





**Brighton & Hove
City Council**



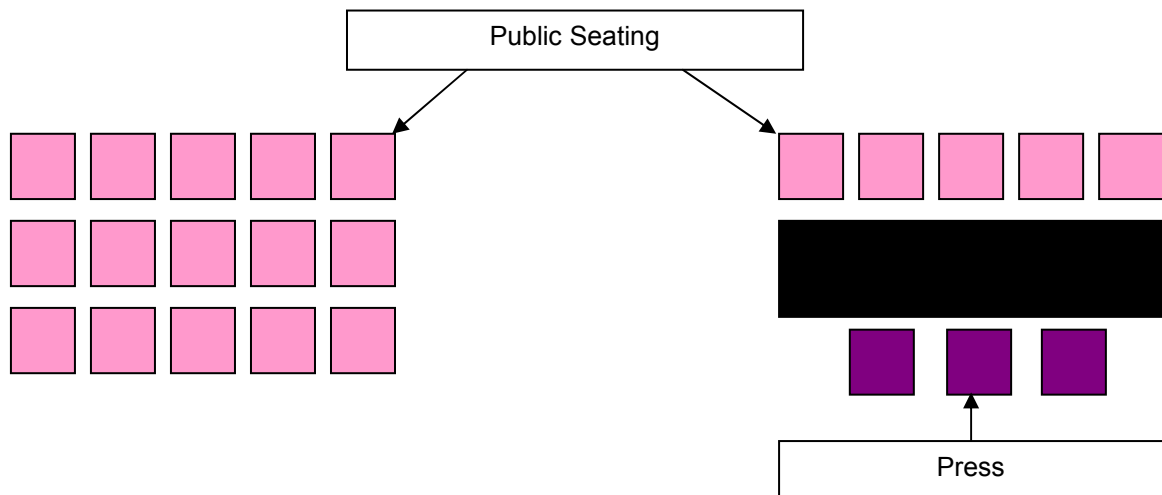
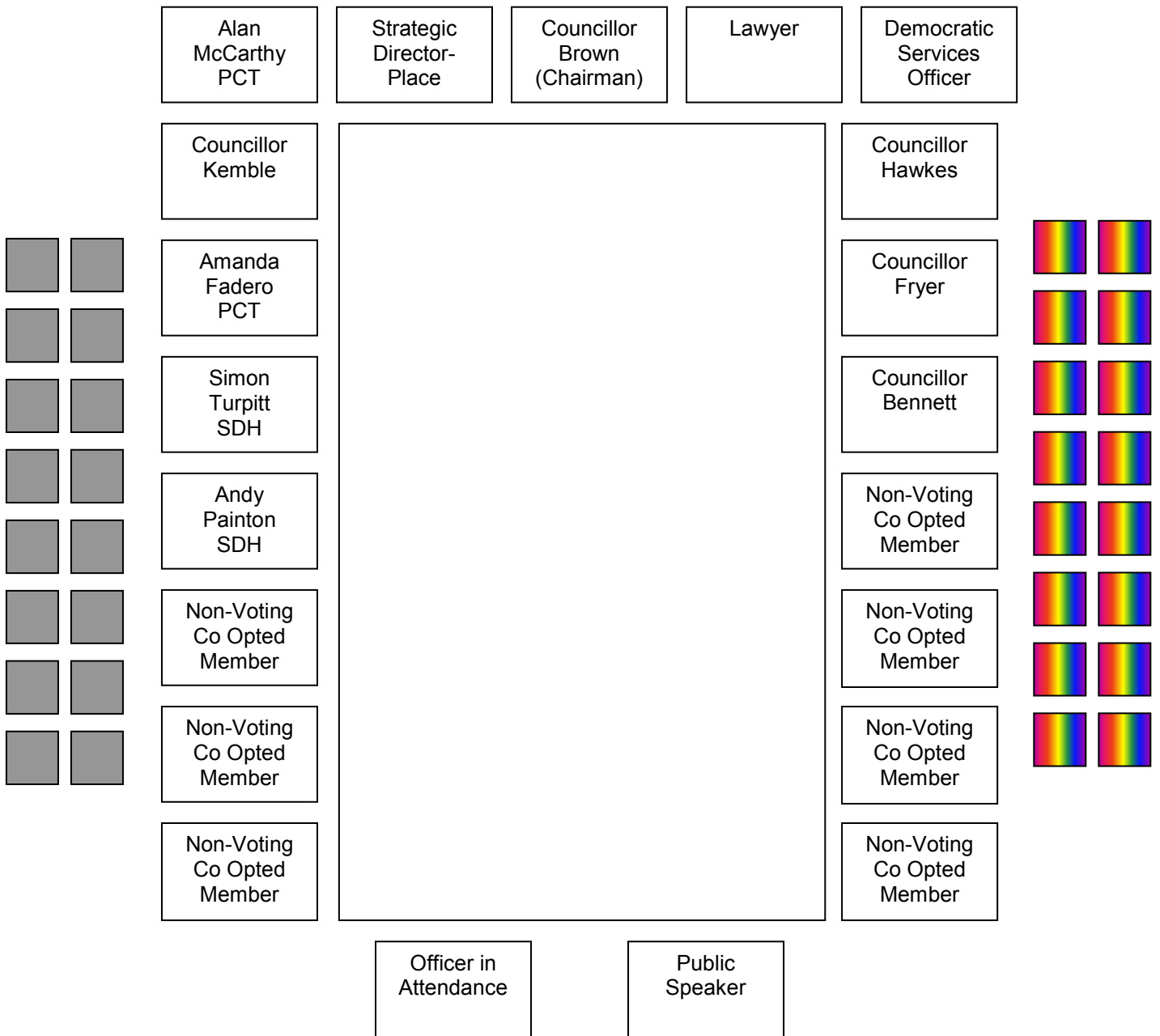
Brighton and Hove

Children & Young People's Trust Board

Title:	Children & Young People's Trust Board
Date:	1 November 2010
Time:	5.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Contact:	John Peel Democratic Services Officer 01273 291058 john.peel@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: Brown (Chairman), Bennett, Fryer, Kemble and Hawkes,

Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust: Alan McCarthy

South Downs Health: Amanda Fadero, Andy Painton and Simon Turpitt

Non-Voting Co-optees:

David Standing	Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Gail Gray	Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Andrew Jeffrey	Parent Forum
Graham Bartlett	Sussex Police Authority
Priya Rogers	Youth Council
Rose Suman	Youth Council
Caroline Parker	Head of Service City Early Years and Childcare
Kim Bolton	Special Community Schools Representative
Duncan Selbie	Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals Trust
Simone Button	CAHMS
Lisa Argent	Lead Practice Based Commissioner
Janet Thacker	Job Centre Plus
Dr Phil Harland	Further Education & Sixth Form Colleges
Catherine Keith	Peter Gladwin Primary School
Haydn Stride	Longhill Secondary School

AGENDA

8. 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 either that it is confidential or 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 categories of exempt information is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

9. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1 - 6

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 July 2010 (copy attached).

10. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

11. OUTCOME OF UNANNOUNCED OFSTED INSPECTION

7 - 14

Report of the Strategic Director- People (copy attached).

Contact Officer: James Dougan Tel: 295511

12. VERBAL PRESENTATION FROM CHAIR OF LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (LSCB)

13. FUTURE PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS (BOARD DISCUSSION)

14. CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

15 - 44

Report of the Strategic Director- People (copy attached).

Contact Officer: James Dougan Tel: 295511

15. CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

45 - 80

Report of the Strategic Director- People (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Paul Brewer

Tel: 29-1269

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 John Peel, (01273 291058, email john.peel@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication - Friday, 22 October 2010

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST BOARD

5.00pm 19 JULY 2010

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: Brown (Chairman), Bennett, Kemble, Hawkes (Opposition Spokesperson- Labour) and Fryer (Opposition Spokesperson- Green)

Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust: Alan McCarthy

South Downs Health: Mo Marsh, Andy Painton

Non-Voting Co-optees:

David Standing, Community & Voluntary Sector Forum

Gail Gray, Community & Voluntary Sector Forum

Graham Bartlett, Sussex Police Authority

Caroline Parker, Head of Service City Early Years and Childcare

Kim Bolton, Special Community Schools Representative

Dr Phil Harland, Further Education & Sixth Form Colleges

Catherine Keith, Peter Gladwin Primary School

Eleanor Davies, Brighton & Hove Parents Forum

Also in attendance: Di Smith (Director of Childrens Services), Natasha Watson (Principal Lawyer)

Apologies:

Andrew Jeffrey, Parent Forum

Priya Rogers, Youth Council

Simone Button, CAHMS

Lisa Argent, Lead Practice Based Commissioner

Janet Thacker, Job Centre Plus

Haydn Stride, Longhill Secondary School

Amanda Fadero, NHS Brighton & Hove

PART ONE

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1a Declarations of Substitutes

- 1.1. Geoff Burgess was in attendance as substitute for Amanda Fadero.

1b Declarations of Interest

1.2. There were none.

1c In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act'), the Children & Young People's Trust Board considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press or public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100I(1) of the Act).

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

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 May 2010 be approved and signed as the correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 The Chairman welcomed the newly constituted Board Members to the meeting and asked that they introduce themselves.

3.2 The Director of Children's Services informed the Board that due to a recent restructuring of Brighton and Hove Council's Directorship, this would be the last Children and Young Person's Trust Board she would be attending. She congratulated the Board on their fantastic achievements and conveyed her thanks and best wishes to her colleagues, team and partners with whom much had been achieved.

3.3 On behalf of herself and the Trust Board, the Chairman conveyed her thanks to the Director of Children's Services for positively transforming the work of Children's Services, her consummate professionalism and for the enjoyment she had from working with her.

3.4 Councillor Hawkes commented her sadness on the departure describing the Director as a true leader of a department that had achieved great things. She wished her well adding that she was sure the Director would do similar wonders elsewhere.

4. CHILD POVERTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

4.1 The Trust Board considered a report of the Assistant Director of Learning, Schools and Skills on the new duties placed upon the council and the partners of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) under the Child Poverty Act 2010 and the approach for the completion of a Child Poverty Needs Assessment.

- 4.2 A Member commented that the success of Needs Assessment would be helped by the supply of varying data from the council, health services and community voluntary services and the best way to achieve this would be to work together. She enquired on the best means to feedback to Frank Field MP who was leading on the central government independent review into poverty.
- 4.3 The Assistant Director for Learning, Schools and Skills responded that this would be looked into to find out and Board Members would be informed.
- 4.4 A Member praised the inclusion of domestic violence for analysis as this was often overlooked in similar reports and suggested that other links such as mental health and physical disabilities be examined. She also noted her concerns on the suitability of the Intelligent Commissioning structure to maintain responsibility for service providers. Other Members agreed that there is often a multiplicity of issues involved in cases of poverty and as many as possible should be included.
- 4.5 The Assistant Director for learning, Schools and Skills assured the board that there would be a meaningful, engaging and comprehensive analysis.
- 4.6 **RESOLVED-** That the Board agree the approach to complete the local child poverty needs assessment and that the Board oversees the progress on the local child poverty needs assessment and the subsequent development of the joint child poverty strategy through regular updates.

5. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- 5.1 The Trust Board considered a report of the Director of Children's Services on CYPT Workforce Development and its development framework, the People Development Strategy. The presenting officer noted that the strategy document could be found on page five of the items appendix.
- 5.2 The Chairman praised the reports thoroughness and asked the Board Members to decide when an additional report might be suitable.
- 5.3 A Member praised the partners' co-operation with the local Universities in developing social workers and a stable, knowledgeable workforce.
- 5.4 Members agreed that a further report should be supplied within twelve months of the date of the current meeting.
- 5.5 **RESOLVED-** The Board noted its role in monitoring the progress and impact of workforce development and agreed that an additional report be timetable for twelve months time.

6. JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 The Trust Board considered a report of the Director of Public Health on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The purpose of the report was to bring the Board up to date on the work undertaken on Strategic Priority 2.

- 6.2 A Member asked if other data profiles such as domestic violence would be considered in addition to the others noted in 3.9 of the agenda.
- 6.3 The presenting officer responded that the profiles were reviewed according to the need of the assessment and domestic violence and others such as mental health would be a part of this. In addition, equality impact officers were included within the JNSA.
- 6.4 A Member enquired on how the Intelligent Commissioning model would impact on the JNSA structure.
- 6.5 The presenting officer answered that the impact of this change and others was currently being collated and a report would be produced for information when available.
- 6.6 **RESOLVED-** That the Board note the progress in respect of Strategic Priority 2 and the matters arising.

7. SERVICE REDESIGN AND COMMISSIONING REVIEWS

- 7.1 The Trust Board considered a report of the Director of Children's Services on the progress made concerning the commissioning reviews for Youth Services and Services for Disabled Children. The report also summarised the relevant developments across the local public sector.
- 7.2 A Member requested more information on the type of reports referred to Cabinet Member Meeting. The presenting officer clarified that any significant report would go to the Cabinet Member Meeting but that it was also within the remit of the Trust Board to request reports be referred to the Meeting. The Member requested that this item be brought back to the Board with more detail. The Chairman requested officers to examine this possibility.
- 7.3 **RESOLVED-** That the Board note the report and consider further opportunities to improve commissioning arrangements for services to children, young people and their families.

The meeting concluded at 5.56pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

Subject:	Annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within local authority children's services		
Date of Meeting:	1 st November 2010		
Report of:	Strategic Director- People		
Contact Officer:	Name: James Dougan	Tel: 295511	
	E-mail: james.dougan@brighton-hove.gov.uk		
Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report is to inform the Children & Young People's Trust Board of the outcome of the annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within Brighton & Hove City Council's Children's Services
- 1.2 Following the death of Baby Peter in Haringey and the subsequent Laming report, recommendations were made for the review of local authorities children's safeguarding services. As a result, from April 2009, the Joint Area Review inspections of children's services ceased and were replaced by a new programme of inspection. The two new inspection processes in relation to safeguarding children and young people are an annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment of children in need and children who may be in need of protection, and an announced inspection of safeguarding and looked after children's services to take place every three years.
- 1.3 The unannounced inspection lasts for two days with no prior warning of the visit being given. There is no grade awarded for the inspection, however it will contribute to the annual review of performance of the local authority children's services for which Ofsted will award a rating later in the year. The inspection details its findings under the following headings:
 - Strengths
 - Satisfactory practice
 - Areas for development
 - Priority actions

If local authorities are given priority actions, this is a limiting judgement that affects the overall rating for children's services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 The Board is asked to note the findings of the annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The inspection was carried out on 7th and 8th July 2010 and is part of the new arrangements Ofsted introduced in 2009/10. This is the first time this type of inspection has been carried out in Brighton & Hove. It involved three on-site inspectors undertaking case auditing and interviewing of social workers and managers. The inspectors examined a number of children's cases in detail and their conclusions reflect this investigation.
- 3.2 The conclusions are contained in the attached Ofsted letter that details in Brighton & Hove the areas of strength, satisfactory practice and areas of development.
- 3.3 In Brighton & Hove we did not receive any area of priority action.
- 3.4 At the time of the inspection, 16 of the 19 local authorities had been inspected in the South East region. A GOSE analysis of the findings of the unannounced inspections found that 8 local authorities were identified as having priority actions. The most common underlying factors identified in the priority actions were:
- staff shortages/ high staff turnover/ lack of capacity and the impact on timely assessments or timely provision of services
 - lack of evidence of management oversight/decision making/quality assurance arrangements.
- 3.5 The Ofsted unannounced inspection of Brighton & Hove's contact, referral and assessment whilst not revealing any areas which required a priority action, did indicate a number of areas for development. One of these was the speed at which children in need are seen. Clearly this presents us with significant additional resource pressure on top of the increase in activity seen within the service.
- 3.6 There continues to be significant pressures in terms of the Area Teams, particularly the impact of dealing with increased numbers of children the subject of Child Protection Plans. Over the last year there has been a significant increase from 328 in August 2009, to 414 in July 2010. It remains a challenge to ensure not only that all cases are allocated, but that there are robust interventions designed to effect change, or in the absence of change or risks increasing, alternative plans. There have also been increases in terms of the number of children in care. The numbers rose from 448 in August 2009 to 472 in July 2010. Again, the challenge has been to ensure all children in care are allocated and time given to ensure Care Plans are effectively delivered.

Whilst there has been an increase in statutory activity over the past year (i.e. August 09 to August 10), this is on top of increases between August 08 to August 09. The cumulative figures accordingly are:-

	<u>Children the subject of CP Plans</u>	<u>CiC</u>
July 2008	245	386
July 2009	314	444
July 2010	414	472

Clearly there has been significant increase in statutory social work activity, which has had significant impacts on the capacity of the service.

Between January and July of this year (2010) the Area Social Work Teams had between them 1690 contact/referrals, of these an average of 72% resulted in Initial Assessments. During the same timescale, 155 Core Assessments were completed.

- 3.7 The next step is the development of an Areas for Development Plan which will address all of the areas highlighted in the Ofsted letter for development. This plan is in an advanced stage of development and will be brought to the next Board meeting.

4. **CONSULTATION**

None

5. **FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 When the Areas for Development Plan is produced there will need to be an analysis of the additional costs and a strategy explaining how these will be funded.

Finance Officer Consulted: Louise Hoten Date: 20th October 2010

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The legal context of the inspection is contained within the body of the report. Consideration of the outcome of the inspection will assist the Board in monitoring the effective delivery of the services referred to.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson Date: 20th October 2010

Equalities Implications:

5.3 None

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 None

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 None

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 None

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 None

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 None

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Board is asked to note the findings of the annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Ofsted letter dated 5th August outlining outcomes of inspection

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None

5 August 2010

Ms Di Smith
Director of Children's Services
Brighton and Hove City Council
Kings House
Grand Avenue
Hove
BN3 2SR

Dear Ms Smith

Annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within Brighton and Hove children's services

This letter summarises the findings of the recent unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within local authority children's services in Brighton and Hove City Council which was conducted on 7 and 8 July 2010. The inspection was carried out under section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. It will contribute to the annual review of the performance of the authority's children's services, for which Ofsted will award a rating later in the year. I would like to thank all of the staff we met for their assistance in undertaking this inspection.

The inspection sampled the quality and effectiveness of contact, referral and assessment arrangements and their impact on minimising any child abuse and neglect. Inspectors considered a range of evidence, including: electronic case records; supervision files and notes; observation of social workers and senior practitioners undertaking referral and assessment duties; and other information provided by staff and managers. Inspectors also spoke to a range of staff including managers, social workers, other practitioners and administrative staff.

The inspection identified areas of strength and satisfactory practice, with some areas for development.

From the evidence gathered, the following features of the service were identified:

Strengths

- Staff report that they benefit from good levels of professional support and development opportunities including regular high quality supervision and comprehensive training.
- The council has been very successful at recruiting permanent social workers to the referral and assessment team and is reducing the reliance on agency staff



and increasing the stability of the workforce.

