

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Meeting: Children, Families and Schools Sub-Committee

Date: Monday 29 November 2004

Report of: Director, Children, Families and schools

Subject: Brighton and Hove Children's Fund Delivery Plan

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To seek consideration and approval for the delivery plan for the Children's Fund in Brighton and Hove from 2005-8.
- 1.2 The Children's Fund is a ring fenced Government grant providing preventative services for 5-13 year olds and their families in Brighton and Hove. Children's Fund services have been operating in Brighton and Hove since 2002. There are currently 6 Children's Fund Projects. These include 3 extended schools projects including the On Track Project. They also include the Daybreak Family Group Conference Project, the Children Can Do child centered grant funding scheme and the Youth Inclusion and Support Project in Hangleton and Knoll.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be approved and signed by the Chief Executive prior to submission to Government Office of the South East on 31.12. 04.

3. Information/background

- 3.1 The DfES announced in September 2004 that a further three years funding would be available to the Children's Fund in each local authority.
- 3.2 Brighton and Hove has been allocated £2,524,573 from April 2005 to March 2008.

- 3.3 Children's Fund projects are supporting the council's priority of thriving 14 year olds by providing help for vulnerable 5-13 year olds at risk of social exclusion and their families.
- 3.4 The delivery plan reviews services funded over the last two years highlighting good practice and successful outcomes.
- 3.5 The delivery plan outlines how the Children's Fund has had an impact on services in Brighton and Hove and influenced the development of the Children's Trust.
- 3.6 Children and families are at the heart of the Children's Fund. This includes participation in decision making and involvement in developing, planning and evaluating services.
- 3.7 The voluntary and community sector are integral to the Children's Fund. The Chair of the Children's Fund Partnership Board and a third of Partnership Board members are from the voluntary and community sector. Many services are delivered by voluntary sector providers, including services in schools.
- 3.8 Children's Fund extended schools projects are at the forefront of developing integrated, multi agency working that is informing the development of locally based services within clusters.
- 3.9 Children's Fund extended schools projects are contributing positively to the development of the extended schools strategy in Brighton and Hove.
- 3.10 Children's Fund projects fit within the priorities identified within the Children's Trust Partnership of prevention, parenting and tackling poverty.
- 3.11 The delivery plan outlines proposals to continue to fund the 6 projects currently being funded, which have demonstrated successful outcomes. These are:
- 3.12 Daybreak Family Group Conference Project. This is an empowering child and family based decision making process for children in crisis. The project has been highly successful in maintaining children within their families and communities, including children and young people at risk of becoming looked after. The project is ground breaking in having independent advocacy for children and young people as an integral component.

- 3.13 Children Can Do child centered grant funding scheme. This project is a partnership between the Scarman Trust and Brighton and Hove Children's Fund. In the last two years, Children Can Do has supported 40 groups of children and young people from socially excluded communities to develop projects and activities to meet their needs.
- 3.14 Extended schools Projects involving 14 schools in the City. These include the On Track project in Portslade which works with 4 schools, the Hangleton and Knoll extended schools project which works with 5 schools and the City centre project involving 5 schools. All these projects include counselling for children in infant, junior and primary schools and parenting groups or home visiting support for parents.
- 3.15 The Youth Inclusion and Support Project in Hangleton and Knoll, provides integrated packages of support for young people aged 8-13 at risk of becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour in order to prevent further offending in the future.

4 Further Information

- 4.1 The Delivery plan also requires the signature of the Chief Executive of the PCT, the Chair of the Children's Fund Partnership Board and the Manager of the Youth Offending Team.
- 4.2 The Delivery Plan is also being taken to Brighton and Hove City Primary Care Trust on 30.11.04 and to the Children's Trust Partnership Co-ordination Group and the Chief Officers Group of the Children's Trust Partnership on 7th December 2004. The Delivery Plan will be presented to the Children's Trust Board on 24th January 2005.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation was carried out with families, children and other agencies prior to the development of Children's Fund Projects. This consultation shaped the proposals outlined in the original delivery plan submitted in 2002.
- 5.2 Further consultation has taken place with children and parents in schools, local communities and with the community and voluntary sector. Ongoing consultation and involvement of children and parents is built into Children's Fund projects.

COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX



Meeting/Date	Children, Families and Schools Sub-committee
Report of	Director
Subject	Children's Fund Delivery Plan
Wards affected	All

Financial implications

The Children's Fund brings in £2,534,834 investment into the City over the next three years. There is an expectation that successful Children's Fund services will be mainstreamed through the development of the Children's Trust Partnership. Proposals are being made to sustain specific projects in schools. Further funding from external sources is being sought in relation to larger projects such as Children Can Do and the Family Group Conference project.

Finance Officer consulted: Brian McGonigal Date 16.11.04

Legal implications

The Children's Fund is a ring fenced Government grant for providing preventative services for 5-13 year olds and their families in Brighton and Hove. The use of the fund will assist the council in meeting its statutory duties towards children, particularly children in need under S17 of the Children Act 1989. The use of the fund will also promote the right to family life, and assist the council in providing advocacy services to young people, now a requirement for accommodated children under the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

Lawyer consulted: Natasha Watson Date:17.11.04.

<h3>Corporate/Citywide implications</h3> <p>The Children's Fund supports the council's priority of thriving 14 year olds and is coherent with the aims and objectives of the Children's Trust Partnership.</p>	<h3>Risk assessment</h3> <p>There is an expectation successful Children's Fund services will be sustained. Plans to mainstream some services and to secure external funding are being made.</p>
<h3>Sustainability implications</h3> <p>Sustainability of Children's Fund services that are resulting in improved outcomes for children and young people will be through reconfiguration of existing services through the Children's Trust Partnership.</p>	<h3>Equalities implications</h3> <p>Children's Fund services focus on providing flexible and accessible services to support children and families at risk of social exclusion. As such, Children's Fund contributes positively to the Councils' equalities objectives.</p>
<h3>Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder</h3> <p>The Youth Inclusion and Support Project in Hangleton and Knoll which is funded through the Children's Fund, provides support and services to young people aged 8-13 at risk of becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour. The Children's Fund is therefore contributing to reduction of incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour in the City.</p>	

Background papers *[Part 1 reports only]*

1. Brighton and Hove Children's Fund Delivery Plan 2005-8. Report plus appendices.

Contact Officer

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