





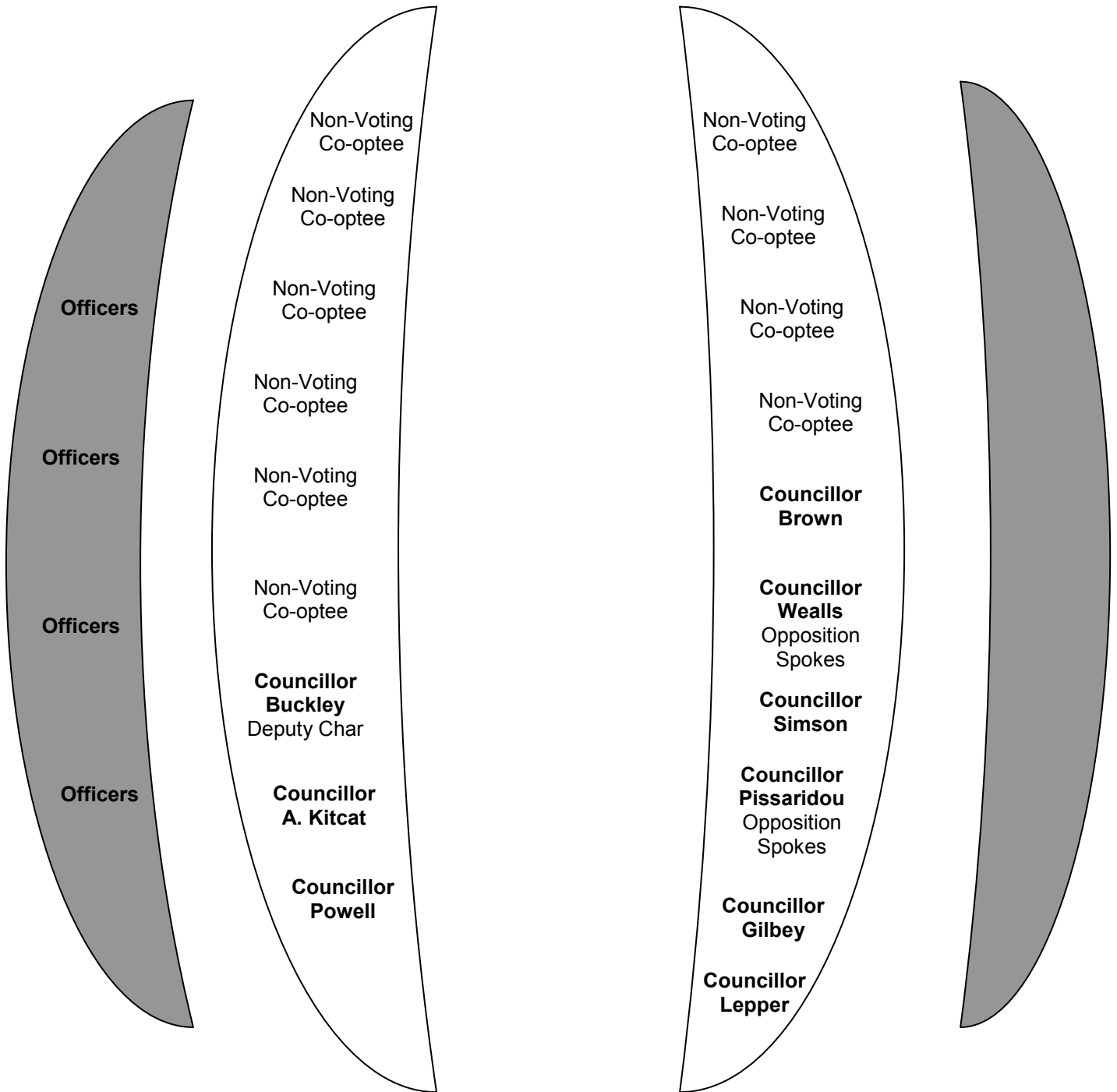
Brighton & Hove
City Council

Children & Young People Committee

Title:	Children & Young People Committee
Date:	14 January 2013
Time:	4.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillors: Shanks (Chair), Buckley (Deputy Chair), Wealls (Opposition Spokesperson), Pissaridou (Opposition Spokesperson), Brown, Gilbey, A Kitcat, Lepper, Powell and Simson
	Co-opted Members: Clinical Commissioning Group (1 clinical and 1 executive); Police Representative; Chair, Local Safeguarding Children Board; Chair, Learning Partnership; Youth Justice Board Representative; Parent Forum; Sussex NHS Community Health Trust; Youth Council (2); Community and Voluntary Sector; CAMHS
Contact:	Penny Jennings Democratic Services Officer 01273 291065 penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk
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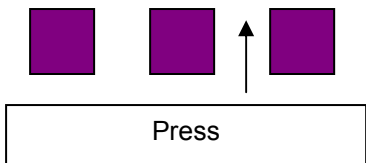
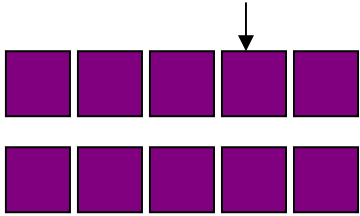
Democratic Services: Children & Young People Committee

Legal Officer	Councillor Shanks Chair	Interim Director, Children's Services	Democratic Services Officer
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Presenting Officer & Public Speaker	Presenting Officer & Public Speaker
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Public Seating



AGENDA

39. 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:**

- (a) Disclosable pecuniary interests not registered on the register of interests;
- (b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
- (c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare

- (i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
- (ii) the nature of the interest; and
- (iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure, Members should seek advice from the committee lawyer or administrator preferably before the meeting.

(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 Two of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.*

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

40. MINUTES

1 - 12

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2012 (copy attached).

41. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE

42. CALL OVER

- (a) Items (43 – 51) will be read out at the meeting and Members invited to reserve the items for consideration.
- (b) Those items not reserved will be taken as having been received and the reports' recommendations agreed.

43. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

13 - 14

To consider the following matters raised by members of the public:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions presented to the full council or at the meeting itself – Report of the Interim Chief, Executive Services (copy attached);
- (b) **Written Questions:** to receive any questions submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 7 January 2013;
- (c) **Deputations:** to receive any deputations submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 7 January 2013.

44. MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by Councillors:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions submitted to the full Council or at the meeting itself;
- (b) **Written Questions:** to consider any written questions;
- (c) **Letters:** to consider any letters;
- (d) **Notices of Motion:** to consider any Notices of Motion referred from Council or submitted directly to the Committee.

45. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) 2011/12

15 - 28

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

Contact Officer: Michael Nix

Tel: 29-0732

Ward Affected: All Wards

46. PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO PARENTING

29 - 42

Joint report of the Director of Public Health and the Interim Director of Children's Services (copy attached)

Contact Officer: Lydie Lawrence

Tel: 29-5281

Ward Affected: All Wards

47. CHILDREN'S SERVICES FEES AND CHARGES 2013/14

43 - 52

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

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE

Contact Officer: Paul Brinkhurst Tel: 29-3439
Ward Affected: All Wards

48. SHORT QUALITY SCREEN OF YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE 53 - 66

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

Contact Officer: Andy Whippey Tel: 29-5391
Ward Affected: All Wards

49. FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE REVIEW PROPOSALS 67 - 94

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

Contact Officer: Rosalind Turner Tel: 01273
Ward Affected: All Wards

50. OPTIONS FOR PROVIDING ADDITIONAL SCHOOL PLACES IN 2013 AND 2014 To Follow

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services (to follow)

Please Note: This item will be circulated following the consultation period which expires on 4 January 2013.

Contact Officer: Gillian Churchill Tel: 29-3515
Ward Affected: All Wards

51. REVIEW OF THE SECONDARY ADMISSIONS PROCESS FOR 2014/15 95 - 100

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

Contact Officer: Gil Sweetenham Tel: 29-3474
Ward Affected: All Wards

52. ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

To consider items to be submitted to the 31 January 2013 Council meeting for information.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 24.3a, the Committee may determine that any item is to be included in its report to Council. In addition, any Group may specify one further item to be included by notifying the Chief Executive no later than 10am on the eighth working day before the Council meeting at which the report is to be made, or if the Committee meeting take place after this deadline, immediately at the conclusion of the Committee meeting

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE

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.

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If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the Head of Democratic Services or the designated Democratic Services Officer listed on the agenda.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Penny Jennings, (01273) 291065, email penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

Date of Publication - Friday, 4 January 2013

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE**

4.00pm 12 NOVEMBER 2012

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Shanks (Chair) Councillor Buckley (Deputy Chair), Brown, Gilbey, A Kitcat, Lepper, Pissaridou, Powell, Simson and Wealls (Opposition Spokesperson)

Non Voting Co-optees: Andrew Jeffery, Parent Forum; Bethan Prosser, Amaze/ Voluntary Sector Forum; Geraldine Hoban, Clinical and Commissioning Group; Alan Bedford, Chair, Local Safeguarding Children Board; Peter Belluscio, Youth Council and Soad Eboyok, Youth Council

PART ONE

25. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

25(a) Declaration of Substitutes

25.1 There were none.

25(b) Declarations of Interest

25.2 There were none.

25(c) Exclusion of Press and Public

25.3 In accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act'), the Community Safety Forum 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 of the Act).

25.4 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public be not excluded during consideration of any item on the agenda.

26. MINUTES

26.1 Councillor Pissaridou stated that she wanted it to be recorded that she had requested (Paragraph 18.3), that the possibility of providing 100% subsidy in some cases. In respect of Paragraph 20.6 she had requested to know whether it would be cheaper to build an all through primary school on the Hove Police Station site.

26.2 **RESOLVED** – That subject to the amendments set out above the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2012 as a correct record.

27. CALL OVER

27.1 It was agreed that all items would be reserved for discussion.

28. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Additional Information & Information to be Provided in the Minutes

28.1 The Chair referred to additional which had been laid around the table in answer to requests for updates/additional information. The Chair went on to state that whilst whenever practicable additional information would be provided, this would usually be addressed in future follow-up reports to Committee. In the case of minutes they were intended primarily as a record of the decisions made by the Committee and were not intended to be a verbatim report of all that had been said.

Family Group Conferencing: Project Review Proposals

28.2 The Chair referred to the above item, the subject of the non-public minutes stating that further consultation had been undertaken and it was anticipated that a follow up report would be brought back to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee in January 2013.

GCSE Examinations: Update

28.3 immediately prior to the close of the meeting the Legal Adviser to the Committee updated the meeting in relation to this matter and it was agreed that further updates would be given as this progressed.

29. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

29a. Petitions

29.1 There were none.

29b. Written Questions

29.2 There were none.

29c. Deputations

29.3 There were none.

30. MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

30a. Petitions

30.1 There were none.

30b. Written Questions

30.2 There were none.

30c. Letters

30.3 There were none.

30d. Notices of Motion

30.4 There were none.

31. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD - ANNUAL REPORT

31.1 The Committee considered the Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for 2011/12. The report had been prepared by the LSCB Independent Chair, Alan Bedford, who was a Non Voting Member of the Committee.

31.2 It was explained that the Children Act 2004 required each local authority to establish an LSCB and that it should publish an annual report concerning safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in its local area to the local Children's Trust Board. Under the Council's changed governance arrangements the report would be submitted both to the Children and Young People's Committee, the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and all member agencies.

31.3 Mr Bedford presented the report with input from the LSCB Business Manager summarising the Board's key achievements, how the Board had made a difference and its onward priorities over the coming year and into the future. Mr Bedford stressed that the two key issues for the Board over the coming year were to handle the transition period for the new regulations and to work with partner organisations to reduce the number of lower risk referrals to social work when more could be done by those organisations at an early stage. This would free up Council staff to focus more on cases that needed professional social work intervention. The Chair confirmed that she was aware of this on-going work.