- There is evidence of good strategic planning by senior managers which has led to significant improvements in the service from a low base. Consequently staff report morale is high.

Satisfactory practice

- Monitoring and auditing of cases by senior managers has led to improvements in some areas of practice. This is being developed further through a programme of themed audits.
- Decisions about contacts and referrals are made in accordance with statutory timescales.
- Child protection enquiries are timely and are carried out thoroughly by suitably qualified and experienced social workers.
- There is good partnership working with the police which results in timely and appropriate action to protect children and young people.
- Arrangements for transferring cases between social work teams are effective and efficient. The majority of cases are transferred in a timely manner and at an appropriate point within the casework plan.
- Case recording is generally up to date and comprehensive.
- There is evidence of effective support and intervention to families and children by the Family Intervention Project.
- Core assessments following child protection enquiries are at least adequate and some are of good quality.

Areas for development

- Although significant progress has been made in reducing the caseloads of social workers, the high numbers of section 47 enquiries and their prioritisation is impacting on the management of children in need assessments. The council has yet to review the thresholds for section 47 enquiries and the comparatively low numbers of these resulting in initial child protection conferences.
- There are unacceptable delays in seeing some children in need. This delay results in potential risk to children.
- In order to meet conflicting priorities and manage the pressure of work a significant number of initial assessments are being signed off by managers as complete before the child or young person has been seen. Because of drift and delay in completing initial assessments core assessments are being started and used inappropriately to complete what could be clearly covered by an initial

assessment.

- The current management practice in the recording of completed initial assessments significantly affects the accuracy of performance data and prevents effective performance monitoring by senior managers.
- Assessments are of variable quality and some initial assessments are poor as the views of parents, children and young people are not sufficiently evidenced.
- Some initial and core assessments of children in need are undertaken by unqualified staff. This is not compliant with *'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2010)*.
- Child protection plans and those for children in need are of variable quality and are not sufficiently specific with clear measurable outcomes.
- Some files do not have chronologies or they are incomplete and there is no single record for children and families. This makes it difficult to safely ensure that all information relevant to the family is taken into account in assessment and decision making.
- Although there has been recent improvement in the use of the common assessment framework it is not yet sufficiently established to ensure children with additional needs receive a timely and effective response.

Any areas for development and priority action identified above will be specifically considered in any future inspection of services to safeguard children within your area.

Yours sincerely

Paul d'Inverno
Her Majesty's Inspector

Copy: John Barradell, Chief Executive, Brighton and Hove City Council
Alan Bedford, Chair of Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Children Board
Vanessa Brown, Lead Member for Children and Young People, Brighton and Hove City Council
Andrew Spencer, Department for Education

Subject:	Corporate Parenting Strategy		
Date of Meeting:	1st November 2010		
Report of:	Strategic Director- People		
Contact Officer:	Name:	James Dougan	Tel: 295511
	E-mail:	james.dougan@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 On 17th May 2010, the Board agreed to the proposal for the development of a Corporate Parenting Strategy for Brighton & Hove.
- 1.2 Corporate Parenting describes the collective responsibilities that members and officers of Brighton & Hove City Council and its partner organisations have towards children and young people in care of the local authority. These include children accommodated by voluntary agreement with their parent/s, those on statutory orders, those in shared care arrangements, those remanded into care and unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The duties extend to those young people who have left care up to the age of 21 (or 24 if remaining in higher education).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To agree the attached Corporate Parenting Strategy for Brighton & Hove (See Appendix '1').
- 2.2 The Partnership Board accepts their responsibilities to further the goals as outlined in the corporate parenting strategy within their own organisation and collectively as a partnership.
- 2.3 This is a Council-wide and partner agency responsibility and individuals at every level across all service areas in Brighton & Hove must as the Corporate Parent, achieve these tasks.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 In spite of considerable attention over recent years, the gap between the outcomes for Children in Care and their peers has continued to widen. The Government nationally has responded over the years by having a number of initiatives to improve the outcomes of Children in Care. The last major initiative was Care Matters which was designed to ensure the effectiveness of the state's responsibility and the role of local authorities in discharging their duties as corporate parent.

Some of the corporate parenting initiatives that have been achieved in Brighton & Hove are:

- Priority access to health services including Morley Street dental service
- 16+ Nurse providing a personalised and flexible service including sexual health and contraception
- Listen Up card ensures free access to swimming and other leisure activities
- Dedicated pathway for access to Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Joint Protocol with Housing Department ensures that the corporate responsibility for meeting the diverse accommodation needs of young people who have been Looked After by B&HCC are met.
- Pan Sussex 'Missing from Care' Protocol with Sussex Police
- Entry2Learning partnership with Sussex Central YMCA
- Partnership with Aim Higher Sussex
- Appointment of Headteacher of Virtual School for Children in Care
- Tickets for shows at B&H venues
- Development of Listen Up Care Council (LUCC) and 16 Plus Advisory Group participation groups for Children in Care and care leavers
- Offers of B&HCC-wide opportunities from taster days to apprenticeships
- Extension of support post-18 (Supported Lodgings and Supporting People) so that care leavers move to their own accommodation when ready and able

3.2 Brighton & Hove has been engaged for sometime in corporate parenting developments. It was a pilot area for the Who Cares Trust Equal Chances Project in 2000 and since then there has been a continuous strengthening of work to bridge the gap between the outcomes for Children in Care and those of the general population of children when compared to both our comparator authorities and to the national average. Some examples below:

Outcome %	Result	Comparator Av	National Av
CiC reaching Level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	60	44.9	46
CiC reaching Level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2	53	43	46
CiC missing 25+ days of schooling for any reason	8.2	13.6	11.5
Care leavers at 19 years in education, training, employment	69.8	63.6	62.9
Care leavers at 19 years in suitable accommodation	93	82.9	88.8
Young Offenders who are CiC	1.8	2.34	2.1
Stability of placements for CiC (number of moves)	10.4	9.4	10.4

- 3.3 The strategy will provide members and officers with the opportunity to make significant improvements by looking in more detail at some of the factors which impact on the outcomes for Children in Care. It will help take forward positive and definitive action and will build on the improvements undertaken and continuing in Brighton & Hove. The strategy is about ensuring that these children and young people are safe, secure and healthy, are encouraged and supported to achieve their potential and aspirations, are encouraged to lead fulfilled lives and are successfully prepared for a future where they will be valued and involved citizens who are economically independent and able to contribute positively to the communities in which they live.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Children and young people who are in care and care leavers have been involved in the development of the strategy. As a council and as a partnership we have been committed to listening to children and young people in our care and providing them with a range of opportunities to enable them to make the decisions about how they want to get involved. These opportunities afford the children and young people the ability to effect change in services. But they also provide the young people with opportunities to develop their skills and levels of understanding in areas most relevant to their own interests and personal development. We have two formal processes within the care system which are the 16 Plus Advisory Board for young people and the Listen Up Care Council Group for children up to 16 years. The new strategy will advance a whole range of consultative and involvement initiatives.
- 4.2 The Brighton & Hove Pledge (Appendix '3') which is a set of promises that set out the support and care we will provide to children and young people in care and care leavers was produced and led by consultation with a significant number of service users. It is one mechanism by which the Council and its partners can be held accountable by children, young people and their carers on the levels of service provided.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are currently no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. If additional costs arise as a result of the future development of the corporate parenting strategy then it would be necessary to identify appropriate funding.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore Date: 21st October 2010

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Corporate Parenting Strategy will assist the partners to the Children & Young People's Trust in meeting their duties to Children in Care and care

leavers. It mirrors the Every Child Matters agenda and reflects the duty to promote the well being of children contained in Sect 10 of the Children Act 2004. The Board will be aware that no child can be Looked After without either the consent of their parents or by way of an Interim Care Order (ICO) sanctioned by the Court. An ICO can only be made where the threshold criteria that the child is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm is proved to the satisfaction of the court AND the court are satisfied that such an order is necessary to secure the welfare of the child.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson Date: 21st October 2010

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The Corporate Parenting Strategy is critical to the implementation of Brighton & Hove Council's Equalities Policy and to the achievement of the priorities set out in the Children & Young People's Plan 2009-12

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are no immediate sustainability implications

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The Corporate Parenting Strategy aims to support young people to engage in law abiding and socially acceptable activity and behaviour

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The Corporate Parenting Strategy will assist the partners of the Children & Young People's Trust in meeting their duties to Children in Care and care leavers and this includes the management of significant risks, including risk to self, to others and to reputation and financial risk.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The Corporate Parenting Strategy describes the collective responsibilities that members and officers of Brighton & Hove City Council and its partner organisations have towards children and young people in local authority care.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy meets a statutory duty upon Brighton & Hove City Council in respect of Children in Care and care leavers

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To meet Brighton & Hove City Council's statutory duty in respect of Children in Care and care leavers

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Brighton & Hove City Council Corporate Parenting Policy and Strategy
2. Corporate Parenting Directorate Offers
3. The Brighton & Hove Pledge

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**CORPORATE PARENTING POLICY and STRATEGY****1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Corporate Parenting describes the collective responsibilities that members and officers of Brighton & Hove City Council and its partner organisations have towards children and young people in the care of the Local Authority. These include children accommodated by voluntary agreement with their parent/s, those on statutory orders, those in shared care arrangements, those remanded into care and unaccompanied asylum seeking children. These duties extend to those young people who have left care at 18 years up to the age of 21 (or 24 if remaining in higher education).
- 1.2 The children and young people for whom we are responsible as corporate parents are talented, resourceful, articulate, have huge potential and many will lead successful adult lives. However, as a result of their early life experiences, they are often less successful in attaining their full potential and this contributes to them being over-represented amongst:

- Adults with no formal educational qualifications
- People who are homeless
- The prison population
- Unemployed people
- Adults using mental health services
- Teenage parents
- Those involved in anti-social behaviour
- Those who are not, on leaving school engaged in employment, education or training.

Research from Professor Mike Stein and his team from York University undertaken between 1984 – 2009 shows that from poor starting points, children and young people in care fall into three distinct categories:

- The ‘Movers’ – these are the young people who will successfully move on from a stable care experience with relatively low level but consistent support
- The ‘Survivors’ - these are the young people who will do well in adult life with skilled, intensive support
- The ‘Strugglers’- these are the vulnerable minority of young people who will continue to need targeted support well into adulthood

It is useful to be mindful of these three distinct groups when commissioning and monitoring services to children in care and care leavers.

- 1.3 Effective Corporate Parenting needs a commitment from all Council employees and Elected Members, in a Council-wide approach. Corporate Parenting involves the whole Council and its partners acting as a good parent, committing

resources and working together to improve the lives of all children and young people in care and care leavers. It is about prioritising their needs, caring about what they want to and supporting them to make the most of their lives.

As Corporate Parents, members, officers and partners need to ask two questions:

“If this was my child, would this be good enough for them?”

“If I was that child or young person, would this have been good enough for me?”

(DfES 2003 “If it were my child .A councillor’s guide to being a good corporate parent.”)

- 1.4 The purpose of this strategy is to outline a Council-wide vision of our role as Corporate Parents and to ensure that we are all working together to achieve common goals and ambitions for our children and young people in care and care leavers.

The Children and Young People’s Trust is collectively accountable for Corporate Parenting duties but responsibility extends beyond it to include:

- All Brighton & Hove City Council services such as Housing, Culture & Enterprise and Environment and partner agencies
- The Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority and Brighton and Hove City Primary Care Trust who should actively promote the health of Children in Care
- The Community Safety and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships will need to consider whether Children in Care are being supported in avoiding offending behaviour
- Sussex Police
- Sussex Probation Service
- Governing bodies of maintained schools and Further Education colleges
- Voluntary, community and independent organisations

- 1.5 The Corporate Parenting Strategy builds on earlier work and intends to re-invigorate the way Brighton & Hove City Council meets the needs of its children and young people in care and care leavers. The commissioning and delivery of services for these groups of children and young people is underpinned by the Every Child Matters initiative and Children Act 2004 and more recently by the Care Matters Implementation plan 2008 and the Children and Young Person Act 2008.

- 1.6 Responsibility and accountability for the well-being and future prospects for children and young people in Brighton & Hove’s care and its care leavers rests with their Corporate Parents. A good Corporate Parent must offer everything that a good parent would offer and improving the role of the Corporate Parent is key to improving their children’s outcomes. This improvement relies on addressing both the difficulties which children and young people in care experience and the challenges of parenting within a complex system of different services. Equally it is important that the

children and young people themselves have the opportunity to shape and influence the parenting they receive.

- 1.7 The concept of Corporate Parenting is inherently paradoxical. Good parenting demands continuity and organisations by their nature are continuously changing. Officers and elected members move on, and structures, procedures and partnerships are modified, refined and transformed. One challenge of being a good corporate parent is to manage these changes while giving each individual child and young person a sense of stability.

2. Our Vision, Key Principles and Underlying Values

- 2.1 The Brighton & Hove vision will mirror that of “Care Matters: Time to deliver for children in care” DCSF 2008:
 “Our aspirations for children being cared for reflect those aspirations we would have for them as if they were our own. We know that children in care are often in much greater need than other children and we must ensure they obtain all the help they require. We aim to create a home and community environment that provides every child with a safe, happy, healthy, secure and loving childhood, nurturing their aspirations and enabling them to fulfil their full potential”
- 2.2 Our vision and priorities for children and young people in care and care leavers are based around the five national outcomes of Every Child Matters and drive our Corporate Parenting Strategy. These five outcomes are universal ambitions for every child and young person whatever their background or circumstances. They build upon the broad vision detailed in the Children & Young People’s Plan 2009-12 that has been agreed with partners and with children and young people themselves through their consultative forums. This vision is that:
 “Brighton & Hove should be the best place in the country for children and young people to grow up. We want to ensure all children and young people have the best possible start in life, so that everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential, what ever that may be”
- 2.3 “A key commitment of Care Matters was to put the voice of the child in care at the heart of the care system. All parents take children’s wishes and feelings into account when making day to day decisions about their lives and corporate parents need to do so too. Research also shows that when children are involved in the development and operation of services, provision is more likely to be what children want and need, leading to more placement stability and better outcomes for children”
 Care Matters Ministerial Stocktake Report 2009
- 2.4 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child became international law in 1990. It provides an internationally agreed framework of minimum standards necessary for the well being of all children and young people. These principles need to apply to children in care and care leavers but will also need to be championed by their Corporate Parent.

3. **Aims and Objectives of the Strategy**

3.1 Corporate Parenting operates at strategic, operational and individual levels and the 3 key elements are:

- A statutory duty detailed in the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 on all parts of a local authority to co-operate in promoting the welfare of looked after children and young people and a duty on other partners and agencies to co-operate in fulfilling that duty
- Co-ordinating the activities of the many different professionals and carers who are involved in a child or young person's life and taking a strategic, child-centred approach to the delivery of services
- Shifting the emphasis from 'corporate' to 'parenting' which means doing what a good parent would do to promote and support the physical, emotional, social and cognitive development of a child from infancy to adulthood

3.2 The specific objective of this Strategy is to ensure the Corporate Parenting responsibilities for all Elected Members and Council employees are clearly outlined in order that:

- Elected Members have a clear understanding and awareness of the needs of Brighton & Hove's Children in Care and care leavers and ensure their responsibilities as Corporate Parents are reflected in all aspects of the Council's work;
- All services improve their ability to deliver to the Corporate Parenting agenda, and have mechanisms in place to continually monitor and review the means by which their services contribute to positive outcomes for Children in Care and care leavers. (See Appendix '2' 'Corporate Parenting Directorate Offers')
- The Corporate Parenting commitment leads to measurable improvement in the life chances of Children in Care and care leavers, enabling them to succeed in line with their peers.
- Communication between Elected Members and Children in Care and care leavers enables participation and inclusion, ensuring children and young people have a say in how decisions are made about services affecting them and are able to influence those decisions.
- Partnership working and joint planning and commissioning is promoted as a pre-requisite to delivering effective services to Children in Care and care leavers.
- Effective monitoring and accountability of Corporate Parenting duties is in place.

3.3 Responsibilities as corporate parents require everyone working with or on behalf of our children and young people in care and care leavers to ensure that the five Every Child Matters outcomes are addressed either directly and indirectly.

3.3.1 **Being Healthy**

While promoting physical and sexual health and emotional well-being are obvious priorities, preventative strategies including education to encourage healthy lifestyle choices and leisure interests are key elements of our work. Children and young people in care may have additional health needs caused by earlier abuse or neglect and these must be taken into account under the key aim of ensuring their life chances are improved by promoting their health and well being.

To ensure the life chances of children and young people in care and care leavers are improved by promoting of health and well being, Corporate Parents will:

- Promote their health and well being and leisure activities
- Ensure every child and young person is registered with a GP and dentist and optician (if appropriate)
- Monitor and challenge to improve performance in relation to health and well being eg Statutory Health Assessments, emotional and behavioural well being, Sex and Relationship Education
- Ensure a dedicated access pathway for mental health, substance misuse and teenage parent services
- Advocate across health agencies on the needs of children and young people in care and care leavers and ensure all health agencies and partners understand and deliver services promptly and effectively
- Encourage and support all children and young people to access leisure, play, sports, educational and cultural activities

3.3.2 **Staying Safe**

Most children and young people who come into care do so as a result of not being safe from physical and sexual harm and neglect while living at home. Robust arrangements need to be in place therefore to ensure that they live in safe, secure and nurturing placements that provide continuity and stability. As they move towards adulthood we must ensure that they have access to safe, secure and affordable permanent accommodation.

To ensure the life chances of children and young people in care and care leavers are improved by ensuring they live in safe, stable homes that provide stability, Corporate Parents will:

- Ensure a Care Plan is in place for every child and young person that is regularly reviewed by their Independent Reviewing Officer
- Monitor performance on placement stability and distance placed from home
- Monitor the quality of care of in-house foster care and agency foster and residential homes providers and how they meet diversity needs
- Ensure that 'unregulated' placements are governed by robust service level agreements

- Ensure robust arrangements are in place for children and young people who are missing from care
- Ensure formal arrangements are in place to meet the housing and support needs of care leavers

3.3.3 **Enjoying and Achieving**

The main focus is on improving the educational attainment of children and young people in care. This is the single most important contribution those involved in corporate parenting can make because it is about investing in their future. It must be acknowledged that children and young people in care have significantly poorer educational outcomes than their peers. However, we must move away from the assumption that this is an inevitable consequence of their often disadvantaged and disadvantaged backgrounds. What it does mean is that we need to invest in specific and targeted additional support to improve these outcomes.

