



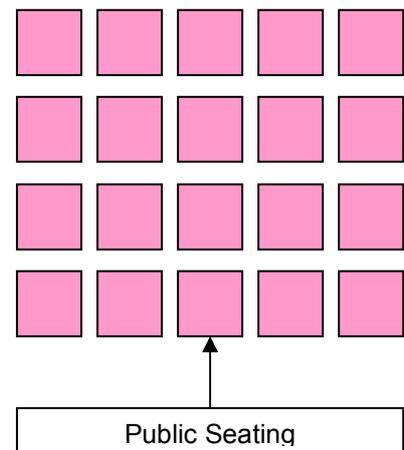
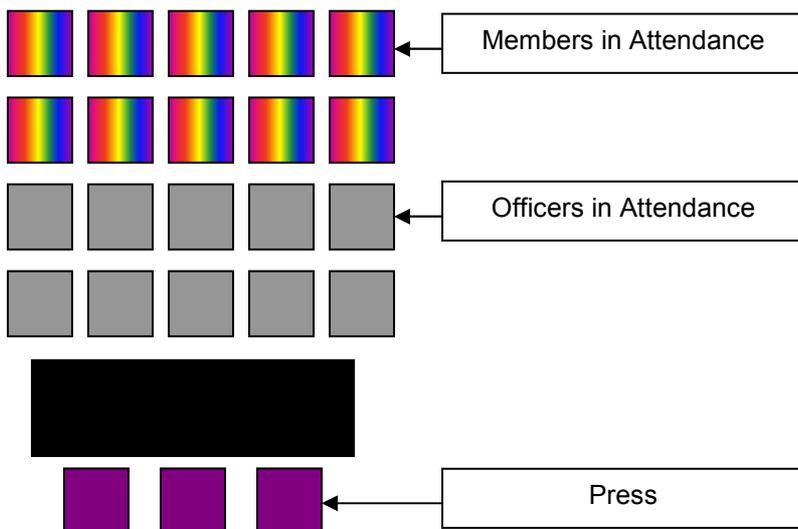
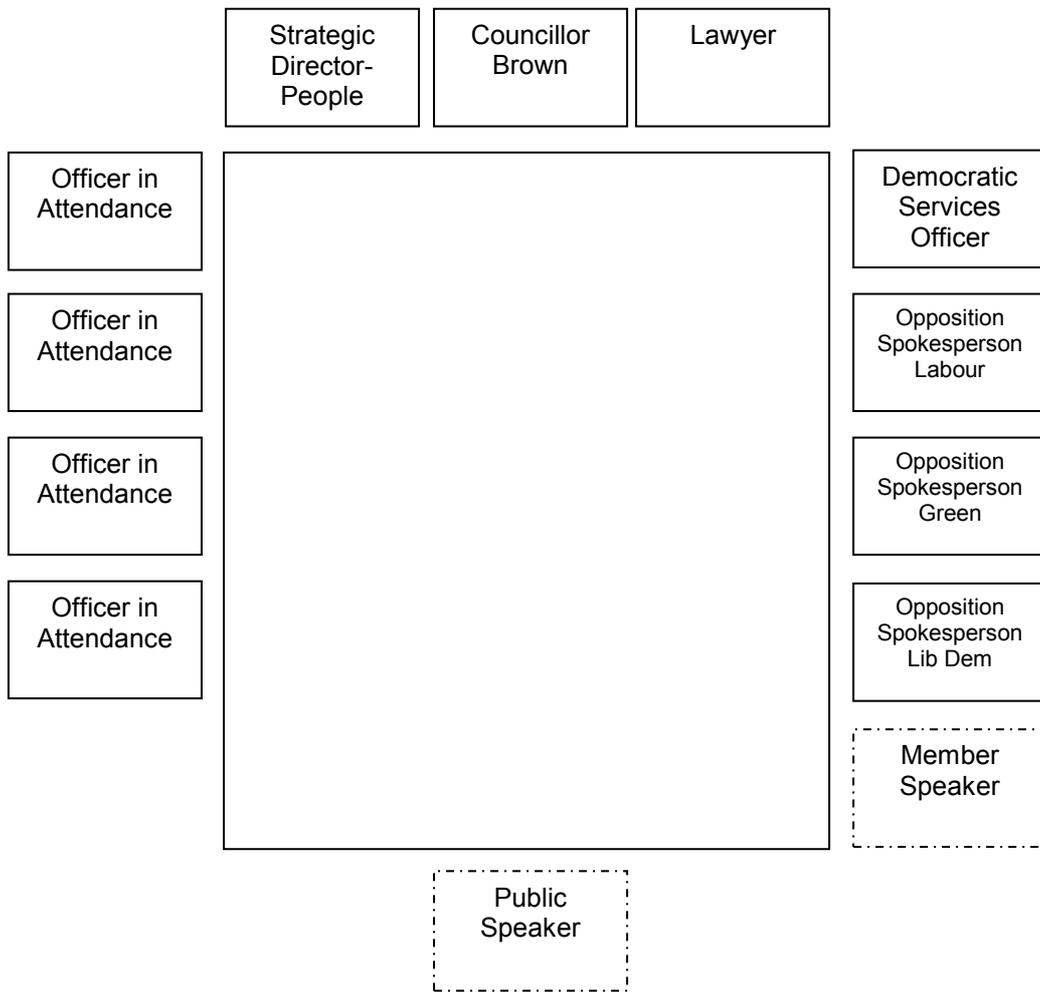
Brighton & Hove
City Council

Cabinet Member Meeting

Title:	Children & Young People Cabinet Member Meeting
Date:	10 December 2010
Time:	2.00pm
Venue	Committee Room 1, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillor: Brown (Cabinet Member)
Contact:	John Peel Democratic Services Officer 01273 291058 john.peel@brighton-hove.gov.uk

	The Town Hall has facilities for wheelchair users, including lifts and toilets
	An Induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter and infra red hearing aids are available for use during the meeting. If you require any further information or assistance, please contact the receptionist on arrival.
	FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;• Do not stop to collect personal belongings;• Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move some distance away and await further instructions; and• Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so.

