

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Meeting: Children, Families & Schools Sub-Committee

Date: Monday 8 September 2003

Report of: Director of Children, Families & Schools

Subject: Children, Families & Schools Directorate
Development Plan 2003-2004

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 To present the Children, Families and Schools Directorate Development Plan covering April 2003 – October 2004 for comment and approval.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are invited to approve the Directorate Development Plan.

3. Information/background

3.1 In common with other Council Directorates, the Children, Families and Schools Directorate has a Directorate Development Plan (DDP), setting out its key strategic vision, objectives and action plans for the period April 2003 to October 2004. The DDP also includes information about staffing and budgets, information about how the Directorate's objectives contribute to the achievement of the Council's overall objectives and an analysis of some of the key risks to the achievement of its objectives.

3.2 The current DDP has been written alongside more detailed team plans for the various teams in the directorate, and takes into account the various service plans, both statutory and non-statutory for which the directorate

also has responsibility. It also incorporates the various actions agreed as a follow up to inspections and audits of parts of the service.

- 3.3 The DDP is intended as a working document against which progress can be monitored over the period of the plan. However, it is intended to be at the same time high level and aspirational, to avoid being too unwieldy. It summarises, rather than repeats, the detailed action plans found in the various service plans and team plans.

4. Future Plans

- 4.1 In future it is hoped that there will be a significant reduction in the number of separate plans which will be required by government. The Council has already been invited to take part in the phased consolidation of a number of plans currently required by the DFES into a Single Education Plan. Similar moves are being made by government to reduce the number of separate plans required in other areas of the service. It is expected that the streamlining of service plans in this way will reduce the complexity of the process involved in agreeing both team plans and the DDP for the future.

- 4.2 The Council is in the process of introducing new performance management arrangements. Built to a large extent on processes which have already been in operation for some time in Children, Families & Schools, these arrangements will link the performance objectives of individual members of staff to their team plans, and through them, to their overall Directorate Development Plan.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The Draft DDP has been discussed in detail with the Directorate Management Team and with staff from the Council's internal performance team. Relevant sections have been shared with and agreed by senior managers responsible for the various areas of work outlined in the plan.

6. Contact Officer

- 6.1 David Hawker, Director of Children, Families & Schools.
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COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX



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Subject	Children, Families & Schools Directorate Development Plan, Version 3 (April 2003 – October 2004)
Wards affected	All

Financial implications

The costs arising from the action plan in this DDP have been fully costed and the original budget provision made full allowance for all the actions set out in the plan. However, the Directorate has service pressures in 2003/04, largely arising on foster care and child agency placements. The Directorate is continuing to implement a high cost agency placements strategy to achieve reductions/contain spending within these areas.

Peter Wright – Principal Accountant – Corporate Finance.

Legal implications

There are no direct implications

Corporate/Citywide implications

The council and communities' priorities need to be translated to service areas within Directorates. The DDP does this and is backed up by Team Plans. This ensures council priorities are effectively delivered.

Risk assessment

The DDP includes departmental risks. These are addressed in the DDP Action Plan and filter through down to Team Plans.

Sustainability implications

The council's sustainability priorities are an integral part of the Directorate's DDP.

Equalities implications

There are no direct implications.

Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder

There are no implications for the prevention of crime and disorder.

Background papers

There are none.

Contact Officer

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