To enable children and young people in care and care leavers to access and achieve educational opportunities, Corporate Parents will:

- Monitor performance of educational attainment at Key Stages 2, 4 and 5 to the completion of university education and completion of Personal Education Plans
- Monitor School Attendance, Exclusions (fixed term and permanent) Special Educational Needs and admissions
- Ensure that Designated Teachers are established in all schools
- Ensure pathways are in place to key initiatives such as early years and extended services, out of school activities, Integrated Youth Support and 14-19 providers
- Ensure appropriate support is in place to ensure smooth transition to Further and Higher Education

3.3.4 **Making a Positive Contribution**

Participation and engagement of children and young people in care is key to the success of any corporate parenting strategy. This outcome area is about more than just involving them in the development of services. We must support them to: engage in law abiding and socially acceptable activity and behaviour; develop positive relationships by choosing not to bully or discriminate; develop self-confidence and learning to deal successfully with significant life changes and challenges.

The key aim is to ensure that all children and young people in care have the opportunity to be listened to and heard, are involved and participate in the planning and development of services they receive.

To ensure all children and young people in care and care leavers have the opportunity to be listened to and heard and are involved and participate in the planning and development of services they receive, Corporate Parents will:

- Monitor the participation of children and young people in their statutory reviews
- Encourage the development of the Listen Up Care Council and 16 Plus Advisory Board
- Ensure that the views and opinions of children and young people are gathered and that it can be evidenced that these have an impact on and influence the development of service delivery
- Ensure that children and young people know how to make a complaint and are able to easily access an Advocate
- Ensure that the promises in the Pledge are delivered

3.3.5 **Achieving Economic Wellbeing**

Children and young people in care find it more difficult than their peers to attain a good standard of living when they become adult and independent. We must promote and provide work experience, taster days, training and employment opportunities with all employers and employer organisations in the city and to continue to ensure that these care leavers are fully supported to move positively into adulthood.

To ensure all children and young people in care and care leavers receive appropriate support to be able to move positively into adulthood, Corporate Parents will:

- Monitor the performance of education, employment and training status and suitability of housing of 19 year old care leavers
- Develop partnerships to improve access to and support in Further and Higher Education
- Advocate for and provide work experience and employment opportunities within Brighton & Hove City Council and its partner agencies
- Promote the needs of care leavers for work experience, training and job opportunities with employers and employer organisations in the city
- Ensure that care leavers have access to safe, secure and affordable accommodation

4. **Getting it Right – How we will take the Strategy forward**

4.1 Responsibility for ensuring that the Corporate Parenting Strategy will be implemented and be effective in its aims and objectives has six key elements:

The role of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Director of Children's Services who will provide leadership across the authority in safeguarding and in monitoring the welfare of children in care and care leavers

The role of the Corporate Parenting Forum in terms of accountability and governance. The Forum consists of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, an elected member from the Conservative, Labour, Green and Liberal Democrats groups, the Director of Children's Services, two children and young people representatives from the participation groups, representatives of Brighton & Hove Foster Carers Association, and the Assistant Director, Integrated Working.

The Forum acts as the advisory consultation body to the Council to enable the effective discharge of the duty of corporate parent. The role of the Forum is to monitor and review services and establish the objectives and priorities for looked after children by council departments and partner agencies. The central role is to achieve continuing improvements for looked after children and care leavers. The forum will oversee the implementation of the strategy.

Children & Young People's Participation ie the Listen Up Care Council for children in care up to age of 16 and the 16 Plus Advisory Board for young people in care and care leavers aged 16-21 years. These groups will develop mechanisms by which views and opinions from a wide range of children and young people can be gathered. It was agreed at the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Forum that elected members would meet with these participation groups at regular intervals throughout the year.

The Brighton & Hove Pledge (See Appendix '3') This set of promises that set out the support and care we will provide to children and young people in care has been hand delivered to all Brighton & Hove children in care and care leavers with an accompanying letter from 'Clive' and 'Stacey' from the participation groups. It has also been distributed to all Brighton & Hove foster carers, independent fostering agencies and residential children's homes providers, partner statutory agencies and voluntary sector partners. Social work staff have also been briefed on its purpose and how we must be held accountable to the promises we have given. The Pledge was communicated to a wider audience in Brighton & Hove as it was featured in a special Corporate Parenting edition of 'Children First' magazine in July.

The Corporate Parenting Working Group and Report Card The working group, chaired by the Assistant Director, Integrated Working consists of senior managers from Children's Social Care operational teams, Fostering & Adoption Team, Agency Placements Team, Youth Offending Service, Children in Care Education Team, Nurse Consultant for Children in Care, Southdowns Health Paediatrician, Independent Reviewing Officer and Performance Management Team representatives.

In developing the new strategy a comprehensive audit and self assessment has been undertaken using the Ofsted Framework for Inspection. This has been benchmarked against inspections that have taken place in other local authorities under the new framework and has highlighted very good and outstanding areas of practice as well as identifying areas for development and will help shape and strengthen the next phase of the strategy.

The group has also examined management information from the Performance Team which evidences how Brighton & Hove is performing against its local authority statistical neighbours as well as all authorities in England on the National Indicators for outcomes for children in care and care leavers., Actions to improve performance, summaries of initiatives eg participation.

The Report Card is not intended just to be a technical document to be used strategically. It is designed so as to be accessible to all corporate parents and any professionals from other organisations and services that have, or potentially have a role in supporting our children and promoting their life chances. Everyone who receives this report will have the opportunity to feed back on how to improve outcomes for our children.

Council-wide responsibilities. The offers made by the corporate parenting champions of Brighton & Hove Council Directorates and detailed on the attached Action Plan (Appendix '2') will be followed up by the designated leads as detailed.

4.2 **Shared Responsibilities**

Responsibilities for ensuring improved outcomes for children in care and care leavers are wide ranging amongst elected members, officers and carers.

Elected members council-wide have to ensure that public services used or needed by children in care are of a high quality, integrated and take account of their needs. They will ensure that they are fully informed of the issues facing children in care by understanding the characteristics of children in care and by knowing how well services are performing in meeting their assessed needs. This requires an awareness and understanding of the:

- Care and placement arrangements
- Child protection and safety policies and procedures
- Education performance and achievements
- Responsiveness of health services
- Preparation for leaving care arrangements and housing needs
- Arrangements to prevent children in care from getting into trouble.

Elected members will be supported in meeting their responsibilities by Brighton & Hove officers. They will provide leadership that will encourage and support partnership and joined-up working. This will ensure that funding, commissioning and priority setting deliver the best combination of services for children and young people in care and care leavers.

Foster Carers will be assessed, approved, supervised and supported in the following:

- Providing a safe and comfortable home for children and young people in their care
- Giving children and young people time and attention and clear boundaries

- Providing encouragement and motivation to help the child or young person meet their potential
- Working positively with birth parents and other family members.
- Working as part of a team with others who share responsibility for the child or young person's care, welfare and development
- Providing care that support and promotes the child or young person's culture, race, religion, language, disability and sexual orientation.

Social Workers and other social work staff have responsibilities in the following areas:

- For ensuring that the child and young person's needs are properly assessed and that these are properly represented in their Care or Pathway Plans.
- Having the key role in setting and establishing plans for children and young people in care and care leavers. First consideration will be given to returning the child or young person to their parent's care where this is safe to do so, or other family members. Where this is not achievable efforts will be made to secure the child's placement within an alternative family setting such as adoption or foster care. Where a child or young person remains in care, plans will also address leaving care arrangements.
- In care planning social work staff will listen to the views and wishes of the child or young person and those of their family members. The views of others engaged in providing services to children in care will also be sought.
- Ensuring the child or young person is healthy and their health needs are appropriately assessed and met.
- Ensuring the child or young person is safely and securely accommodated within family situations or in other appropriate caring environments
- Ensure they have access to and are supported in a full range of educational services, whether this is in schools, colleges or other specialist alternative provision
- Ensure they have access to leisure and sporting facilities which enable their interests, skills confidence and self esteem to develop.
- Ensure that they make a smooth and successful transition from living in care to independent adulthood.

The Virtual School for Children in Care The Virtual School Headteacher in Brighton & Hove is responsible for developing and establishing a "Virtual School", providing strategic direction and securing successful educational outcomes for all children and young people in care. The headteacher will lead and manage the work of the members of the former Children in Care Education Team consisting of Education Support Workers, an Information and

Support Officer, an Educational Psychologist and Education Welfare Assistant.

The Virtual School will:

- Support children and young people in care in school Years 1-11 which will include working with Carers, Social Workers, Schools, SEN Team, Children in Care Contracts, other Council teams and external agencies
- Facilitate and monitor Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings
- monitor attendance
- commission home tuition
- provide transitional support over school summer holidays for those children moving from primary to secondary school
- provide training for Carers and for Designated Teachers
- and above all, improve the attainment of children and young people in care.

Teachers and Education Staff All staff working in education, whether based in schools or local authority services have responsibilities towards looked after children and young people in care. These responsibilities are clearly defined within 'The Education of Young People in Public Care (DoH/DfES, 2000) and Statutory Guidance on the Duty on Local Authorities to Promote the Education of Looked After Children under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004' (DfES 2005). These responsibilities cover the following range of activities:

- Admissions to schools
- School transport
- Special Educational Needs and Inclusion
- School Improvement
- School Exclusions
- Education Welfare
- Educational Psychology
- Educational Support to Schools

The statutory duty does not directly apply to schools and their staff. However, there is an expectation, clearly stated within the duty, that schools and their staff will 'take a proactive approach to co-operating with and supporting local authorities in discharging this duty' (DfES 2005). All Brighton & Hove schools have an allocated Designated Teacher for Children in Care and a Headteacher, Virtual School for Children in Care is now in post.

Health Sector Managers and Clinicians

The Department of Health in 'Promoting the Health of Looked After Children' (2002) sets out the particular responsibilities health workers have towards looked after children and young people in care.

Chief Executives of Primary Care Trusts (PCT's) are charged with ensuring that health sector children's services are planned, commissioned and

delivered in collaboration with other partner agencies, taking account of the particular health needs of children and young people in care and that priority is given to them.

5. Conclusion

There is no single or simple answer to improving outcomes for all children and young people in care and care leavers and there is a need for thorough knowledge of the characteristics of the care population and a range of appropriate strategies. The aim should be to ensure concern for children and young people in care and care leavers becomes fully and permanently embedded in the culture of children's services. There are few other specific issues of higher priority for the local authority than caring for the children and young people for which Brighton & Hove has a degree of parental responsibility.

6. Evaluation and Review of the Strategy

This strategy will be evaluated and reviewed by the Corporate Parenting Forum and Corporate Parenting Working Group with the participation of children and young people from the participation groups. The strategy will be closely monitored over the next 12 months and a progress report will be made to the Board towards the end of 2011.

Corporate Parenting Directorate Offers within Brighton & Hove City Council

Note; these offers and subsequent discussions were made and progressed under council structure in place spring and summer 2010. Some revision and renegotiation may need to take place resulting from the Council’s change programme.

Directorate	Proposed Contribution to Corporate Parenting	Support to Contribution from CYPT	Progress
<p>Housing, Culture & Enterprise</p>	<p><u>Housing</u> 1. “Agreed that foster parents can be included in the CYPT nominations quota to Band ‘A’ for Homemove and have increased the quota accordingly. This means that foster parents who need accommodation, can be given priority or social housing. CYPT currently has 15 nominations each year which are mainly for families with children at risk of going into care if they don’t have better accommodation. We have expanded this provision to include foster carers”</p>	<p>1. This has not been a problem for mainstream foster carers who are unrelated to the child and in recent years there has been just one case where a B&H carer needed to take up one of the 15 per annum CYPT nominations.</p> <p>1. With potential Family & Friends (Kinship) carers, housing is a challenge when they take on caring for children with little notice or planning, have limited accommodation available and are often not ‘well-off’ financially. In the interim it is usually accepted that there will be overcrowding and pressures on the placement will result. The Family & Friends Team (Fostering & Adoption) have had some success in finding solutions ie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being included in the 15 per annum CYPT nominations • negotiating for a family to move to Band ‘A’ • moving temporarily into private rented accommodation so there is more room for the children. 	<p>1. No further action required</p> <p>1. Further clarification is required about Family & Friends (Kinship) carers: - being ‘priority need’ and therefore placed in ‘Band A’ - clarity in relation to calculations and entitlements to housing benefit vis-à-vis foster care allowances <u>Lead:</u> Sharon Donnelly (CYPT) and Steven Hird (HB)</p>

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	<p>2. “We are targeting families who are overcrowded and moving them into private leased accommodation which alleviates pressures on the households and contributes towards avoiding family break down and children having to be looked after”</p> <p>3. “The full implications of the Southwark judgment have yet to be assessed but it is likely that it will result in an increase in the number of young homeless people (16-17 years old) being Looked After rather than housed under Homeless legislation.</p> <p>4. “We have a joint protocol for looked after children who are leaving care to move into their own accommodation and there are already pathways to help them</p>	<p>1. There are sometimes barriers to rehabilitation plans from high cost and scarce Parent & Baby foster placements due to difficulties in identifying suitable move-on accommodation.</p> <p>2. The increased use and availability of private leased accommodation alongside other targeted multi-agency interventions can reduce the need for some children to come into care.</p> <p>3. The implementation of the implications of the Southwark judgement are currently subject of discussion and negotiation between CYPT & Housing. Revised guidance from DfE & CLG on how LA’s should provide accommodation for homeless 16/17 year olds which clarifies corporate responsibilities has recently been issued. This will assist clarification of thresholds for ‘care’ to be agreed with Legal Services.</p> <p>4. The Joint Protocol between CYPT and Housing ensures that the corporate responsibility for meeting the diverse accommodation needs of young people who have been Looked After by B&HCC are met. This has been cited by DCSF &</p>	<p>1. Further work required to identify suitable move-on accommodation to provide a considerable corporate saving. <u>Lead:</u> Sharon Donnelly (CYPT) Jugal Sharma (Housing)</p> <p>2. On-going multi-agency interventions.</p> <p>3. On-going negotiations. <u>Lead:</u> Andy Whippey (CYPT) Sylvia Peckham (Housing) Natasha Watson (Legal)</p> <p>4. The Protocol requires revision to take account of the Southwark judgement. <u>Lead:</u> Dermot Anketell (CYPT) Sylvia Peckham (Housing)</p>
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<p>access work and/or learning.”</p> <p>5. Apprenticeships for Care Leavers in new repairs service.</p> <p>Culture</p> <p>6. “Tickets to shows at Brighton Centre and Hove Town Hall”</p> <p>7. “Tickets to Children’s events as part of the Brighton Festival”</p> <p>8. “Tickets to gain free entry to exhibitions in Museum Service or Royal Pavilion”</p>	<p>CLG as excellent Corporate Parenting practice</p> <p>5. The 10 year partnership with Mears for housing repairs that started on 01.04.10 includes a commitment to 200 apprenticeships. Care leavers will have an opportunity to access these through a care pathway linked to the Community Social Responsibility Group of the partnership. The commissioning process has emphasised the need for tenants to benefit from the partnership. As many children in care and care leavers originate from council properties and some care leavers are tenants in their own right this should assist their access to apprenticeship opportunities.</p> <p>6. Funding of this scheme administered by Arts & Cultural Projects is currently capped at £500 pa (£15 per event maximum) and so limits the numbers of children in care who can benefit. Currently this is administered by manager of Independent Visitors scheme (F&A, CYPT)</p> <p>7. Further discussion from CYPT with Arts & Cultural Projects to take place on how this might apply to Brighton Festivals from 2011</p> <p>8. Free entry for exhibitions at B&H museums and art galleries and free entry to Royal Pavilion and Preston Manor is available for all B&H Children in Care up to age 18 wherever they are resident.</p>	<p>5. Follow up late 2010 when service established. <u>Lead:</u> Nick Hibberd (Housing) Dermot Anketell (CYPT) Mike Eaton (Strat & Gov)</p> <p>6. Investigate whether any additional funding for this scheme is available. <u>Lead:</u> Lucy Jefferies (Arts & Culture) Dermot Anketell (CYPT)</p> <p><u>7. Lead:</u> Lucy Jefferies (A&C) Dermot Anketell (CYPT)</p> <p>8. <u>Lead:</u> Janita Bagshaw (Head of Museums & Royal Pavilion)</p>
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<p>Adult Social Care & Health</p>	<p>9. "Offer of apprenticeships e.g. Information Support Assistant post"</p> <p>10. "Volunteering/inter-generational opportunities"</p>	<p>9. Initial discussions have taken place within Adult Social Care about offering work 'taster' days and work experience opportunities to children in care and care leavers. Specific opportunities with Care Crew in residential settings to be explored that could develop into apprenticeships.</p> <p>10. Further work with ASC identified to explore 'grandparenting' experiences within the Community Support Team and the Buddy Scheme within Day Services</p>	<p>9. Follow up required to determine these potential opportunities. Lead: Karin Divall (ASC), Anne Hagan (ASC), Mike Eaton (Strat & Gov)</p> <p>10. Follow up required to determine these potential opportunities. <u>Lead:</u> Karin Divall (ASC) Dermot Anketell (CYPT)</p>
<p>Finance & Resources</p>	<p>11. "ICT is the main area with E-safety training for children & carers, advice on assistive technologies for children in care and care leavers with special needs and basic training and support in website, PC hardware and fault fixing"</p>	<p>11. Greg Austin, Business Systems Manager has been nominated lead officer for Corporate Parenting within ICT. He suggested the most appropriate online guide to 'E-safety' for children and carers to be www.microsoft.com/protect/familysafety/default.aspx which covers guidelines for social networking including age-based safety tips for children, a sample family contract for Internet rules at home, 4 steps parents or carers can take to help protect children online and basics to teach children about the Internet. For children in care and care leavers with special needs he identifies software products dependant</p>	<p>11. <u>Lead:</u> Dermot Anketell (CYPT) to follow up any further identified needs with Greg Austin (ICT & E – Government)</p>

		<p>on need eg users who have difficulty using a keyboard could use software such as Dragon Naturally Speaking and the leading software for users with sight disabilities is ZoomText Magnifier / ScreenReader which also includes an audio reader.</p>	
<p>Environment</p>	<p>14. Partnership between B&HCC and DC Leisure Mangement currently provides a "Listen Up" card for all children in care which entitles them to free swimming</p>	<p>Detailed discussion has taken place between Kevin Kingston and Dermot Anketell and the following potential opportunities have been identified.</p> <p>Public Safety 12. Provide work experience in Environmental Health Teams, covering all services including food hygiene inspections, health & safety work, animal welfare, pest control, etc. Provide work experience with the Trading Standards service Provide work experience with the Environment Improvement Team</p> <p>Sport & Leisure 13. Sports Development – helping with sports sessions/events – Festival of Sport Sports Facilities – operation/helping set up a new activity</p> <p>14. Look into feasibility of extending this scheme to include care leavers up to the age of 21.</p>	<p>12. <u>Lead:</u> Dermot Anketell (CYPT) to follow up with respective Heads of Service - Tim Nichols, Jo Player Jonathan Fortune</p> <p>13. <u>Lead:</u> Dermot Anketell (CYPT) to follow up with respective Heads of Service - Ian Shurrock, Jan Sutherland</p> <p>“ “</p>

(and free gym for over 16's) at Prince Regent, King Alfred & St Lukes.