31.4 Councillor Brown stated that she was pleased to note the Board's role in monitoring sexual exploitation. Whilst noting the decrease in the number of child protection cases she was concerned to note that there had been an increase in the number of referrals

made. The Legal Adviser to the Committee explained that this issue was complex. One element was to seek to prevent the number of cases going up by putting multi-agency early intervention measures into place. Effective information sharing was key. Another key element was to ensure that once in the system proactive measures were in place to ensure that children were not signed off from it too soon. Measures were being put into place thereto address this, with improved quality assurance checks to ensure that processes were followed through as part of a staged approach.

- 31.5 The Legal Adviser to the Committee further explained that a series of recent meetings had taken place via the Early Care Planning Forum to discuss measures to avoid these problems. The Family Justice System was in the process of review and reform, in particular the role of the Claremont Specialist Assessment Unit in picking up cases from January 2013 prior to care proceedings being issued. The Board was also keen to encourage greater use of common assessment processes.
- 31.6 Councillor Pissaridou enquired regarding the level of involvement by other agencies e.g., nurseries. It was explained that referrals came from a number of sources and that the Council was encouraging early intervention/prevention. The Lead Commissioner, Schools, Skills and Learning stated that work had been undertaken to support schools in engaging in this process more fully and to improve the CAF system in this respect. The Chair referred to the fact that this had been drawn out in the report on this subject considered by the Committee at its previous meeting.
- 31.7 Councillor Powell welcomed the report and stated that she was aware of the CAF process by virtue of her work in the third sector across the city.
- 31.8 Mr Jeffery, Parent Forum referred to the direction of travel set out in the key points summarised in the report, stressing that it was very important to encourage members of the public to voice their concerns.
- 31.9 The Chair, Councillor Shanks thanked Mr Bedford for the Board's report which was detailed and informative. In answer to Mr Bedford's query regarding whether there were any other Council Committees to which the report should be forwarded in addition to the Health and Well Being Board, the response was given that this would be the most appropriate (besides this one) to which this document should be sent.
- 31.10 **RESOLVED** –That the Committee receives the report, notes its contents and recommends that it also goes forward to the Health and Wellbeing Board.;

32. BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL: ANNUAL STANDARDS AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2011/12

- 32.1 The Committee Considered a report of the Interim Director of Children's Services which provided details of the Annual Standards and Performance within Brighton & Hove schools during 2011/12.
- 32.2 It was noted that improvements had been seen in all areas and the gaps between vulnerable groups of pupils to be in line with or above national averages had continued to close in some areas.

- 32.3 The report provided on information on the standards achieved in 2011/2 from early years to Key Stage 5. Some of the information in the report, in particular relating to Key Stages 4 and 5 was based on provisional data, as examination results were still being validated. At Key Stage 4, there was a particular issue around the setting of grade boundaries for GCSE English. The City Council was participating with other local authorities, schools and teacher unions in a legal challenge to Ofqual and the awarding bodies. The report would be updated and brought again to the Committee in Spring 2013, once all examination results had been validated and performance tables published by the DfE in January 2013.
- 32.4 Councillor Wealls referred to the gap in provision between eligibility for free school meals and take up and measures being put into place to address this. The Lead Commissioner, Schools, Skills and Learning explained that schools undertook measures to ensure that eligibility for take up was well publicised and that children who were in receipt of free school meals could not be identified by their peers.
- 32.5 The Chair stated that this was a national problem and that the authority was continuing to work with schools to address this.
- 32.6 In answer to questions regarding measures being taken by BACA and PACA, the Lead Commissioner, Schools, Skills and Learning stated that good working relations were in place with the city's academies. It was suggested that appropriate protocols were put into place and it was explained that a good relationship existed and information was shared and that the LEA wished to support and encourage this.
- 32.7 The Lead Commissioner, Schools, Skills and Learning stated that an item relating to the manner in which the data collected was processed could be included on Forward Plans to encourage head teachers to utilise the available data as effectively as possible.
- 32.8 It was agreed that in the follow up report submitted in Spring 2014 would include more detailed information indicating how Brighton & Hove compared nationally. The Strategic Commissioner Standards and Achievements explained that as a large city with which comprised a number of smaller discrete groups within it was sometimes harder to find comparators.
- 32.9 Councillor Brown considered that it was important to draw out the value added elements too and to extrapolate data in relation to any apparent disparities as well as details of marked improvements for instance in relation to maths. It was noted that there had been strong improvements in the number of pupils making two levels of progress from KS1, although these figures still remained below the national average. Strategies were in place to address this and to seek to continue the year on year improvements that had been seen to date.
- 32.10 The Strategic Commissioner, Standards and Achievement explained that visits were being made to each of the city's secondary schools and work was being carried out to encourage sharing of good practice.
- 32.11 Andrew Jeffery, Parent Forum referred to the training received by teachers working with children at Key Stage 1. He also enquired regarding the number of children who did not

sit exams at all and the effect, if any this had on the overall percentage data. It was agreed that it would be possible to extract this information.

- 32.12 Councillor Wealles referred to work being undertaken with children who were underperforming and were not anticipated to pass their GCSE's and it was explained that there was a range of strategies in place to assist such children including those who were disaffected in the two year period leading up to their examinations. Pupils who were being educated via the DFE referral unit; or were pupils at special schools were not included in those figures.
- 32.13 Councillor Gilbey commented on the relatively low take up of free school meals and it was confirmed that discrete campaigns were mounted throughout the school year to encourage a greater level of take up. Councillor Pissaridou expressed concern that this needed to be done in such a way as to ensure that those who had an entitlement were not deterred from taking it up. It was explained that recipients could not be identified.
- 32.14 In answer to questions by Councillor A Kitcat regarding the apparent disparity between early years performance and that at KS1 (in line with the national average) it was explained that this could be due in part to the manner in which the two different sets of data were collected.
- 32.15 Councillor Simson stated that whilst the improvements in results were encouraging there was still some way to go in some areas, especially in achieving full participation of 16 year olds in learning, training or employment. It was explained that a number of measures had been put into place to address this by working in partnership with other agencies and schools, colleges and training providers. Key in part to addressing this was addressing issues, particularly with disaffected pupils which led to absenteeism.
- 32.16 It was also noted that although absence figures had improved over recent years, the figures for secondary schools were still higher than those for England overall and statistical neighbour averages. Each secondary school now had a dedicated member of staff addressing attendance and absenteeism and it was hoped would effect further improvements.
- 32.17 Councillor Powell stated that she had attended a recent careers day event, which had been attended by only 120 young people from across the city and considered that more focused career work needed to be carried out in schools.
- 32.18 Councillor A Kitcat referred to the issues which had arisen in relation to the current examination grading issues especially in relation to the GCSE grades awarded for English. There were two elements to this, papers which sat in parallel with the current re-sits which were taking place. The issue of the re-sits was complicated as it was not clear on what basis they were being re-marked. The Chair confirmed that Members would be updated as soon as more information was available.
- 32.19 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee receives and notes comments on the standards achieved in Brighton & Hove schools, colleges and settings in 2011/12.

33. EQUALITY AND ANTI-BULLYING WORK IN SCHOOLS

- 33.1 The Committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Children's Services providing a summary of bullying data (Safe and Well School Survey) for 2011 and racist and religiously motivated incident data 2010-11.
- 33.2 The report also set out information including bullying and prejudice incident data as it related to children and young people in Brighton and Hove schools and outlined support for schools provided to schools to enable them to fulfill their Public Sector Equality Duty under the 2010 Equality Act.
- 33.3 Councillor Lepper commended the work that had taken place, It was clear that a number of children still did not feel safe in school. The further steps in working with schools to combat this problem were also welcomed.
- 33.4 Councillor Wealls stated that he had attended a carers meeting recently and those present had commented that bullying was treated seriously. He also referred to the scrutiny work that had taken place and to the work that had been undertaken with the young carers project.
- 33.5 Councillor Powell referred to a session which she had attended at Longhill School recently which had facilitated discussion on this issue. In answer to questions it was explained that it was not possible to break the data down any further, however, it was considered very important to encourage schools, especially those where problems had been identified to dig deeper into the available data to seek to highlight issues within their own schools. It and was more effective to encourage engagement to such schools and to encourage them to liaise with schools who had been successful in addressing such problems.
- 33.6 Soad Eboyok, Youth Council enquired whether teachers received training to deal with bullying and it was confirmed that they did, from the LEA and via projects such as "Allsorts" and "Kidscape".
- 33.7 Bethan Prosser Amaze stated that the Voluntary Sector welcomed break downs of the available data and any pressure which could be placed upon schools to improve as appropriate.
- 33.8 Councillor Gilbey stated that referred to the training available for school governors stressing that the importance including cyber bullying.
- 33.9 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be received and noted.

34. THE NEW SEN PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY 2012 - 2017

- 34.1 The Committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Children's Services setting out (as an appendix to the report), Brighton and Hove's new Special Educational Needs (SEN) Partnership Strategy (draft) for 2012/17.
- 34.2 It was noted that the SEN Partnership Board had led and overseen the development of the strategy. Following completion of the consultation and launch, detailed action plans would be written in order to implement the strategy and to monitor progress. The new strategy had been developed in the context of a changing national landscape with

regard to SEN. The government had published draft proposals for new legislation to be introduced in the spring of 2014 which would have a significant impact on all areas of work.

- 34.3 Councillor Lepper welcomed the report, looked forward to the final report and was pleased to note that measures were to be put into place to ensure that the new SEN strategy would link closely to the proposed changes and that the LEA would engage with stakeholders to ensure that the available funding supported the objectives of the SEN strategy.
- 34.4 Councillor Brown noted the improvements that had been achieved locally and hoped that the collaborative work that had taken place to date including involvement of head teachers could continue to be built upon. The Commissioner Lead Commissioner, Schools, skills and Learning stated that a lot of work had taken place to close gaps in SEN provision. A joined up strategy was in place as a result of collaborative work with other partners including Amaze and on going support would be available to head teachers.
- 34.5 Bethan Prosser, Amaze referred to the work that had been undertaken and the role of the SEN Partnership Board in overseeing the strategy.
- 34.6 Councillor Wealles welcomed the measures which were being put into place to effectively manage available funding, noting the successes that had been effected to date to narrow the gap in attainment between pupils with and without SEN.
- 34.7 Councillor Gilbey referred to the length of time that was taken to collate SEN information and it was explained that requirements were placed upon schools in respect of how they collected information. This process could be lengthy as it could involve medical appointments and input from other professionals. In answer to further questions it was explained that the processes for academies were exactly the same as those for other schools.
- 34.8 **RESOLVED** - That the Committee agrees to the publication of the final draft of the new SEN Strategy 2012-17

35. SURE START AND CHILDREN'S CENTRES BUDGET STRATEGY

- 35.1 The Committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Children's Services outlining an alternative strategy to meet the proposed budget reductions of £640,000 in Sure Start for 2013/14, which would reduce the impact on Children's Centres.
- 35.2 The Head of Sure Start explained that initially the proposal had been to reduce funding for Children's Centres by £500,000 and to consult on significant changes to Children's Centres in the city. There was a statutory duty for local authorities to make arrangements for the sufficient provision of children's centres to meet local need.
- 35.3 Children's Centres had been established in three phases starting with the most disadvantaged areas, the resources for these centres being based on the local level of need. The two Phase 3 centres in Westdene and Preston Park offered a limited range of services and in reality they acted as additional venues for the Hollingbury and Patcham

and Hollingdean centres. It was therefore proposed that consultation take place on changing their status from that of a designated to a linked site. This would mean that they would be inspected by Ofsted together with their linked Children's Centre, this would not change the level of existing services.