Democratic Services: Meeting Layout



AGENDA

37. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.

38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1 - 8

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 October 2010 (copy attached).

39. CABINET MEMBER'S COMMUNICATIONS

40. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

- (a) Items reserved by the Cabinet Member
- (b) Items reserved by the Opposition Spokesperson
- (c) Items reserved by Members, with the agreement of the Cabinet Member.

NOTE: Petitions, Public Questions, Deputations, Letters from Councillors, Written Questions from Councillor, and Notices of Motion will be reserved automatically.

41. PETITIONS

9 - 10

Report of Strategic Director, Resources (copy attached)

Contact Officer: John Peel

Tel: 29-1058

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING

42. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(The closing date for receipt of public questions is 12 noon on Friday 3 December)

No public questions have been received as of publication.

43. DEPUTATIONS

(The closing date for receipt of deputations is 12 noon on Friday 3 December)

No deputations have been received as of publication.

44. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

No letters have been received as of publication.

45. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

No written questions have been received as of publication.

46. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

No Notices of Motion have been received as of publication.

47. DECISION OF STATUTORY PROPOSALS FOR EXTENDING OF THE AGE RANGE OF BENFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL 11 - 16

Report of the Strategic Director, People (copy attached)

Contact Officer: Gillian Churchill Tel: 29-3515

Ward Affected: All Wards;

48. PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL FOR HOVE - THE CONNAUGHT CENTRE 17 - 22

Report of the Strategic Director, People (copy attached)

Contact Officer: Gil Sweetenham Tel: 29-3474

Ward Affected: All Wards;

49. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SOCIAL WORK IMPROVEMENT PLAN 23 - 30

Report of the Strategic Director, People (copy attached)

Contact Officer: James Dougan Tel: 295511

PART TWO

50. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SOCIAL WORK IMPROVEMENT PLAN- APPENDIX 2 (EXEMPT CATEGORY 1) 31 - 70

Report of the Strategic Director, People (copy attached)

Contact Officer: James Dougan Tel: 295511

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING

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 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 - Thursday, 2 December 2010

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING

4.00pm 11 OCTOBER 2010

COMMITTEE ROOM 1, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Brown (Cabinet Member)

Also in attendance: Councillor Hawkes (Opposition Spokesperson) and Deane (Opposition Spokesperson)

Other Members present: Councillors Rufus, Older and Kemble

PART ONE

18. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

18a Declarations of Interest

18.1 There were none.

18b Exclusion of Press and Public

18.2 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act'), the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People 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).

18.3 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of item 35, Non-Public Minutes of the Previous meeting as this item was exempt under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

19. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

19.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 July 2010 be approved and signed as the correct record.

20. CABINET MEMBER'S COMMUNICATIONS

20.1 The Cabinet Member introduced the following communication:

As detailed at the Cabinet Member Meeting on 12 July 2010 the Connaught Centre was identified as the preferred site for part of the new primary provision. Negotiations with City College regarding the acquisition of the Connaught Centre have just concluded and a paper will be presented to the Cabinet Meeting on 14 October asking for approval to grant a lease for Wilson Avenue in return for a 30 year lease for the Connaught Centre.

Once this decision has been taken, Gillian Churchill will lead a working group to determine the specific detail related to the Connaught Centre and plans for complementary accommodation to provide the full 3 form entry primary school for Hove for September 2011.

A paper detailing these plans will be brought to the 10 December 2010 Children and Young People Cabinet Member Meeting.

The Chairman conveyed her delight at this achievement and thanked the Officers responsible for their work thus far. She expressed her confidence that they would continue their efforts onward into providing a top-class educational facility.

20.2 The Chairman noted that the Brighton Aldridge Community Academy had opened this past September and she had attended the recent open evening at the school which included a Topping Out ceremony. She congratulated all involved in the process and was eagerly anticipating the completion of the new buildings work which would be completed for September 2011.

20.3 The Chairman explained that Item 34 would be brought forward to Item 28 in the running order.

21. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

21.1 **RESOLVED-** All items were reserved for discussion by the Cabinet Member.

22. PETITIONS

22.1 No petitions had been received.

23. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

23.1 Mr David Jones asked the following question:

“How much of the £230k cost of bringing the condition on Barrack Yard up to good condition would have to be spent on the building regardless of its future use?”

23.2 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People answered that having taken legal advice she was not proposing to give a specific answer at this time. This was because the issue and others would be highlighted at the consultation stage which was due to commence shortly. The paper that was to be considered at the present meeting identified the option of closing the nursery and was asking for approval to commence a consultation with staff and parents. However, no decision to close the nursery would be made today. The proposal would return to the next Cabinet Member Meeting in December when all the issues raised in the consultation process would be considered and taken into account before any decision is made. It would not therefore be appropriate at this stage to give an answer which pre-empted the consideration and outcome of the consultation.

