





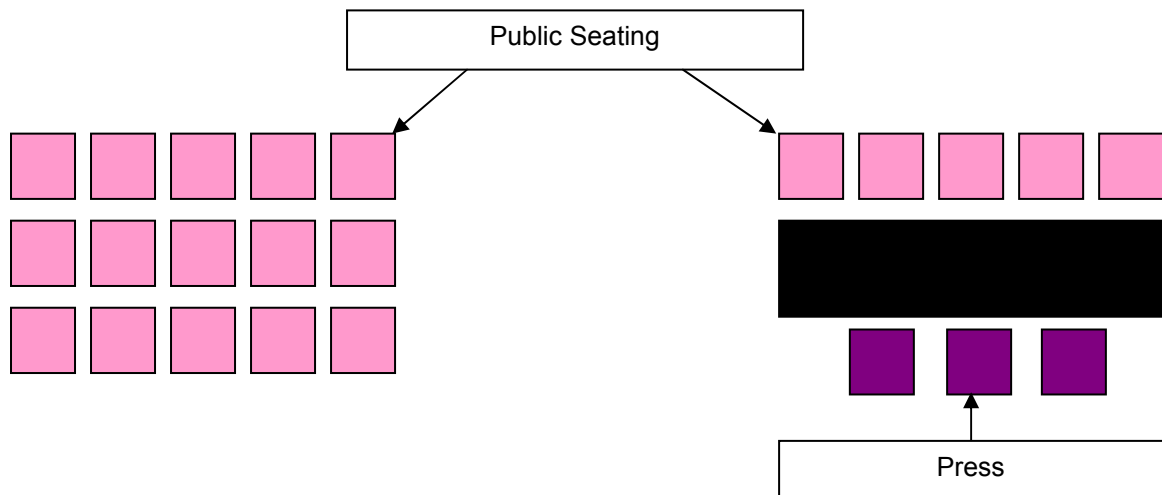
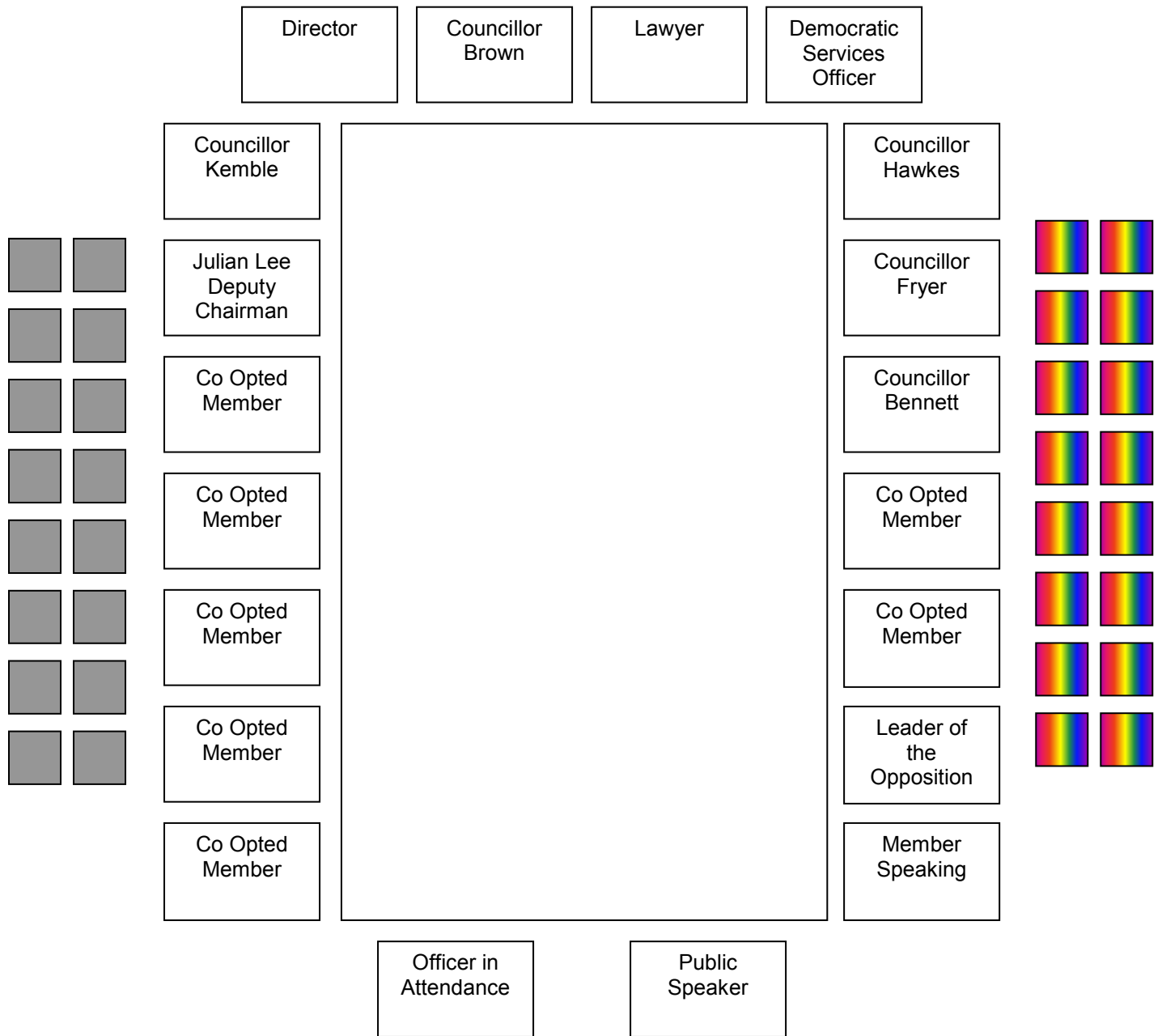
**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Children & Young People's Trust Board

Title:	Children & Young People's Trust Board
Date:	21 July 2008
Time:	5.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Contact:	Nara Miranda Democratic Services Officer 01273 291004 (voicemail only) nara.miranda@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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Democratic Services: Meeting Layout