- 35.4 There were five existing linked sites to main designated Children's Centres : Coldean and Bevendean (linked to Moulsecomb), Saltdean (linked to the Deans), Goldstone (linked to Hangleton) and Fairlight (linked to City View). The linked sites established in Phase 2 had included part-time receptionist posts but had not been the case for those provided in Phase 3: Fairlight, Westdene and Preston Park. It was therefore proposed to consult on no longer funding receptionist posts in Coldean, Saltdean and Goldstone.
- 35.5 The main change to the budget proposal was to reduce the Children's Centre saving from £500,000 to £323,000. This proposal represented 11% of the total cost of £2,881,000. Part of the saving would be achieved by the Value for Money programme contributing £50,000 towards the Early Parenting Assessment Programme. There were also plans to charge services for their use of Children's Centres. The actual reduction in Children's Centre funding would be £239,000. The Children's Centre had underspent the previous year due to a combination of factors including alternative funding for childcare places for two year olds, more accurate information on premises costs and running cost savings. Based on analysis of this year's budgets £160,000 could be found without any reduction in services. The proposal to reduce receptionist posts would save a further £34,000. It was proposed to find the remaining saving of £45,000 by not filling vacant posts.
- 35.6 This paper was intended to inform the Committees budget proposals 2013/14 which would be consulted on as part of the budget consultation. Local consultations would be organised on the changes to Children's Centres.
- 35.7 The Chair commended the report and the efforts which officers had made to mitigate against savings which could potentially reduce outcomes for children by reducing the savings required of children's centres and focussing services on disadvantaged children.
- 35.8 Councillor Pissaridou stated that whilst the savings needed to be made she was concerned that in her view those who were most disadvantaged would suffer most due to the proposed reductions which would lead to 20% fewer subsidised out of school childcare places and the impact this would have on low income families. Early support for such families was very important
- 35.9 Councillor Simson enquired regarding the level of grant/subsidy available for provision in/to the voluntary sector. It was explained that as the Government had moved funding for supporting extended schools, the Council no longer provided funding for childcare run by schools. Schools had not used their budgets to fund private and voluntary childcare providers who cared for their children. The Council had therefore continued to support private and voluntary sector providers with sustainability funding.
- 35.10 In answer to further questions it was explained that as part of the strategy to reduce the impact on Children's Centres, officers had tried to spread the savings across all budgets

including the extended schools budget. Funding reductions for individual providers would be small but it was recognised that this might effect their financial sustainability.

- 35.11 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee notes the revised budget savings proposals for Sure Start going to full Council to maintain the city’s network of Children’s Centres; and
- (2) That the Committee agrees to local consultations to change the status of Westdene and Preston Park Children’s Centres from designated to link sites and to no longer employ receptionists in linked sites (Saltdean, Coldean, Goldstone).

Note: Councillors Gilbey, Lepper and Pissaridou abstained from voting in respect of the resolution(2)above.

36. TWO YEAR OLD FREE EARLY LEARNING ENTITLEMENT

- 36.1 The Committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Children’s Services updating on the position set out in an earlier report which had been considered at the Children and Young People’s Cabinet Member meeting on 5 March 2012.
- 36.2 Disadvantaged two year olds had received free early learning since September 2009. Currently this applied to around seven per cent of two year olds in Brighton & Hove (200 children). The government was extending this entitlement as a statutory duty to 20 per cent of two year olds from September 2013 (600 children in Brighton & Hove) and 40 per cent from September 2014 (1,300 children). Besides providing an update the report was intended to draw the committee’s attention to significant risks associated with the statutory duty, both financial and in relation to the provision of places and to draw its attention to the findings of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, completed in May 2012 which detailed current childcare supply in Brighton & Hove.
- 36.3 From September 2013 provision of free early learning for eligible two year olds would become a statutory duty. From that date eligible families would be those in receipt of out of work benefits, and the entitlement would cover an estimated 600 children in Brighton & Hove. From September 2014 eligibility would be extended to include low income working families and would cover 1,300 children in the city. The government was currently consulting on also including more disabled children and those who leaving care through adoption.
- 36.4 The council had a statutory duty to complete a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) and the main findings of the latest assessment were set out in Appendix 1 to the report, the full CSA had been placed in the members’ rooms. The CSA showed the number of childcare places available in the different areas of the city, and data from this had been used, along with child poverty data, to show where place expansion will be needed.
- 36.5 In order to provide places for children in their local communities, some expansion would be needed for September 2013, and then significant extra places will be required to provide for all eligible children from September 2014. Most additional places would be needed in Moulsecoomb, Whitehawk and the city centre. Although the government had announced that £100m of capital funding would be provided to expand childcare provision information had not yet been received regarding when this would be made available and how it would be allocated. The level of funding envisaged would not be

sufficient to provide the number of additional places needed and there was no immediately identifiable site to provide more places in Whitehawk where the greatest increase in provision was needed.

- 36.7 Councillor Wealles stated expressed the view that he hoped that private sector providers would be encouraged to create additional places. The Head of Service, Sure Start, stated that this was being supported and encouraged, however, although, the private sector tended to operate in the more advantaged areas of the city and were therefore unlikely to provide places in significant numbers. The voluntary sector might be able to respond if capital funding was provided.
- 36.8 In answer to questions by Councillor Pissaridou it was explained that although places were provided by childminders and whilst work was continuing to support and encourage expansion of this sector, parents tended to prefer nurseries or playgroups, currently there were fewer childminders operating in those areas of the city where places were most needed.
- 36.9 Councillor Pissaridou stated that whilst she supported the concept of free childcare provision to this group she was gravely concerned, regarding the consequences for other areas of service provision in the absence of adequate provision from central government.
- 36.10 Councillor Lepper stated that voluntary sector was currently operating under severe financial pressures similar to those being experienced by local authorities. She was appalled that the authority was being required to make provision without the necessary levels of funding having been made available to it, this would raise parents expectations without there being sufficient places.
- 36.11 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee notes the revenue funding required to meet the duty to provide free childcare places for up to 1,300 two year olds, and that revenue will come from the Dedicated Schools Grant, the amount of which is not yet known; and that this move to the DSG is likely to mean a significant reduction in the Early Intervention Grant for 2013-14; and
- (2) That the Committee notes the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. Data from this indicates that across the city there are enough places for two year olds in September 2013, but that there are insufficient places in the areas where they are needed. The city does not have enough places for the expanded offer in September 2014. There is not sufficient capital funding available for the local authority to expand places, and it is unlikely that private, voluntary and independent providers will respond by increasing places where needed.

37. ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

- 37.1 There were none although it was agreed subsequently that Item 36 “Two Year Free Early Learning Entitlement” would go forward to Council for information .

38. PART TWO MINUTES

- 38.1 **RESOLVED** – That the Chair be authorised to sign the Non-Public Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2012 as a correct record.

The meeting concluded at 6.40pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 43(a)

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Petition(s)		
Date of Meeting:	14 January 2013		
Report of:	Strategic Director, Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Penny Jennings	Tel: 29-1065
	E-mail:	penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No	Interim Chief, Executive Services	
Wards Affected:	All		

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 Committee responds to the petition either by noting it or writing to the petition organiser setting out the Council's views, or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter which may give 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

3. PETITIONS

- 3A. **For Saltdean/Rottingdean Based Local Toddlers and Babies Support Groups for Mums/Carers**

“Please sign below to support this petition against funding cuts to discontinue our much loved and used **Toddlers and Babies Support Group** at The Saltdean Children’s Centre.

This is the second *funding cuts* to such local group, which means mums are expected to rely on travelling to groups in other areas of Brighton and Hove, where funding is still given. Also, one voluntary Group at the Lido was closed (Sunday Kids café and play), and another (St Nick’s Chicks) at St Nicholas Church is due to close due to higher fees needed to run and more voluntary staffing.” (119 signatures)

3B. Proposed Stanford Infant School Expansion

“We, the undersigned, object to the council’s planned expansion of Stanford Infant School. We implore the Council to conduct an open, honest and accessible consultation before any decision is taken.” (number of signatures to be advised, paper petition to be provided at the meeting)

Subject:	Annual Report of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education 2011/12		
Date of Meeting:	14 January 2013		
Report of:	Interim Director of Children's Services/Lead Commissioner, Learning and Partnership		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Michael Nix	Tel: 29-0732
	Email:	michael.nix@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 This report describes the work of the Brighton & Hove Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) during the 2011/12 academic year. It includes information on examination results in Religious Education (RE) in the city's secondary schools. SACRE is required to inform the local authority of its actions and any recommendations, and to be guided in its work on any particular aspects of its remit that the Council would wish it to address.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That the Committee notes the Annual Report and considers whether there are specific areas of work within SACRE's remit which it would wish SACRE to address during 2013.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 Since 1988 local authorities have had a duty to establish a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). Religious education is a statutory part of the basic curriculum for all pupils, but it is not a National Curriculum subject. Instead it is a local responsibility of the local authority through its SACRE. Religious education is a statutory part of the basic curriculum for all pupils, but it is not a National Curriculum subject. Instead it is a local responsibility of the local authority through its SACRE.

- 3.2 The SACRE advises the local authority on matters relating to collective worship in community schools and on religious education given in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus. The SACRE monitors the effectiveness and appropriateness of the agreed syllabus, which is formally reviewed every five years.
- 3.3 The attached report (Appendix 1) describes the work of the Brighton & Hove Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) during the 2011/12 academic year.
- 3.4 A key event for SACRE in 2011/12 was the approval by the City Council of the new Agreed Syllabus for RE. The Agreed Syllabus was formally launched on 13 March 2012, at a highly successful workshop attended by around 50 primary, secondary and special school teachers, City Councillors and members of SACRE. The workshop was led by Lat Blaylock, who is Editor and Teacher Adviser for RE Today and a leading national figure in RE and teacher training. Lat followed up the launch day with a workshop for primary teachers in October 2012.
- 3.5 During the year SACRE discussed current issues for RE in primary and secondary schools with teachers from each of these sectors. They also received presentations from individual SACRE members about aspects of their own faith.
- 3.6 SACRE was not required to consider any complaints about RE or collective worship in the course of the year. It received no requests from head teachers seeking a determination to lift or modify the requirements for collective worship in their school. The Collective Worship guidelines have been updated and have been placed on the Wave.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 There has been no community consultation in relation to this report.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There is a budget of £7.9k within the budget to fund the work undertaken by SACRE during the financial year.

Finance Officer Consulted: Name: Paul Brinkhurst Date: 11/12/12

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no specific legal implications that arise from this report.

Lawyer Consulted: Name: Serena Kynaston Date: 21/12/12

Equalities Implications:

5.3 There has been no Equalities Impact Assessment carried out in relation to this report.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 This report does not have sustainability implications.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 None

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 None

Public Health Implications:

5.7 None

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.8 Religious education forms an important part of the way in which the school curriculum supports children and young people in growing up as rounded individuals who have understanding of and respect for the beliefs of others and are equipped to be citizens of a multi-cultural society.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 None

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The City Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure that religious education in community schools conforms with education law, and this is fulfilled through the adoption of the Agreed Syllabus and the work of SACRE.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Annual Report of SACRE 2011/12
2. Summary of Examination Results for RE, Summer 2012

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None

BRIGHTON & HOVE
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)
ANNUAL REPORT
2012

The purpose and role of SACRE

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is a body that every Local Authority is required to set up as a requirement of the 1988 Education Act. Its current terms of reference, as laid down by the 1998 Education Reform Act are: 'to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in community schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit.'

In particular, the SACRE is charged with the following responsibilities:

- Ensuring that the Local Authority creates and keeps under review an Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education
- It may determine on application by the headteacher that the requirement for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided by some or all of its pupils in a particular school.
- To deal as required with any complaints about the RE curriculum or about religious worship in community schools
- With the Local Authority, to review the support offered for RE teaching including professional development opportunities for staff

The SACRE meets three times a year and also holds an annual lecture which is open for teachers to attend as well as SACRE members.

Membership of SACRE is determined by statute and consists of four groups:

- Council Members
- Teachers' Associations
- The Church of England
- Christian and other principal religious traditions

Should a vote be required to make any decision of the SACRE, each of these four groups has a single vote.