15. Seafront Operation – going on patrols or Volks Railway (trains/engineering)
 Events – input into staging a particular event or helping with location filming

City Planning

16. Planning managers would like to set up a programme of short experiences to give young people a sense of the different career options available within Planning made up of some, if not all, of the following:

- An hour on the front desk getting some idea of the range of questions people ask.
- An hour in Development Control learning to read plans.
- A site visit with Building Control staff - ideally one with cranes and heavy plant.
- Some time at a consultation event – similar to the London Road one.
- Site visit with Conservation staff to an “at risk” property – ideally a special opportunity to see something like the roof of the Royal Pavilion.
- An hour in Planning Strategy with a “taster” of how computers are used to update listed building information.

City Services

17. To provide work experience in Cityparks including Stanmer Nurseries where an apprenticeship may be

15. Lead: Dermot Anketell (CYPT) to follow up with Toni Manuel Jayne Bennett after summer 2010 season

16. Lead: Dermot Anketell (CYPT) to follow up with Rob Fraser, Head of Planning

17. Lead: Dermot Anketell (CYPT) to follow up with

		<p>possible. Use the ranger service to do some 'fun' activities.</p> <p>Sustainable Transport 18. General ideas that have been suggested and will require detailed follow up are traffic management centre activity, enforcement activity, cycle training and cycle demo town project and road safety site visits.</p>	<p>Robert Walker, Head of City Parks</p> <p>18. <u>Lead:</u> Dermot Anketell (CYP) to follow up with Mark Prior, AD Sustainable Transport</p>



The Brighton & Hove PLEDGE...

Children and Young Peoples Trust

Translation? Tick this box and take to any council office.

- ترجمة؟ ضع علامة في المربع وخذها إلى مكتب البلدية. Arabic
- অনুবাদ? বক্সে টিক চিহ্ন দিয়ে কাউন্সিল অফিসে নিয়ে যান। Bengali
- 需要翻譯? 請在這方格內加剔, 並送回任何市議會的辦事處。Cantonese
- ترجمه؟ لطفاً این مربع را علامتگذاری نموده و آن را به هر یک از دفاتر شهرداری ارائه نمایید. Farsi
- Traduction? Veuillez cocher la case et apporter au council. French
- 需要翻译? 请在这方格内划勾, 并送回任何市议会的办事处。Mandarin
- Tłumaczenie? Zaznacz to okienko i zwróć do któregoś z biura samorządu lokalnego (council office). Polish
- Tradução? Coloque um visto na quadrícula e leve a uma qualquer repartição de poder local (council office). Portuguese
- Tercümesi için kareyi işaretleyiniz ve bir semt belediye burosuna veriniz Turkish
- other (please state)

This can also be made available in large print, Braille, or on CD or audio tape

3013 design by www.graphicdesignteam.org.uk



This is the Brighton & Hove Pledge to children and young people in care and to care leavers.

All councils in England have made a Pledge (a set of promises) that set out the support and care they will give children and young people in their care. These promises also make clear what can be expected in return. The Brighton & Hove Pledge has been drawn up with the help of young people from the Listen Up Care Council and the 16 Plus Advisory Board. The success of the Pledge will be checked during care and pathway plan reviews of children and young people in care and care leavers.

Everyone has talent!

We will recognise your strengths & interests by:

- Watching how you are doing
- Knowing what's going well for you
- Looking at your options with you
- Providing you with good role models
- Respecting your culture and beliefs
- Supporting you to do things you enjoy in your free time

Everyone needs encouragement

We will encourage you to aim high by:

- Knowing what your strengths and interests are
- Knowing what you do well
- Knowing what you need to improve on
- Helping you achieve what you are aiming for
- Being involved in planning your education

Everyone needs help... sometimes

We will support you to succeed, by helping you to have:

- good childcare when you are little
- help at home and school
- extra help with school work from a tutor if you need one.
- help with computers
- good quality assistance

Everyone needs to feel good

We will recognise your achievements by:

- Appreciating what you have done
- Providing a small reward
- Helping you build on your success
- Holding an awards ceremony

Everyone can give their views

We will make sure you can say what you want to say:

- Listening carefully to your opinions, wishes and feelings
- Seriously considering your ideas
- Explaining our decisions

It's your life... it's your Review

We will make sure you are able to take part in meetings about you by:

- Helping you to chair meetings about yourself
- Asking you beforehand what you want to say and how you want to say it.
- Making sure that an Independent Reviewing Officer meets with you to plan your Review.

Making a complaint should sort it out!

We will make sure you have help if you have a suggestion or want to make a complaint by:

- Making it easy to tell the council what you think
- Making it easier to make a suggestion or a complaint
- Making it easy to ask for an Advocate to help you make your opinion heard
- Properly investigating your suggestions and complaints and telling you what we are going to do about them.

Help the bosses understand

We will make sure you can tell those people in charge what you think about the services you receive by:

- Inviting you to take part in the Listen Up Care Council and the 16 Plus Advisory Board
- Giving you the chance to put your ideas to councillors and the Director of Children's Services

Everyone needs to feel secure

We will try to keep you safe by:

- Helping you understand what a social worker does.
- Making sure you have a social worker and you know how to contact them
- Making sure your social worker visits you regularly and has time to listen to what you want to say
- Making sure you have an up to date Care Plan that spells out what you need
- Finding carers for you who will look after you if you can't live with your family

Everyone can feel healthy

We will support you to be fit and well by:

- Talking about any health worries you may have
- Knowing what you need and making plans for improving your health
- Offering advice and support
- Offering health appointments when you need them
- Keeping a record of how your health improves

Everyone needs support at times

We will support your emotional health and well being by:

- Helping you keep in touch with people who are important to you
- Helping you understand your life story and what has happened to you in the past
- Listening to your worries
- Making sure you have the support you need
- Supporting you to take part in sport, activities and outings that you enjoy



And when you are older...

Everyone has questions

We will support you into adult life by:

- Guaranteeing you have your own Personal Adviser who will help you move from living in care to adult life
- Ensuring you have good information, advice and guidance
- Helping you consider job, training, apprenticeship, college and university opportunities

Your place or mine?

We will help you to move on to a place that is right for you by:

- Helping you find a suitable place to live
- Helping you to find somewhere of your own when you are ready

Everyone can make good choices

We will try to help you be healthy as you become older and more independent by:

- Helping you to use health services
- Providing you with information and practical help on how to keep yourself well
- Supporting you with sexual health advice and contraception
- If you smoke, helping you to stop
- Work with you if you use alcohol or drugs to find the help that you need to stop

Give us a wave!

We will continue to support you by:

- Making sure you have a Pathway Plan that sets out what help and support you need as you become an adult and move out of care
- Making sure you have a named worker who will be there to support you up to 21. Contact will depend upon the level of support you need.
- Staying in your care or supported housing accommodation until you are ready and able to move on.

If you are a child or young person in care and have anything to say about these promises then please talk about it with your social worker or carer. This Pledge will be reviewed regularly and your views will be important at these times



Subject: CYPP Performance Report
Date of Meeting: Monday, November 1st 2010
Report of: Strategic Director- People
Contact Officer: Name: Paul Brewer Tel: 29-4223
E-mail: Paul.brewer@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Children's Trust Board is responsible for the publication, delivery and monitoring of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). This report provides a progress check on the delivery of the CYPP in relation to the 4 Strategic Improvement Priorities and the related performance measures.
- 1.2 The report is also designed to inform the Board's discussion about future arrangements for partnership working across services for children, young people and their families.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Board notes the data and analysis in the CYPP Performance Report and agrees to the action being taken to improve performance.
- 2.2 That the Board provides feedback about the structure and content of the report to ensure that Board members receive the necessary level of information to enable them to fulfil the Board's monitoring function.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The information in the CYPP Performance Report flows from, and/or informs a range of other documents including the council's Corporate Plan and the Strategic Commissioning Plan for NHS Brighton and Hove.
- 3.2 Future requirements from central government around targets and statutory data returns are set to change significantly. The National Indicator set will be replaced by a single, comprehensive list of all the data local government will be expected to provide to central government. The list is anticipated to be in place by April 2011. Similar significant changes in respect of NHS data and reporting were outlined in the recent NHS White Paper.

- 3.3 Ofsted's annual children's services assessment for 2010 (for all local authorities) will be published on December 9th 2010. The assessment will be directly relevant to the Board's role in respect of the CYPP. Ofsted's assessment is based on 3 'blocks' of evidence:

Block A: the findings from regular and ongoing inspection and regulation of services, settings and institutions

Block B: findings from the safeguarding and looked after children services inspections; unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements for children in need and children who may be in need of protection; evaluations of serious case reviews; and, if a full inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services has not taken place, the findings from the joint area review inspections

Block C: performance against Every Child Matters indicators from the National Indicator Set.

- 3.4 The CYPP Performance Report provides information relating to Block C but includes additional local information and, in some cases, more recent data than that held by Ofsted.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The CYPP Performance Improvement Report has been produced in consultation with the lead officers responsible for those areas of service.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are some financial implications as a result of this report; however they are not possible to quantify at this stage. Any costs associated with the actions in paragraph 2.1 to improve performance, will have to be met from the existing CYPT budget."

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore

Date: 11.10.10

5.2 Legal Implications:

The report assists the Board in its role of developing and monitoring the Children and Young People's Plan. As such it will also assist the partner agencies in assessing whether they are meeting their duties under the Children Act 1989 and 2004.

Layer Consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 19.10.2010

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 This report addresses equalities issues by reflecting the principles set out in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) that determine the delivery and commissioning of services to improve outcomes for children and young people from diverse communities and groups, and for those who live in deprived geographical communities.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 This report does not directly address sustainability issues but it underpins the CYPP which supports the council's sustainability strategy including, concern for quality of life and well being, health improvement and healthy schools, enjoyment and participation in cultural & leisure activities, achievement of economic well being and effective clinical governance and health.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 This report includes data relating to outcomes for young offenders, specifically the proportion of young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody. Education/training outcomes for young offenders are also addressed within the work with the NEET cohort (NI 117)

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 A risk and opportunity assessment was conducted as part of the development of the CYPP. The CYPT Performance Board keeps the CYPP priority indicators under constant monthly review and selects key challenges for in depth discussion and risk assessment.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The CYPP Performance Report is the basis for performance reporting to the council's Strategic Leadership Board, to the PCT and for monitoring the Local Area Agreement and Sustainable Community Strategy. This report also informs performance reporting to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The alternative option would be not to review the performance of the CYPT Partnership at a strategic level. This is not recommended, as it would undermine the effectiveness of the CYPT's governance and partnership arrangements.
- 6.2 The content and presentation of the CYPP Performance Report will be kept under constant review. The size and complexity of the report can be reduced according to feedback from the Board as addressed in 2.2 above.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Children's Trust and the CYPTB have a responsibility to continuously look at ways to improve well being for children, young people and their families and rigorous, flexible performance review is part of that process.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Children and Young People's Plan Performance Report
(Appendix 1)

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None

Appendix One

Performance Report

for the

Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12

November 2010

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

Section 1 – CYPP Priority Indicator Report Cards

This section provides the Board with detailed information on the priority indicators, highlighting where significant improvements have been made or performance remains a challenge.

The CYPP Priority indicators are:

- NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6
- NI 59 Initial assessments for children’s social care carried out within 7 working days of referral
- NI 65 Children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time
- NI 70 Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people
- NI 69 Children who have experienced bullying
- NI 92 Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) and the rest
- NI 75 Achievement of 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths
- NI 079 Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19
- NI 102a Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 2
- NI 102b Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 4
- NI 104 The SEN/non-SEN gap -achieving Key Stage 2 English and Maths
- NI 105 The SEN/non-SEN gap -achieving 5 A*-C GCSE inc. English and Maths
- NI 43 Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody
- NI 110 Young people's participation in positive activities
- NI 112 Under 18 conception rate
- NI 148 Care leavers at 19 – in education, employment and training
- NI 115 Substance misuse by young people
- NI 116 Proportion of children in poverty
- NI 117 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)

Section 2 - CYPP Strategic Improvement Priorities

Provides an executive summary of progress with the CYPP strategic priorities

A note on the “statistical neighbours” used in this report

The statistical neighbour model, produced by the National Foundation for Education Research (nfer), provides a method for benchmarking progress. For each local authority (LA), the model designates a number of other authorities deemed to have similar characteristics. These designated LAs are known as statistical neighbours. Any LA may compare its performance (as measured by various indicators) against its statistical neighbours to provide an initial guide as to whether their performance is above or below the level that might be expected. Brighton and Hove’s statistical neighbours are: Bristol, Bournemouth, Reading, Portsmouth, Sheffield, Southampton, Bath and North East Somerset, Southend-on-Sea, York and Plymouth

Section 1 – CYPP Priority Indicator Report Cards

NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6

CYPP Priority	Promote Health and Wellbeing, Inclusion and Achievement		
Result	17.7% (2008) 16.4% (2009) 15.5% (prov) (2010)	Target	17.6% (2010)

The provisional figures for 2010 show a continued fall in obesity levels at age 11. A full analysis will be conducted when the final figures are available in December.

Activities in support of this outcome

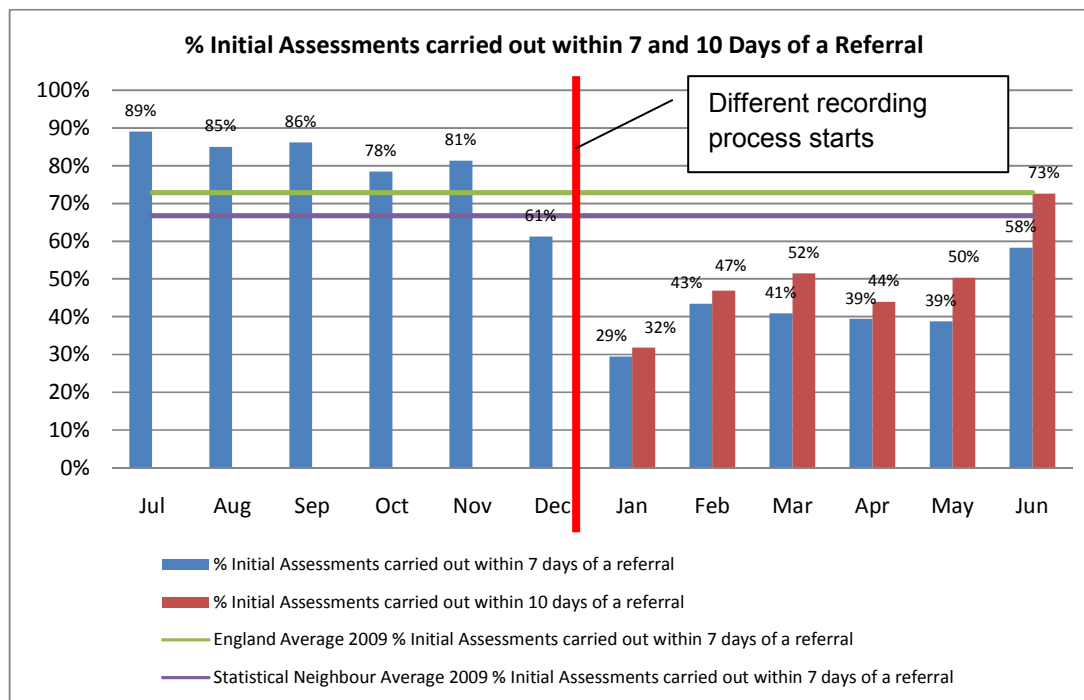
A local strategy 'Promoting the Healthy Weight and Healthy Lives of children in Brighton and Hove' is delivering:

- Access to health promotion and prevention activities e.g. food growing, dietary advice, cookery training, play and physical activity opportunities to all children aged
- Healthy Choice Award: developing standards and activities to encourage and engage businesses and all youth settings, parks, sports and leisure facilities to offer healthy food choices.
- Development of a single point of access for lifestyle and weight management: "One Stop Shop" weight management referral. The referrals are for both adults and children. The scheme has increased awareness of the range of community nutrition services available among GPs and other health professionals. The scheme was launched in January 2009. GPs and practice nurses account for a large proportion of referrers.
- Workforce development training: weight management training for health visitors and school nurses.
- Local implementation of the National Child Measurement Programme including analysis of local data from the NCMP for children in Reception Year and Year 6 and routine feedback of results to parents.

NI 59 Initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral

CYPP Priority	Strengthen safeguarding and child protection, early intervention and prevention		
Result (Year to date)	58% (June 2010)	Target	78% (2010/11)

Chart showing performance month by month

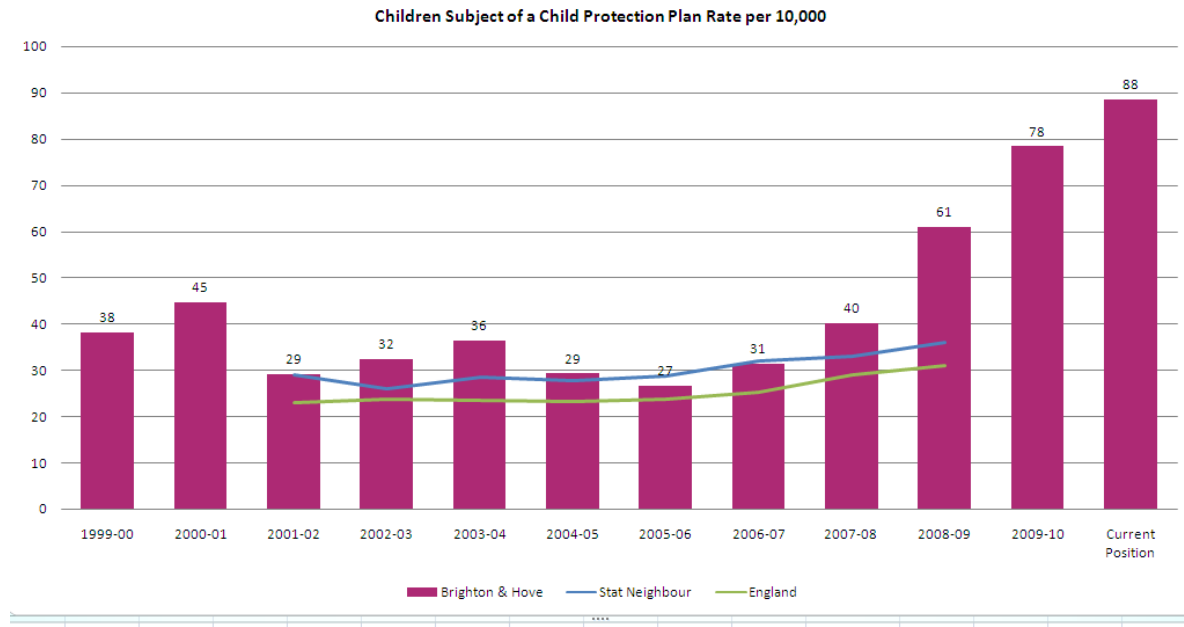


Source: Carefirst social care system

As highlighted in the baseline performance report presented to the Board in March this year, work to review the recording and reporting of this key child protection process was undertaken in December 2009. Necessary adjustments to our systems and practices resulted in a predicted drop in performance. Since January, performance has improved to 58% completion in 7 days and 73% within 10 days.