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST BOARD

The Following are requested to attend the meeting:

Councillors: Mrs Brown (Chairman), Bennett, Fryer, Hawkes (Opposition Spokesperson) and Kemble,

Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust: Julian Lee (Deputy Chairman), Darren Grayson and Dr Louise Hulton

South Downs Health: Simon Turpitt, Mo Marsh and Anne Caborn

Non-Voting Co-optees:

Lynette Gwyn Jones	Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust
David Standing	Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Naima Noudjem	Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Andrew Jeffrey	Parent Forum
Eleanor Davies	Parent Forum
Carole Shaves	Sussex Police Authority
Professor Imogen Taylor	Universities of Brighton & Sussex
Rekha Rogers	Youth Council
Rob Scoble	Youth Council
Vacancy	Surrey & Sussex Strategic Health Authority

AGENDA

12. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- (a) Declaration of Substitutes - Where Councillors are unable to attend a meeting, a substitute Member from the same Political Group may attend, speak and vote in their place for that meeting.
- (b) Declarations of Interest by all Members present of any personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- (c) Exclusion of Press and Public - To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

NOTE: Any item appearing in Part 2 of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.

A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

13. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1 - 2

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2008 (copy attached).

14. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

15. CALLOVER

16. NEXT STEPS ON CHILDREN'S PLAN - DEVELOPING THE CHILDREN'S WORKFORCE AND CHILDREN'S TRUSTS

Presentation by the Director of Children's Services.

17. CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY

3 - 22

Report of the Director of Children's Services (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Vicky Jenkins Tel: 29-6110
Ward Affected: All Wards

18. CONNEXIONS PROCUREMENT

23 - 26

Report of the Director of Children's Services (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Gillian Cunliffe Tel: 29-3447
Ward Affected: All Wards

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST BOARD

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next Cabinet Member Meeting is 12 noon on the fifth working day before the meeting.

Agendas and minutes are published on the council's website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk. Agendas are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Nara Miranda, (01273 291004 (voicemail only), email nara.miranda@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication - Friday, 11 July 2008

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST BOARD

5.00pm 9 JUNE 2008

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: Mrs Brown (Chairman), Fryer, Hawkes (Opposition Spokesperson) and Kemble

Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust: Julian Lee (Deputy Chairman) and Darren Grayson

South Downs Health: Simon Turpitt and Mo Marsh

Non-Voting Co-optees:

David Standing, Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Eleanor Davies, Parent Forum

Also in attendance:

John O'Sullivan, South Downs Health NHS Trust

Apologies:

Naima Nouidjem, Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Rekha Rogers, Youth Council
Rob Scoble, Youth Council

PART ONE

1. CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

- 1.1 The legal adviser for the Children & Young People Trust Board clarified that, in accordance with section 75 agreement Chairman's rotation, the arrangements for the municipal year 2008/09 were that Councillor Vanessa Brown, Brighton & Hove City Council, and Julian Lee, Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust, be, respectively, the appointed Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Board.
- 1.2 **RESOLVED** – That it be noted that Councillor Brown will be the Chairman and Julian Lee the Deputy Chairman of the Children & Young People's Trust Board for the municipal year 2008/09.

2. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**2a Declarations of Substitutes**

2a.1 There were none.

2b Declarations of Interest

2b.1 Councillor Marsh declared a non-prejudicial interest on item 11, Think Family Pathfinder, as a Councillor for East Brighton.

2c Exclusion of Press and Public

2c.1 The Board considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A, Part 5A, Section 100A(4) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

2c.2 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

3.1 **RESOLVED** – That the Terms of Reference for Children & Young People's Trust Board be noted.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the last meeting of the Children & Young People's Trust Board meeting held on 17 March 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 The Chairman, also the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, welcomed everyone to today's meeting and gave special welcome to Simon Turpitt, Chair of South Downs Health, Hilary Priestley, the Board's new legal adviser, and Councillor Fryer for their newly appointment to the Children & Young People's Trust Board.

5.2 The Chairman informed members that the first Cabinet Member Meeting for Children & Young People had taken place just prior to the Board meeting and reported that one item had been considered under Part 2 of its agenda, and the recommendations had been agreed.

6. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

6.1 **RESOLVED** – All items were reserved for discussion.

7. CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST BOARD MEMBERSHIP

- 7.1 The Board considered a report of Director of Children's Services concerning the Children and Young People's Trust Board membership, which proposed consultation with partners and stakeholders regarding the wider membership of the CYPTB to respond to recent Government Guidance on Children's Trusts and ensure effective decision making (for copy see minute book).
- 7.2 The Chairman clarified that the aim of the proposal was not to reduce anyone's involvement with the Board. On the contrary, they were proposals to review the current arrangements to promote a more effective decision-making process.
- 7.3 Councillor Hawkes sought clarification about the proposed date of November 2008 to bring the result of the consultation process back to the Board.
- 7.4 The Director of Children's Services clarified that the proposed date would allow maximum opportunity to fully consult with all the stakeholders.
- 7.5 Councillor Fryer indicated that the Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYPOSC) would be considering its co-optees membership at its meeting in June, and proposed that officers consulted with what was being discussed at CYPOSC on this matter.
- 7.6 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Council Membership on the CYPTB following the implementation of the City Council's new constitution on 15 May 2008 be noted;
- (2) That the Board authorises the Director of Children's Services to consult with relevant partners and report back to the November meeting with proposals on the wider membership of the Board;
- (3) That it be noted that a report will be brought to a future meeting with details of the learning to date and any proposals for improvement in relation to the Brighton & Hove Children & Young People's Trust governance arrangements.