24. DEPUTATIONS

24.1 No Deputations had been received.

25. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

25.1 No Letters from Councillors had been received.

26. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

26.1 No Written Questions from Councillors had been received.

27. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

27.1 No Notices of Motion had been received.

28. BRIGHT START NURSERY CONSULTATION

28.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Acting Director of Children's Services concerning the beginning of consultation with Bright Start nursery staff and parents of children who use it on the closure of the nursery by April 2011.

28.2 Councillor Hawkes informed the meeting of her disapproval of the consultation of closure. Although there were a lot of nursery places now available across the city, this did not mean that Bright Start should be closed. In her opinion the quality of care at the nursery was of the highest standard and moves should be made to increase attendance at the nursery rather than begin a consultation to close. Should the consultation lead to a decision to close the nursery, she had great concern for the emotional impact upon the children of the nursery. In addition, Councillor Hawkes did not believe that the report accompanying the agenda had made a viable financial argument on the potential reasons for closure.

28.3 Councillor Deane said she agreed with the points raised by Councillor Hawkes. Councillor Deane suggested that there were options for a higher uptake in attendance

to the nursery including more flexible session times. Councillor Deane did not believe a case for the financial implications had been made. She understood that a refurbishment of the nursery would cost £5,000 which in her opinion would make more sense than consulting on closure and lead to a higher uptake at the nursery. Councillor Deane added that the birth rate in Brighton was rising which would necessitate the need for more nursery places, that a transfer of nursery provision would be disruptive for a young child and that she felt sympathetic for the staff who she believed were so highly qualified that they had become too expensive to employ. In addition, Councillor Deane queried the legal implications of closing a staff nursery.

- 28.4 The Chairman noted the comments and stated that evidence suggested that flexible session times very often led to empty sessions. She also noted that the report indicated an increase in fees would still not cover the financial losses at the nursery. She recognised that this was an extremely sensitive issue for everyone involved and that the nursery was rightly held in high regard by the community. However, this did not detract from the matter that the restrictions of the present financial climate necessitated that the option of closure should be considered and consulted on.
- 28.5 **RESOLVED-** That the Children and Young People Cabinet Member agrees to a consultation with Bright Start nursery staff and parents of children who use the nursery on the closure of the nursery by April 2011.

29. ANNUAL FOSTERING SERVICE REPORT

- 29.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Acting Director of Children's Services. The report met the regulation that required an annual fostering report to be received by the Council Executive and Standard 1 of the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services that required the statement of purpose to be endorsed by the Council's Executive annually. The report focused on fostering activity and a profile of the work of fostering teams with the Fostering and Adoption Service.
- 29.2 The Cabinet Member thanked the officer for the report and issued her praise to the staff within the Fostering Service and to the members of the Fostering Panel for their hard work and dedication.
- 29.3 Councillor Hawkes also issued her thanks for the report that recognised the work of the service and how it could transform lives. Councillor Hawkes stated that she was pleased that this was a mandatory annual report as it clearly detailed various achievements and the challenges to be faced.
- 29.4 Councillor Deane commented that she was pleased that this service had remained within the public service remit and the report showed a high standard of work. She asked what checks were in place for observing medical services for children who had multi-placements.
- 29.5 The report author stated that the Fostering team had a pro-active relationship with the health team and often collaborated on cases. She identified this as one of the strengths of the Fostering team.

29.6 **RESOLVED-** That the Cabinet Member notes the Annual Fostering Service Report and the progress of the Fostering & Adoption Service in relation to fostering activity and endorsed the revised Fostering Statement of Purpose.

30. ANNUAL ADOPTION SERVICE REPORT

30.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Acting Director of Children's Services. The report met Standard 17.3 of the National Minimum Standards for Local Adoption Services (2003) which requires the Adoption Agency to produce an Annual Report to the Council Executive and Standard 1.2 of the National Minimum Standards for Local Adoption Services that required a Statement of Purpose to be endorsed by the Council Executive annually. The report gave full information about adoption activity and compliance with the national adoption standards, a profile of the work of the Adoption and Permanence teams and the revised Statement of Purpose. The report author went on to highlight some of the work of the service including the support offered to birth families post adoption to enable them to maintain some form of relationship with children that have been adopted in line with adoption support plans.

30.2 The Cabinet Member thanked the report author for the very detailed report and the Adoption and Permanence Panel for their extremely good work.

30.3 Councillor Hawkes welcomed the report and praised the work undertaken in maintaining birth family ties. She believed this would assuage the impact of the process.

30.4 **RESOLVED-** That the Cabinet Member-

1. Notes the Annual Adoption Agency Report and the progress of the Agency in relation to adoption and permanence activity.
2. Notes the six month Adoption and Permanence panel activity report for April 2010 – September 2010.
3. Endorses the revised Adoption Agency Statement of Purpose.

31. PROPOSED EXTENDING OF THE AGE RANGE OF BENFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL. PROPOSAL TO MOVE TO STATUTORY NOTICE.

31.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Acting Director of Children's Services that reported the outcome of the initial consultation undertaken between July and October 2010 and sought endorsement to proceed with the publication of statutory notice on the creation of a new all through primary school to replace Benfield Junior School.

