

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Meeting: Children Families and Schools Sub-Committee

Date: Monday 6 September 2004

Report of: Director of Children, Families & Schools

Subject: Children, Families & Schools Directorate
Development Plan 2004-5

Ward(s) affected: All

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 To present the Children, Families and Schools Directorate Development Plan covering April 2004 – October 2005.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Directorate Development Plan be approved.

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 2004 to October 2005. 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 the action plans that have been prepared following the joint Ofsted/SSI inspection of Children, Families & Schools which took place at the beginning of the year. It 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 various 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 The DDP for CFS already reflects the requirement for a single Children's Plan, which is being introduced by the Children Bill currently before Parliament. The DfES is also in the process of developing a new set of national performance indicators for children's services, based on the five outcomes specified in the Bill. It is intended that the next version of the DDP in April 2005 will incorporate these indicators.

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.
Telephone 01273-293434.

COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX



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Subject	Children, Families & Schools Directorate Development Plan, (April 2004 – October 2005)
Wards affected	All

Financial implications

The DDP is unlikely to be achieved within a balanced budget for CFS in 2004/2005. This is a result of ongoing pressures due to increasing numbers of Looked After Children and Independent Foster Agency Placements. However, actions are being taken to attempt to reduce the adverse impact on the overall Council's budget.

Louise Hoten.... Head of Financial Services (CFS)Tel: 293440

Legal implications

The DDP takes into account the statutory obligations and powers of the Council. It may be necessary to investigate the legal implications of specific proposals in the plan before they are implemented.

John Heys ...Principal Solicitor Tel: 291549

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

David Hawker, Director of Children, Families & Schools.
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