8. 2007/08 FINAL OUTTURN

- 8.1 The Board considered a report from the Director of Children's Services concerning the 2007/08 final outturn figures for the CYPT, subject to audit (for copy see minute book).
- 8.2 Councillor Fryer sought clarification on the reasons for the underspend mentioned in the report. Louise Hotten, the Head of Financial Services, clarified that the major part of the underspend related to Education Agency Placements.
- 8.3 **RESOLVED** – (1) That it be noted that the total underspend of £290k includes an overspend of £732k on pooled budgets and an underspend of £1.022m on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) items. The BHCC element of this overspend totals £732k;
- (2) The Board notes the movements in budgets since Month 7.

9. PERFORMANCE REPORTS

- 9.1 The Board considered a report from the Director of Children's Services relating to Performance Improvement Reports, which provided the Board with an overview of key issues which relate to the Governance of the CYPT (for copy see minute book).
- 9.2 The Chairman congratulated officers for the full report that was provided and indicated that she was pleased to see green pointers, which were indicators of positive achievement, shown in several areas.
- 9.3 Councillor Fryer was concerned with the high figure reported on first time entrants into the youth justice system and enquired about what was being done to address the matter.
- 9.4 Steve Barton, Assistant Director Quality and Performance, explained that this matter seemed to be a long-term issue. However, the authority was looking into bringing youth support services, the Police, Brighton & Hove and East Sussex to work more closely together to effectively address this matter.
- 9.5 David Standing, Community & Voluntary Sector Forum, reiterated that joint work was important and that there needed to be stronger connections between the Police and young people. He indicated that he was aware that more work was being done on this front and was confident that it was going in the right direction to produce better results.
- 9.6 John O'Sullivan, South Downs NHS Trust, indicated that the figures presented in relation to number of conceptions were two years old and he would have liked to see more updated figures. The Assistant Director Quality and Performance clarified that that was the most recent data held for the city. He agreed, however, to look into further information which could lead to more update information on this matter.
- 9.7 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Board notes the data and analysis in the PIR and agrees to the actions being taken to improve performance;
- (2) That The Board agrees to replace the activity level report on targeted health visiting caseloads with a report on the CYPT's parenting programme as a more effective proxy to measure progress towards delivering more preventive and early intervention services.

10. EXTENDED SERVICES CAPITAL AND REVENUE FUNDING

- 10.1 The Board considered a report from the Director of Children's Services concerning extended services Capital and revenue funding (for copy see minute book).
- 10.2 Ellen Jones, Commissioning and Partnership Manager, presented the report and clarified that there was a new duty on the authority to provide sufficient childcare to parents to enable the city to meet core requirements.
- 10.3 Members welcomed the report and were pleased that the Children & Young People's Trust was in position to offer such services to parents and children.

10.4 Councillor Fryer enquired whether there was any monitoring process in place to oversee those services. The Commissioning and Partnership Manager clarified that monitoring processes were in place in order for services to work more effectively and that officers also looked at processes to manage the monitoring.

10.5 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Board agrees proposals to allocate revenue funding of £297,751 in 2008-9 across the 3 CYPT Areas according to strategic developments identified to meet the core offer requirements. This takes into account the need for sustainability in areas of disadvantage in order to provide sufficient childcare, as outlined below:

East £96,250 39%

West £59,400 24%

Central £52,250 21%

Citywide funds allocated as follows:

Out of School Development Officer salaries £50,000

£20,000 would be allocated to support inclusion 8%

£10,000 for plans to develop a 'safe place to be' in secondary schools. 4%

£9,851 flexible contingency fund 4%

(2) The Board agrees proposals to allocated Extended services capital funding of £334,508 based on an analysis of provision and need in 2008-09 as outlined below:

East £150,300 46%

West £60,000 18%

Central £72,000 21.5%

Contingency £52,208 15%

A full summary of capital proposals listing school and specific capital development is listed in Appendix 1.

Capital developments at Queens Park, within the east area would be spread over 2008-9 and 2009-10.

(3) The Board agrees delegated flexibility to allocate the contingency fund in emergency situations. To also allow some reallocation of up to 20% of the budget allocated should capital developments be postponed or changes to providers or to the market jeopardise childcare places.

11. THINK FAMILY PATHFINDER

11.1 The Board considered a report of the Director of Children's Services relating to Think Family Pathfinder, which provided information on Brighton & Hove's successful bid to be a Family Pathfinder and the project's aims to improve outcomes for the most disadvantaged families in the city (for copy see minute book).

11.2 The Chairman and members of the Board welcomed the report.

- 11.3 Councillor Hawkes indicated that the issue of teenage pregnancy should be included as one of the areas to be considered in this project. She also requested that anonymised case studies be collated on this pathfinder project to give a better picture of the overall situation. The Chairman concurred with Councillor Hawkes's proposal and requested that officers took this into consideration.
- 11.4 David Standing, Community Voluntary Sector Forum, was concerned about the lack of involvement from the voluntary sector on the design of the consultation, but was pleased to find that the voluntary sector would be brought on board at a later stage.
- 11.5 James Dougan, Assistant Director East Area, Early Years & NHS Commissioning, clarified that, even though officers would be working differently across the sectors, they were not developing a new strategy or a new project. The aim was about rescheduling the services that already exist.
- 11.6 Councillor Marsh indicated that she had requested that health implications be covered in reports brought to the CYPTB and that she would still like this information included in future. The Chairman and the Director of Children's Services assured her that officers' aims were to structure the Council's agenda to better include and reflect the partnership between all the bodies on the CYPTB.
- 11.7 **RESOLVED** – The Board notes the 'Think Family' Pathfinder project and the commitment to keep the Board informed of progress.

