

Brighton & Hove City Council

Meeting: Children and Young People's Trust Board

Date: 17th March 2008

Report of: Director of Children's Services
Children and Young People's Trust

Subject: Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Ward(s) affected: All

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To make the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment available to the Children and Young People's Trust Board for consultation.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note that, in general, there is sufficient childcare in Brighton & Hove to enable parents to work or train.
- 2.2 To note links between the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Brighton & Hove's Employment and Skills Plan, and recognise the importance of working with relevant partners to raise the profile of childcare and flexible working as part of wider anti-poverty work.
- 2.3 To note that additional work needs to be undertaken to increase access to childcare for disabled children, as well as to address childcare affordability.
- 2.4 To note planned initiatives to narrow childcare gaps which will be developed into a childcare strategy for the city.

3. Information/background

- 3.1 In accordance with the Childcare Act 2006, City Early Years and Childcare (CEYC) has been carrying out a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA). This is the process of meeting the new duty to ensure that there is sufficient childcare – as far as is reasonably practicable – in Brighton & Hove for parents to work or train, including sufficient childcare for disabled children. The importance of the CSA is that the local authority should be able to demonstrate that lack of childcare is not a barrier to people returning to work.
- 3.2 The CSA assesses the demand for childcare, maps the supply of childcare, compares demand with supply and then highlights any gaps in provision. The CSA will inform the childcare strategy for the city including both early years

and childcare as part of the extended services offered by schools. The strategy will need to consider the balance between funding childcare to allow parents to work and childcare that is used by parents as respite.

- 3.3 An anti-poverty strategy is also being developed to support the Government's target to reduce the proportion of children living in non-working households. This will link with Brighton and Hove's Employment and Skills Plan and bring together a range of Council wide initiatives to lift children out of poverty.
- 3.4 The draft CSA is attached to this report. Statutory guidance states that the local authority must consult with its relevant partners under section 10(4) of the Children Act 2004, and presentation of the CSA to the CYPT board is a part of this process. The CSA is also being presented for consultation to the Local Safeguarding Children Board on 18th March, and there are also plans to consult the Learning and Skills Council and Job Centre Plus.
- 3.5 In addition the draft CSA (or a summary) is being made available to parents, childcare providers, schools, the City Employment and Skills group, the Child Development and Disabilities Strategic Partnership Board, the Healthy and Extended Schools Strategy Group and other interested parties for their comments.
- 3.6 The final CSA will be published by 31st March 2008 and will be placed on the Brighton & Hove website.

Note

Some data from the provider survey and on disabled children is not yet available but will be added to the draft report and will be available before the CYPT board meets on 17th March.

Table and paragraph numbers will also be added to the final draft report

Appendices

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, March 2008.

Meeting Date	Children and Young People's Trust Board 17th March 2008
Report of	Interim Director, Children and Young People's Trust
Subject	Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
Wards affected	All
Financial implications	
To follow <i>Finance Officer consulted: Sue Coleman Date:</i>	
Legal implications	
To follow <i>Lawyer consulted: Natasha Watson Date:</i>	

<p>Corporate/citywide implications The CSA and associated work to ensure sufficient childcare supports the council in achieving all four corporate priorities. Good quality childcare helps children to have the best possible start in life. Ensuring that it is affordable will help tackle poverty in low-income households. Childcare supports the development of a prosperous and sustainable economy, and high quality provision, particularly for older children, promotes safety by providing an alternative to less constructive activities.</p>	<p>Risk assessment Consultation with a large number of parents, including those with disabled children, as well as consultation with all childcare providers, has ensured that the CSA takes a broad view. The draft CSA is now available for comment from interested parties and these comments will be included in the final report.</p> <p>The CSA will be published by 31st March 2008 ensuring that the council meets its statutory duty under the Childcare Act 2006.</p>
<p>Sustainability implications The CSA considers the need for childcare on a geographical basis. Provision of childcare in the neighbourhoods in which people live reduces the need to travel and consequent carbon emissions.</p>	<p>Equalities implications The CSA considers childcare for all children, but has a particular focus on the needs of disadvantaged groups, including children living in single parent households and disabled children.</p>
<p>Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder Research shows access to good quality childcare supports children and young people's learning and achievement in life.</p>	
<p>Contact Officer Vicky Jenkins Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager (Sufficiency) City Early Years and Childcare 01273 296110</p>	

