

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Meeting: Children Families & Schools Sub-Committee

Date: Monday 14th March 2005

Report of: The Director of Children, Families and Schools

Subject: Report on progress (after one year) 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 after one year 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. A progress update after six months was presented to CFS Sub Committee on 18th October 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 many already completed. In a minority of cases timescales have been revised.

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Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from the recommendation to note progress on the action plan. However, 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 ensuring that the Children's Social Care base budget is sufficient to meet demands. The budget process for 2005/06 examined the current budget and highlighted areas of financial pressure as a result of which TMT agreed an additional £2.76m of funding for Children's Social Care. In addition a working group has been set up to look at the financial implications arising from the formation of the Children's Trust and this will report as the situation develops.

Finance Officer consulted: Jeff Coates

Date: 14 February 2005

Legal implications

It was agreed that progress with the action plan would be reported to CFS Committee at six monthly points. The implementation of the action plan fits within the *Every Child Matters* national strategy, and will assist the council to meet its statutory duties under the Children Act 1989 and promote the duty under the Children Act 2004 to work to improve the well being of children in the authority's area. It will also assist and promotion and protection of convention rights, including the right to education, family life and the right to protection from inhuman and degrading treatment.

Lawyer consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 02 March 2005

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

Equalities implications

The services inspected have equalities

<p>financial sustainability of services, particularly developments funded by short term grants.</p>	<p>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.</p>
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Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder
 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 [Part 1 reports only]**
1. Ofsted Inspection Report 2004
 2. SSI Inspection Report 2004

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