The meeting concluded at 6.35pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

Subject: Childcare Sufficiency Strategy
Date of Meeting: 21 July 2008
Report of: Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Name: **Vicky Jenkins** Tel: **29-6110**
E-mail: vicky.jenkins@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Childcare Act 2006 requires local authorities to ensure that there is sufficient childcare, as far as is reasonably practicable, to meet the requirements of parents in their areas in order to enable them to work or undertake education or training leading to work.
- 1.2 A Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) was completed in March 2008 and found that whilst there is, in general terms, sufficient childcare in Brighton & Hove, key gaps were identified. These gaps are summarised in the attached document, Appendix One, *Childcare Sufficiency Strategy for Brighton and Hove*, as well as proposals for filling them. Much of this is refocusing and developing the existing work of City Early Years and Childcare (CEYC), but it is also proposed to develop an @ Home Childcare Service.
- 1.3 The government's expectation is that parents should pay for childcare with those on low incomes claiming support from the childcare element of Working Tax Credit. It is not always possible to make a clear distinction between childcare for work and childcare which is used as family support or a short break for disabled children. The strategy focuses on the childcare which supports parents to work or train. However it includes sustainability funding for some settings which are used by parents who work but which also offer cheaper rates for parents who do not work. The value of this approach is outlined in the attached report and it is proposed that this continues.
- 1.4 The strategy does not seek to offer free short breaks for children with disabilities. For pre-school children the inclusion fund covers the additional cost of childcare for disabled children which may be used by parents as wraparound care in addition to the early education free entitlement (or for children who are not yet eligible for the free entitlement), and will continue to be administered by Presens (the Pre-School SEN service). The distinction between childcare for working parents and provision used as a short break is not currently made for these

children because of the importance of meeting the early years outcomes duty and the limited provision for younger children, compared with those of school age. However, the inclusion funding may not be sufficient, for example, to support a child under five who needs one to one support in full time child care.

- 1.5 The out of school inclusion funding is aimed at meeting the additional costs of childcare primarily for working parents using registered childcare. It does not fund the additional cost of short breaks for disabled children of non-working parents which will increasingly be covered by the Aiming High short breaks funding. The funding for out of school inclusion has been increased this year and is being more proactively marketed to parents. The funding is still limited and may not meet the needs of all parents: it will be spent until the money runs out each financial year.
- 1.6 There may come a stage when a decision is needed whether to focus all funding on meeting the sufficiency duty for working parents.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the contents of the attached *Childcare Sufficiency Strategy for Brighton & Hove* (Appendix One) be agreed.
- 2.2 That the development of an @ Home Childcare Service at a full year cost of £45,000 (Appendix Three) be approved.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The attached report outlines the new duties placed on local authorities under the Childcare Act 2006 and actions taken to date to meet these duties. It proposes further actions to be taken by the CEYC and partners to ensure childcare gaps are filled.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Extensive consultation was carried out with parents and childcare providers in order to produce the CSA. The draft CSA was sent to partners within and outside the CYPT for comment, including the Child Development and Disabilities Strategic Partnership Board.
- 4.2 Consultation on the relevant elements of the draft *Childcare Sufficiency Strategy for Brighton & Hove* has taken place with commissioning and partnership managers and colleagues developing in childcare extended schools, as well as other partners within and outside the CYPT.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 All the elements of the *Childcare Sufficiency Strategy for Brighton & Hove* are funded from the existing allocation of the Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant. We have been informed of the grant allocation until March 2011 but do not know the position after that date.

Finance officer consulted: Sue Coleman, Accountant, 23/06/08

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 Ensuring that there is sufficient childcare within Brighton & Hove, so far as is reasonably practicable, to enable parents to work or train is a legal duty under the Childcare Act (2006) s6. The report demonstrates how the local authority proposes to meet that duty, having undertaken extensive consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Lawyer consulted: Hilary Priestley Senior Lawyer 26/06/08

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 A Race Equality Impact Assessment was completed by CEYC in 2004. This will be updated with the inclusion of disability and gender equalities by **March 2009**.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Provision of childcare in local communities supports the sustainable communities goal, as well as climate change and energy. Capital developments will take place in accordance with sustainable consumption and production, as well as natural resource protection and environmental impact assessment.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Research shows access to good quality childcare supports children and young people's learning and achievement in life.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 "I DO RM" tool will be used for any new projects.

Corporate/Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The relevant corporate and CYP objectives are:
- Reduce inequality by increasing opportunity
 - Achieving economic well-being – to secure sufficient childcare for parents to work or train/to reduce child poverty.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Childcare Sufficiency Strategy for Brighton & Hove
2. Benchmarks of Childcare Sufficiency
3. @ Home Childcare Service

Background Documents

1. Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (available at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/childcaresufficiency)

Appendix One

Children and Young People's Trust City Early Years and Childcare

Childcare Sufficiency Strategy for Brighton & Hove 2008 – 2011

1. Introduction – Securing Sufficient Childcare

1.1 Under Section 6 the Childcare Act 2006 local authorities have a duty “to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the provision of childcare (whether or not by them) is sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in their areas in order to enable them to work or undertake education or training leading to work”.¹ Under Section 7 there is a related duty to secure early years provision, free of charge, for three and four year olds.² The Section 6 duty came into effect from April 2008.

1.2 The duty is specific that in determining whether childcare is sufficient the local authority “must have regard to the needs of parents for the provision of childcare for which the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit can be claimed, and childcare suitable for disabled children.”³ Childcare for which the childcare element of the WTC can be claimed is that registered by Ofsted, (whether on the compulsory or voluntary registers), and where the cost is within the upper limit of £175 per week. Disabled children are defined as children who have a disability for the purposes of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

1.3 The government is committed to halving child poverty by 2010 and eradicating it by 2020. In its Children's Plan the Department for Children, Schools and Families states: “For children today parental employment provides the best sustainable route out of poverty. Families are better off in work than on benefits, both financially and in terms of health and well-being. And because the attitudes and expectations parents directly shape the aspirations of their children, the benefits of being in work pass on to the next generation.”⁴ The Children's Plan is clear that the extension of the free entitlement to early education to 15 hours per week for all three and four year

¹ *Securing Sufficient Childcare: Guidance for Local Authorities Childcare Act 2006* DCSF 2007, Page 2

² This duty replaces the current duty under Section 118 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and Section 153 of the Education Act 2002 to ensure that all parents of three and four year olds are able to access the minimum free entitlement for up to two years before the child reaches compulsory school age

³ *Securing Sufficient Childcare: Guidance for Local Authorities Childcare Act 2006* DCSF 2007 Paragraph 2.9, Page 10

⁴ *Children's Plan*, Paragraph 1.80, Page 35 DCSF, 2007

olds by 2010 and the childcare sufficiency duty are key policies in tackling child poverty.⁵

1.4 The government has also published new arrangements whereby lone parents will be required actively to seek work and will no longer be able to claim income support solely on the grounds of being a lone parent.⁶ This will be introduced for lone parents with a youngest child aged 12 or over from November 2008, a youngest child aged 10 or over from October 2009 and a youngest child aged seven or over from October 2010. Whilst some lone parents may be able to claim other benefits, others will as a result join the labour market and require childcare provision in order to enable their working.

