senior practitioners undertaking referral and assessment duties; and other information provided by staff and managers. Inspectors also spoke to a range of staff including managers, social workers, other practitioners and administrative staff.

The inspection identified areas of strength and areas of practice that met requirements, with some areas for development.

The collective findings of the previous inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements in July 2010 gave great impetus to the decision to re-organise the duty teams to create a single Advice, Contact and Assessment Service (ACAS) for the city to replace the three area based teams. The nine areas of development that were identified have been built into a comprehensive action plan and in all but two areas demonstrable improvements have been made and the minimum requirements of statutory guidance have been at least met. The two remaining areas, relating to the lack of consistent focus upon, firstly, children's needs in assessment and, secondly, upon outcomes in children's plans have been brought forward into this letter.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

From the evidence gathered, the following features of the service were identified:

Strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Since the current senior leadership team came into post, incisive and effective action has been taken to secure political support and create a single point of access to safeguarding and child protection services which since implementation in September 2011 has demonstrated significant impact upon the quality of initial responses to referrals. ▪ Despite continuing high demand, good management oversight has ensured that caseloads of social workers in the assessment teams are manageable and allow vulnerable children and young people to receive prompt and effective safeguarding services.
The service meets the requirements of statutory guidance in the following areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initial and core assessments are always undertaken by qualified social work staff. Completed assessments are appropriately signed off by line managers. ▪ All children benefit from a single and accessible case record that enables all relevant information to be taken into account in assessment and decision making. ▪ Children who are suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm receive a prompt and appropriate service from suitably qualified and experienced social workers. ▪ Out-of-hours duty arrangements are clear and are appropriately linked to the daytime referral processes. This ensures that children and young people's needs are promptly assessed. ▪ Clear procedures and policies are in place to inform practice and ensure that statutory requirements to safeguard and protect children and young people are met. ▪ There is a consistent application of thresholds for accessing the local authority's social care service. ▪ Staff who work in ACAS are suitably qualified and experienced. They are able to demonstrate that they attend relevant training including lessons from serious case reviews. They also receive good support from their line managers.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The application of thresholds during section 47 enquiries and at case conferences is inconsistent and leads to some children and young people being

unnecessarily subject to child protection processes.

- Some assessments, including common assessment framework (CAF), have insufficient focus on the individual needs of each child or young person. Assessment quality, including CAF, was central to two areas for development at the last inspection.
- Some case plans remain insufficiently outcome focused which causes delay in securing positive change. This was an area for development at the last inspection.
- First line managers, team managers and independent reviewing officers do not consistently identify ineffective social work practice, particularly in complex cases where progress is slow.
- Supervision is inconsistently reflective and analytical and does not have sufficient impact upon improving casework and securing improved outcomes for all children and young people.
- The individual needs of children and their families as defined by their race, culture, language and religion are not identified and considered in casework practice or case planning in all cases.

The areas for development identified above will be specifically considered in any future inspection of services to safeguard children within your area.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Hart
Her Majesty's Inspector

Copy: John Barradell, Chief Executive, Brighton and Hove City Council
Andrew Spencer, Department for Education

**AGENDA ITEM 34 – Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny
(CYPOSC) Work Programme June 2011 - March 2012**

Issue /Topic	Reason for the agenda item	Outcome & Monitoring
4 July 2011		
Introduction to Children’s Services	To understand the priorities and challenges of the service	CYPOSC agreed to hear the draft Child Poverty Strategy at 15 September meeting.
Ofsted Inspection – safeguarding & looked after children	Overall effectiveness – Grade 3 (Adequate)	(1)Receive information via e-mail on an explanation of Section 17 & 47 (2)Have a report on the SEN pilots at the next Committee meeting. (3)Receive a further update on the action plan.
14 September 2011		
Child Poverty Update (14)	CYPOSC requested at the 4/7/2011 meeting. Will be looking at the Needs Assessment and consultation document. Opportunity to comment & respond.	Commented on the strategy and forward CYPOSC’s comments as part of the consultation on the child poverty strategy.
Children with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (15)	Response to the letter on Autism/CAHMS at 4/7/2011 CYPOSC – assurance regarding service provision, diagnosis, processes.	Specific question on speech and language therapy it was agreed to provide a written answer. Members resolved to request that an independent user satisfaction survey be carried out with the results to be reported back to CYPOSC at the earliest opportunity.
Parents’ views on the future of SEN in B&H (16)	Report from the PaCC, CYPOSC requested at the 4/7/2011 meeting. Parents views on how SEN services should be developed. To link with Agenda item 17.	CYPOSC agreed the work of the PaCC should be used to inform the pilot work going forward and that parents and other stakeholders should be ‘round the table’ as the pilots developed. Members felt the expertise and knowledge of parents should be utilised more by the council.
SEN pilots (17) (this item was combined with the report from PaCC views on the future of SEN in B&H)	CYPOSC requested at the 4/7/2011 meeting. To inform Member of SEN Green Paper & Pilot projects. Opportunity to comment on direction of travel & priorities.	As above.

**AGENDA ITEM 34 – Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny
(CYPOSC) Work Programme June 2011 - March 2012**

Issue /Topic	Reason for the agenda item	Outcome and Monitoring
CYPOSC Workshop – 17 October 28 & November 2011		
Youth Service Review	Private workshop for CYPOSC members to feed comments into the final part of the youth service review	Questions raised on commissioning and budget allocations. Members endorsed the draft strategy especially the co-production period.
9 November 2011		
School Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary schools • Secondary schools • Post 16 education/training Focus to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam performance • Partnership working • Local authority support 	CYPOSC/Directorate joint request. To bring together performance data on school exam results with changes to school support arrangements and partnership working across schools. CYPOSC to endorse suggested approach to improving performance.	Requested further information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on why cohorts of children that showed significant improvements at one stage of testing did not maintain that improvement at later testing stages and the implications this would have on targets and funding • annual feedback on the gaps of KS3 pupils with SEN and all other pupils • proportions of 16+ leavers that had SEN
25 January 2012		
Health & Wellbeing Boards	For information	
Child Poverty final draft of the Strategy	For information	
Ofsted unannounced inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment arrangements	For information	
18 April 2012		
Academies	Requested from OSC to investigate performance	
Homelessness and Care Leavers	Joint Member request with ASCHOSC. Scoping report on possible areas of work.	
Young carers provision in the city – (wait for CMM response)	Requested by CYPOSC members	
Summer 2012 Holiday Provision Plans	To review available activities planned for summer of 2012	