The target time will change to 10 working days from April 2011 and the first comparative data on the new timescale will be available in October 2011. We anticipate the announcement of further significant changes to central government performance requirements following the publication of the Munro Review of Child Protection which reports in April next year.

The completion time for social care initial assessments reflects activity levels. The chart below shows the demand on social care services from a rising child protection caseload over recent years to a current (July) high of 88 cases per 10,000 population.



Source: Carefirst social care system

Looked after children numbers have also increased from 372 in Sept 2008, to 460 in Sept 2009 and 478 in August 2010.

Activities in support of this process

The Board has received a separate report on the Unannounced Inspection by Ofsted of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within local authority children's services in Brighton and Hove City Council which was conducted on 7 and 8 July 2010. The inspection report found strengths in professional support, workforce management and strategic planning. Unlike many other authorities no areas for priority action were identified.

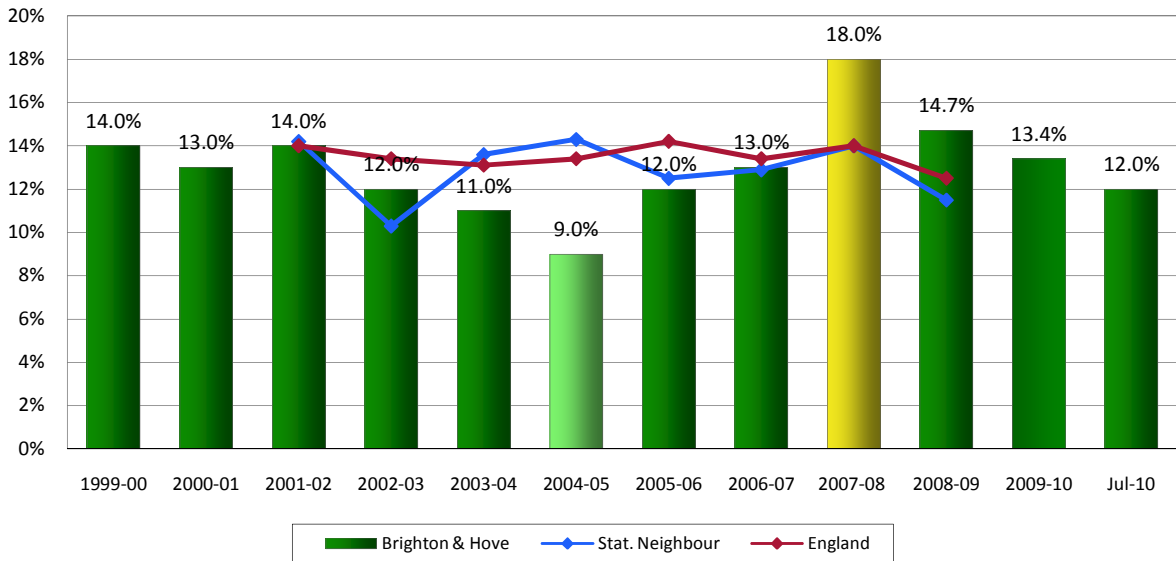
A post-inspection action plan is in place to address issues raised by inspectors.

NI 65 Percentage of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time

CYPP Priority Strengthen safeguarding and child protection, early intervention and prevention

Result	14.7% (2008/9) 13.4% (2009/10) 12% (current position)	Target	12% (2009/10)
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NI 65 % of children becoming subject of a Child Protection Plan for a 2nd/subsequent time



Source: Carefirst social care system

Some re-registrations are essential in responding to adverse changes in circumstance. Performance between 10 and 15% is considered to be good.

Activities in support of this outcome

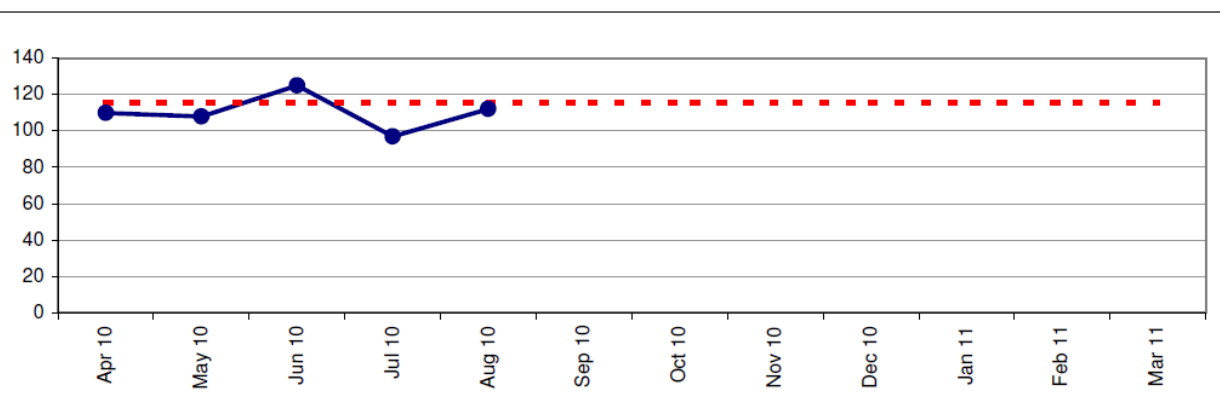
It is encouraging to note that Brighton and Hove's performance around this indicator has been consistently good over a number of years, with 2007/8 being an exception. This performance indicates that child protection plans are effective and are ended in a safe and supportive way and that plans achieved the aim of reducing risk. For those children who remain at risk despite the efforts of a child protection plan, alternative plans and interventions are made to safeguard their future.

NI 70 Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people (per 100,000)

CYPP Priority Strengthen safeguarding and child protection, early intervention and prevention

Result	1468 (2008/9) 1015 (2009/10)	Target	1322 (2009/10)
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Monthly performance to date in 2010/11 (numbers of admissions per 100,000)



Source: Primary Care Trust

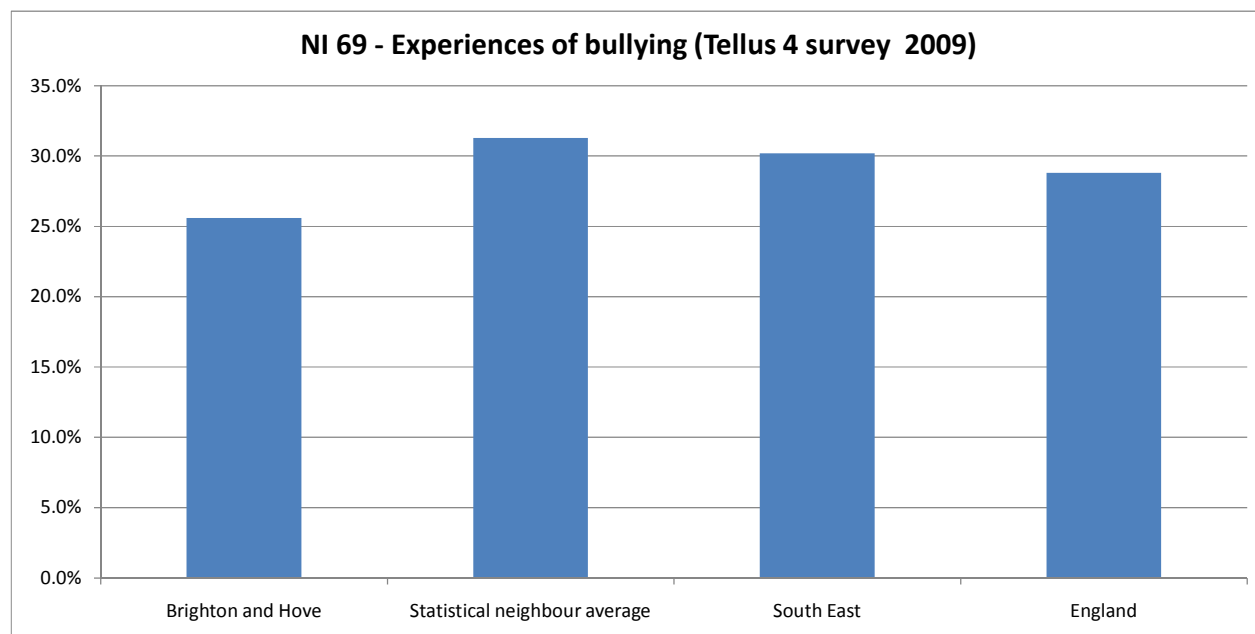
Admissions of children to hospital as a result of injuries are similar to elsewhere having reduced in 2009/10 following a steady increase in previous years. Performance remains below the monthly target level this year. 'Unintended injuries' includes accidents and complications from medical care/surgery. 'Deliberate injuries' includes self-harm and assault.

Activities relating to this issue

- Publicity is sent out across the city helping families understand the risks and preventative measures to take relating to sudden infant death
- Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals Accident & Emergency have a system to refer cases to health visitors and the home safety scheme run by public health funded 'Safety Net'.
- Families are provided with home safety checks, safety training, and safety equipment
- For all deliberate injuries, the hospital will refer to social services and appropriate steps are taken to protect the child from further harm

NI 69 Children who have experienced bullying

CYPP Priority	Strengthen safeguarding and child protection, early intervention and prevention		
Result	25.6%	Target	N/A



Source: NFER/Dept of Education

Brighton and Hove compares well to other authorities as shown in the graph above, which uses data from the nationally administered Tellus survey. This survey was recently de-commissioned and is not taking place this year.

We also conduct a well regarded local survey, the Safe and Well At School Survey. In 2009, this survey identified a significant reduction in levels of bullying reported by children and young people. The survey found that 23% of primary school children reported they had been bullied at school that term, compared to 33% in 2005 and 15% of secondary school children, compared to 26% in 2005. The survey results for 2010 will be available in February 2011.

Activities in support of this outcome

The Healthy Schools Team will actively promote Anti-Bullying Week 2010 (15-19th November). The team provides support for Personal Social Health & Economic education (PSHE) co-ordinators through the Primary Healthy Schools Network and the Secondary PSHE Consortium. Secondary school senior managers are provided with input related to bullying through the Behaviour and Attendance Network.

The local focus for anti-bullying week for secondary schools will be on responding to and challenging racist and religiously motivated incidents through the use of the locally developed DVD *See it!, Say it!, Stop it!* in assemblies, tutor time and PSHE and citizenship.

Materials to support schools to address a range of issues including cyberbullying are available on Pier2Peer, Brighton and Hove's online Learning Platform for schools.

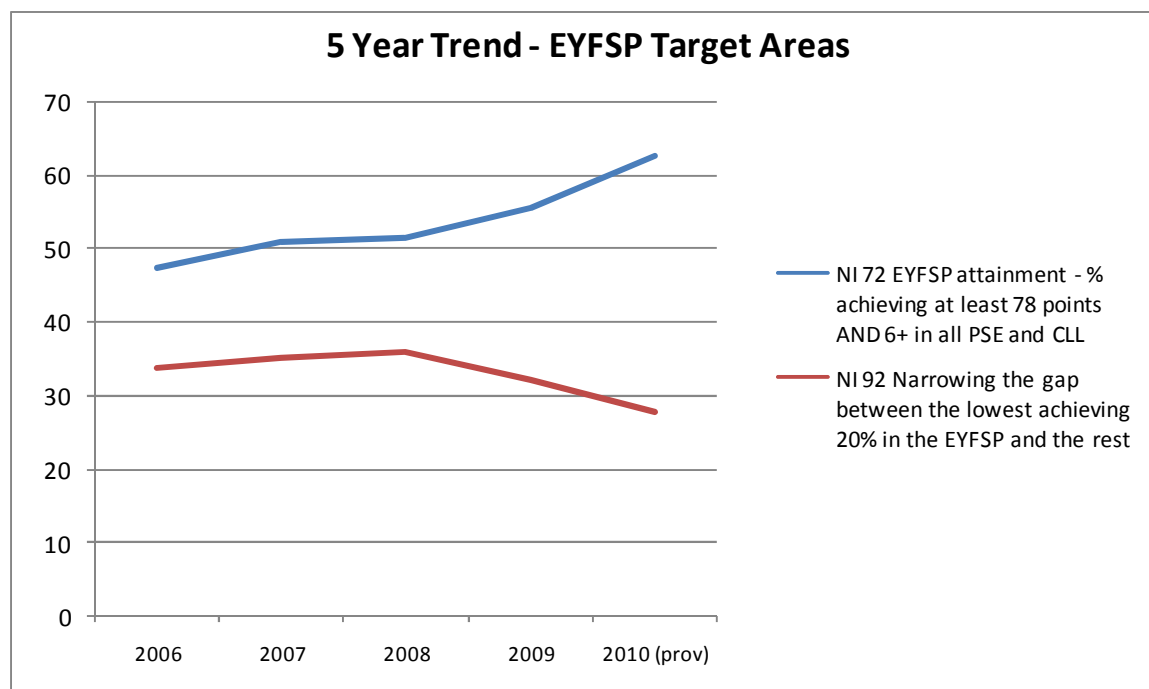
NI 92 Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) and the rest

CYPP Priority	Promote Health and Wellbeing, Inclusion and Achievement		
Result	27.7% (2010)	Target	27.9% (2010)

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFSP) is a statutory framework for children's learning and development and welfare from birth to the end of the academic year in which they turn 5. It covers six areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSE)
- Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL)
- Problem-solving, reasoning and numeracy
- Knowledge and understanding of the world
- Physical Development
- Creative Development

Brighton and Hove children do well in their early years and provisional data for NI 92 shows that the gap between those who do least well and their peers has significantly narrowed in the last two years. Results for NI 72 (overall attainment) are also shown below for reference.



Indicator	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 (prov)
NI 72 EYFSP attainment - % achieving at least 78 points AND 6+ in all PSE and CLL	47.3	50.8	51.4	55.5	62.6
NI 92 Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the EYFSP and the rest	33.7	35	35.9	32.2	27.7

Those who perform least well tend to have the following characteristics: living in deprivation, summer born and youngest in the group, boys, children with English as an additional language and children with special educational needs.

It is therefore significant that improvements to scores have been made by pupils living in even the most deprived parts of the city.

Most Deprived Areas (IDACI)**	Achieving a good score*					
	%			No of Pupils		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
5%	25.24	34.18	41.95	52	67	86
10%	27.11	35.80	41.54	93	126	140
15%	30.85	38.72	43.4	141	175	187
20%	32.87	41.68	45.9	191	248	262
All pupils	51.5	55.5	62.5			

*A good score is defined as 'Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy'

** IDACI is an index of areas of deprivation affecting children, created by the Office of National Statistics, based around the proportion of children under the age of 16 that live in low income households

Activities in support of this outcome

We are successfully implementing a two part strategy for improving outcomes for children at the foundation stage:

Universal work:

- Children Centres and the Surestart programme across the city
- Quality Improvement programme with all registered settings
- Comprehensive training programme for practitioners to raise the quality of provision
- Specialist services for children with special needs and English as an additional language

Targeted work:

- Additional support for settings and schools who are at risk of underachieving with a tight focus on tracking children's progress.
- 'Communication, Language and Literacy' and 'Every Child a Talker' programmes
- Additional targeted projects for vulnerable groups of children.

NI 75 Achievement of 5 or more A* - C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths

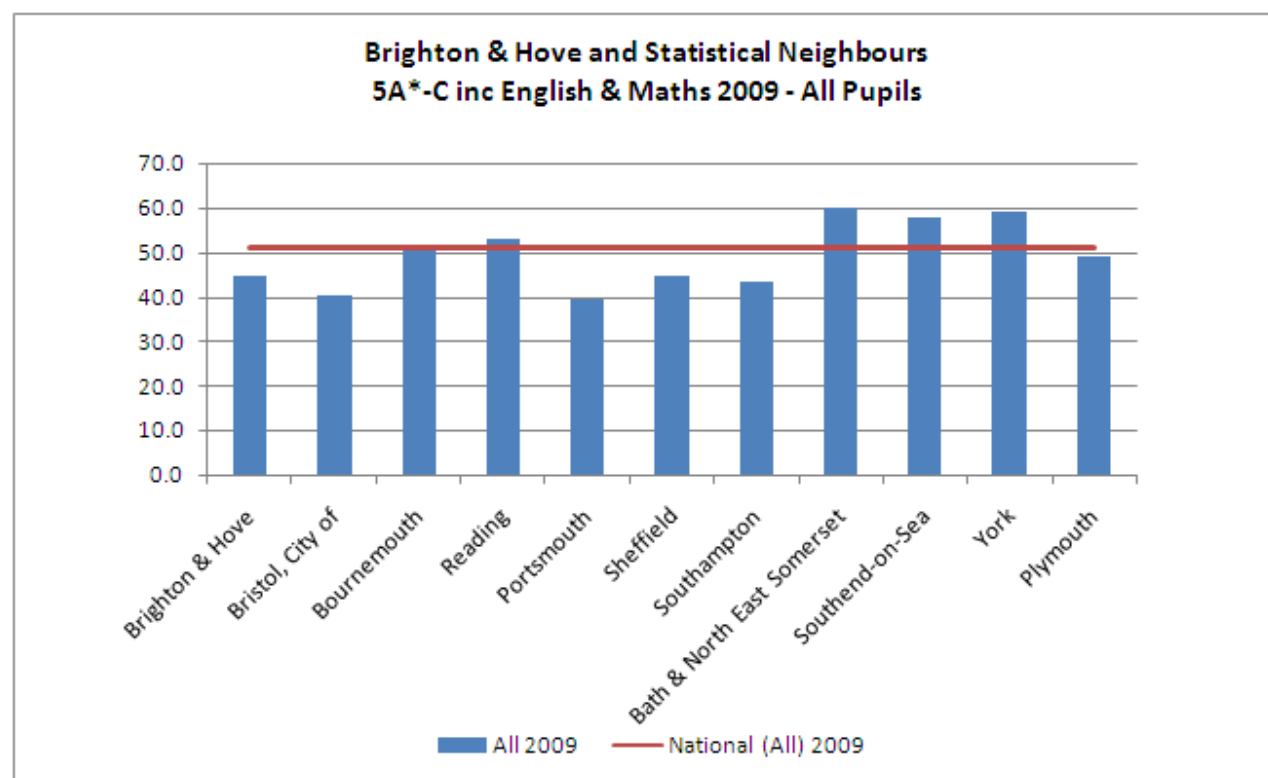
CYPP Priority Promote Health and Wellbeing, Inclusion and Achievement

Result	44.5% (2009) 49.1% (2010 prov)	Target	48% (2009) 51% (2010)
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Whilst not hitting the challenging target in 2010, the provisional results this year are the best ever, representing a significant improvement on last year. The following table shows the percentage of GCSE students in Brighton & Hove who have achieved five or more A*-C grades including English and Maths. The figures for 2010 are provisional, while the 2009 figures are final

School	2010	2009
Blatchington Mill	66	63
Cardinal Newman	59	56
Dorothy Stringer	63	66
Falmer High	22	25
Hove Park	40	27
Longhill	43	41
Patcham High	37	36
Portslade Community College	35	25
Varndean	58	47
TOTAL	49.1	44.5

The chart below shows the 2009 results against statistical neighbours and the national result for 2009 (red line). Full analysis on the final data will be presented to the Board in the Education Standards report in January 2011



This graph shows Brighton & Hove was 8th place in relation to statistical neighbours in 2009. This outcome in 2009 was unexpected and we failed to meet our target for the year by 2%.