1.5 The guidance is clear that childcare sufficiency is about childcare which is sustainable and that the focus is on parents working or training. It is also clear that securing sufficiency does not mean local authorities providing childcare themselves, but rather acting as “market facilitators”. There is also an emphasis on quality and flexibility in provision.

1.6 Appendix Two summarises DCSF’s “Benchmarks of Sufficiency” according to the guidance.

2. Childcare as defined by the 2006 Act

2.1 The 2006 Act is clear that the sufficiency duty concerns childcare which is available to enable parents to work or train. In Brighton & Hove some childcare is used by parents as a short break – this can particularly be the case where childcare is used by parents of disabled children. Childcare as family support is also funded through children’s centres, and some out of school provision charges very low fees so that it is affordable to non-working parents (who would not be eligible for the childcare element of WTC).

2.2 The value of childcare as a form of family support is widely acknowledged and fits with the holistic nature of services developed by the Children and Young People’s Trust. Where families receive this support it can relieve pressure on other potentially more expensive social care and disability services. It can also support parents who are in the first stages of engaging with other services or seeking training which will eventually enable them to work.

2.3 There are practical difficulties in separating childcare which is for people who work with that which is used as family support or as a short break – some parents may not work but will nevertheless be able to afford childcare provision. Others may be in and out of work but still seek continuity for their child – for example in early years provision.

⁵ Ibid p.25

⁶ *Ready for Work: full employment in our generation*, DWP, 2007

2.4 It is therefore proposed that whilst City Early Years and Childcare's focus is on registered childcare for working parents it continues to recognise and support the availability of childcare as family support or a short break. However, as funds are limited, the out of school inclusion fund will be primarily focused on supporting the additional costs of including disabled children of working parents in registered childcare (see 4.2 below). In addition, with the exception of the limited number of free places in Children's Centres, the Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant will not be used to fund free places for individual children.

3. Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

3.1 In accordance with Section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006 City Early Years and Childcare (CEYC) undertook a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment which was published in March 2008. Whilst the assessment found that there was, in general terms, sufficient childcare across the city, key gaps were identified.

- 3.2 **Affordability** – parents thought that childcare was expensive, particularly for children aged 0 to 5 and for older children in disadvantaged areas
- 3.3 **Choice** – particularly for school-aged children. This includes activities which are not traditionally thought of as childcare
- 3.4 **Childcare for disabled children** – the focus group with Amaze⁷ highlighted this as parents thought there was scant provision. There is no childcare provision for disabled children aged 11 to 18 in the city
- 3.5 **Flexibility** – parents indicated that they wanted ad hoc care, to be able to use part sessions, or wanted childcare for irregular use
- 3.6 **Provision outside office hours** – this also emerged as a gap, though not as strongly as the need for flexibility
- 3.7 **Provision for children aged 11 to 14** – particularly activities which are attractive to children of this age but may not be formal registered childcare
- 3.8 **Supply and demand for childcare in disadvantaged areas** – parents in these areas are less likely to use childcare and less likely to be planning to use childcare in the future, which is significant in terms of a child poverty strategy

⁷ Amaze in Brighton & Hove provides information, advice and support to parents of children with special needs

4. Strategies to address gaps

4.1 Affordability

Focus on extending and developing work with partners to outreach to families in order to understand the benefits of childcare and increase take-up of the childcare element of WTC, with the recognition that many families are at the very early stages of considering returning to work/training. Ensure that childcare sufficiency is embedded within the child poverty and children's centre programme.

4.1.1 Focus on funding for childcare

- Refocus Family Information Service work on outreach, particularly to parents of school-aged children through schools, building on the FIS links service. The aim will be to support parents returning to work or training who are unlikely to contact the FIS helpline or use the Family Services Directory
- Extend training of FIS advisors to develop specialist skills in signposting to sources of funding for childcare and other family finance services
- Extend relationships within Brighton & Hove City Council (for example housing and welfare rights) and with other partners (for example the Citizens' Advice Bureau, Amaze) to build on knowledge and skills with the aim of increasing parents' awareness of the childcare element of WTC
- Increase training and support for childcare providers to encourage parents to take up childcare element of WTC, particularly for play schemes
- Consider a system of underwriting deposits/fees for parents new to childcare in specific circumstances – for example returning to work for the first time
- Provide capital (and any other) grants only to providers whose fees come within the maximum amount allowed for the childcare element of the WTC
- Continue to fund free childcare places in children's centre nurseries and in partnership with childminders

4.1.2 Widen the definition of childcare

- Continue with strategies that encourage providers to register on the voluntary childcare register in order to expand the range of provision for which the childcare element of the WTC is payable, particularly activities for older children

4.1.3 Improve information for parents

- Provide more information for parents in the publication *Childcare Choices* about retainers and holding fees

4.1.4 Deliver the free entitlement flexibly

- Introduce flexibility for the free entitlement so that from September 2008 providers can offer parents the choice of accessing their free entitlement in hours rather than in 2.5 hour sessions
- Assist early years sessional providers to increase hours so that working parents with a three/four year old can maximise the number of hours of their free entitlement they use in one day. Support providers to offer a lunch time session to link morning and afternoon sessions
- Use childcare capital⁸ to enable voluntary sector providers to increase hours so that the free entitlement to early years provision can be used by working parents
- Ensure that the extension to 15 hours by 2010 does not increase the costs of early years provision

