

COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX



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| Meeting/Date | Children, Families and Schools Sub-Committee 26 January 2004 |
| Report of | Director Children, Families and Schools |
| Subject | Update on Family Support Strategy |
| Wards affected | All |

Financial implications

As reported to the sub-committee in January 2003, it is intended that the Family Support strategy should be founded on the current resources of CFS and other partner agencies. These are enhanced through the addition of new preventive and ring-fenced funds for initiatives such as Sure Start and the Children's Fund. The information in this report is based on this financial strategy. All proposals will be contained within the current financial allocation for CFS services. The aim is to eventually boost preventive services through the reallocation of resources from acute services and expensive agency placements. This is still the intention, but resources have not been able to be reallocated yet, due to the continued pressure on agency placements and investment in foster care services.

Finance Officer consulted: Paul Brinkhurst. Date 8 January 2004

Legal implications

Current legislation, including the Children Act 1989 gives local authorities a statutory responsibility to safeguard the welfare of children in need. The recent Green Paper, Every Child Matters, proposes integrated children in need teams, in line with the strategy already approved by Brighton & Hove Children, Families and Schools sub-committee. The implications of the green paper have already been reported to the sub-committee. Legislation is currently being drafted for consideration by parliament. Further briefings will be provided to members as required.

Lawyer consulted: Natasha Watson Date 6 January 2004.

Corporate/Citywide implications

The council is developing a new corporate priority for thriving 14 year olds. The preventive and family support strategy will be key to this.

Risk assessment

There are a number of risks to an area based strategy, including increased costs and lack of consistency in the service. The project team are mindful of these and will continue to assess the service plans against the identified risks. Members will be kept up to date with progress.

Sustainability implications

The provision of locally accessible services is at the heart of the family support strategy. Specialist, city-wide services will be retained, and

Equalities implications

Equality of opportunity for vulnerable children, and those designated as being in need, is at the heart of the family support strategy, and the new Green

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| accessibility will need to be constantly reviewed. Sustainable funding is a key issue in relation to the new preventive initiatives and requires further consideration. | Paper, Every Child Matters. |
| Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder There are considerable implications in the prevention of harm to children and young people. Also the prevention of youth offending. | |
| Background papers [Part 1 reports only] <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Family Support strategy reported to CFS sub-committee January 20032. Green Paper, Every Child Matters, Autumn 20033. Children's Trust application and project plan. | |
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