

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Meeting: Children, Families and Schools Sub-Committee

Date: Monday 14 June 2004

Report of: Director Children, Families and Schools

Subject: Report on the Action Plan to address the recommendations/areas for development from the Ofsted/SSI Inspections

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report presents the final version of the action plan in response to the recommendations from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) and Social Services Inspectorate (SSI) Inspection Reports.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee approve the action plan.

3. Background

- 3.1 The reports on the findings from the Ofsted and SSI Inspections of Spring 2004 were presented to a special CFS Sub Committee on 26th April 2004. At the same time a draft action plan was presented to address the recommendations/areas for development stated in the reports.
- 3.2 It is a requirement of both inspection frameworks that an action plan is presented within 70 working days of the final report. A copy of the attached action plan (appendix 1) will be submitted once approved by this Committee.

4. Further information

- 4.1 Although this was a joint inspection, because there are two separate legislative frameworks, two separate reports were produced each with recommendations. A single action plan has been produced which is integrated with our Directorate Development Plan and each recommendation has been addressed.
- 4.2 The action plan is attached at appendix 1.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Within the key recommendations there are two specific references to financial plans, firstly to reduce the high expenditure on special schools for which a review is already underway; and secondly, a medium term financial plan for preventive services. Separate reports to CFS Committee will follow to meet these particular recommendations which will include costings. The work of the Commissioning Services and the Children's Trust will also assess value for money of services.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 In preparing the action plan consultation has been carried out with CFS Officers including all the staff named in the action plan and with representative headteachers at the Headteachers' Steering Group. Consultation with members of CFS Sub Committee also took place at the meeting on the 26th April.
- 6.2 The action plan has been prepared with regard to the information and comments received from the consultation.

7. Reporting Arrangements

- 7.1 Progress with the action plan will be monitored termly and reported to CFS Committee at six monthly points (18th October 2004 and April 2005).

8. Conclusion

The Ofsted Report has confirmed that we are a good LEA. The SSI has upgraded us to promising prospects, although we continue with our grade of serving some children well. We welcome the opportunity to develop the areas that have been identified through the recommendations as this will help us to improve further.

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Report of	<i>The Director of Children, Families and Schools</i>
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Financial implications

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Finance Officer consulted: Paul Brinkhurst Date: 7th April 2004

Legal implications

The report indicates that it is a requirement of the inspection process to produce an action plan within 70 days of the final report and that a plan will be submitted to comply with the timetable.

Lawyer consulted: John Heys Date: 25th May.

Corporate/Citywide implications

Brighton and Hove have embarked on an ambitious change process in the delivery of services for children and families. The action plan will have important implications for improving services to users.

Risk assessment

The risks highlighted in the inspection reports will be picked up in our DDP process.

Sustainability implications

There are implications for the financial sustainability of services, particularly developments funded by short term grants.

Equalities implications

The services inspected have equalities implications for example racial equality, looked after children, child protection and the supply and quality of teachers. The action plan includes specific recommendations for looked after children and children who are educated other than at school.

Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder

The services delivered by CFS and included in the inspections have implications for crime and disorder, in particular YOT, EOTAS, school attendance, substance misuse and child protection.

Background papers *[Part 1 reports only]*

- 1. Ofsted Inspection Report 2004**
- 2. SSI Inspection Report 2004**

Contact Officer

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