31.2 The Cabinet Member informed the meeting that she recently visited the schools open day and had seen first-hand the fantastic work completed inside and outside of the building and thanked the author of the report as the officer responsible for her efforts.

31.3 Councillor Hawkes thanked the officer for her work and welcomed the news as part of the long-term solution to school places in the west of the city.

31.4 **RESOLVED-** That the Cabinet Member-

1. Notes and endorses the proposal to create an all through primary school by changing the age range of Benfield Junior School from 7-11 as at present to 4 to 11 from September 2011.
2. Agrees to the publication of the required Statutory Notices to progress this proposal.
3. That the results from the publication of the Statutory Notice are referred to the Cabinet Member meeting on 10th December 2010 for decision.

32. PROPOSED CREATION OF AN ALL THROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL TO REPLACE BALFOUR INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS. FINAL DECISION.

32.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Acting Director of Children's Services that informed Members of the outcome of the statutory consultation on the proposed discontinuation of Balfour Infant School and proposals for changes to the age range and expansion of the premises at the school to an all through Primary School.

32.2 The Cabinet Member noted that there were no objections received to the proposal during the publication period and was very pleased that a consensual decision could be made.

32.3 Councillor Hawkes welcomed the consensus and congratulated the officers on their work.

32.4 **RESOLVED-** That the Cabinet Member confirms the statutory notice and resolves to discontinue Balfour Junior School, extend the age range and expand the premises of Balfour Infant School from September 2011.

33. CONTRACT FOR PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES BETWEEN SOUTHDOWNS NHS TRUST AND BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

33.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Acting Director of Children's Services that sought approval for the Council as the lead commissioner on behalf on itself and the Primary Care Trust (PCT) to enter into a commissioning contract with South Down's Health (SDH) for the provision of children's health care services that formalised the commissioning role of the Council as prescribed in the s75 agreements. The contract would be for one year with possibility for a one year extension and would have a value of £9.847m.

33.2 Councillor Deane asked if there would be any increase in value to the contract should the one year extension was taken up.

33.3 The report author explained that the total sum was agreed upon on an annual basis. Should the one year extension be taken up, there could be an increased cost.

33.4 **RESOLVED-** That the Cabinet Member-

1. Agrees that a contract for up to 1 year with a possible extension of up to 1 year with a value of £9.847 million per annum be entered into with South Downs Health NHS Trust for the provision of children's health care services.
2. Authorises the Acting Director of Children's Services, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, to finalise the detailed terms of the contract and to take all steps necessary or incidental to completing the contract.
3. Authorises the Council's Head of Law to prepare and execute the contract.
4. Authorises the Head of Law to make any necessary or consequential changes to the s75 agreements to ensure consistency with the contract, in particular in relation to payment arrangements.

34. RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE SCHOOL EXCLUSION REPORT

- 34.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Acting director of Children's Services detailing the response to the report of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYPOSC) on school exclusions. Their report identified and investigated whether specific groups of children were more vulnerable to exclusion, the differences between schools in practice and outcomes, the causes of exclusion and the outcomes of exclusion. The report had thirteen recommendations.
- 34.2 The Cabinet Member thanked Councillor Fryer and CYPOSC for the work invested in the report and indicated that the recommendations would be accepted by the Children and Young People Trust.
- 34.3 On behalf of Councillor Fryer; Councillor Deane introduced questions and observations of the report. These were:
- She stressed that recommendation 1 of the CYPOSC report on early identification made economic and educational sense.
 - In recommendation 3 she was concerned that "creative use" had been misinterpreted as a synonym for 'efficient' and this wasn't acceptable practice for SEN funding
 - That as per recommendation 6, SEN budgets should be ring-fenced as not doing so could lead to the provision being inconsistently applied
 - Recommendations 10 and 12 were put into place as CYPOSC had found that many parents of excluded children felt barred from the exclusion process and that School Behaviour Policies should focus on education not punishment. In addition, Informal Exclusions should be prohibited

34.4 The report author clarified that the Children's Trust Board did not run schools did would try to coerce actions when needed. In response to the matters raised, Informal Exclusions were strictly not permitted and that recommendation 10 should go into school policy which CYPT would try to influence. It was very important that there were a high number of early interventions within schools and widespread use of Pastoral Teams were encouraged. In response to recommendation 3, CYPT would, and do, challenge schools on correct use of SEN funding.

34.5 **RESOLVED-** That the Cabinet Member-

- (a) Notes the recommendations of the report from CYPOSC and acknowledge the work of that committee.
- (b) Implement the actions within the response.
- (c) Ensure that the monitoring procedures are followed

35. PART TWO MINUTES

35.1 **RESOLVED-** That the Part Two minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 July 2010 are approved and signed as the correct record.

36. PART TWO ITEMS

36.1 **RESOLVED-** That the above items remain exempt from disclosure to members of the press and public.