Membership of SACRE 2011/12

Group A (Faith Groups)

Baha'i Assembly	Michael Alcorn
Methodist Church	Michael Hickman
Buddhist Community	Dharmacharini Amoghavajri
Sikh Community	Surinder Singh Parmar
Hindu Community	Vacant
Jain Community	Vacant
Jewish Community	Rabbi V Silverman
Coptic Orthodox Church	Fr John Habib
Roman Catholic Church	Peter Ward
New Churches	Vacant
Russian Orthodox	Father David Smith
Sussex Muslim Society Trust	Imam Dr Sajid
Baptist Union	Michael Bray
Salvation Army	Rachel Sheppard
Religious Society of Friends	Harvey Gillman
United Reformed Church	Vacant

Group B (Church of England)

Church of England	Revd Derek Bastide
Church of England	Linda Dupret
Church of England	Rosie Black
Church of England	Clare Phelan

Group C (Teachers' Associations)

SHA	Vacant
NAHT	Vacant
NASUWT	Vacant
NUT	Laura Wells
PAT (now VOICE)	Vacant
ATL	Toni Lavelle

Group D (Council Members)

Cllr Leslie Hamilton
Cllr Ania Kitcat
Cllr Stephanie Powell
Cllr Andrew Whealls

Co-opted members

Tess Gill – clerk
Michael Nix – LA representative
Tom Newland
Susan Thompson RE consultant

Brighton & Hove Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

A key event for SACRE this year was the approval and adoption by the City Council of the Brighton & Hove Agreed Syllabus 2011 – 2015, at the Cabinet Member Meeting on 10 January 2012. Each local authority has a statutory duty to adopt an Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education for use by maintained schools in its area, and to arrange for it to be reviewed through an Agreed Syllabus Conference at least every five years.

The Agreed Syllabus 2011 – 15 was prepared by a working party consisting of primary and secondary school teachers and the RE Adviser for the Diocese of Chichester, and advised by SACRE. It had been discussed in detail and unanimously approved by an Agreed Syllabus Conference, drawn from the membership of SACRE, on 1 February 2011.

The Agreed Syllabus 2011 – 15 reflects the current focus in Religious Education on progression of both skills and content as identified in Transforming Religious Education (Ofsted 2010). This report emphasised the need for creative activities to enhance learning in RE and the Brighton & Hove Agreed Syllabus gives the structures for this to take place in a coherent way through effective planning and assessment.

The Agreed Syllabus was formally launched on 13 March 2012, at a highly successful workshop attended by around 50 primary, secondary and special school teachers, City Councillors and members of SACRE, at Hove Town Hall. The workshop was led by Lat Blaylock, who is Editor and Teacher Adviser for RE Today and a leading national figure in RE and teacher training. Lat led an insightful and entertaining session, in which he identified the key strands in teaching and learning for RE and how these were effectively supported by the new Agreed Syllabus. He also provided a wealth of practical and original ideas for teaching RE.

Lat is to lead a follow up workshop for primary teachers on 17 October 2012. A workshop for secondary teachers is to be planned with the RE teachers network (part of the Secondary Schools Partnership) in 2013.

SACRE meetings

Three meetings were held in the course of the 2011/12 school year. Major items discussed have included:

- RE in Brighton & Hove secondary schools: Amy Jones, Head of RE at Dorothy Stringer School, informed SACRE of current issues for RE in secondary schools, and of the work of the RE teachers network, which provides RE teachers in the city, many of whom work in single person departments, with an opportunity to participate in professional development and share ideas
- RE in Brighton & Hove primary schools: SACRE member Linda Dupret, Head of St Paul's CE Primary School invited SACRE to the school, where staff and pupils in KS1 talked about RE in the school and showed examples of their work. The three pupils, from Y1 and Y2, were very impressive!
- Changes in education: SACRE has discussed changes in education policy and practice, in particular as they impact upon RE and collective worship
- Self evaluation and action plan: SACRE members used a template to assess within the four Groups how well SACRE is fulfilling its role, and what were their development needs. Conclusions from this were the need for training in the role of SACRE, not just for new members, and for an action plan
- Faith presentations: members of SACRE have given brief presentations on aspects of their faith. This year we have heard about the central place of the hymn book in the history of the Methodist Church, and of liturgy in the Russian Orthodox Church

Requirement for Collective Worship

SACRE received no requests in 2011/12 from head teachers seeking a determination to lift or modify the requirements for collective worship in their school. The Collective Worship guidelines have been updated and have been placed on the Wave, the local authority's intranet, to which all schools have access.

Complaints

SACRE was not in 2011/12 asked to deal with any complaints about the RE curriculum or about religious worship in community schools

The Annual SACRE Lecture, 10 October 2011

The Annual SACRE Lecture was given by Professor Neil Spurway on Science and Religion in the Third Millennium. Professor Spurway was Professor of

Exercise Physiology at the University of Glasgow, retiring in 2001. He is a leading international figure in the field of science and theology, and continues to write extensively on the implications of evolutionary thought for theology.

Professor Spurway's lecture looked at the different ways that science and religion have interlinked over the years and particularly about the debates that have caused division between scientists and theologians. A document was provided with quotes from scientists and their thoughts about religion.

Although the number attending the lecture was disappointing, there followed a lively and interesting debate on the issues raised by Professor Spurway.

The REsource Bank

The REsource Bank has been set up as a partnership between the City of Brighton and Hove and the Diocese of Chichester. Its main purpose is to provide additional resources to enhance and improve the quality of teaching and learning in Religious Education. It is open to all Church of England Schools in the Diocese of Chichester and to all maintained primary and secondary schools in the City of Brighton and Hove. This project was initially funded by grants from the City of Brighton and Hove, the Diocese of Chichester and the Letitia Tilbury Turner Trust.

The resources boxes cover the principal religions found in Britain today. Currently, the majority of resources are aimed at primary schools, but it is intended that more resources will be made available in the future for secondary schools. Boxes of resources covering Collective Worship in school, assemblies in community schools, bereavement, divorce and global dimensions are included in the REsource Bank.

Teachers are invited to attend road shows which take place each half term at which they can borrow and return resources. Each road show also has a short training input on one of the main world religions. The road shows are free and there is no borrowing fee to borrow resources. A list of all resources is available at www.diochi.org.uk/schools

The REsource Bank is located at Church House, Church Road, Hove.

Examination results at GCSE and A Level, Summer 2012

At the time of writing, provisional data for Year 11 GCSE and AS level examinations have been received. A summary of this information is contained in Appendix 1.

This provisional information shows that in four schools and Academies, the majority of students are entered for an examination in RE (Blatchington Mill,

Cardinal Newman, Dorothy Stringer and Varndean). In three schools, few or no students are entered for an examination in RE (BACA, Patcham and PACA). Pass rates were high across all schools, with generally high proportions of higher grades.

Two schools, Blatchington Mill and Dorothy Stringer, entered some Y11 students for AS Level in RE – this is an examination that would normally be taken at the end of Y12. Pass rates were 100% at Blatchington Mill and 93% at Dorothy Stringer, and at Dorothy Stringer 50% of the 41 Y11 students entered achieved A or B grades.

Section 48 inspections

In addition to inspections within the Ofsted framework, church schools are also inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005. The principal objective of a Section 48 inspection is to evaluate the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a *church school*. The Dioceses are responsible for arranging Section 48 inspections.

Two Church of England schools in Brighton and Hove had Section 48 inspections in 2011/12 – Aldrington and St Martin's, Brighton. Both schools achieved a Grade 1 (outstanding) for leadership and management of a church school and for overall effectiveness. Both schools were judged to be 'good' in Religious Education.

Two Catholic schools received Section 48 inspections in 2011/12, Cardinal Newman Catholic School and St John the Baptist RC Primary School. Both schools achieved a Grade 1 (outstanding) for leadership and management of a Catholic school and Grade 2 (good) for overall effectiveness as a church school. Both schools were judged to be 'good' in Religious Education.

THE YEAR AHEAD FOR THE BRIGHTON & HOVE SACRE

An initial key task for SACRE in 2012/13 will be to use the self evaluation exercise carried out in the Summer Term 2012 to formulate an action plan to support its work. This action plan may include, among other actions:

- Training to ensure that all SACRE members understand the purpose and role of SACRE and their place within these
- Keeping under review the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus
- Learning more about RE in special schools
- Considering the effect of curriculum policy change on the place of RE in the curriculum, especially in the secondary sector across Brighton & Hove
- Reviewing Summer 2012 examination results in RE in the city

In addition, with some members leaving SACRE there will be an opportunity to review membership and recruit new members, ensuring that the membership represents the various denominational and faith groups present in the city.

SACRE Budget 2011/12

The budget for SACRE for 2011/12 was £7900. Below is a summary of expenditure:

Description	Cost £
Staff costs	1000
SACRE Meetings (meeting rooms, refreshments, speakers etc)	335
RE Agreed Syllabus launch (printing costs, speaker, venue, refreshments and supply cover)	4370
Contributions to RE Resource Centre	1000
School Self Evaluation	1100
Subscription to NASACRE	95
Total	7900

SACRE Annual Report 2012

Appendix 2: Summary of examination results, Summer 2012

GCSE

	Y11 NOR	Course	% entered	% A* - C	%A* - G
Blatchington Mill	309	Short	88	41	95
BACA	109	Short	1	0	1
Cardinal Newman	337	Short Full	3 95	40 72	80 100
Dorothy Stringer	336	Short ELQ Band C*	93 5	79 n/a	100 n/a
Hove Park	290	Short Full	1 21	50 71	100 95
Longhill	234	Short Full	1 44	0 75	67 98
PACA	126	-	0	0	0
Patcham	174	Short	1	0	0
Varndean	233	Short Full	28 61	37 75	99 99

*Entry Level Qualification

AS Level

	Y11 NOR	% entered	% A - B	% A - E
Blatchington Mill	309	5	19	100
Dorothy Stringer	336	13	50	93

Subject:	Public Health Approach to Parenting		
Date of Meeting:	14th January 2012		
Report of:	Joint report of The Director of Public Health and Children Services		
Contact Officer:	Lydie Lawrence Public Health Programme Manager	Tel:	01273 295281
Name:	Jenny Collins, Practice Manager, Parenting Team	Tel:	01273 294794
Email:	Lydie.lawrence@brighton-hove.gov.uk Jenny.collins@brighton-hove.gov.uk		
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 It is proposed that Public Health and Children's Services jointly develop a public health approach to parenting. This will include a public consultation; positive parenting media campaign and an implementation plan to provide a wider range of help and services to parents. This will be a key part of the city's early help strategy.

1.2 Evidence based parenting programmes have been proved to be effective in reducing adverse childhood experiences and behaviour problems. This produces better outcomes for children, reduces mental health problems in parents, improves work performance and reduces sickness absence in working parents. Adverse childhood experiences are linked to higher mortality rates in adults due to social and psychological factors such as violence, suicide, drugs and alcohol misuse.

1.3. Evidenced based parenting programmes have been shown to:

- Promote the independence and health of families through the enhancement of the parent's knowledge, skills and confidence
- Promote the development of non violent protective and nurturing environments for children
- Promote the development, growth, health and social competence of young children
- Reduce incidence of child maltreatment, behavioural and emotional problems in childhood and adolescence, delinquency, substance misuse and academic failure
- Enhance the competence, resourcefulness and self-sufficiency of parenting
- Promote family and community cohesion (FAST)

1.4 Research indicates that every £1 spent in preventing and treating "conduct disorder" in children saves £14 in costs over 25 years, with a third of these benefits taking the

form of savings in public expenditure¹ (Bonin et al 2001). Approved evidenced based parenting programmes are recommended by National Institute for Clinical Excellence for the treatment of conduct disorders.

1.5 The whole population Triple P programme has been proven to be effective in reducing the number of children who become looked after children; reduce the number of substantiated cases of child protection, and the number of children attending A&E for intentional injuries. In Brighton and Hove the number of looked after children, and children subject to child protection plans is significantly higher than comparable authorities. Implementing Triple P in the city is an important part of the strategy to reduce the number of children subject to child protection plan and in care.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That the committee approve a joint public health and children services approach to the promotion of positive parenting . This will consist of:

- engagement with key partners and stakeholders
- a 'Big Debate' that will help the local authority and partner agencies to ascertain the public's views on impact of parenting in the community and support needed for parents
- a media parenting information campaign that will aim to get key messages and information about services to parents and professionals.