Activities in support of this outcome

The CYPT Board and CYPOSC were provided with reports showing that performance in GCSE examinations was not satisfactory overall in 2009 although it was variable across schools.

In August 2010 the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed arrangements to support secondary schools and approved the actions taken by the advisory service.

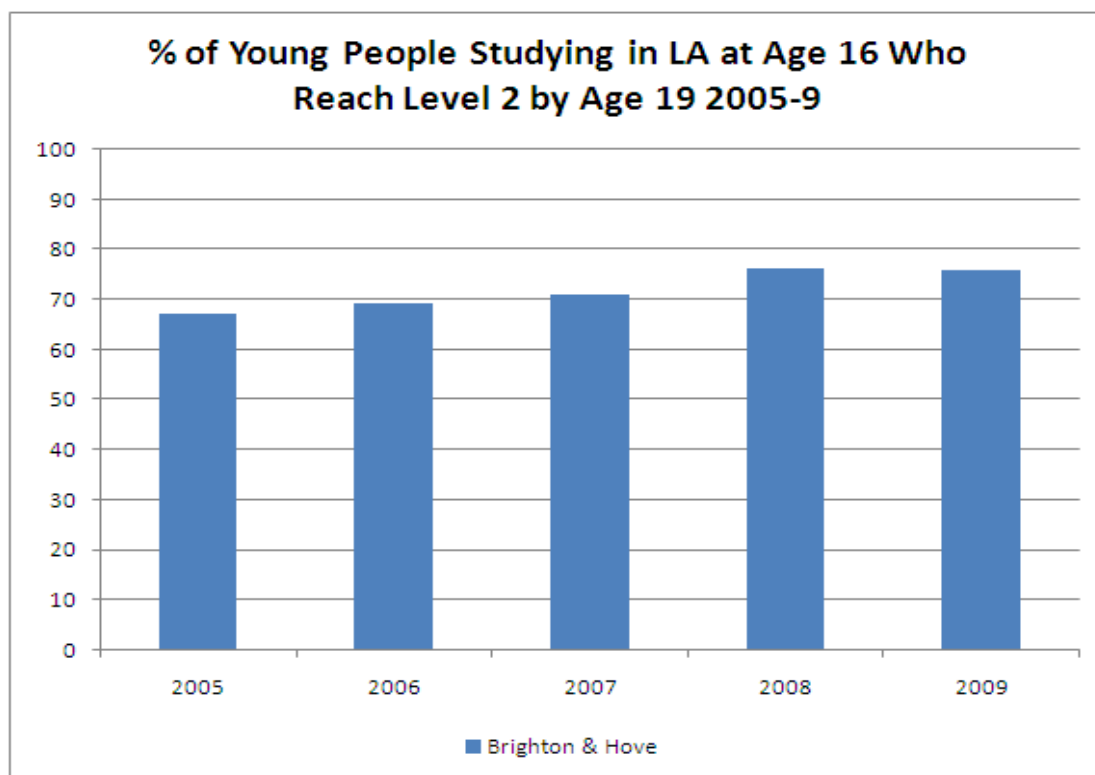
In addition the CYPT Performance Board conducted a detailed review of GCSE performance and developed a number of actions including:

- A presentation of the data at the May Headteachers' Conference and also Governors' training.
- Secondary headteachers consulted about citywide actions for raising standards which included a focus on improving the quality of teaching and improvements in the accuracy and use of assessment.
- Officers exploring best practice in other authorities,
- Increased efforts to improve mathematics teaching, as analysis shows this as a weaker subject
- Analysis of the performance of those pupils who enter late into secondary schools.

Underachieving schools receive additional support and are challenged each half term to show improvement against their raising attainment plans. Much work has focussed on improving the quality of teaching and accuracy of assessment and monitoring for intervention with individual pupils. Monitoring shows that significant progress is being made.

NI 79 Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19

CYPP Priority	Promote Health and Wellbeing, Inclusion and Achievement		
Result	67.1% (2005) 76.3% (2008) 76% (2009)	Target	78% (2009)



Data source: DfE SFR06/2010

Examples of the level of qualification required here are: Advanced GNVQ, Apprenticeship, NVQ Level 2, 1 A Level grade A-E, 2 AS Levels grade A-E.

Although there has been solid improvement against this target in Brighton & Hove since 2005 (when the figure was 67.1%), progress stalled in 2009 with a result of 76% against the previous year's result of 76.3%. Brighton & Hove remains below the regional average of 78%.

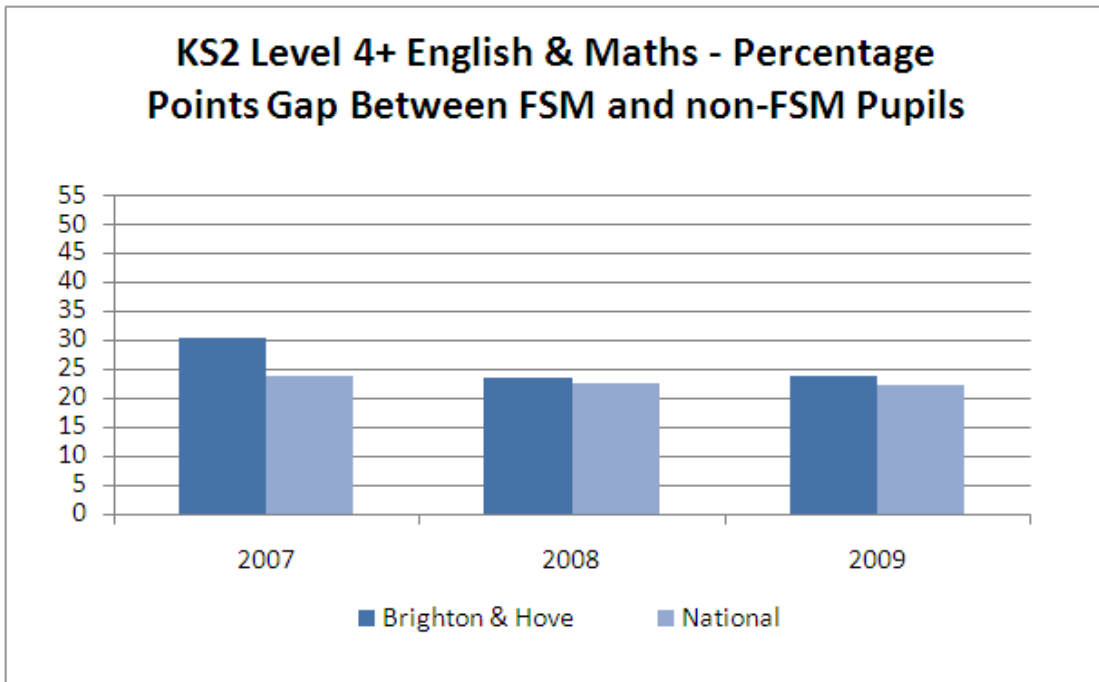
Activities to support this outcome

The 14-19 Partnership Board includes senior management representation from all nine secondary schools, the six special schools, and local colleges and training providers. It leads on the formation and implementation of the 14-19 Partnership Strategy.

- Curriculum developments are being implemented through the 14 – 19 Partnership Board such as City Curriculum 15, and the focus on Foundation Learning provision at 16 – 19. These are intended to ensure that the city wide curriculum offer is relevant to the needs of all learners and they have a better chance of success
- Specific instances of poor performance in the 16 – 19 sector are being identified, and providers are being supported in working together to improve standards of attainment
- In particular, schools with sixth forms are being supported in improving their students' attainment, and in considering how they may achieve better outcomes by closer collaboration
- Providers are supported and challenged to use rigorous performance and data monitoring, and share good practice in this.

NI 102a Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 2

CYPP Priority	Promote Health and Wellbeing, Inclusion and Achievement		
Result	23.6% (2008) 23.7% (2009)	Target	N/A



Source: CYPT Performance Team

In 2007 the gap between Free School Meals (FSM) learners gaining Level 4 in English and Maths and non-FSM in Brighton & Hove was 30.4%, 7.5% wider than the national figure of 23%. The gap narrowed in 2008, but in 2009 the gap stood at 1.4% above the national figure.

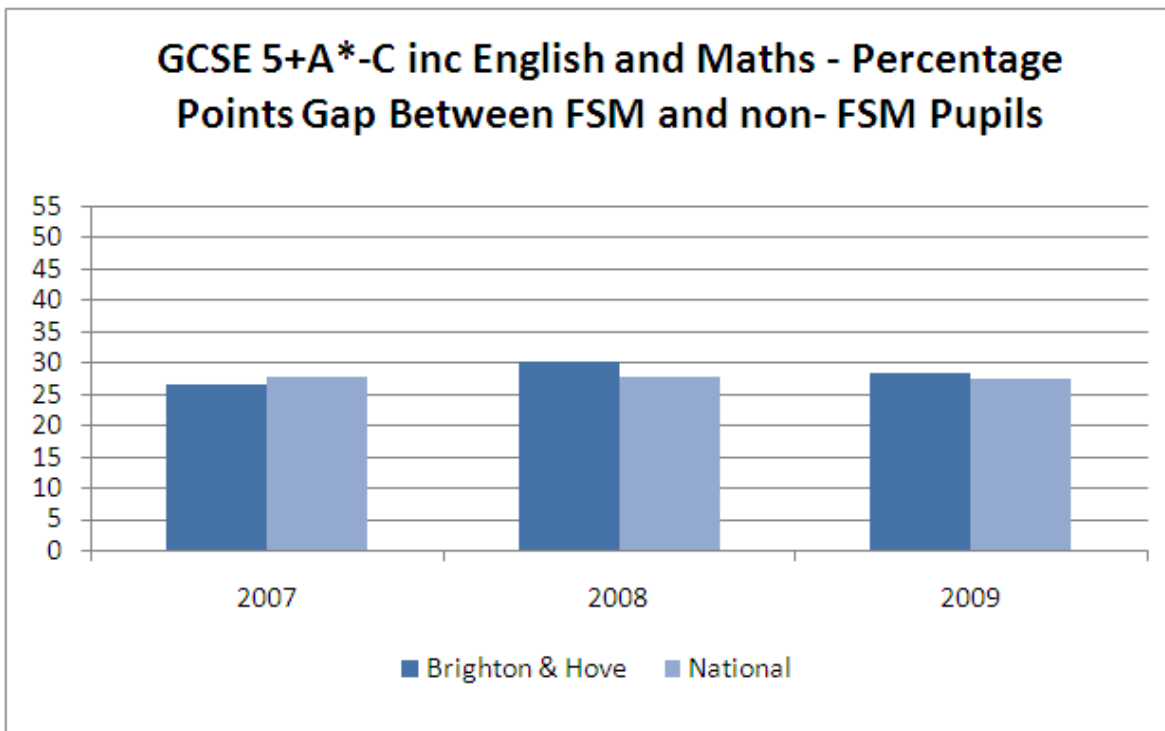
Activities in support of this outcome

A number of activities are designed to drive improvement:

- The development and dissemination of more detailed data gap analysis, which includes FSM pupils
- Sharing the data analysis with groups of headteachers and school staff and using a headteacher conference and workshop to make schools more aware.
- Setting of targets for FSM learners as a part of the target setting process
- A focus each term for the School Improvement Partner (SIP)
- Training sessions for schools and LA staff led by a regional National Strategies adviser
- The formation of a cross-phase working group to explore strategies for narrowing gaps and pilot materials.

NI 102b Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 4 (GCSE)

CYPP Priority	Promote Health and Wellbeing, Inclusion and Achievement		
Result	30.1% (2008) 28.5% (2009)	Target	N/A



Source: CYPT Performance Team

In 2007 the gap between FSM learners gaining 5+A*-C grades including English and Maths at GCSE and non-FSM in Brighton & Hove was 26.7%, 1.2% narrower than the national figure. In 2008, there was a change in this position, the gap in Brighton & Hove becoming 2.3% wider than the national figure. In 2009 the gap narrowed again in Brighton & Hove and was close to the national figure.

Activities in support of this outcome

Though the FSM v non-FSM gap is close to the national figure, it remains the case that FSM learners at KS4 attain at a much lower level than their peers in Brighton & Hove (boys eligible for FSM especially) and a priority has been to narrow this gap further. A number of activities have been carried out to address this including:

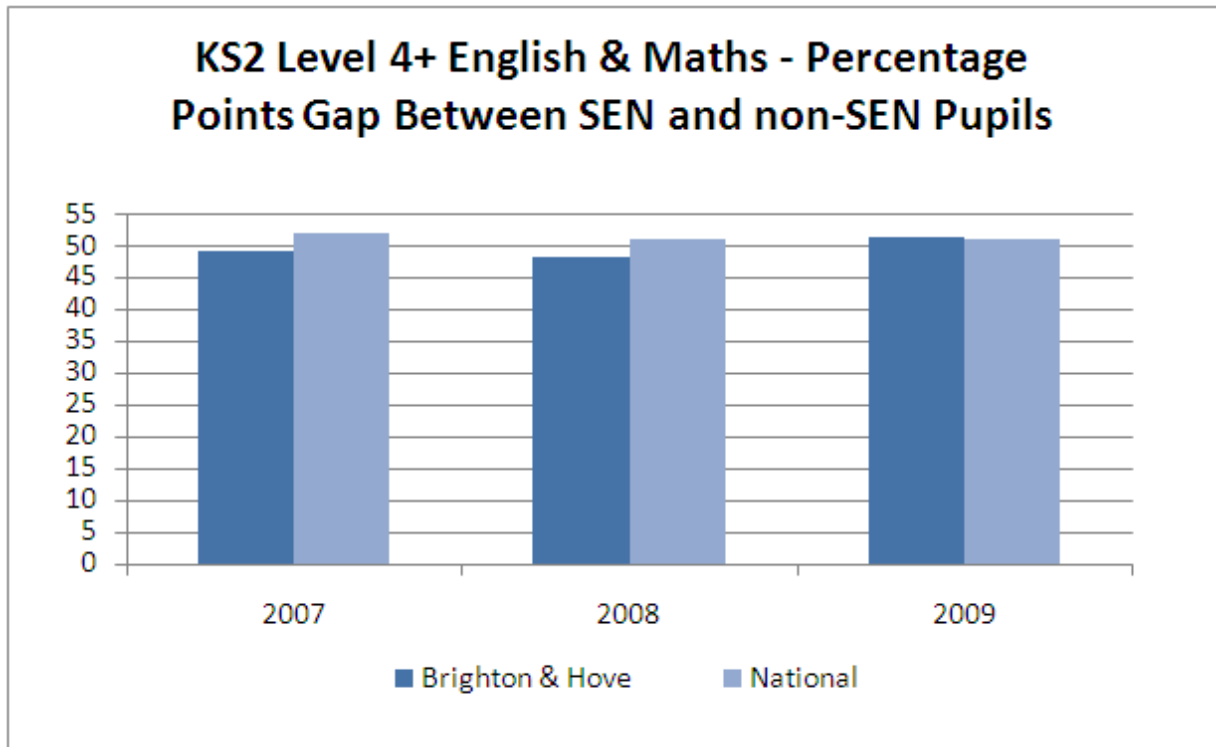
- The development and dissemination of more detailed data gap analysis for FSM students and other learner groups such as SEN, looked after children, learners from different ethnic backgrounds. With regard to FSM, this has been analysed at Local Authority and school level, also by gender and super-output area
- A sharp focus within agendas for School Improvement Partner (SIP) meetings with secondary headteachers on the narrowing of gaps, supported by guidance for SIPs

- A workshop for headteachers on gaps data related to Brighton & Hove
- The setting of targets for FSM learners as a part of the target setting process
- Training sessions on gaps data and research findings into strategies for narrowing gaps for schools' lead staff, led by a regional National Strategies adviser
- The formation of a cross-phase working group to explore strategies for narrowing gaps

Current work is focused on dissemination and use of a pedagogical “toolkit” (developed in Kensington and Chelsea) for trialling with targeted learner groups. This is rooted in the belief that active learning, pace and accountability and use of learning technologies contribute significantly to the narrowing of gaps.

NI 104 The SEN/non-SEN gap -achieving Key Stage 2 English and Maths

CYPP Priority	Promote Health and Wellbeing, Inclusion and Achievement		
Result	48.3% (2008) 51.2% (2009)	Target	N/A



Source: CYPT Performance Team

In 2007, the gap between the attainment of SEN and non-SEN learners in Brighton & Hove was narrower than the national gap by 2%. However, in 2009, this gap is in line with the national figure.