The meeting concluded at 4.55pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 41

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Petitions
Date of Meeting: 10 December 2010
Report of: Strategic Director, Resources
Contact Officer: Name: John Peel Tel: 29-1058
E-mail: john.peel@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: Various

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 To receive any petitions presented at Council, any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.2 That the Cabinet Member responds to each petition and in each case gives consideration to a range of options, including the following:

- taking the action requested in the petition
- considering the petition at a council meeting
- holding an inquiry into the matter
- undertaking research into the matter
- holding a public meeting
- holding a consultation
- holding a meeting with petitioners
- referring the petition for consideration by the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee*
- calling a referendum
- writing to the petition organiser setting out the council's views about the request in the petition
- noting the petition

3. PETITIONS

Petition title

3. (i) To receive the following Petition presented to the Leader of the Council on 21 October 2010 by Councillor Young and signed by 1242 people:

"We the undersigned are pleased that the Council has obtained the Connaught Centre for Primary education, but would ask that you would also look at providing Adult Education on this site, as the closure of this has had a highly detrimental effect on staff, students users and the local community"

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 47

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Proposed Creation of a new all through Primary School to replace Benfield Junior School – final decision		
Date of Meeting:	10th December 2010		
Report of:	Strategic Director, People		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Gillian Churchill	Tel: 29-3515
	E-mail:	gillian.churchill@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	Yes	Forward Plan No: 18706	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To inform members of the outcome of the statutory consultation on the proposed change in age range of Benfield Junior School to create a two form entry all through Primary School on the same site.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the Cabinet Member with sufficient information to be able to determine the proposal

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member confirms the statutory notice and resolves to change the age range and expand the premises of Benfield Junior School from September 2011.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Pupil numbers across the city are rising generally and the rise in south central Hove is greater than the city generally and already causing a pressure on school places that cannot be met locally.
- 3.2 To address this it is now proposed that Benfield Junior School is made into a two form entry all through primary school from September 2011. The new school will have an intake of 60 pupils at 4+. Flexibility would remain for Key Stage 2 to take additional children to a maximum of 32 children per class.
- 3.3 Benfield Junior School is currently a three form entry school admitting 96 pupils per year. Consequently this proposal on its own will reduce the number of junior places available in the city. It is intended that the school will continue to admit up to three forms of entry in to Year 3 in September 2010, 2011 and 2012 in line with its current published admission number.
- 3.4 At the Cabinet Member meeting held on 11th October 2010 it was agreed to publish the statutory notice required to progress these proposals.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation on expanding the age range of community schools must follow the processes set out in section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006). The Act provides that before publishing any proposals to change the age range of a community school, the Council must have consulted 'such persons as appear to them to be appropriate'. This consultation was carried out between July and October 2010.
- 4.2 On 11th October 2010 the Cabinet Member for Children's Services authorised the Acting Director of Children's Services to proceed to publish the required statutory notices for the change in age range Benfield Junior School from September 2011. The subsequent publication period was the final opportunity for people and organisations to express their views on the proposals.
- 4.3 Statutory notices were published in the local newspaper on 15th October 2010. In addition Notices were displayed at the entrances to the school and at other places used by the community (details of locations are in the full proposal information in the Members rooms). The statutory notice stated how the full proposal information on the proposal could be obtained.
- 4.4 The Statutory Notice forms part of the full proposal. Copies of the full proposal were sent to the Anglican and Catholic diocese, the governing body of the school, ward members, the Children and Young people Cabinet Member, the Member of Parliament and the Department for Education (DfE). Copies of the complete proposal have to be made available to anyone who requests a copy during the publication period. A copy of the full proposal information is in the members Rooms.
- 4.5 During the publication periods there were no requests received for the full proposal information.
- 4.6 During the publication period 2 objections were received to the proposal.

- 4.7 There were no responses received in support of the proposal.
- 4.8 The responses from those who did not support the proposal said that they were concerned about the traffic implications of there being more children in the school than at present.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 Any revenue costs of the proposal would have to be met from the existing Individual School Budget (ISB) as there are no additional resources available to fund any associated costs that may arise as a result of this proposal. Any capital costs arising from the proposal would have to be met from within the Education Capital Programme which includes streams such as the Primary Capital Programme and NDS modernisation. However given the announcement on 20th October 2010 indicates that the Department for Education's Capital budget will reduce by 60% over the period 2011/12 to 2014/15, we are not sure if this will impact on funding for School Capital. If this reduced in 2011/12 then the funding for any adaptations will have to be the first call on any reduced budget.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore Date: 02/11/10

5.2 Legal Implications:

- 5.2.1 Statutory notices were published on 15th October 2010 in accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the accompanying School Organisation Regulations (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 as amended in respect of the proposal to extend the age range and enlarge the premises of Benfield Junior School. The statutory six week period for representations to be made followed. The closing date for receipt of representations or objections was 26th November 2010.
- 5.2.2 At the end of this representation period a decision on the proposals will need to be taken within 3 months.
- 5.2.3 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 sets out who decides proposals for any alterations to schools. In the case of these proposals the decision is to be taken by the LA with some rights of appeal to the schools adjudicator. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services will act as the Decision Maker for the Local Authority.
- 5.2.4 In addition the DCSF guidance provides that there are 4 key issues which the Decision Maker should consider before judging the respective factors and merits of the statutory proposals;
- a) Is any information missing? If so, the Decision Maker should write immediately to the proposer/promoter specifying a date by which the information must be provided.
 - b) Does the published notice comply with statutory requirements? The Decision Maker should consider whether the notice is valid as soon as

a copy is received. Where a published notice does not comply with statutory requirements it may be judged invalid and the Decision Maker should consider whether they can decide the proposals.