2.2 The committee approve the development of an implementation strategy for a whole population public health approach to parenting, informed by the consultation process above. This would mean aiming to reach 60% of parents over a two to three year period, giving brief information and advice progressing to intensive support depending on need. It is estimated that about 10% of the population will benefit from intensive services (e.g. an 8 week group).

2. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 In 2006 Brighton & Hove City Council were awarded a Parenting Early Intervention Programme (PEIP) grant to trial the implementation of Triple P. (Positive Parenting Programme) which is an international programme with a multi-level intervention model proven to prevent and treat behavioural, emotional and developmental problems in children. The initial 18-month project was evaluated nationally by Warwick University and was deemed to be very successful. Triple P was found to :

- significantly reduce reported child conduct problems
- Improved parental mental well being and improved responsiveness and consistency in their parenting²

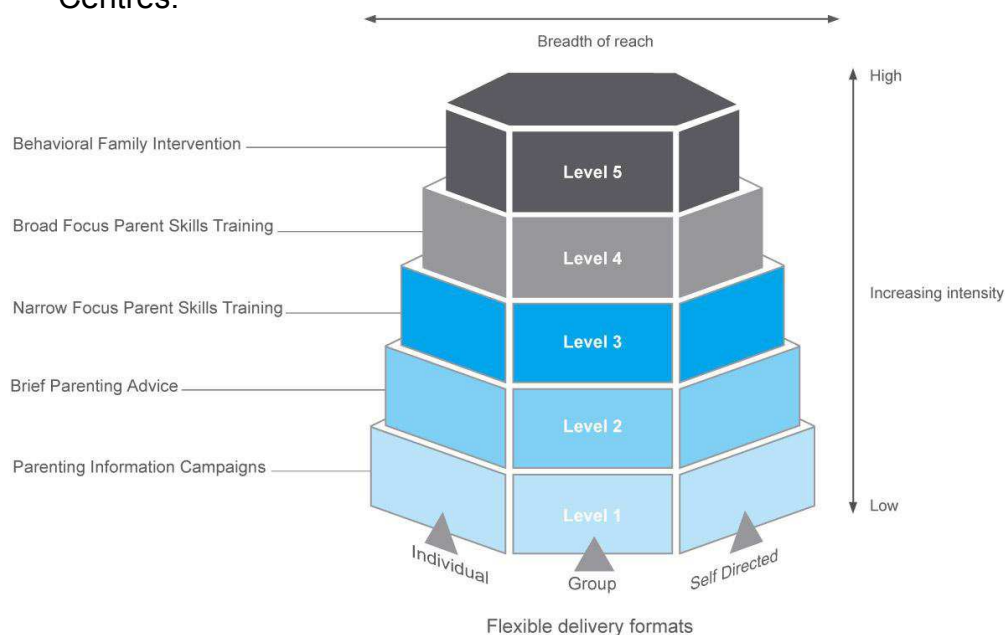
B&H exceeded the PEIP target number of families and the outcome data matched results from Triple P trails.

3.2 Triple P has been integrated into the service delivery of a range of statutory and voluntary organisations. Uniquely B&H also implemented a peer education

¹ Bonin, E., Stevens, M., Beecham, J., Byford, S., & Parsonage, M. (2011) Costs and longer savings of parenting programmes for the prevention of persistent conduct disorder: a modelling study. BMC Public Health, 11, pp. 803.

² Department for Education. (2011). Parenting Early Intervention Programme Evaluation (Research Report DFE – RR121 (a)). United Kingdom: Lindsay et al.

approach: training pairs of parents and professionals to deliver Triple P Level 4 group programme in local communities, mostly through school clusters and Children Centres.



3.3 Triple P is focused on promoting positive relationships between parents and their children and equipping parents with positive and effective behaviour management strategies by enhancing their knowledge, skills and confidence. Triple P addresses a number of factors likely to impact on the quality of the parent-child relationship and child development. It includes principles and strategies to enable parents to build their relationship with their child (spending time, talk, engaging activities, showing affection); teach new skills (descriptive praise, problem solving, managing emotions); use assertive discipline (setting rules and a good example, clear instructions, being consistent, decisive and fair, using consequences); and plan for stressful or risky situations (see further detail see Appendix 1. A folder of Tip Sheets will be placed in the members library.)

3.4 Since 2007, in Brighton & Hove City Council over 1500 parents have completed Triple P group (based on 74% return rate of questionnaires). The completed pre and post Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire show that 74 % of parts saw an improvement in their child's behaviour; Parenting Scale showed 85.9% improvement in their parenting style and Depression Stress and anxiety Scale reflected 61.4% improved in Depression; 52.1% improved in anxiety and 97.7% improved in stress.

3.5 In 2009 B&H commissioned Families and Schools Together (FAST) which improves the wellbeing of children through building community capacity and cohesion. It is a universal programme delivered in schools in areas of high deprivation. It brings together groups of families in the school, to do a range of carefully designed activities for 8 weeks. It is facilitated by a team made up of parents, school staff and community partners. It has been shown to reduce family conflict, improve family cohesion, and improve children's behaviour and parents' engagement in children's education. This has been started in 3 schools that have high levels of special needs and indicators of deprivation, and has run 5 times. It is intended that this will continue to be rolled out.

3.6 Research has shown that 5 % of children in any one year cohort have severe conduct disorder and they will be 19 times more likely to be imprisoned compared to

children with no problems³. Positive parenting is a protective factor for behaviour problems, which are associated with hostile, critical, punitive and coercive parenting. Positive parenting has also been shown to act as a protective buffer against the negative effect of poverty.

3.7 In 2007, an Australian study examined the economic case for Triple P as a means of reducing the prevalence of conduct disorder in children and adolescents and found:

- Triple P needs to avert only 1.5% of conduct disorder cases to pay for itself and
- Has the potential to avert at least 26% of cases of conduct disorders.⁴

3.8 A Triple P whole population Randomised Control Trial trial led to reduction of Child Protection and Looked after Children by up to 16% compared to control areas⁵. Researchers estimated for every 100,000 children under the age of eight the results would translate annually into:

- 688 fewer cases of child maltreatment
- 240 fewer children in care
- 60 fewer children being admitted to hospital with abuse injuries

3.9 The proposal is to develop an implementation plan for a whole population public health approach, building on the existing largely targeted service. The implementation strategy would build on current provision and integrate additional parenting advice and support into services in statutory and voluntary sector. It would include scoping the level of need; service delivery model; agreed output targets and outcome measurements; evaluation and review strategy; time scales and costs. For example, it is intended that schools will be able to train their own staff, or commission CVS to deliver in their school, or be able to refer individual families with high level need to the appropriate agency for parenting intervention.

3.10 This population based approach will be beneficial because it:

- enables parents to access services at the right level of intensity
- the more costly intensive interventions are reserved for parents with the highest needs
- public health campaign will address the stigma of asking for help for parenting which is a considerable barrier, particularly for families with multiple problems.

3.11 It is proposed to hold a 'Big Debate' in order to understand

- how parents see their role, their goals and aspirations for themselves and their children and how service can help them achieve this.
- the importance the 'community' places on the need for parents to be sufficiently well supported so that they can raise children that are confident, happy, competent and resilient.
- community's views on the benefits of skilled and confident parenting and the costs of parents not being able to meet their children's needs.

³ Fergusson, D., Horwood, J., Ridder, E. (2005). Show me the child at seven: the consequences of conduct problems in childhood for psychosocial functioning in adulthood. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, pp. 46 (8) 837-849

⁴ Mihalopoulos, C. (2007). Does the Triple P – positive parenting programme provide value for money? *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, 41 (3), 239-46.

⁵ Prinz, R.J., Sanders, M.R., Shapiro, C.J., Whitaker, D.J., & Lutzker, J.R., (2009). Population-Based Prevention of Child Maltreatment: The US Triple p System Population Trial. *Prevention Science*, 10 (1), 1-12.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Community engagement and consultation is an integral part of the public health approach. The focus groups followed by a Big Debate campaign (similar to the Alcohol Big Debate Campaign) will engage the community in the exploration of the importance of parenting and help us to understand how parents want to use services. The Big Debate will start in March 2013.
- 4.2 A steering group including key partners and stakeholders will direct the development of the implementation plan. The first meeting is planned for early January and the aim would be to complete the process by May 2013.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The cost of the Big Debate Campaign (including focus groups) is £15,000 and will be funded by Healthy City , Public Health budget in this financial year
- 5.2 The delivery of Triple P levels 2 and 3 will be largely integrated within existing service delivery of family behaviour change programmes (e.g. Sure Start Children Centres and community programmes: MEND; health trainers; Albion in the Community).
- The costs in this financial year for continuing training for evidenced based parenting is £60,000 and has been identified within current training budgets held by Human Resources team (Lindsey Pearce Workforce Development/Professional Qualifications/CPD Manager)
- 5.3).

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Local Authority has duties to protect and safeguard children who are living in their area from harm, there are considerable costs, both economic and emotional in taking such protective action. Nationally there is a move towards looking more at methods of prevention before problems arise which require protective action. There is a duty under Schedule 2 of the Children Act 1989 for the Local Authority to take reasonable steps through provision of services to prevent children suffering ill-treatment or neglect, and this would be one such method.

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and sent to Equalities Team for comment.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 As discussed above (para 1.4 & 3.5), evidenced based parenting interventions have been shown to make significant savings for public bodies through the prevention and treatment of conduct disorders and child maltreatment.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Children with a severe and diagnosable conduct disorder are 19 times more likely to be imprisoned in adult life than children with no conduct disorder. The prevention and treatment of conduct disorders in children therefore has the potential to make a significant impact on the reduction of crime and disorder.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The Implementation plan will need to address the following risks:
- That families with most need access the most intensive provision
 - There are robust monitoring and evaluation process in place to assess reach, quality of service and outcomes.
 - The capacity of agencies to provide early help is integrated into core business and protected

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The public health approach to parenting in the city will meet Brighton and Hove City Council's Corporate Plan 2011-2015 priority to tackle inequalities.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 An alternative option to taking a public health whole population, progressively targeted approach to parenting provision is to take a purely targeted approach. This approach would mean that only identified families with highest need access parenting services. Whilst this has the advantage of only targeting resources at known greatest need, it has the following disadvantages:
- Arguably further stigmatising parenting help, making it less attractive to families that professionals most want to engage
 - Creates time consuming and resource heavy barriers for families who are experiencing problems and want to access a service (i.e. referral and assessment processes)
 - Restricts preventative and early help

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To expand parenting services to include information, advice and early help and to develop a Parenting Implementation Strategy.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Triple P Summary
2. Brighton & Hove local Triple P outcome data

Documents in Members' Rooms:

1. File of Triple P Tip Sheets

Background Documents:

1. N/A

Appendix 1

Triple P Summary

The 5 Steps to Positive Parenting



By Professor Matt Sanders

What is Positive Parenting?

Positive parenting aims to promote children's development and manage children's behaviour and emotions in a constructive and non-hurtful way. It is based on strong, nurturing relationships, good communication and positive attention to help children develop.

Positive parenting involves emphasising the positive and planning ahead to prevent problems. It also involves using everyday situations and creating opportunities to help children learn and to motivate them to do their best.

Children who grow up with positive parenting are likely to develop the skills they need to do well at schoolwork, build friendships, and feel good about themselves. They are also much less likely to develop behavioural or emotional problems when they get older. Parents who learn to use positive parenting skills typically feel more confident and competent in managing daily parenting tasks, are less depressed, less stressed, and have less conflict with their partners over parenting issues.

