

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: Nursery Education Review

Ward(s) affected: All

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To present proposed terms of reference for the review of nursery education, as agreed at the last sub-committee meeting

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the proposed terms of reference for the review of nursery education are agreed.
- 2.2 That it be noted that a report with recommendations from the review will be brought to this committee once it is completed.

3. Information/background

- 3.1 The last meeting of the CFS sub-committee considered a report on Sure Start and Children's Centres. The sub-committee agreed to a recommendation in that report to review nursery education provision across the city, in the light of the new context for early years education, and the move towards greater integration with childcare.
- 3.2 The proposed terms of reference for the review (attached as annex 1) have been drawn up in consultation with:

The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
The Integrated Services Working Group of the Children's Trust
Primary School head teachers

- 3.3 The review will be carried out as part of the Directorate Development Plan and Children's Trust work programme. It will contribute to the development of integrated children's centres across the city, and the wider Sure Start agenda for under-5s.
- 3.4 Since the review was proposed at the last sub-committee meeting, there has been a research report on early years education, which should inform the review (attached as annex 2)
- 3.5 Also, the government has announced the possibility of extending free early years education to two year olds (see announcement attached as annex 3). It seems sensible to include this possibility in the terms of the review, so that members can consider the availability and accessibility of early education provision for two year olds, should this be required.
- 3.6 Finally, it seems useful to consider admissions policies, including entry to reception classes in the light of new government codes of practice, taking into account the view of local parents, schools and other nursery providers.
- 3.7 Members are asked to approve the attached terms of reference, and will have the opportunity to comment as the review progresses, prior to any recommendations being brought to the sub-committee.

COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX



Meeting/Date	Children, Families and Schools Sub-committee June 14 2004
Report of	Director of Children, Families and Schools
Subject	Review of Nursery Education/
Wards affected	All

Financial implications

The Nursery Education Review project team consists of existing council employees and as such the cost of undertaking the review will be contained within approved departmental budgets.

This review is considered a priority for the reasons set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report.

A summary of Nursery Education funding 2004-05 is shown in Annex 1a

Finance Officer consulted: Jeff Coates Date 21 May 2004

Legal implications

There are no immediate legal implications to draw to members' attention. Legal issues may arise as a result of the review and will need to be investigated as necessary

Lawyer consulted: John Heys /Date 17 May 2004

Corporate/Citywide implications

Sure Start, integrated education and childcare, is central to the corporate objective of thriving 14 year olds. It also contributes to employment, workforce development and wider regeneration strategies.

Risk assessment

There is a risk that any recommendations for major change in the way that nursery education is delivered in Brighton & Hove could be unachievable if they destabilise current patterns of provision. This will have to be taken into consideration during the review.

Sustainability implications

The sustainability of all provision, in the maintained, independent or voluntary sectors, will be considered as part of the review. As will issues of transport, access and energy policies.

Equalities implications

The availability and take up of high quality early years education is central to the efforts to increase attainment and participation for children.

Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder

Longitudinal American research has shown a causal link between high quality pre-school experience and a reduced incidence of anti-social behaviour and other risk factors in later life.

Background papers [Part 1 reports only]

1. Government guidance on Sure Start, Children's Centres, early years education and the foundation stage.

COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX



Contact Officer

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