4.1.5 Early years funding reform

- Reform early years funding so that maintained and PVI providers are funded on the same factors

4.1.6 Improve audit information of childcare costs in Brighton & Hove

- FIS will attempt to obtain standardised information from providers about the charge for a full time place

4.2. Choice

Focus on improving information to and choices for parents, particularly those of school-aged children

- Improve information on ICHIS⁹ about the 8 to 6 offer in extended schools so that this can be provided to parents
- Develop more childcare in schools so that all schools meet the extended schools core offer by 2010, including revenue funding where there are gaps. This includes developing and promoting childminding as an option for parents of school aged children
- Develop the @ Home Childcare Service to provide home-based childcare (see 4.4 below)
- Encourage providers to register on the voluntary childcare register (see 4.1.2 above)

4.2 Childcare for disabled children

- Use the out of school inclusion fund to support the additional cost of including disabled children of working parents using registered childcare

⁸ The Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant main capital block offers £1,062,287 capital in 2008/09 – a paper is due to go to cabinet in September 2008

⁹ ICHIS is the online system used by FIS to provide information to parents about childcare provision

- Continue to fund the additional costs of including disabled pre-school children in early years settings whose parents wish to use wraparound care which is additional to the free early years entitlement
- Increase inclusion grant from up to £1,200 to up to £1,800 per child per year for both out of school and early years providers
- Work to maximise take-up of inclusion grant through additional publicity to out of school providers
- Provide upfront funding for summer holiday play schemes (total of £10,000) for summer 2008 to include more disabled children, with the out of school development officers brokering this with providers. Monitor use of funding to look at needs of children who use the scheme, how much it costs to meet them, how many additional children can be accommodated, and the situation of parents who benefit (in particular to find out whether or not they are working parents)
- Extended schools revenue of £20,000 to continue inclusion work, including additional resources and training
- Working with Amaze to encourage them to promote childcare and refer to the Extra Support Service¹⁰
- Produce *Choosing Childcare* booklet targeted at parents of disabled children aged 0 to 5
- Work with the Aiming High for Disabled Children development manager to link short breaks and childcare
- Develop brokerage role of childminding coordinator working with parents of disabled children, increasing the capacity of childminders to care for disabled children
- Improve and extend the range of training offered to childcare workers regarding disability and inclusion

4.4 Flexibility and provision outside office hours

- FIS to provide more information and guidance to parents about what they can reasonably expect in terms of flexible provision
- FIS to provide more information to parents about right to flexible working and maternity leave entitlements
- FIS to increase accuracy of information from providers about which ones are really able to offer flexible sessions (particularly childminders)
- Develop the @ Home Childcare Service to provide home-based childcare targeted at families with older children, disabled children, or those particularly vulnerable who need extra support, or those working outside office hours. Details are set out in Appendix Three.
- Recognise the tension in the DCSF guidance between the provision of flexible childcare and that which is sustainable, and focus on sustainability in business support for childcare providers

¹⁰ The FIS Extra Support Service provides parents of children with special needs additional help finding childcare

4.5 Provision for children aged 11 to 14

- Develop the @ Home Childcare Service (see 4.4 above)
- Provide extended schools revenue funding to support secondary schools to develop “Safe Place to Be” (£10,000)
- FIS to provide information about activities for 11 to 14 year olds
- Encourage provider registration on voluntary childcare register (see 4.1.2 above)

4.6 Supply and demand for childcare in disadvantaged areas

- Develop new nursery in Moulsecoomb (Jump Start)
- Continue to fund free places in children’s centre nurseries (see 4.1.1 above)
- Implement the child poverty and children’s centres programme
- Develop the @ Home Childcare Service (see 4.4 above)
- Provide extended schools revenue sustainability funding to providers in disadvantaged areas
- Consider a system of underwriting deposits/fees for parents (see 4.1.1. above)
- Review and develop grant and monitoring forms for sustainability grants to early years providers to include sufficiency and quality issues

Appendix Two

Benchmarks of Childcare Sufficiency –

Summarised from *Securing Sufficient Childcare: guidance for local authorities, Childcare Act 2006 DCSF, 2007*

1. There are sufficient **places overall** in each sub-local authority area, having regard to demographic trends and to patterns of employment and of travelling to work
2. There is sufficient **flexibility**, with places being available at the right times (for example in the early morning, late evening, at weekends or during school holidays), to fit in with working patterns
3. Places are sufficiently **accessible**, so that parents do not have to travel too far out of their way to access childcare
 - Physical barriers (railway lines, motorways)
 - Close to parents' homes/workplaces
 - Within own "cultural community"
 - Provision for larger families e.g. childcare that caters for different age groups in one location or locations close to each other
 - Caters for parents working shifts or a-typical hours e.g. childcare for parents working in a hospital
 - Flexible care e.g. early morning/overnight in parents' home
4. Childcare places are high **quality**, in terms of judgements made by Ofsted
 - In securing sufficiency local authorities need to commission and secure childcare that is high quality
 - This requires setting a clear vision for quality services, benchmarking and reviewing quality, and using strong performance management
 - Quality provision focuses strongly on reducing inequalities
 - This includes providers who are not required to register
5. There is sufficient **range**, with the balance between session and full day care appropriate to meet the needs of parents identified through the assessment
6. There is sufficient **knowledge and information** about the supply of places
7. Childcare places are sufficiently **affordable**
 - Affordability should be determined by reference to parents' ability to pay for the provision they need, taking into account wage levels and well as subsidies available
 - Promoting take up of childcare element of WTC and other forms of financial support (e.g. Care to Learn, NDLP, discretionary grants, childcare vouchers)
 - Role of FIS and JCP, including workshop events and drop-in sessions
 - Sharing information about unmet demand for childcare which could be met at a lower but still sustainable price, encouraging providers to enter the market or revise their business model