1. Creating a Safe, Interesting Environment

- Teach Your Child Road Safety Rules
- Provide Safety Equipment
- Be Safety Conscious Near Schools
- Teach Your Child About Personal Safety

2. Having a Positive Learning Environment

- Spend Time With Your Child
- Speak Nicely
- Chat and Listen Often
- Share Your Own Experiences
- Be Affectionate
- Use Descriptive Praise

- Give Your Child Attention
- Use Incidental Teaching
- Get Involved in Your Child's School

3. Using assertive discipline

- Prepare in Advance
- Arrange Activities so your child has something interesting to do
- Set Some Ground Rules
- Praise Good Behaviour
- Watch and Supervise
- Use Planned Ignoring for Minor Misbehaviour
- Use Your Voice Effectively – stay calm, get close to your child and use a firm voice
- Use Directed Discussion to make sure your child knows and understands the rules
- Give Clear, Calm Instructions
- Take Away a Problem Activity
- Back Up Instructions With Quiet Time
- Use Time-out for Serious Misbehaviour

4. Having Realistic Expectations

- Consider Your Expectations of Your Child
- Check What Other Parents Expect
- Check What Your School Expects
- Consider Your Expectations of Yourself

5. Taking Care of Yourself as a Parent

Parenting is easier when parents' personal needs for support, companionship, intimacy, recreation and time alone are being met. Being a good parent does not mean that your child should completely dominate your life. If your own needs as an adult are being met, it is much easier to be patient, consistent and available to your child.

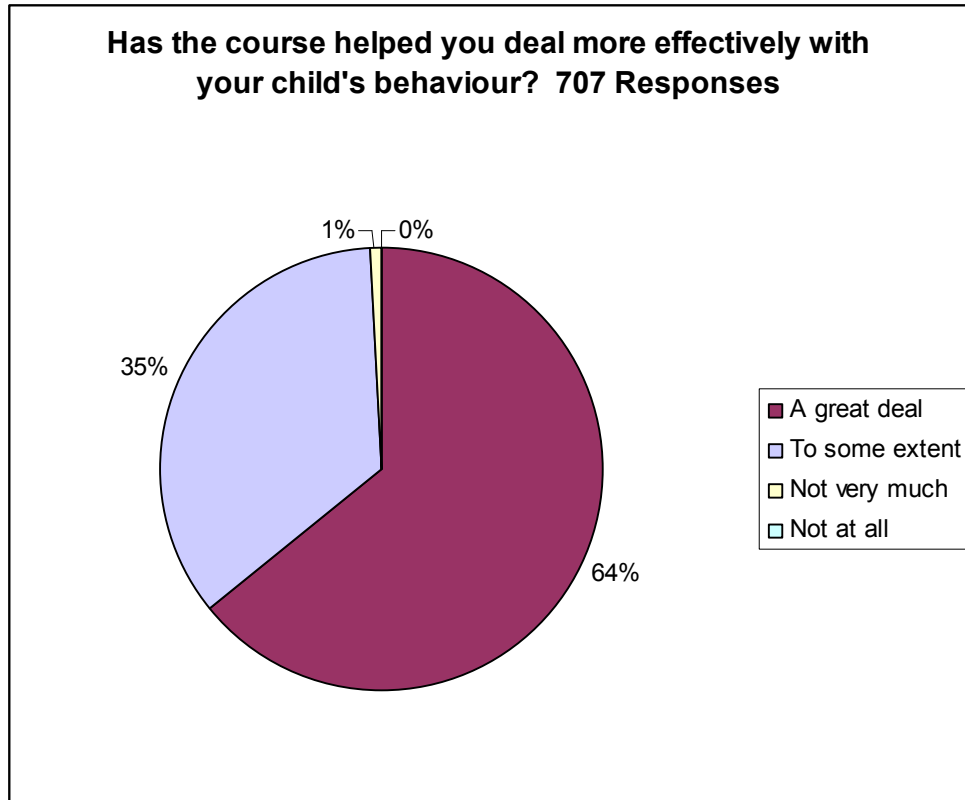
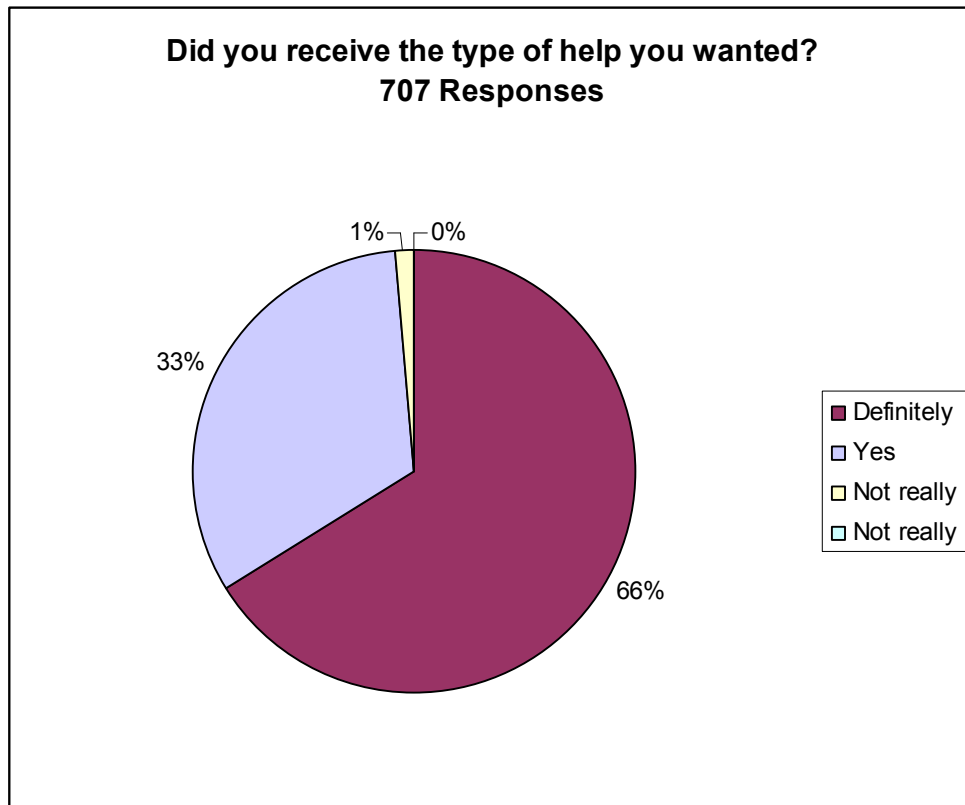
Here are some ideas to help you look after yourself:

- Balance Work and Family
- Talk Back to Negative Thinking

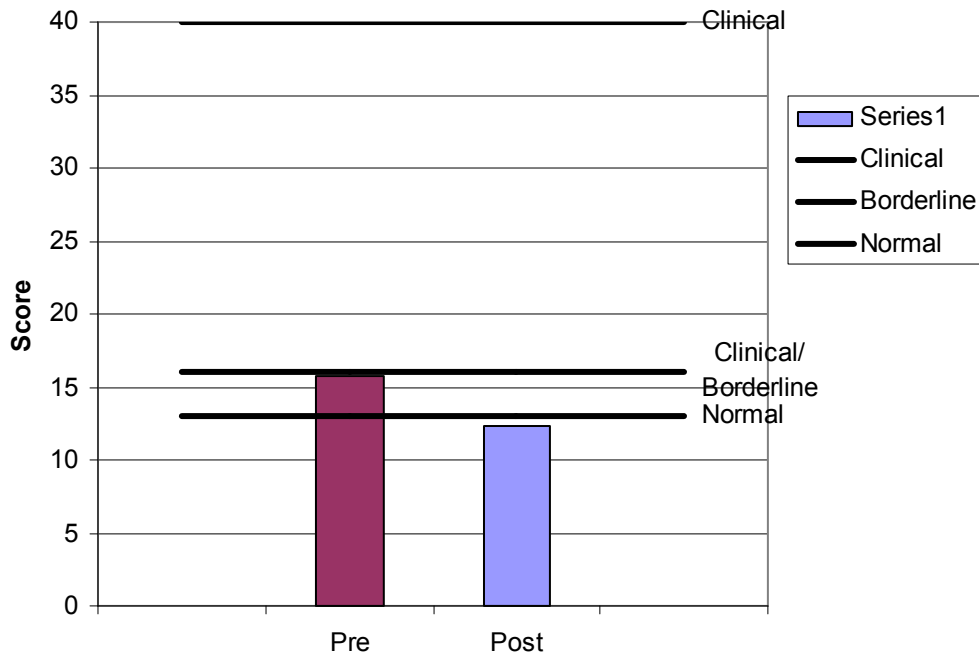
- Work as a Team

Appendix 2

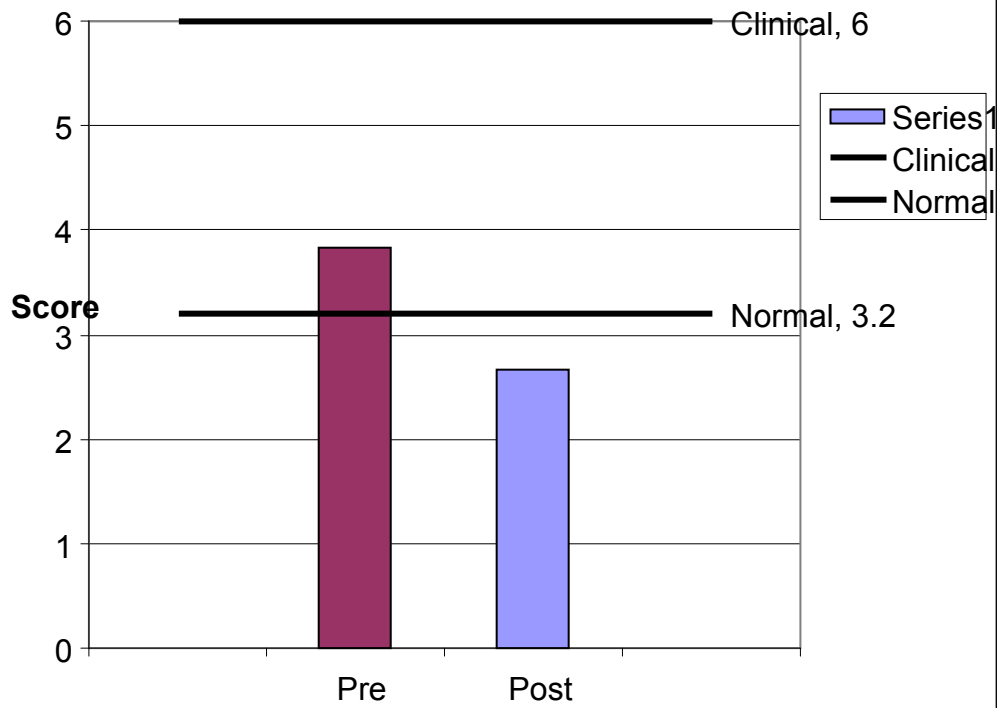
Brighton & Hove Triple P Outcome data

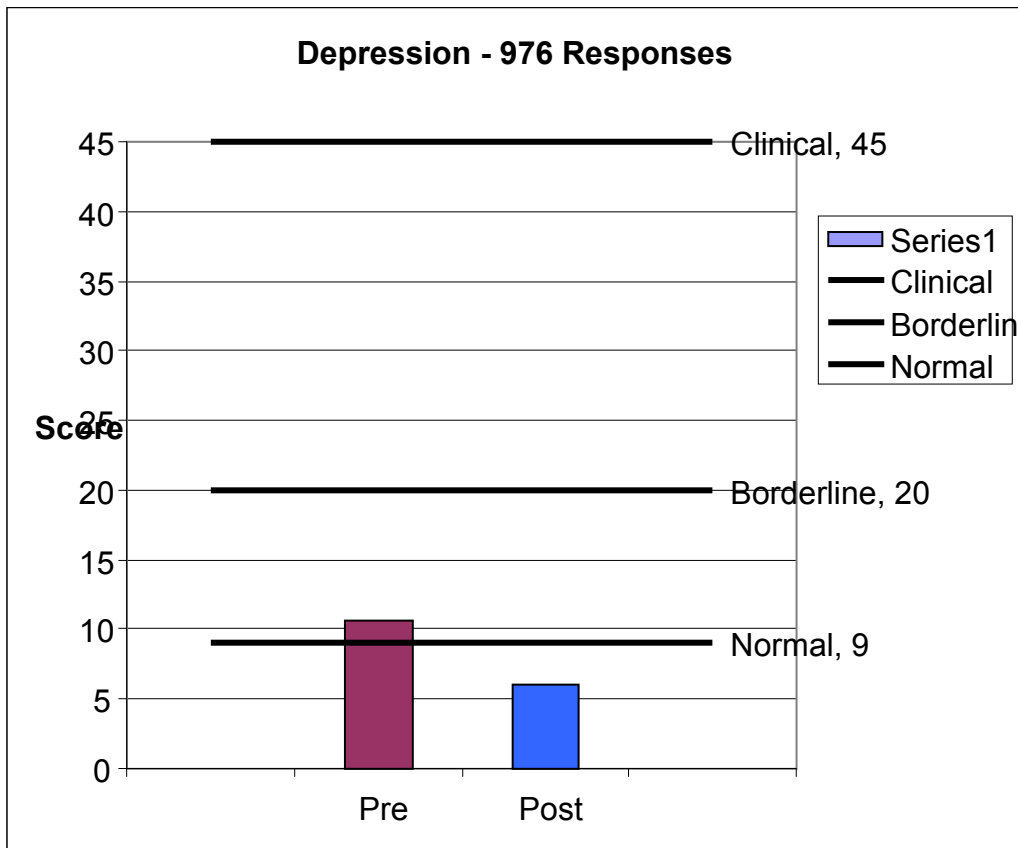
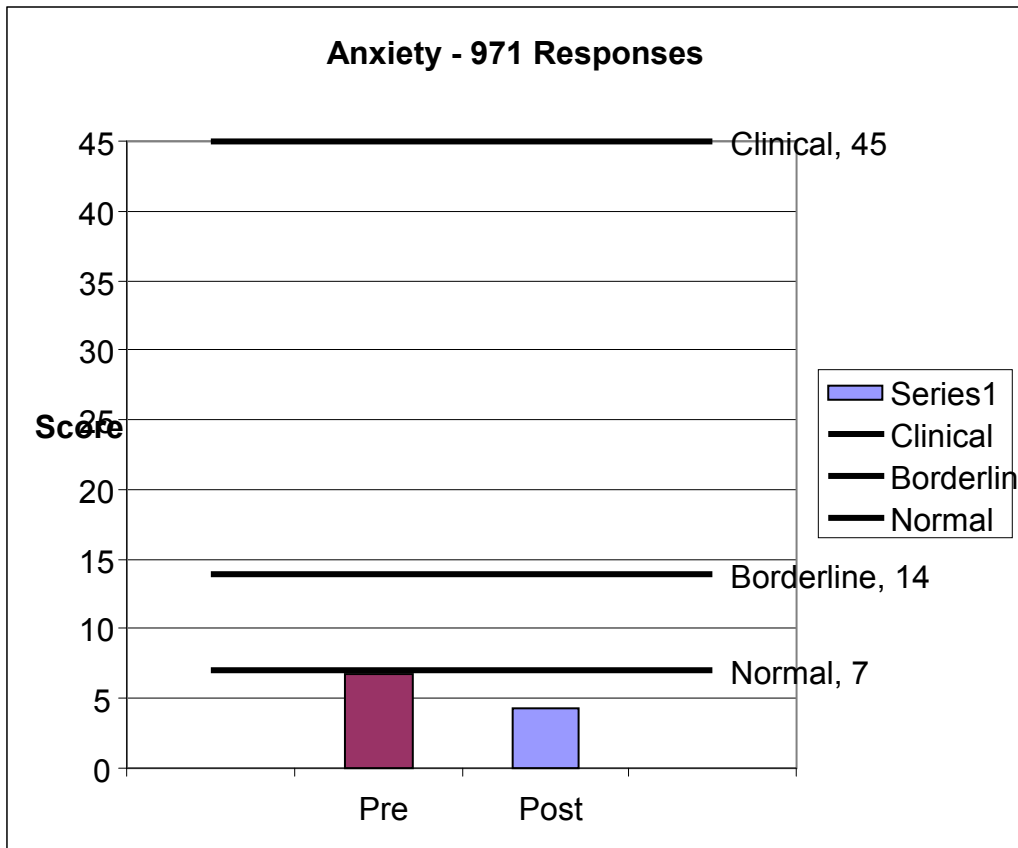


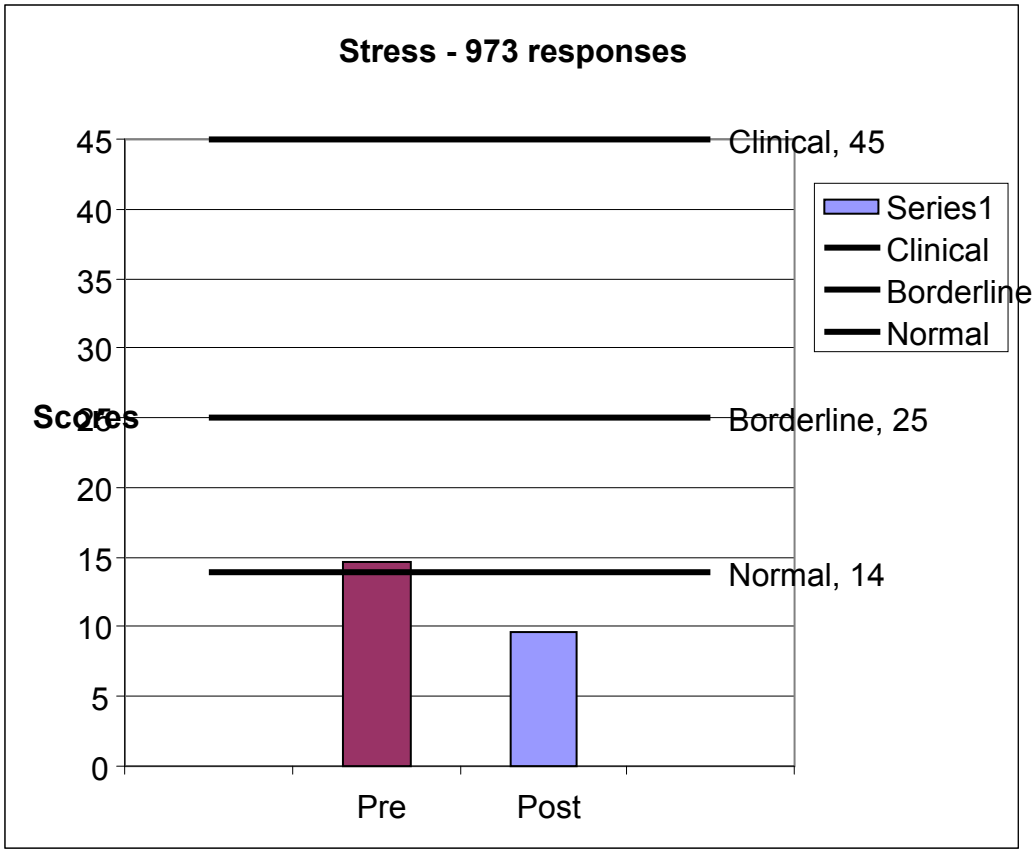
Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaires - 1142 Responses



Parenting Scale - 1016 Responses







Subject:	Children's Services Fees and Charges 2013/14		
Date of Meeting:	14th January 2013		
Report of:	Interim Director of Children's Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Paul Brinkhurst	Tel: 29-3439
	Email:	paul.brinkhurst@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to review the Children's Services fees and charges in accordance with the corporate policy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the position on fees charges for nurseries as detailed in section 3.3 be agreed.
- 2.2 That the position on fees and charges for the Music and Arts Service as detailed in section 3.4 and Appendix 1 be noted.
- 2.3 That the position on the charges for school meals as detailed in section 3.5 be noted.
- 2.4 That the position on fees charged by the Portslade Aldridge Community Academy – Adult Learning in section 3.6 be noted.
- 2.5 That the position on fees charged by the Portslade Sports Centre in section 3.7 and Appendix 2 be noted.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 As part of the budget setting process Heads of Service are required to agree any changes to fees and charges through relevant Committee Meetings. The management of fees and charges is fundamental both to the financial performance of the City Council and also the achievement of the Council's corporate priorities, in particular making better use of public money.
- 3.2 There are several distinct areas of fees and charges income for Children's Services, some of which are approved by other bodies such as the Music Trust. The recommendations above reflect the areas that need approval and those that are for noting.

3.3 Nurseries

- 3.3.1 There are five Council run nurseries in the City: Bright Start, Cherry Tree, Acorn, Roundabout and Jumpstart. All the nurseries are subsidised by the Council. The budget proposals for 2013/14 include a saving of £75,000 from the overall subsidy (11%). This will be achieved by a combination of reviewing the staffing structures to ensure that these are as efficient as possible, increasing the occupancy of the nurseries and increasing fees. All 3 and 4 year olds in the city are already entitled to 15 hours a week, 38 weeks a year of free childcare funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant. A significant change for 2013/14 is an increase in the number of 2 year olds who will also qualify for free childcare. From September 2013 the Council will have a statutory duty to secure free childcare for the 20% most disadvantaged two year olds (around 600 children). The eligibility for free places is based on benefits and is similar to that for Free School Meals. The Council nurseries already provide free places for two year olds and this is planned to increase over the year, boosting occupancy.
- 3.3.2 The existing fee policy is to charge the same amount for children of all ages. This is £46.30 a day for nurseries which provide food and £43.30 for those without food provision. However the cost of providing childcare for children under 3 is considerably more than for 3 and 4 year olds. This is because the statutory staff ratio for 3 and 4 year olds is 1- 8 compared to 1 - 4 for 2 year olds and 1 - 3 for children under 2. The proposal for 2013/14 is to increase fees for 3 and 4 year olds by 2% (to £47.20 and £44.20 a day) but to apply a higher increase for younger children to reflect their higher cost. It is common practice in the private sector to apply a slightly higher rate for younger children but not the full cost. In proposing any increase we also need to consider the impact on parents' ability to pay and the risk of reducing the occupancy of the nurseries. There have also been significant increases in fees over the last two years. The proposal is therefore to limit the increase in fees for children under 3 to 4% to £48.20 a day with food and £45.00 without.
- 3.3.3 Equal access to nursery care is encouraged by ensuring that the nurseries all offer the universal free early year's entitlement of 15 hours a week for all 3 and 4 year olds. The nurseries also offer free part time places to increasing numbers of disadvantaged two year olds and free places for children under two with child protection plans. Parents with low incomes can claim the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit. This pays for childcare costs of up to a maximum of 70% of £175 a week for one child or £300 for two or more.

3.4 Music & Arts

- 3.4.1 The Music Service charges a range of fees and charges depending on the service provided. These fees are set in order to balance the budget, taking into account inflation, savings targets and market conditions. The Music Trust is consulted on suggested levels of fees, prior to final decisions by Directors. Equal access to music services is encouraged by offering subsidies of 50% to families receiving Child Tax Credit and 80% to families on Income Support.

3.4.2 The budget strategy for 2013/14 proposes that the service loses £53k of its Council funding. As a result it is anticipated that the average fee would increase by 4.5%, alongside amending the present offer and developing further charging to schools. The increase in fees may have an impact on numbers learning and access to learning for pupils with parents/carers on low income and other CYP in challenging circumstances.

Instrumental tuition fees will rise but will need to be submitted to the Music Trust and to Directors for approval in March 2013. The Local Authority also receive the Arts Council Music Hub Grant which is due to reduce by £69k which will require the Trust to decide whether to further increase fees or reduce areas of expenditure.

3.4.3 A schedule of the current fees and charges are attached for information at Appendix 1.

3.5 School Meals

3.5.1 The charge for school meals is inflated annually in accordance with the inflation factor in the school meals contract as detailed below. The current contract started on 1st August 2011 for a period of 4 years with an opportunity to extend up to 24 months. Schools may choose to buy into the contract or make their own school meals arrangements. All secondary schools and academies within the city provide meals, including free meals to entitled pupils, through their own individually negotiated contracts.