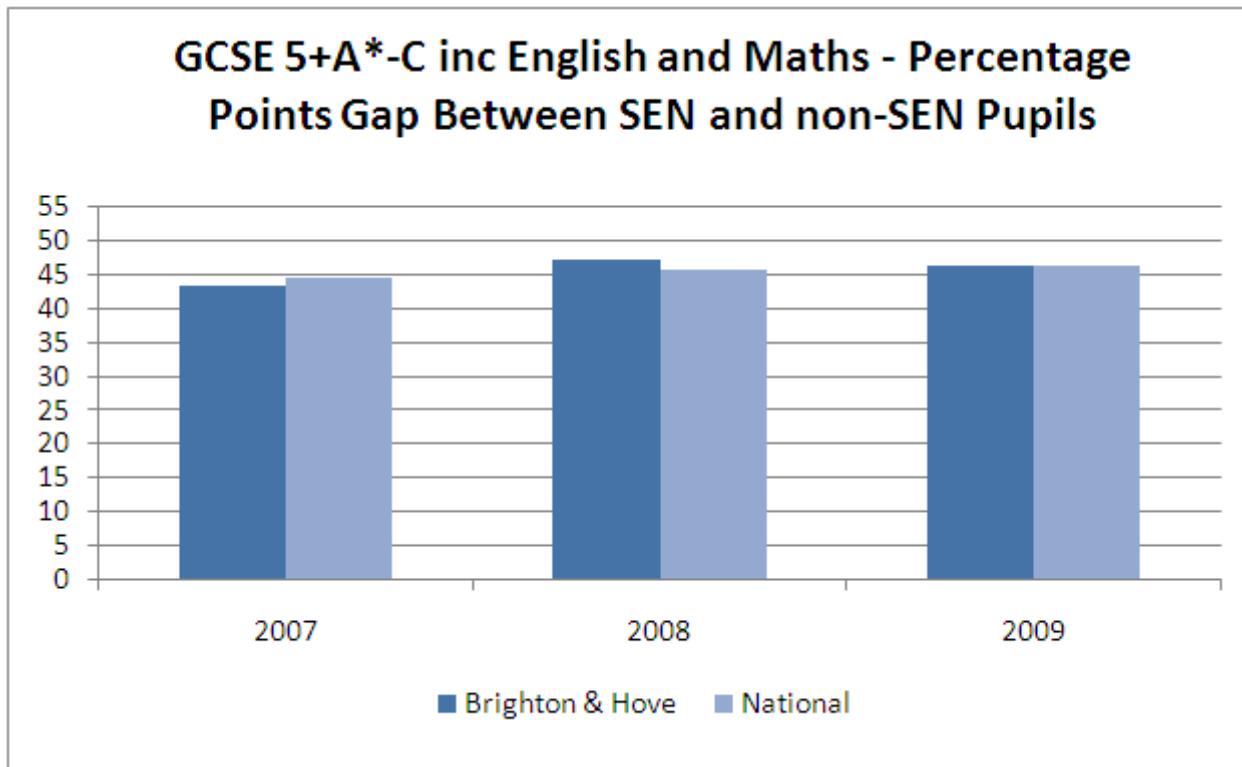
Activities in support of this outcome

The gap in attainment between SEN and non-SEN learners is substantial and a key priority is to narrow this. A number of actions have been taken including:

- The development and dissemination of more detailed data gap analysis, which includes SEN pupils
- Familiarising School Improvement Partners (SIPs) with new materials designed to improve the attainment of SEN learners
- Including targets for SEN learners in the annual target setting process
- Arranging a workshop for SIPs, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) and headteachers on the use of the recently developed Progression Guidance related to low-achieving learners.
- Commissioning SEN support for those schools where the gap is most significant

NI 105 The SEN/non-SEN gap -achieving 5 A*-C GCSE inc. English and Maths

CYPP Priority	Promote Health and Wellbeing, Inclusion and Achievement		
Result	47.3% (2008) 46.4% (2009)	Target	N/A



Source: CYPT Performance Team

In 2007, the gap between the attainment of SEN and non-SEN learners in Brighton & Hove was narrower than the national gap by 1%. However, in 2008 this gap became wider than the national gap. In 2009, the SEN/non-SEN gap in Brighton & Hove was the same as the national one.

Activities in support of this outcome

Though the local gap is similar to the national one, the gap in attainment between SEN and non-SEN learners is substantial and a priority is to seek to narrow this. A number of actions have been taken including:

- Familiarising SIPs with new materials designed to improve the attainment of SEN learners and incorporating SEN issues in SIP agendas with secondary heads
- Including targets for SEN learners in the annual target setting process
- Arranging a workshop for SIPs, SENCOs and headteachers on the use of the recently developed Progression Guidance related to low-achieving learners. This includes key principles to support the raising of attainment for learners with SEN as well as data to support the setting of challenging targets

An additional workshop for SENCOs and other key school staff is planned for October 2010 in order to disseminate the key messages from the Achievement for All pilot.

NI 43 Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody

CYPP Priority	Promote Health and Wellbeing, Inclusion and Achievement		
Result	11.2% (2008/9) 5.2% (2009/10)	Target	6% (2009/10)

Sentences to Custody				
Year	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
April to June	6	17	3	4
July to Sept	13	3	2	
Oct to Dec	9	8	7	
Jan to March	5	11	2	
Total Custodial Sentences	33	39	14	4
All sentences	622	349	270	75
% of sentences	5.3%	11.2%	5.2%	5.3%

Source: Youth Offending Service

The table above shows the number of custodial sentences per quarter for the last four years and this expressed as a percentage for the year. The target of 6% or less of all sentences to result in custody was reached in 09/10 and the first quarter of 10/11.

Analysis of Pre-Sentence Reports (PSR), produced in 2009 by the Youth Offending Service (YOS) to advise magistrates on sentencing outcomes, showed that 55% of young people 'eligible' for a custodial sentence received a community sentence instead. It is believed that the standard of the YOS's PSRs combined with confidence from sentencers in the YOS has led to reduced custodial sentences.

Activities in support of this outcome

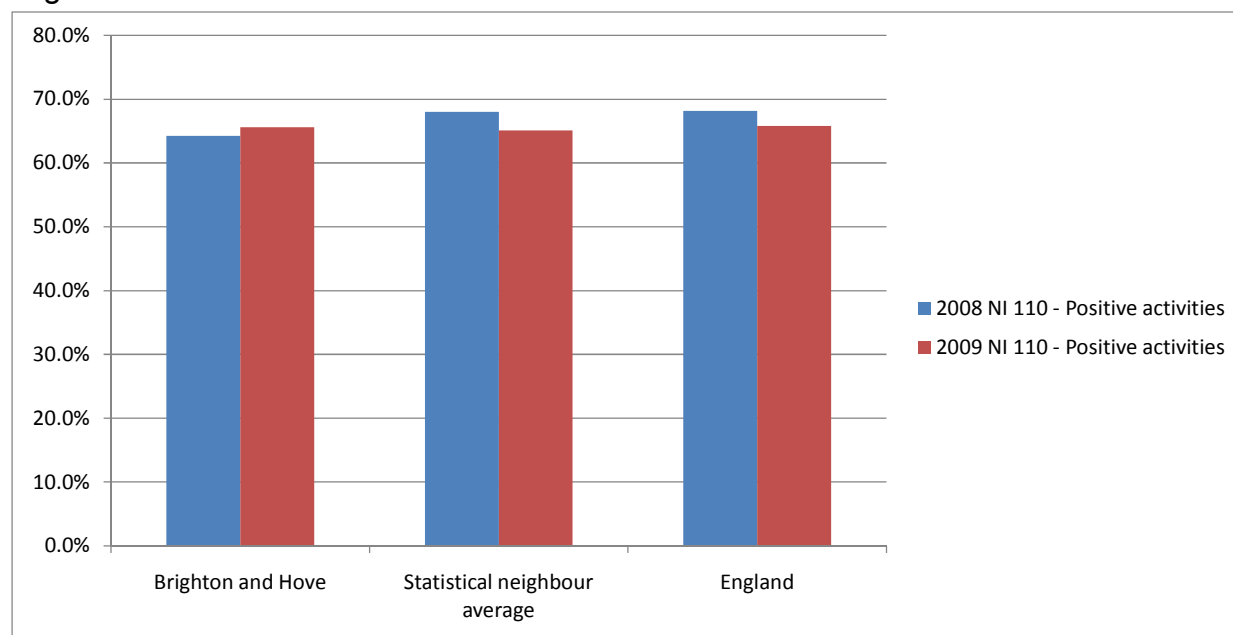
There remains a central government drive to reduce custodial sentences as well as the number of cases dealt with at court. The introduction of street based restorative justice disposals managed out of courts should help the youth offending service maintain it's high quality work in the courts. A green paper on the future of the criminal justice system will be published on 20th October.

NI 110 Young people's participation in positive activities

CYPP Priority	Promote Health and Wellbeing, Inclusion and Achievement		
Result	64.2% (2008) 65.6% (2009)	Target	N/A

This indicator is based on survey responses from pupils within the Tellus survey, specifically the proportion of young people in school year 10 responding 'yes' to the question "In the last 4 weeks, have you participated in any group activity led by an adult outside school lessons (such as sports, arts or a youth group)?"

The table below shows the responses for Brighton and Hove, statistical neighbours and England



Source: NFER/Dept for Education

There was a reported increase in involvement with positive activities in Brighton and Hove between 2008 and 2009, whilst elsewhere results show a decrease.

Because the Tellus survey was recently de-commissioned and is not taking place this year, the question about positive activities has now been incorporated into the local Safe and Well at School Survey which reports in February 2011.

Activities in support of this outcome

A youth service review was initiated in April 2010 with the full involvement of young people and other stakeholders. So far it has found that:

- There is a wide range of excellent provision of out of school and community based activities from sports clubs, arts and cultural activities, clubs in libraries, youth clubs, mobile services and youth cafés
- There is less provision for young women than men
- There is more work to be done around making children and families aware of what's on offer
- 16-19 year olds draw on these opportunities less than younger age groups

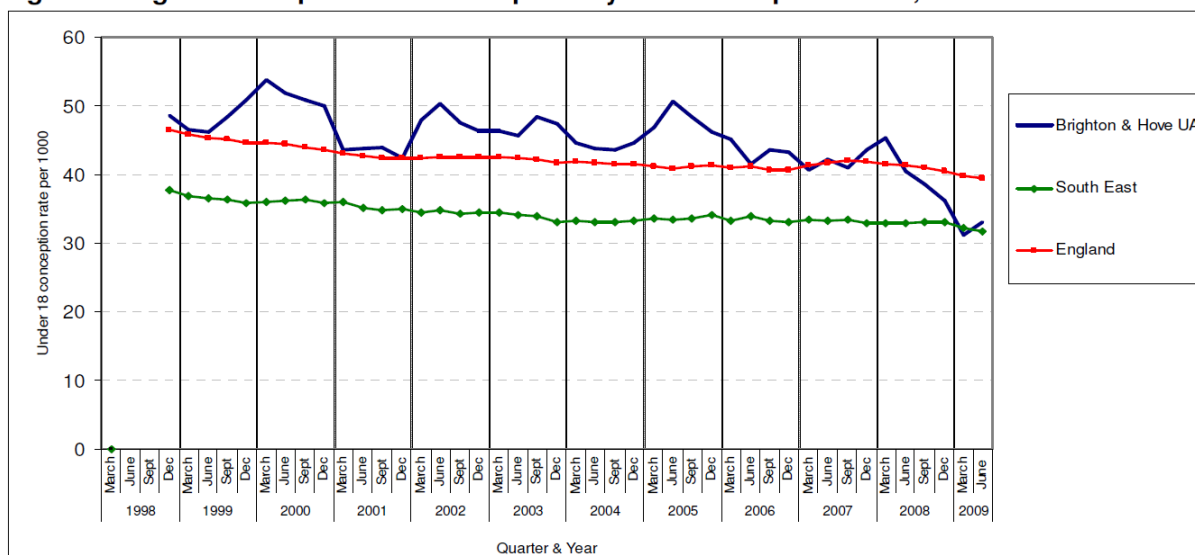
The outcomes and recommendations of the review are being finalised by a partnership steering group and will report in January 2011.

NI 112 Under 18 conception rate

CYPP Priority Promote Health and Wellbeing, Inclusion and Achievement

Result -32% (Quarter 1 2009) Target -45.00% (2010)

Figure 1 Regional comparisons of the quarterly u-18 conception rates, 1998-2009 Q2



Note: Rate per 1000 females aged 15-17

Source: Teenage Pregnancy Service

In Brighton & Hove, the second quarter 2009 conception rate was 33.1 per 1000 girls aged 15-17 years; a **32%** decrease from the 1998 baseline. The regional quarterly rates were 39.5 and 31.7 per 1000 for England and the South East, indicating reductions of 15% and 16% from the baseline, respectively.

In the first quarter 2010, the rate of under-18 terminations was 4 per 1000 young women aged 15-17. This is a decrease of 2 per 1000 compared to the fourth quarter 2009 and is at the same level as the first quarter 2009.

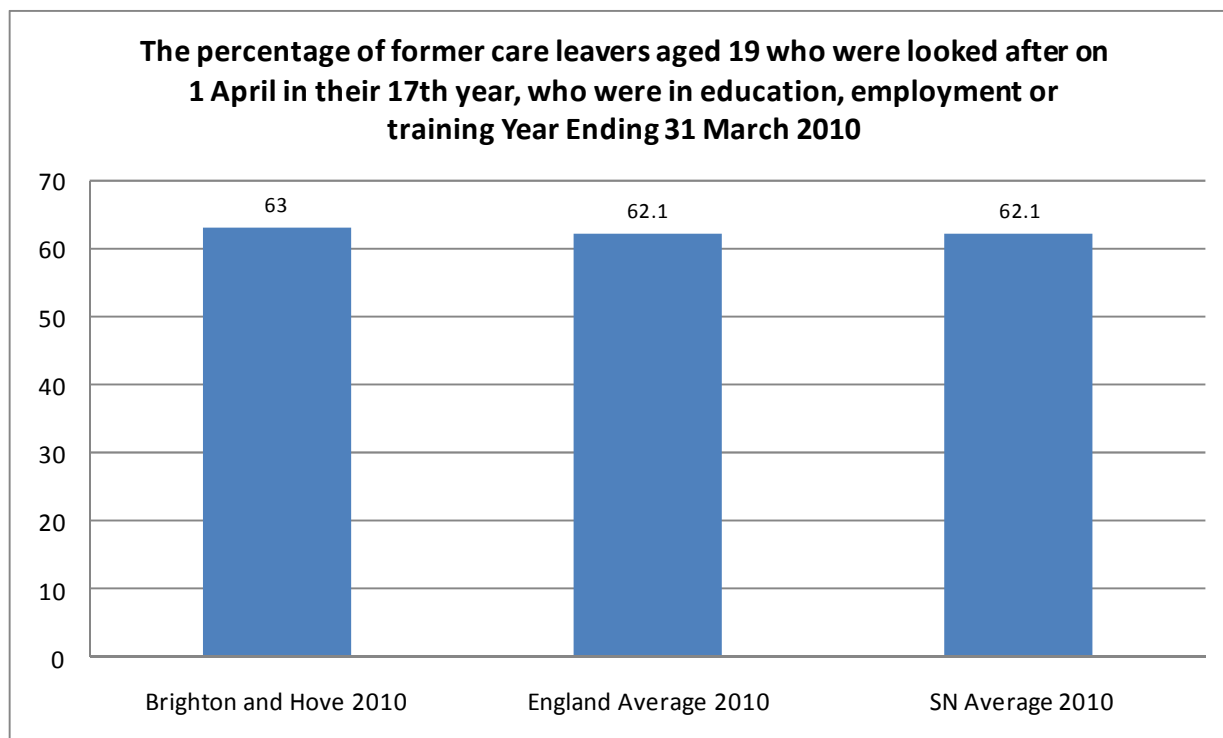
Activities in support of this outcome

- Initial responses to the new young women's support worker who works with under 19 British Pregnancy Advisory Service clients have been very positive. The take-up of the service is high and all young women using the service in June were moved onto Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC).
- The new open access Contraception and Sexual Health (CASH) drop-ins are open at the central Morley Street clinic. Targets have been set to ensure that the number of under 19 contacts are at the right level compared to the increase in investment. The current activity levels are already very close to target.
- The new school nurse drop-in services have been put in place. Three out of seven schools met their targets and one of these schools has only been operating since the beginning of the month.

NI 148 Care leavers at 19 – in education, employment and training

CYPP Priority Promote Health and Wellbeing, Inclusion and Achievement

Result 63% (2009/10) Target 67% (2009/10)



Source: Carefirst social care system

Performance is marginally better than England and statistical neighbour averages. The definition for this indicator is problematic and we have raised this as an issue with the Department for Education and with Ofsted. As a result local performance is distorted by the inclusion a small number of inappropriate cases and is, for the majority of care leavers much more positive.

Activities in support of this outcome

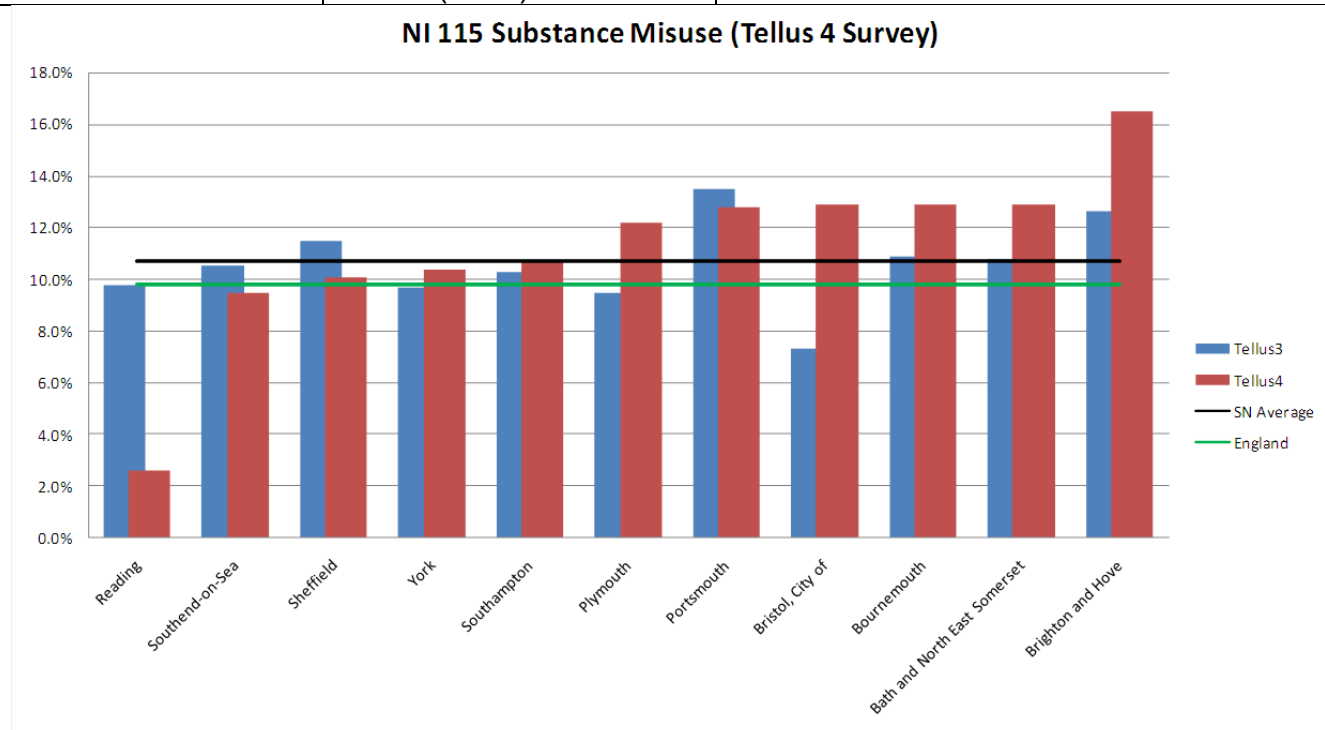
The 16 plus Support Team lead on ensuring we provide:

- Targeted intervention and support to care leavers from Personal Advisers, Supported Lodgings and Supported Housing Providers, Training Providers and Aim Higher co-ordinators in FE Colleges
- Further development of employment possibilities within Brighton & Hove City Council and its partners, including pathways to accessing apprenticeships offered by Mears for housing repair work, work experience in environmental health, animal welfare, building control, planning and parks.