- c) Has the statutory consultation been carried out prior to the publication of the notice? Details of the consultation should be included in the proposals. The Decision Maker should be satisfied that the consultation meets statutory requirements. If some parties submit objections on the basis that consultation was not adequate, the Decision Maker may wish to take legal advice on the points raised. If the requirements have not yet been met, the Decision Maker may judge the proposals to be invalid and should consider whether they can decide the proposals. Alternatively the Decision Maker may take into account the sufficiency and quality of the consultation as part of their overall judgement of the proposals as a whole.
- d) Are the proposals linked or related to other published proposals? Regulation provides that where proposals are related they must be considered together. Paragraphs 4.11- 4.14 provide statutory guidance on whether proposals should be regarded as “related”.

5.2.5 In considering proposals for making changes to the age range of a school, the Decision Maker can decide to:

- reject the proposals
- approve the proposals
- approve the proposals with a modification
- approve the proposals subject to them meeting a specific condition

5.2.6 The regulations provide for a conditional approval to be given where the Decision Maker is otherwise satisfied that the proposals can be approved, and approval can automatically follow an outstanding event. Conditional approval can only be granted in the limited circumstances specified in the regulations. In this instance there are no circumstances where a conditional approval would be acceptable.

5.2.7 All decisions must give reasons for the decision, irrespective of whether the proposals were rejected or approved, indicating the main factors/criteria for the decision. Section 7 of this report gives the reasons for the decision based on the legislative framework within which the decision must be decided.

5.2.8 The national deadline for expressing preferences for an infant/primary school place is 15th January 2011. To avoid a breach of the admissions code it is important that the final decision on these proposals can be published before this deadline. The admissions booklet alerted parents to the prospect of a decision being made in October. It is recommended that in the event the recommendation is agreed all parents are contacted and notified of the new arrangement, so that they are given the option of including this when expressing a preference.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 03/11/2010

Equalities Implications:

5.3 Planning and provision of school places is conducted in such a way as to avoid potentially discriminatory admissions priorities or planning processes. The city

council and voluntary aided school governing bodies must be mindful of bad practice as described in the Admission Code of Practice.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Planning and provision of school places are intended, so far as it is possible, to provide pupils, parents and carers with local places where they have asked for them. This is subject to limitations in school capacity, the funding available and the priority order for capital development determined by the Council.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no implications for the prevention of crime and disorder arising from this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 There are no risk issues in terms of resources or risks to children as a result of this proposal.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 All planning and provision to for school places in the city should be operating on the basis of admission limits and admission priorities which have been the subject of broad consultation. The effective coordination of planning arrangements should lead to sufficient school places in all areas of the city and the removal of excess provision.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The alternative option is to leave the school as a junior school.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide a school place for any child that wants one. Current and projected pupil numbers for the city as a whole show there is an immediate and ongoing need for additional school places in the city.
- 7.2 It is recommended that the proposals to change the age range of Benfield Junior School and expand the premises accordingly are approved.
- 7.3 The Council believes the advantages of the creation of all through primary schools are as follows:
- Greater continuity in teaching, pupil care and development under a single head teacher and teaching staff. It is very important to ensure continuity in planning the curriculum across the stages of education so that pupils make the best possible progress in learning.
 - The school could offer a greater range of teaching skills, including the opportunity to appoint curriculum co-ordinators with the time to oversee the effective teaching of individual subjects across the whole 4–11 age range.
 - Greater flexibility that a 4–11 school has in organising classes, deploying teachers and support staff and using resources, including buildings, more effectively.
 - Closer contact with parents over a longer period of time and covering the full span of the children's primary education.

- Practical advantages to parents' e.g. same staff development days, the same school policies relating to home links, uniform, codes of conduct etc.
 - Transfer to a different school environment after three years or less of schooling might be seen as an unnecessary disruption to pupil's sense of security and well being. A positive feature of 4–11 schools is the social interaction between younger and older pupils.
- 7.4 The public consultation prior to publication of the notices showed that a number of parents and carers of the current infant school were unhappy with the proposal to create an all through primary school as, in their opinion, the school was in the wrong location and was not a high performing school. In addition there was concern that the school did not have existing expertise in early years teaching. This point was considered at that time and on balance it was considered that this was the best opportunity to provide much needed additional places in this part of the city. This view has not changed. It is considered that the proposed changes will benefit pupil and staff development.
- 7.5 The school currently provide a range of extended services to the school community; this situation will not change as a result of these proposals.
- 7.6 The school is covered by the Council's admissions arrangements which strives to provide a truly local school which serves its most immediate community and assists in the aspirations of the Local Authority in terms of green travel arrangements.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. Copy of the full proposal information
2. Copies of the representations received during the statutory notice period.
3. Copy of Guidance document 'Making Changes to a Maintained Mainstream School (Other than Expansion, Foundation, Discontinuance & Establishment Proposals)

