

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Meeting: Children Families & Schools Sub-Committee

Date: Monday 18th October 2004

Report of: Director of Children, Families and Schools

Subject: Report on progress (after six months) with 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 outlines the progress with meeting 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 progress with the action plan be noted.

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. An action plan to address the recommendations/areas for development stated in the reports was presented and agreed by CFS Sub Committee on 14th June 2004.

4. Further information

- 4.1 The action plan with a progress update 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 was carried out with CFS Officers including all the staff named in the action plan and with representative headteachers at the Headteachers' Steering Group. The action plan has been prepared with regard to the information and comments received from the consultation.

7. Reporting Arrangements

- 7.1 It was agreed that progress with the action plan would be monitored termly and reported to CFS Committee at six monthly points (18th October 2004 and April 2005).

8. Conclusion

The progress update shows that action has been taken on all areas with some already completed. In a minority of cases timescales have been revised.

Committee Report Appendix

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Financial implications

Within the key recommendations there are two specific references to financial plans, firstly to reduce the high expenditure on special schools; and secondly, a medium term financial plan for preventative services. Separate reports to CFS Sub Committee will follow to meet these particular recommendations which will include costings.

In addition there is reference to whether the base budget is sufficient to meet demands. The budget process for 2005/06 will examine the current budget and highlight areas of financial pressure to allow action to be taken or the rebasing of budgets in these areas.

Finance Officer consulted: Paul Brinkhurst

Date: 01 October 2004

Legal implications

There are no legal implications which need to be drawn to members attention at this stage

Lawyer consulted: John Heys

Date: 01 October 2004

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.
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Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder
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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

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ofsted Inspection Report 20042. SSI Inspection Report 2004 |
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Contact Officer

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