NI 115 Substance misuse by young people

CYPP Priority	Promote Health and Wellbeing, Inclusion and Achievement	
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Result	16.5% (2009)	
	12.7% (2008)	



Data Source: NFER/Dept for Education

This indicator is based on survey responses from pupils within the Tellus survey, specifically, pupils in years 6, 8 and 10 were asked to say whether they frequently misused drugs/volatile substances or alcohol, or both.

Because the Tellus survey was recently de-commissioned and is not taking place this year, the questions about drug and alcohol use have now been incorporated into the local Safe and Well at School Survey which reports in February 2011.

Whilst this survey indicates the proportion of young people using drugs and/or alcohol has increased, the Young Peoples Needs Assessment 2009/10 (carried out by the Drug and Alcohol Action Team) suggests that the number of young people using substances has not increased but the *amount of use* by each young person is increasing. Detailed analytical work will be undertaken on the new survey data to validate this finding in February 2011.

Activities in support of this outcome

- Interventions and professional training across tier 2 and 3 services are being reviewed and a new training programme on brief interventions will be delivered in the Autumn
- Recommendations being considered by the current youth review will address reducing the harm caused to young people who misuse substances
- A new specialist needs assessment process for the treatment of young people who misuse substances will start in November and the effectiveness of this will be closely monitored

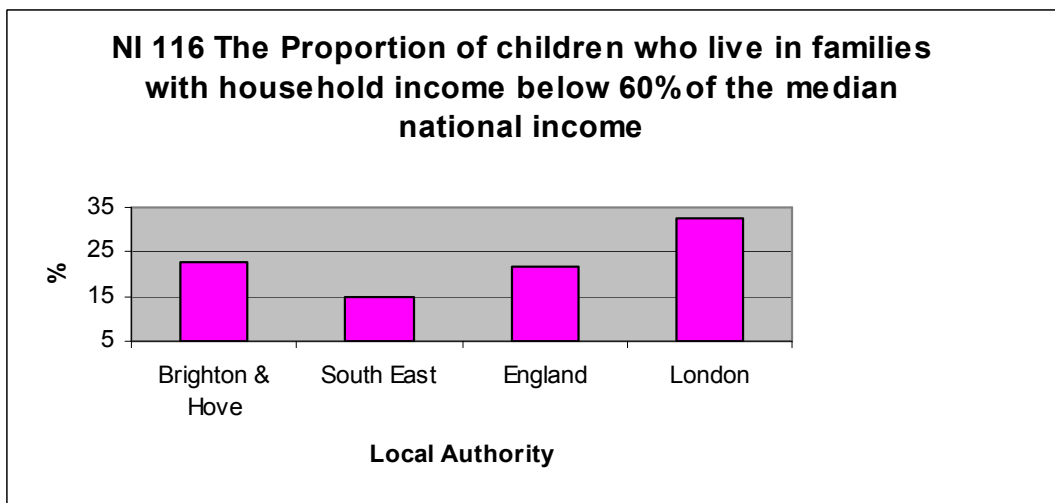
NI 116 Proportion of children in poverty

CYPP Priority Reduce Child Poverty and Health Inequality

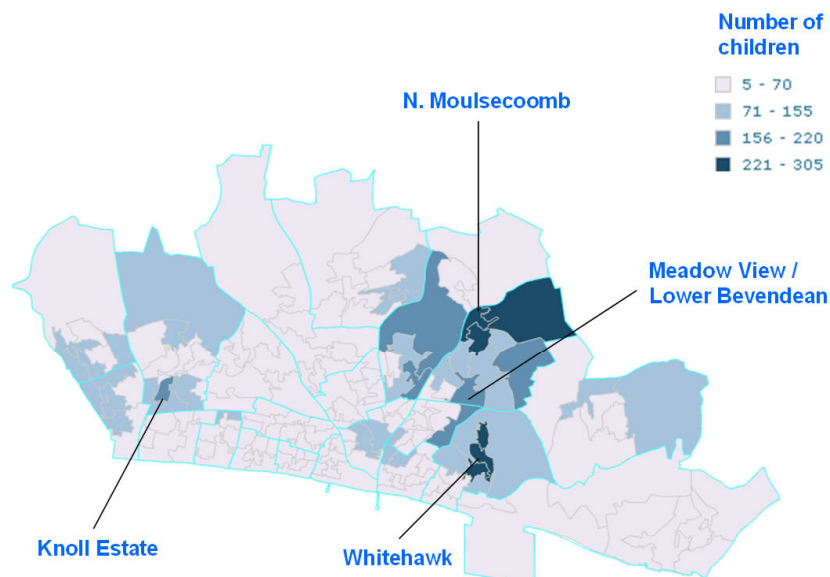
Result 22.8% (2007)

This indicator measures children in households living on less than 60% of the national median income. It includes children living in households on workless benefits and children in households receiving child tax credit. Families that claim neither but who live in income poverty remain unknown to us statistically. This data from 2007 is the latest and only year available for this specific measurement.

DWP Households Below Average Income survey, 2007



Map of all families experiencing child poverty in the city



Source: DWP, 2007

The map shows children experiencing poverty in both working and non-working households.

Child Poverty Needs Assessment and Strategy

- The Child Poverty Act 2010 is now in force and requires the council to work with partners to publish a needs assessment of and a strategy for reducing child poverty by April 2011.
- Initial findings of the needs assessment were presented to the September meeting of the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership

Key Initial Findings

- **Financial Support**
 - Importance of the Community and Voluntary Sector in delivering information and advice, but a need for better strategic monitoring
- **Employment and Skills**
 - Lower than average wages and rising unemployment
 - Skills gap between graduates and those with no qualifications
- **Life Chances**
 - High levels of drug/alcohol abuse and mental health problems
 - Gap between overall educational attainment and those pupils with SEN, eligible for free school meals or living in disadvantaged areas
- **Place**
 - Families are most affected by housing affordability and availability
 - Differentiation of areas affected by out of work and working poverty

Next steps

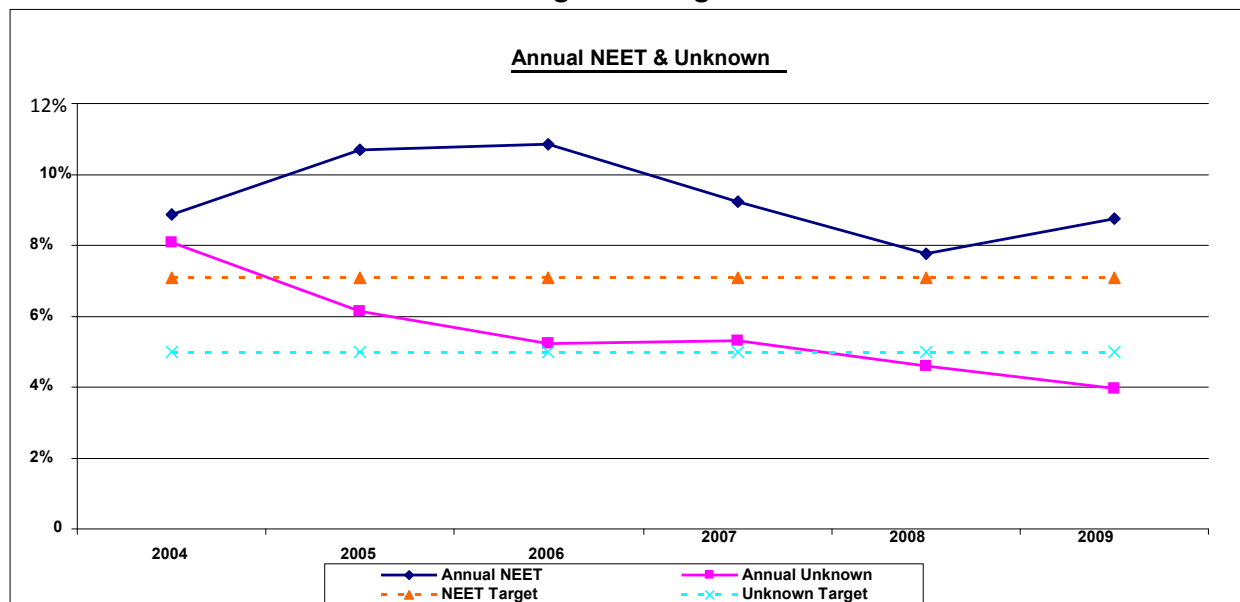
- The Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Task Group convenes in October and includes representatives of city partnerships.
- The needs assessment aims to conclude by end of November and will identify areas that require further investigation or new data.
- The strategy will be published by the statutory deadline of April 2011.

NI 117 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)

CYPP Priority Promote Health and Wellbeing, Inclusion and Achievement

Result	8.8% (2009) 2010 result in Feb '11	Target	7.6% (2009) 6.7% (2010)
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Annual NEET and Not Knowns: Trend against Targets 2004 – 2009



The annual 16 – 18 NEET figures are based on the official Department of Education return of the average adjusted NEET percentage over November/December/January. From a high of over 10% in 2005 and 2006, the NEET figure has steadily improved, almost meeting the target in 2008.

The result for 2009 was 8.8%, which was above the statistical neighbour average of 7.0%, and above the England average of 6.4%. However, rates in Southampton and Portsmouth, similar southeast cities, were higher at 9.2% and 10.5% respectively.

The latest figures for July 2010 show a percentage NEET rate of 8.45%, slightly up on June 2010 (7.87%) but an improvement on the July 2009 figure which was 8.89%.

The current economic conditions appear to be contributing to the rise. Jobcentre Plus report that the employment situation within the city has worsened considerably with almost no vacancies offered to under 18s. However, the rate did fall for a period to 7.88% in April 2010, equating to 483 young people. This appears in large measure due to the January Guarantee initiative, which was successful in placing young people registering as NEET in December and January on E2E programmes.

Commentary

The council is currently consulting with partners and staff on future arrangements for the Connexions service and information will be provided to the Board when this process has been completed.

Section 2 – CYPP Strategic Improvement Priorities

Introduction

The CYPP 2009-2012 can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=c1152923>

This section will summarise progress since publication of the plan in respect of the four Strategic Improvement Priorities and the development initiatives that underpin them.

Strategic Improvement Priority 1: Strengthen safeguarding and child protection, early intervention and prevention

What we said we would do:

The CYPT and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) will rigorously monitor and improve safeguarding strategies, policies and procedures to protect children and young people from harm, neglect or abuse. We will ensure that the whole children's workforce, including schools and colleges, the local health economy and all partner agencies, understand and use local arrangements to work with parents to identify children who need additional help or who cannot live safely in their families and to intervene early to support and protect them.

Initiatives: summary of activity

Maintain a robust and confident child protection pathway:

Child protection is a critical priority for the partnership. This is reflected in two other items on the agenda for this Board meeting: the outcome of the Unannounced Ofsted Inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements, and the presentation by the Independent Chair of the Local Children's Safeguarding Board (LSCB).

The Board received a report on the CYPT Workforce Development Strategy at its meeting on July 19th 2010 which included work with the LSCB to deliver a tiered training programme. Ofsted has recognised that good strategic planning has significantly improved early identification, referral and assessment arrangements. A new 'continuum of need' approach to referrals for social work/child protection has been developed through the LSCB to ensure the support of all key partners.

Child protection policy, procedures and operational guidance have been kept under review and new statutory guidance has been included.

Child protection remains a challenge for the partnership and for the LSCB. All partners, and especially the council's children's social work service, are alert to the Munro Review of Child Protection which is due to report in April 2011.

Increase targeted support and preventive services:

A coordinated programme of improvement activity is addressing this initiative:

The city council's Value for Money Programme is focussing on improving the effectiveness of interventions which protect the most vulnerable groups of children and young people at risk of harm, abuse or neglect. The 3 priority groups identified in the CYPP are at the centre of that programme.

The Section 75 Agreement between the council and the PCT, and the city's Public Health programme also give priority to these vulnerable groups commissioning a range of services including interventions to address rates of teenage pregnancy.

Major service redesign activity is also underway, as part of the S75 Agreement and to pilot the council's new approach to commissioning and 'total place' partnership, to address: alcohol related harm, substance misuse, and domestic violence and youth services.

The Community Safety Partnership continues to coordinate activity to address the needs of young people who are at risk of or involved in anti-social behaviour or criminal activity.

A significant proportion of targeted support and preventive services are commissioned through external grant funding. Anticipated changes to the level of this funding make it likely that the partnership will have to review its priorities and future arrangements.

A safe and supportive city:

In order to raise its profile, provide information to parents and promote the role of local communities in the city's safeguarding arrangements the LSCB has published its own web-site.

Work has continued to promote the Common Assessment Framework and the role of the lead professional, especially through the council's value for money programme. The council's children's services are developing a new supervision policy which will ensure that all staff receive the guidance and support they need.

A range of initiatives, including the work of the Healthy Schools Team, new cluster arrangements with schools and the work of community and voluntary sector agencies actively promotes the development of healthy relationships and anti-bullying activity across all services.

Strategic Improvement Priority 2: Reduce child poverty and health inequality

What we said we would do:

We will work with our partners across the city, through the Local Area Agreement and the joint Public Health Action Plan, to reduce inequality in outcomes between children and young people and their peers and to support vulnerable adults who are parents. We will address the impact of child poverty, and ensure the services we commission or provide are inclusive and nurture the potential of every child.

Initiatives: summary of activity

Joint Strategic Action:

A progress report in relation to Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) was presented to the July Board meeting. Children's services, across the partnership, are working closely together to produce JSNAs, for example to underpin the service redesign reviews noted above.

The Board also received an update about the Child Poverty Needs Analysis and Strategy, and that is due for completion early in 2011. Progress on the implementation of the joint Public Health and CYPT action plan, including implementation of the Healthy Child Programme is monitored by the S75 Joint Commissioning Management Group.

Arrangements for joint strategic action are expected to be strengthened as a result of changes within the local council and the local health economy.

Narrow the gap for families and communities and for vulnerable groups:

The CYPP makes a commitment to: commission services which target the neediest communities and support their most vulnerable families to improve outcomes for children and young people; and to commission or provide services which narrow the gap in outcomes between the most vulnerable children and their peers.

The CYPP sets out a range of services which continue to be provided including children centres, good quality childcare, support to families of children with disabilities and the core Extended Schools offer.

Section 1 of this performance report sets out data which demonstrates progress on narrowing the gap (e.g. in the Early Years Foundation Stage) and this section summarises activity to address these issues through service redesign and commissioning.

Sustaining the momentum which the partnership has created will be a significant challenge in the changing context for public sector services.

Strategic Improvement Priority 3: Promote health and wellbeing, inclusion and achievement

What we said we would do:

The CYPT will support parents to bring up their children, commissioning services that improve the health, wellbeing and achievement of all children and young people, wherever possible ensuring mainstream services include those who are vulnerable or have additional needs. We will support young people on the pathway to success, targeting and challenging those at risk of making negative choices about their lifestyles.

Initiatives: summary of activity

Maximising life chances:

Section 75 Agreements (S75), between the council and NHS Brighton and Hove (PCT) and between the council and Sussex Community Partnership, were concluded in April 2010 and now underpin this area of activity.

A Joint Management and Commissioning Group now oversees a Commissioning Improvement Plan that reflects this initiative in the CYPP, the joint Public Health action plan for children and young people and the PCT's Annual Operating Plan. A Joint Management Group for the provision of children's community health services oversees a Provider Improvement Plan that includes implementation of the Healthy Child Programme.

Section 1 of this report sets out positive results for the city in respect of obesity rates in young children, hospital admissions and the under 18 conception rate. Each of the S75 Joint Management Groups also monitors a wider data set which includes child immunisations and child and adolescent mental health services.

As noted above commissioners in the council and PCT joint commissioning team are leading key service reviews to drive forward this initiative.

Access to education:

Schools and colleges now have direct representation on the Children's Trust Board and the LSCB and continue to be the driving force at the centre of the partnership's cluster arrangements designed to engage and support local communities.

Implementation of the city's School Improvement Plan remains the critical priority for the council and all of our schools and colleges. There has been a particular focus on progress and outcomes at secondary level.

Since the publication of the CYPP the national Building Schools for the Future and related capital programmes have changed significantly. Close partnership between the council and schools has maximised local benefit and ensured that the city is well positioned to take full advantage of future opportunities.

Behaviour and Attendance Strategies and the Special Educational Needs Strategy have been implemented improving the effectiveness and value for money of interventions and improving outcomes for children and young people.

Pathways to success:

A strong 14-19 Partnership is delivering an innovative curriculum. Reports in Section 1 on achievement of Level 2 qualifications and young people not in education, training or employment outline the positive impact of that work on the significant challenges the city faces in supporting young people.

Arrangements for the commissioning and delivery of integrated services to support young people across the city, as noted above are the focus of a strategic service review. Significant elements of those services are also likely to be affected as the partnership develops a local response to changes in the level of central government funding including a range of external grants which underpinned this area of activity.

Section 1 provides a positive report on the numbers of young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody which reflects effective joint working across the council and between the council and Sussex Police.

Strategic Improvement Priority 4: Develop the CYPT partnership and drive integration and value for money

What we said we would do:

The CYPT will strengthen inter-agency governance arrangements; take forward our integrated strategy for the planning, commissioning and provision of services; improve professional understanding between services; and deliver integrated front line services organised around users, not professional or institutional boundaries. During the life of this plan there will be a sharp focus on providing services based on evidence of improving outcomes which are accessible, streamlined and value for money.

Initiatives: summary of activity

Governance:

The actions set out in the CYPP to strengthen governance arrangements for children's services across the partnership have been taken forward. Key issues, such as the place of schools and colleges and S75 agreements have been addressed earlier in this section of the report.

In addition governance issues will also be addressed as part of the Board's main agenda item on November 1st which is to review partnership and

strategic planning arrangements across children's services.

Organisational development:

Significant organisational change has taken place, in some cases over and above the actions set out under this initiative. Further significant change is anticipated as part of the government's legislative programme and as an outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The project to publish an integrated care pathway for all children's services is being taken forward through the council's Value for Money Programme and as part of the joint commissioning arrangements between the council and PCT. As noted above, a 'continuum of need' approach, which will underpin the pathway, as been negotiated with partners through the LSCB will be published before the end of 2010.

Significant progress has taken place on the production of joint strategic analyses to inform the commissioning reviews noted above. Work on a children and young people's commissioning framework for children has been incorporated into the wider development of a new structure for the city council. This will include the review of local authority and NHS planning and performance management systems.

Workforce Development:

A full report on the CYPT Workforce Development Strategy was presented to the Board at its meeting on July 19th 2010.