Background Documents

1. None

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 48

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	The Connaught Building – the infant stage of a new primary school for Hove		
Date of Meeting:	10 December 2010		
Report of:	Strategic Director, People		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Gil Sweetenham	Tel: 29-3474
	E-mail:	Gil.sweetenham@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	Yes	Forward Plan Number: 18698	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Current and projected pupil numbers for the city as a whole show there is an immediate and ongoing need for additional school places in the city as a whole. This need is most acute in south central Hove and on the Brighton / Hove border.
- 1.2 The most immediate need for places has been partially addressed by providing permanent additional forms of entry at Davigdor Infant, Somerhill Junior, Goldstone Primary School, Westdene Primary School and Queens Park Primary School, a total of 4.5 forms. A further form of entry has been added to West Blatchington Primary School on a temporary basis and two forms of infant entry have been added temporarily at Benfield. Consultation has begun on making this arrangement permanent for September 2011.
- 1.3 However, this still leaves a need for a further three additional forms of entry in the primary sector in Hove.
- 1.4 The Council has negotiated with City College and acquired a thirty year lease on the Connaught Building. This report sets out the detail regarding the interim arrangements for the management and refurbishment of the Connaught Building as the infant stage of the new Hove primary school

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) That the Cabinet Member notes the interim arrangements for the management and refurbishment of the Connaught Building as a temporary expansion of West Hove Infant School to open in September 2011.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member notes that further work will be undertaken to formally establish the Connaught Building as the permanent infant stage of a new Hove Primary School, which will be reported to the Cabinet Member in due course.

(3) That the Cabinet Member notes that further work will be undertaken to create the permanent Junior Stage of the new Hove Primary School at another site, which will be reported to the Cabinet Member in due course.

(4) That the Cabinet Member endorses the proposed admission arrangements for the interim provision in the Connaught Building for the academic year 2011/12.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Pupil numbers across the city are rising generally and the rise in south central Hove is greater than the city generally and already causing a pressure on school places that cannot be met locally.
- 3.2 At the meeting on 5th October 2009 the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People agreed that the CYPT should pursue the option of providing a new Primary School by further considering the top 4 scoring sites in Appendix 2 to that report. These being Hove Park depot, Hove Park Upper School, BHASVIC and Leicester Villas.
- 3.3 Since that time the Connaught Building became available and a leasehold interest has been acquired by the Council for a period of 30 years. This building is in the area of most need but is not big enough to host a three form entry all-through primary school. Officers looked in detail at different options and concluded that the Connaught Building should become a three form entry infant stage of the new Hove Primary School.
- 3.4 In order to open the school in September 2011 it will be opened as an annexe to West Hove Infant School for a period of two years whilst options for the permanent arrangement are finalised.
- 3.5 There are a number of possible routes for the legal creation of the permanent arrangement for the Connaught Building from September 2013. These include the creation of a new infant or primary school by following the competition route required by the school organisation legislation, the expansion of an existing school or the permanent establishment of the interim arrangement. This is not an exhaustive list of the possible routes and we will investigate all possibilities.
- 3.6 Admissions to the interim infant stage provision in the Connaught Building will be by application for a place at the Connaught Centre Annexe (referred to as the New Hove School in the admissions booklet) and determined by standard admissions criteria including distance measurement from the Connaught site. The allocation of places will quite separate from those for West Hove Infant School. The building will open in September 2011 with three reception classes only.
- 3.7 Capital allocations are known for the current financial year but not beyond as we are at the end of a three year spending review period. The Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) gives high level information on the capital that will be available nationally for the 4 year CSR period but it is not yet possible to accurately determine the level of funding that might be available from April 2011 onwards.

- 3.8 Plans are currently being drawn up for the refurbishment of the Connaught Building. Once future capital allocations are known it will be possible to package the work to suit the finance available. As an absolute minimum three reception classes, ancillary accommodation such as toilets, dining facilities, some staff accommodation and a school office will be provided in time for September 2011. Additional works will be carried out at the same time if possible or planned into future years budget allocations.
- 3.9 The adult social care day centres at the rear of the school are unaffected by these proposals. A full risk assessment will be undertaken ensure that it is possible to separate the activities of the school and the day centres without impacting negatively on either

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Discussions were held with a number of school Head Teachers and their Chairs of Governors prior to the decision for West Hove Infant School to manage the Connaught Building as an annexe for two years.
- 4.2 Discussions will be held with Head Teachers and their chairs of governors at those schools potentially affected by the proposed options within this report.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1.1 A figure of £1.5m has been identified and committed for redevelopment of the Connaught Site in the Primary Capital programme budget in the financial years 2011/12 & 2012/13. However given the announcement on 20th October 2010 that indicates that the Department for Education's Capital budget will reduce by 60% over the period 2011/12 to 2014/15, we are not sure if this will impact on funding for School Capital. If this reduced then the funding for an expansion, additional build or purchase in Hove, for the junior department, will have to be the first call on any reduced budget.
- 5.1.2 The revenue funding implications will be that the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2011/12 onwards will include the funding for 3-16 year old pupils, therefore when planning the 2011/12 and future schools budgets, the funding for any expansion to a particular school or new school will have to be calculated.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore Date: 22/10/10

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 Given that the report sets out that there is a projected future growth in pupil numbers and an anticipated shortfall in places in the academic year 2011-12, Members should be mindful that the Council has a statutory duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to ensure the provision of sufficient schools for the provision of primary and secondary education in its area.

The interim arrangements whereby the Connaught Building will operate as an annexe to West Hove Infants School pending the establishment of permanent infant provision

on the site do not require the publication of statutory notices as it is proposed that these arrangements will only remain in place for two years. Once decisions have been taken as to how the permanent arrangement for the Connaught Building will take effect, the Council will need to comply with the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 which sets out the statutory procedures which will need to be followed.

