

**Brighton and 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:** The 2004 social care star ratings

**Wards Affected:** All

**1. Purpose of the report**

1.1 To report to elected members the star rating that has been awarded to the social care services in Brighton and Hove.

**2. Recommendation**

2.1 That the information contained within the report be noted.

**3. Background**

3.1 All top tier councils across England are awarded a star rating for their social care services on an annual basis. The rating scale runs from zero stars to three stars. Alongside the star rating itself, two judgements are reached on each part of the social services function ie children and adults. These are a four point scale: i) capacity to improve- poor, uncertain, promising and excellent ii) whether children/ adults are being served well: no, some, most, yes. The four separate judgements are then amalgamated to generate a single star rating for social services.

3.2 The star rating is based on findings from any inspections that have taken place and on performance reported in the spring Delivery and Improvement Statement (DIS). Hence the present star rating is based on information from the Ofsted/SSI inspection in 2004 and on the spring 2004 DIS. In that services in Brighton and Hove have been inspected fairly recently the judgement is likely to be more accurate than if it were to be based solely on the self reporting mechanism of the DIS.

- 3.3 The 2004 star rating has awarded Brighton and Hove one star overall. This was also the position in 2003. This is based on judgements which are 'serving some people well' for both children and adults with 'capacity to change' judged to be 'promising'. In terms of children's services this is an improvement from the 2003 judgement which ranked capacity for change as 'uncertain'. This is a pleasing outcome. A letter from the Commission for Social Care Inspection that gives a fuller appraisal of performance is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.4 The action plan emanating from both the SSI/Ofsted inspection and from the spring DIS have been incorporated into the Departmental Development Plan for Children, Families and Schools and it is hoped that ongoing and concerted attention to quality will ensure further improvements in judgements and a better star rating in the future.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 This report is for information only.

## COMMITTEE REPORT ANNEXE 1.

<b>Meeting date</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2004
<b>Report of</b>	Director of CF&S
<b>Subject</b>	The 2004 social care star ratings
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report

Officer consulted : Louise Hoten Date: 17,11,04

### **Legal Implications**

All social services departments across England and Wales are awarded a star rating on an annual basis. It should be noted that the star rating is for the Social Services department overall, ie for adults and children's services. Clearly the performance of these departments is critical in enabling the council to meet its statutory duties.

Officer Consulted : Natasha Watson Date : 17.11.04

<b>Corporate/citywide implications</b> The adverse publicity generated by a poor star rating or by a significant drop in performance would be considerable	<b>Risk assessment</b> There are no risks.
<b>Sustainability Implications</b> There are no sustainability implications	<b>Equalities implications</b> There are no equalities implications

Contact Officer: Liz Rugg - Head of Child Protection and Quality Assurance.