- Section 13 duty to provide information, advice and training to childcare providers (those who are registered) (and we may provide information, advice and training to others if we want to)
 - We may decide to take action to support parents to access childcare places at more affordable prices, including attracting new providers or helping existing providers deliver childcare more cost-effectively, or providing support directly to specific groups of parents (e.g. those with disabled children)
 - However, unlikely that on-going financial subsidy will be effective as a way of improving affordability, unless they consider issues regarding “providing long-term financial support”
 - Working with providers on pricing strategies which do not exclude certain families – e.g. no large deposits, strategies which do not prevent families accessing the free entitlement, flexible pricing (weekly, session payments)
 - Flexibility from providers in the minimum quantity of care that can be purchased e.g. encouraging providers to charge by the hour and to charge for part of the session when the parent only wants part of the session
 - Long term financial support in exceptional cases – where not likely to be self-sustaining, or where sustaining but a particular group of parents cannot afford fees
8. Childcare places are sufficiently **inclusive** and meet **particular needs**
- Inclusive childcare includes childcare for children at risk of exclusion (SEN, minority groups, refugees, asylum seekers, disadvantaged and socially excluded groups – LAC, children with health needs, travellers, families with disabled children or teenage parent)
 - We may place conditions on providers we support to promote childcare that is inclusive (such as training in diversity and equality issues)
 - Our work should compliment the local authority’s work under the 1989 Children Act s 17(children in need)
 - Disabled children (DDA definition) – should provide up to the child’s 18th birthday
 - Providers must make reasonable adjustments for disabled children and are not allowed to discriminate against them
 - Role of child health promotion programme in signposting childcare provision and support
 - Working in partnership with schools to provide childcare for older disabled children
 - Actively consider ways in which childcare services can be personalised for disabled children and their families, using the Early Support Family File
 - Specifically considering affordability in relation to childcare for disabled parents
 - Improve coordination of services for disabled parents (because of the lack of coordination between adult and child services)
9. Childcare places are sufficiently **sustainable**
- Appropriate business support should be available to make sure that childcare becomes sustainable

- Consider not funding or supporting businesses we think are not likely to become sustainable (except as outlined under affordability above)
- Deciding whether to support new provider rather than sustain existing one
- Before providing support we should consider whether the provider can apply for commercial or bank loans

Appendix Three

Children and Young People's Trust City Early Years and Childcare

Outline Proposal for a Brighton & Hove @ Home Childcare Service

1. Aim of the Service

To provide Ofsted registered high quality childcare in the child or young person's home.

This service would be attractive in a range of circumstances including

- parents and carers with unsociable hours work
- those undertaking training in order to return to work
- parents and carers who feel group care or care outside the family home is inappropriate for their child or family
- parents and carers with children with disabilities, the most likely families being those that do not meet the thresholds for statutory support from the Children's Disability Social Work Team. This is dependent on being able to recruit childcare workers with relevant skills.

The aim will be to recruit a proportion of child carers who have youth work skills to offer a service for older children and young people who will not readily use traditional out of school services. This may prove useful to working parents with children in the first two years of secondary school.

There is one such service operating in England at present which is run in the London boroughs of Southwark, Lambeth and Wandsworth and roughly mirrors the outline here. The service receives referrals from their disability teams and they do not have the emphasis on the older age range children. Southwark currently have 67 child carers registered with their service and 106 families using it.

2. Why an @ Home Childcare Service?

Evidence from a range of sources national and local suggests there is a gap in the delivery of registered childcare.

- There is very little childcare in Brighton & Hove for those working unsociable hours such as early morning cleaning, driving jobs and shift work.
- Lone parents without work indicate overwhelmingly that childcare is a major barrier to returning to work. Affordability, availability and the difficulty of adjusting to childcare outside the family home are all barriers to using childcare.
- The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment found that childcare for children and young people aged 12 years and up is very thin on the ground. This is difficult for lone parents with children of this age. Some of these parents will, in the autumn of this year, be moved from the lone parent

programme into Income Support with a new expectation that they return to work.

- Childcare workers, care workers and youth workers often work part time and for low wages. In Southwark the scheme is seen very much as improving the opportunities for workers to earn a living wage. When recruitment to the new service was advertised they were inundated with applications. Early years services in the borough did not see the service as competition because the council was not employing the individuals. It also has meant child carers are more likely to stay in their group care employment because they are making up their wages.

3. How Would it Work?

The Family Information Service (FIS) would market the service to existing professionals in early years, out of school, childminders and youth work. Individuals will apply to join the service. They would then be placed on any training they require to meet the minimum standards for the service and they would apply to the Ofsted Voluntary Childcare Register as an individual carer. They are signposted to registering as self employed.

Once they are Ofsted registered and fully trained they are stored on the FIS childcare database. FIS would then market the service to parents and carers, and anyone calling in for childcare information would have the at home child care option offered in addition to the traditional childcare types. Parents enquiring for at home childcare would outline their needs and the FIS advisor would then try and match them to a childcarer. Because shift work and unsociable hours work is most often low paid information about this service would be channelled through workers and professionals who support families in disadvantaged areas. Not all the families in most need of this service will find their way to the FIS telephone number.

Brighton & Hove will not employ the workers – they are self-employed – but will offer a broker service. If a match is found the details are given to the family along with a service family pack that outlines some helpful “dos and don’ts”, suggests minimum hourly rates etc. The decision about hourly rates is decided between the family and carer.

4. What About Quality Control?

Each childcarer will be registered under Ofsted’s Voluntary Childcare Register. This is an individual registration and the minimum requirements are:

- A full Criminal Records Bureau disclosure
- Current paediatric first aid certificate
- For child carers caring for children under eight years we recommend the Introduction to Childcare Practice (12 hour Initial Unit of the Level 3 Diploma in Home Based Childcare) or an equivalent qualification as a minimum. City Early Years and Childcare (CEYC) would encourage all child carers registered with the @ Home Childcare Service to progress toward higher qualifications.

