

Subject:	Restructure of Educational Psychology and Learning Support Services – Final Structure and Report from the External Assessor
Date of Meeting:	7th March 2016
Report of:	Executive Director of Children’s Services
Wards affected:	All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 3, Access to Information Procedure Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that because of time pressures, the final report of the external assessor was not available within the normal timescales for publication.

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The joint meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Children and Young People and Skills Committee on 3rd February 2015 approved a recommendation to integrate the Educational Psychology and Learning Support Services.
- 1.2 A consultation paper proposing a restructure of the Educational Psychology and learning support services was distributed to staff in the various services on 15th October 2015 launching a formal consultation with a closing date of 2nd December 2015.
- 1.3 The closing date for the consultation was subsequently extended to 31st January 2016
- 1.4 A widespread engagement event during the consultation process has sought the views of staff and all stakeholders including parents and schools. A ‘Stakeholder Panel’ which has included parents and young people has also considered the proposals and the response to the consultation.
- 1.5 An external review of the proposals and the consultation process was commissioned following a decision of the Children and Young People and Skills Committee on 11th January 2016.
- 1.6 Appendix 1 of this report is the report of the external assessor, Mary Daly.
- 1.7 Appendix 2 of this report contains details of the consultation process and revised proposals related to the outcomes of the consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members note the contents of the review by the external assessor and the revised proposals.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The background and chronology to this paper is included in section 1 above.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 A series of consultation events have been undertaken. Details of these are included in Appendix 2 – Final Structure for the Re-organised Educational Psychology and SEN Learning Support Services.
- 4.2 82 responses were received to the consultation. The responses to the consultation are also detailed in Appendix 2, along with amended proposals.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The proposed structure of the reorganised learning support services has been costed and falls within the budget available in 2016/17. The cost of the proposed service is met from both Dedicated Schools Grant and Council General Fund. It will be necessary to further review the costing for the 2017/18 financial year as there will be a full year effect of the Schools Forum decision to cease de-delegation of funding for the Behaviour and Inclusion Learning Team (BILT).

Finance Officer Consulted: Name: Steve Williams Date: 01/03/2016

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The body of the review report sets out the terms of reference under which the review was conducted. The Committee has already agreed to proceed with service redesign, and the report considers further consultation on the detailed proposals for implementation. The report concludes that the amended proposals will enable a more effective service to the families and children and young people with SEND in Brighton & Hove. The report therefore raises no issues which have implications for the authority's capacity to meet statutory duties under the final proposals.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson Date: 3.3.16

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The increased support for children and young people with social, emotional and health difficulties should result in a positive impact on reduced rates of crime and disorder for this population.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 The inclusion of the service of the Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CCAMHS) team in the restructured service along with increased support for children and young people with social, emotional and health difficulties should result in improved outcomes for children and young people with mental health needs.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Review report of the external assessor, Mary Daly.
2. Final Structure for the Re-organised Educational Psychology and SEN Learning Support Services.