The national deadline for parents to express preferences for an infant/primary school place is 15 January 2011. The admissions booklet published in September 2010 alerted parents to the prospect of a decision being made in December 2010 regarding the interim arrangements for infant provision in the Connaught Building. It is recommended that in the event that the decision is taken in December to proceed with these arrangements that all parents are notified in order that they can decide whether to include the Connaught site as one of their preferences.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 10/11/2010

- 5.3 Equalities Implications: Planning and provision of school places is conducted in such a way as to avoid potentially discriminatory admissions priorities or planning processes. The city council and voluntary aided school governing bodies must be mindful of best practice as described in the Admission Code of Practice.
- 5.4 Sustainability Implications: All new extensions to Brighton and Hove Schools utilise, where ever possible, environmental and sustainable principles such as higher than minimum insulation levels, the use of efficient gas condensing boilers, under floor heating, solar shading and natural ventilation. Materials are sourced from sustainable sources where ever possible.
- 5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications: Throughout the development of the proposals consultation will be undertaken with community groups and the Community Safety team and police liaison officers. It is anticipated that by including the community in the development and use of the facilities at the schools that crime and disorder in the local area will be reduced. This will be further improved by offering extended use of the facilities to the community outside of the school day
- 5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications: It is important that this opportunity is taken to ensure the future provision of learning and teaching, and continuing improvement in standards of education in the city.
- 5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications: To meet the projected future growth in pupil numbers we should be looking to provide a minimum of 90 additional primary school places which equates to 3 forms of entry for September 2011.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The Connaught Building offers the only opportunity to create 3 additional forms of entry by September 2011 in permanent buildings.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Current and projected pupil numbers for the city as a whole show there is an immediate and ongoing need for additional school places in the city as a whole. This need is most acute in south central Hove.
- 7.2 To meet the projected future growth in pupil numbers we need to provide a minimum of 90 additional primary school places which equates to 3 forms of entry for September 2011.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. NONE

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. NONE

Background Documents

1. NONE

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 49

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Children and Families Social Work Improvement Plan		
Date of Meeting:	10th December 2010		
Report of:	Strategic Director, People		
Contact Officer:	Name:	James Dougan	Tel: 01273 295511
	E-mail:	james.dougan@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:			

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 Summary

1.1.1 This report presents to the Cabinet Member Meeting the Areas for Development Plan which is one element of the Improvement Plan from the Children's Social Work Service. The wider Improvement Plan has 4 elements:

- i. The Areas for Development Plan (the subject of this report)
- ii. The management and delivery structure
- iii. Quality Assurance Framework
- iv. Workforce Development

These 4 elements link with the Value for Money Programme.

1.1.2 The aims of the Improvement Programme are to:

- i. Promote an effective management culture throughout Brighton & Hove Children & Families Children's Social Work Service
- ii. Focus on performance and delivery of high quality services
- iii. Develop the talents and skills of the workforce and fully engage staff in the strategic development and operational work of the service
- iv. Ensure VfM by effective control and the most efficient use of the funding and resources
- v. Take account of national developments in social work

1.1.3 The Improvement Programme is a result of the work undertaken following the unannounced two day Ofsted inspection to initiate a significant step change in quality of social work services provided to children, parents and carers in Brighton & Hove.

- 1.1.4 Social workers have a unique and pivotal role alongside their professional colleagues in the Police and Health Visiting, in the task of protecting the most vulnerable in our society.
- 1.1.5 Whilst systems and procedures play an important role in the protection of children, the protection of children fundamentally relies on sound professional practice by social workers equipped with skills in assessing risk, skills in working directly with families and most importantly in a spirit of respectful scepticism, with these skills and confidence in these skills to make inherently difficult judgements. To do this difficult task social workers need to be supported with the necessary resources alongside professional supervision, training, management and leadership.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To inform Cabinet Member of the Children and Families Social Work Improvement Plan
- 2.2 The Cabinet Member to note and agree the Areas for Development Plan

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 A report was presented to the Children & Young People's Trust Board on 1st November 2010 which informed the Board about the outcome of the unannounced inspection which 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 Ofsted letter was presented to the Board at the same meeting, a copy of which is attached as Appendix 2. The letter 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 The Areas for Development and overall improvement plan are the outcome of the Ofsted Unannounced Inspection. The plan has a wider remit than the scope of the inspection as it covers all of the areas of children's social work rather than just the front door. Appendix 1 is the Confidential Areas for Development Plan.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 None

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

There are a number of activities outlined in the report. As these develop and detailed proposals become available specific costings will need to be calculated in order to understand the full financial implications of the proposals.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis Date: 10th November 2010

5.2 Legal Implications:

The actions outlined in the Development Plan directly address core statutory functions of the Local Authority in relation to child protection and therefore form an important and integral part of meeting the legal duties imposed by statute. By definition the Human Rights [as enshrined in the Human Rights Act 1998] of children and families affected by the exercise (or not) of these statutory duties must be taken into account by the Local Authority.

Lawyer Consulted: Sandra O'Brien Date: 1 December 2010

Equalities Implications:

5.3 None

Sustainability Implications:

None

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 None

Risk & 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 To comply with the Areas for Development as outlined in the Annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within Brighton and Hove children's services

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

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

2. Areas for Development Plan (Confidential paper)
It is necessary for the Areas for Development report to be confidential as to allow for discussion by members potentially of individual cases, to illustrate the changes suggested.

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

Document is Restricted