- For child carers caring for children eight years and over we plan to offer training in the Common Core for the Children's Workforce. We are awaiting guidance and courses in this from the national skills sector councils. Until this arrives we will look at work experience and any relevant qualifications and training such as youth work, sports coaching etc.
- CEYC would offer all childcarers, without recent child protection training, access to this at no cost, and the @ Home Childcare Service would make this a requirement of joining the Service.
- In addition the CEYC would require and provide training in personal safety and risk assessment
- The service would require and follow up two references for each childcarer
- It would also request evaluation from families using the service

5. How Would the Service be Managed?

In the first year we would model the service from within the FIS management structure. If the demand is as we expect we will then consider whether to continue with the service in house or whether we should look to an external provide take it on.

6. How Would We Fund the Service?

The funding will cover the year one set-up and on-going running costs. It will not fund or subsidise the cost of the childcare. There will be excellent signposting for childcare subsidies to the family, including:

- Working Links
- JobCentre Plus
- Other back to work employment programmes
- Care to Learn and the Learner Support Fund (Students in Further Education)
- Parent's Learning Allowance and the Childcare Grant (Students in Higher Education)
- Childcare Element of the Working Tax Credit

7. Consultation So Far

Amaze, Jenny Brickell (Head of Integrated Services, Children's Disability Social Work Team), Ellen Jones (Commissioning and Partnership Manager, West Area and Extended Services lead), Adam Bain (Working Links) have either seen the outline or discussed it with Sarah Colombo and the result to far has been very positive. If given the go ahead there would be further consultation with the youth related skills base statutory and non-statutory services and further to disabilities support services.

8. Outline Year One Costs

Manager/advisor time	19,000
Carer recruitment and registration	11,000
Training	12,000
Admin and marketing	3,500
Total	£45,500

Budget: Sure Start and Early Years Childcare Grant (of which £10k agreed from the extended schools revenue budget).

Subject: Connexions Procurement
Date of Meeting: 21 July 2008
Report of: Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Name: **Gillian Cunliffe** Tel: 29-3447
E-mail: Gillian.Cunliffe@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 At the 10th September 2007 CYPT Board meeting it was agreed that the Connexions IAG contract should be put out for tender with new arrangements to start in September 2008. At the 17th March 2008 CYPT Board meeting it was agreed that the Chair of the CYPT Board and the Director of Children's Services should have the delegated authority to approve the awarding of the Connexions IAG contract during April/May 2008 to maximise the time available for systematic implementation of the new arrangements.
- 1.2 As approved by the Chair and the Director, the contract was offered to Prospects Services Limited. Approximately 35 staff employed by the existing provider Sussex Careers limited will be part of a TUPE transfer to Prospects. Part of the terms and conditions of the TUPE transfer is the need to provide the transferring staff with a broadly comparable pension scheme. Prospects have offered this through a Local Government Pension Scheme they are already part of called the London Pension Fund Authority (LPFA). This offer is dependent on the pension transfer being fully funded as per LPFA calculations.
- 1.3 The current Sussex Careers Limited (existing provider in Brighton & Hove) pension funding level, after adjustment for their staff TUPE transferring to VT (new provider in East Sussex) and leaving their deferred benefits in the ESCC LGPS, is 87%. The ESCC pension fund actuary is proposing the LPFA receive only 87% of the bulk transfer value that would have met the inherited liabilities and this leaves a shortfall of £200k. This shortfall could marginally go up or down depending on the assumptions used by the LPFA Actuary.
- 1.4 Prospects will sign the contract only when they receive a written assurance that the Council will indemnify them against any pension shortfall. If the Council is not willing to give the indemnity then the only alternative is to bring the service back in house. In that case the shortfall is very likely to fall on the Council. Significant time and expense would be required to set up the new service.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Director of Children's Services, after consulting with the Chair of the CYPT Board, be given delegated authority to enter into the Connexions IAG Contract including the provision of an indemnity sought by Prospects in relation to the pension deficit associated with the staff transferring to them.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Board papers of the 10th September 2007 and the 17th March 2008 outline background information.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 This paper has been written in consultation with the Strategic Finance, Legal and HR teams

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

The estimated pension deficit for staff transferring to Prospects is £200,000 as outlined in paragraph 1.3. These costs will be met from CYPT resources, spread over 5 years from 2009/10 to minimise the impact on services. The service is funded through Connexions grant which forms part of the Area Based Grant; the level of this grant has been confirmed until 2010/11

Finance Officer Consulted: James Hengeveld

Date: 4 July 2008

5.2 Legal Implications:

On 22 May 2008 the Council issued contract documentation to Prospects following authority given by the CYPT Board on 17 March 2008.

On 29 May 2008 Prospects stated they were willing to enter into the contract subject to an undertaking from the Council that the pensions of the staff transferring to their organisation in respect of the Connexions service would be fully funded.

If the Director of Children's Services is willing to provide an indemnity in the terms sought by Prospects, a letter to this effect would be sent to Prospects. The letter itself would become part of the contract documentation, and the formal offer sent to Prospects on 22 May would be amended accordingly. This would clear the way to Prospects signing the contract.

The wording of the recommendation in 2.1 above makes clear that the Director, after appropriate consultation with the CYPT Board Chair has fully delegated authority to take the action specified.

Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon

Date: 7 July 2008

5.3 Equalities Implications:

These proposals fully support the equalities policies of the Children and Young People's Trust partners.

5.4 Sustainability Implications:

Sustainability is determined by Brighton & Hove City Council continuing to receive Connexions funding via the LAA

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

The proposals in this paper will fully support the prevention of crime and disorder as set out in the Children & Young People's Plan.

5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

Financial and legal risks are set out above

5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

These proposals take account of key corporate and citywide proposals, specifically those set out in the Children & Young People's Plan.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. 10th September 2007 CYPT Board meeting paper – Connexions Procurement
2. 17th March 2008 CYPT Board meeting paper – Connexions Procurement

