

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Meeting: Children, Families and Schools Sub-Committee

Date: Monday 20 October 2003

Report of: Director of Children, Families & Schools

Subject: Green Paper – Every Child Matters

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To inform CFS Sub-Committee of the publication of the Green Paper entitled 'Every Child Matters' and to outline proposals for local consultation and response to the Department for Education & Skills (DfES) by the stated deadline.

2. Recommendations

CFS Sub Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the publication and contents of the Government Green Paper 'Every Child Matters'. An Executive Summary of the Green Paper is attached as Appendix A and an overview is provided in paras 3.2 and 3.3 of this report.
- 2.2 Note process for consultation and deadline for response to the DfES outlined in section 4 of this report.
- 2.3 Delegate to the Director of Children, Families and Schools responsibility for local consultation and preparation of a response, the final response to be agreed by Policy & Resources Committee at their meeting on 19th November 2003.

3. Information/background

- 3.1 On 8th September 2003, the Government published its Green Paper 'Every Child Matters'. The paper is issued for consultation and the deadline for

response is 1st December 2003.

3.2 The overall aims of the Green Paper can be summarised as follows:

- To ensure that no child falls through the net and help every child to achieve their potential.
- To shift the balance towards prevention through tackling child poverty, improving early years education and childcare, raising school standards and supporting parents.
- To intervene earlier before children reach crisis point,

3.3 The Green Paper details the means of achieving these aims as follows:

- **Clear accountability** – putting someone in charge locally and nationally of co-ordinating services for children (Children’s Director and Children’s Minister).
- **Integrating education, health and social care** – around the needs of the child rather than the needs of the professionals (Children’s Trusts, Children’s Centres, Full Service Extended Schools).
- **Raising the priority of child protection** – across all services – doctors, teachers, police and local authorities so that all concerned act quickly and effectively to protect children at risk (new statutory duties and local safeguarding children boards).
- **Creating a lead inspectorate for children** – to ensure services are held to account based on how they work together for children (Ofsted lead inspectorate role).
- **Creating an independent voice for children** – through the Children’s Commissioner.
- **Raising the attractiveness and status of working with children and fostering children.**
- **Sharing information between services to pick up the warning signs** – through Children’s Trusts, improved information sharing, common assessment and multi-disciplinary team working.
- **Increasing the focus on supporting families and foster carers.**

A copy of the full Executive Summary to the Green Paper is attached to this report as Appendix A.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 The deadline for response to the Department for Education & Skills under the Consultation Process is stated as 1st December 2003.
- 4.2 A series of set questions have been published at the same time as the Green Paper. A summary of the consultation questions is attached to this report as Appendix B.
- 4.3 The CFS Sub-Committee is asked to delegate authority for preparation of a formal response on behalf of Brighton & Hove City Council to the Director of Children Families and Schools. A full process of local consultation would be undertaken prior to production of the final response document and this would engage the following groups:

- Lead Councillors of all Groups
- The Council's Management Team
- Children, Families & Schools Senior Managers
- Headteachers' Steering Group
- Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership

The formal response would then be submitted to Policy & Resources Committee for final agreement at their meeting on 19th November.

- 4.4 It is envisaged that separate responses to the consultation would be submitted to the DfES by the Chief Officers Group and the Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC).

5. Contact Officer

- 5.1 David Hawker, Director of Children, Families & Schools. Tel: 01273 293434.

COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX



| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Meeting/Date | Children, Families & Schools Sub-Committee 20 th October 2003 |
| Report of | Director of Children, Families & Schools |
| Subject | Green Paper – Every Child Matters |
| Wards affected | All |

Financial implications

Children, Families & Schools is facing significant financial pressures in 2003/04 which are projected to continue into 2004/05. Further detailed planning is underway to identify the resourcing implications of dealing with the requirements within the Green Paper and how those can best be managed within the context of the Council's overall budget strategy.

Louise Hoten – 8th October 2003

Legal implications

Although not all the proposals necessarily require an Act of Parliament to enable them to be implemented by responsible authorities, the Green Paper indicates that, subject to the outcome of the consultation, the government intends to legislate as soon as Parliamentary time allows. It will, therefore be obligatory, rather than permissive, to adopt the new framework which emerges from the consultation.

John Heys – 9th October 2003

Corporate/Citywide implications

There will be major implications for the restructuring of children's services across health, education and social care. This will result in a reshaping of much of the overall public provision in the city.

Risk assessment

The key work to the Council is in not being able, because of budget pressure, to implement the strategies outlined in the Green Paper.

Sustainability implications

The Green Paper's overall objective is to insure better long term outcomes for children and young people, which is a key element in social and economic sustainability.

Equalities implications

One of the key objectives of the Green Paper is to improve services for children at risk, on a continuum of services from the universal to the specialist. This should result in improved and more cost effective services for all children.

Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder

COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX



Background paper

1. Every Child Matters – Green paper

Contact Officer

David Hawker, Director of Children, Families and Schools. Tel 01273 293434