3.5.2 The current charge for school meals in primary schools has remained at the 2010 price of £2.10 for children and £2.50 or £2.08 excluding VAT for adults. In line with the contractual arrangements this price will be reviewed on 1st August 2013. Any change to price will be based on the April 2013 indices and agreed prior to the end of the academic year for communication to schools and parents. Selling prices would increase at the start of a new academic year.

The Meal prices will vary in line with the following two indices:

(a) Food element

Annual movement in the Retail Price Index (all items) as set out in the Consumer Price Indices published by the Office for National Statistics (Ref Table 24 Food CHBA)

(b) Labour element

The Management fee price will vary in line with the annual Movement in the Retail Price Index (all items) as set in the Consumer Price Indices published by the Office for National Statistics (Ref Table 24 All Items RPI CHAW).

As this is built into the contract terms and conditions, approval by the Children and Young People Committee would only be sought if an increase exceeding inflation was being proposed.

3.6 Portslade Aldridge Community Academy – Adult Learning

3.6.1 Portslade Adult Learning at PACA review their fees and charges in respect of Adult Learning Courses each year with a view to balancing the budget. Government determines the fees for FE courses (i.e. accredited courses) while fees on non-accredited provision are set by Adult Learning. A decision was agreed 2 years ago to have 3 levels of payment:

- Lifelong Learning fees – no funding subsidy from government; fees meet marginal costs (tutor + materials) plus a contribution to central costs where possible.
- Getting Started fees – SFA Community Learning funding supports the fees which are therefore relatively low.
- Learning Community courses – SFA Community Learning funding supports these courses which are offered free to the learner. New learners are targeted who are likely to have one or more measures of disadvantage e.g. lone parent, unemployment, etc. These courses are focussed on the BN41 Portslade area.

3.6.2 Concessions on non-accredited courses are offered to those on income based benefits, over 60s and those living in BN41 postcode area. No fee is payable by students aged 16-18 taking part in many vocational courses.

Since these principles were developed, fee rises are imposed when required in line with inflation.

3.7 Portslade Sports Centre

3.7.1 Portslade Sports Centre review their fees and charges annually with regard to target income budgets, inflation and competitors' prices. They are approved by the Principal of the Academy, usually in July for implementation in September.

3.7.2 At Portslade Sports Centre day membership fees (80p) are waived for the unemployed or those on Income Support. Concessions are also offered for Senior Citizens and in some cases for the over 50's.

3.7.3 A schedule of the current fees and charges is attached at Appendix 2.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

4.1 Budget holders with responsibility for specific fees and charges were consulted in the preparation of this report.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 The total Children's Services fees and charges budget for 2012/13 is approximately £5m.

5.1.1 As a start point for the budget process, income budgets are increased by inflation, currently 2%, to produce a target income budget. Budget Holders then review their fees and charges with a view to ensuring that the target budget is achieved and where possible exceeded.

5.1.2 The Music Service has a target income budget of £727,000 which it will aim to achieve when reviewing the fees and charges for approval by the Music Trust in due course. If savings of £53,000 are made and with the grant reduction of £69,000 the revised

income target will be £851,000. The Trust will need to decide to increase fees to this level or reduce areas of expenditure.

- 5.1.3 School Meals fees and charges are increased by the same inflation factor as contained in the school meals contract. Income levels fluctuate according to demand but are constantly monitored. Any shortfall in income and or net overspends are chargeable to the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Finance Officer Consulted: Louise Hoten

Date: 27/11/12

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 Children's Services are entitled to review fees and charges as set out in the report, at the time fees and charges are set they must be demonstrably fair and reasonable in all the circumstances.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 27/11/12

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Equal access to nursery care is encouraged by ensuring that the nurseries all offer the universal free early years entitlement of 15 hours a week for all 3 and 4 year olds. The nurseries also offer free part time places for disadvantaged two year olds and free places for children under two with child protection plans. Parents with low incomes can claim the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit. This pays for childcare costs of up to a maximum of 70% of £175 a week for one child or £300 for two or more.
- 5.3.1 Equal access to music services is encouraged by offering subsidies of 50% to families receiving Child Tax Credit and 80% to families on Income Support.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are no direct sustainability issues arising from this report.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no direct crime and disorder issues arising from this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The services included in this report rely on being able to achieve their income targets in order to maintain the level of service provided.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 From a public health perspective, if proposed increases were above inflation level for some sports and leisure facilities in the city, particularly in areas of health inequalities, disadvantaged groups may be less likely to be able to access affordable physical activity, sport and leisure. Any likely adverse impact on the health and well-being of these groups should be considered.

- 5.7.1 The opportunity to receive a free school meal is extremely important to a substantial number of children from low income families, for whom a school lunch may be the only balanced meal they will eat in a day. Research shows that when children eat better, they do better. Whether families are paying for school meals or are entitled to them for free, children are more likely to concentrate in the classroom in the afternoon after eating healthy school lunches in a pleasant environment. This also improves their health and their learning about making better food choices. Research also shows that children eligible for free school meals are less likely to: do well at school, continue into further education, or secure higher paid jobs. Therefore, ensuring that these children eat and gain the benefits of the free school meals they're entitled to, really will make a difference to their ability to learn and succeed.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 The services included in this report are available across the city and concessionary prices are offered where possible to encourage those most disadvantaged to make use of these services.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 Not applicable

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To agree and/or note the Children's Services Fees and Charges for 2013/14.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Music and Arts Fees and Charges
2. Portslade Sports Centre Fees and Charges

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. Fees and Charges Analysis – 2012/13
2. Portslade Community College Fees Leaflet –Courses for Adults 2012-13

Appendix 1

Music and Arts Fee Structure 2012/2013

Instrumental Lessons:			
		50%	80%
	Full fee	Subsidy	Subsidy
Group lesson	£ 81.00	£40.50	£16.20
Advanced Scheme	£158.50	£79.20	£31.70
School ensemble rate	£ 48.00	n/a	n/a
School IT rate	£ 48.00	n/a	n/a
Instrumental Hire			
	£ 33.50	£16.75	£ 6.70
Music Centres			
Membership fee	£ 61.20	£30.60	£ 12.20
Children's Music Workshop (Years 1 & 2) only	£ 39.00	£19.50	£ 7.80
Children's Music Workshop (Year 3) only	£ 49.50	£24.75	£ 9.90
Junior/Youth Choir membership only	£ 30.70	£15.35	£ 6.10
Dance			
	£ 61.20	£30.60	£ 12.20
Community Ensembles			
	£ 63.50	n/a	n/a

Subsidies:

The annually reviewed Subsidised Tuition Scheme is available to parents/carers of pupils attending Brighton & Hove Local Authority Schools and Academies in the city. The scheme provides either 80% or 50% subsidy on tuition fees and instrument hire as follows:

80% subsidy if families are receiving:

- Income Support
- Pension Credit
- Income Based Employment Support Allowance
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance

50% subsidy if families are receiving:

- Child Tax Credit with eligibility for free school lunches
- Working Tax Credit with entitlement to the maximum available – where the reduction due to your income in Part 2 of your award - 'How we work out your tax credits' is zero.

Portslade Sports Centre

Membership	£30.00 Adult	£53.00 Adult and Partner	£11.00 Senior Citizen
Day Membership	80p		Free for unemployed/ income Support
Sports Hall	£41.00 per hour		
Bar/Lounge	Variable but in the region of £160-£260		
Badminton	£7.40 per hour/ peak	£6.50 per hour/ off-peak	
Squash	£6.50 per 40 mins / peak	£5.90 per 40 mins / off –peak	
Table Tennis	£4.50 per hour		
Rackets	£1.00 each		
Table Tennis bat	50p each		
Cricket Nets	£19.00 per net / min two		
Snooker Tables	£4.80per hour/ Peak (3 rd hour free)	£4.50 per hour/ off-peak (3 rd hour free)	£3.80 per hour/ Under 18's and £3.20 Over 50 Sessions
Grass pitch	£45 per match		
Synthetic pitch	£27.00 Half area £54.00 Whole Area UNLIT	£39.00 Half area £78.00 Whole Area LIT	
Sauna	£2.80	£2.00 after another activity	
FITNESS ROOM			
Introductory Course	£9.20 Members and 16/17 yr olds	£10.00 Non-members	
Per Visit	£4.20 peak	£4.00 off-peak	£3.10 Over 50's
Monthly Direct Debit	£29.00 Members	£33.00 Non-members	
CLASSES			
Aerobics, Step, etc	£3.90 per class	£4.70 Non-mem.	
Pump FX	£3.90 per class	£4.70 Non-mem.	
Fencing	£4.10 per class	£4.90 Non-mem.	
Netball	£3.70 per class		

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES			
Indoor Football	£3.00		
Trampolining	£3.10 (Mondays)	£3.40 (Saturdays)	
Karate	£4.00		
Gymnastics	£3.65(Mondays)	£3.20 (Saturdays)	
Toddlers Gym	£3.40		
Snooker	£3.30		
Fencing	£3.60		
Badminton	£3.50		
Basketball	£3.30		
Birthday Parties	£56.00 Members	£64.00 Non- members	

Subject:	Short Quality Screening of Youth Offending Service		
Date of Meeting:	25th January 2013		
Report of:	Interim Director, Children's Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Andy Whippey	Tel: 29-5391
			29-
	Email:	andy.whippey@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	Yes		
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Inspection of Youth Offending work under the new arrangements identified by the Ministry of Justice in 2012 consists of the following four elements (see appendix 1):-
- i. A full Joint Inspection Programme will be targeted at a number of Youth Offending Services (YOS) each year where performance gives particular cause for concern, together with some YOS where published performance is strong and worth sharing.
 - ii. A themed programme will undertake a focussed Inspection of specific aspects of work across a range of YOS.
 - iii. HMI Probation will contribute to the forthcoming (May 2013) Ofsted led Inspection of child protection arrangements.
 - iv. There will be a short screening programme targeted at about 20% of YOS each year focussing on the start of sentences.
- 1.2 The Short Screening Inspections were started in November 2012 with Brighton and Hove being the first YOS to be inspected in the Country. There is a notice period given of two weeks for these Inspections, with Inspection staff normally on site from Monday lunchtime to Wednesday evening.
- 1.3 The focus of the Short Quality Inspection is the inspection of the quality of work from the start of the sentence in a small number of recent cases with children and young people who have offended through to the point when internal plans should have been in place post sentence.
- 1.4 The period is chosen as the Inspectorate believe that the quality of work undertaken in the initial period post sentence is critical to the likelihood of positive outcomes being achieved following completion of the sentence.
- 1.5 Shortcomings in assessment and planning were common themes in the Core Case Inspections undertaken by the Inspectorate across the country from 2009

to 2012 and the thematic Inspection of Court work identified the need for improvement in the quality of reports to Court.

1.6 The Assessment criteria used in the Inspection is as follows.

1.6.1 Reducing the likelihood of reoffending

- i. Assessment provides a robust framework for work to reduce likelihood of reoffending.
- ii. Planning increases the likelihood of work meeting the assessed needs.

1.6.2 Protecting the Public

- i. Assessment provides a robust framework for work to manage risk of harm to others.
- ii. Planning maximises the likelihood of victims being protected.
- iii. Required work is undertaken to manage risk of harm to others and this is of good quality.
- iv. Effective management ensures the public is protected.

1.6.3 Protecting the Child or Young Person

- i. Assessment provides a robust framework for work to protect children and young people and reduce their vulnerability.
- ii. Planning maximises the likelihood of children and young people being protected.
- iii. Effective management ensures that children and young people are protected and their vulnerability is reduced.

1.6.4 Ensuring the sentence is served

- i. The likelihood of successful outcomes for the sentence is increased by good quality engagement with the child or young person and their family.
- ii. Children and young people serve the sentence that they have received.
- iii. The likelihood of a successful outcome from the sentence is increased through attention to the health and wellbeing of the child or young person.
- iv. Effective management ensures that the objections of the Youth Justice System are met.

2. **Inspection Feedback**

2.1 In the words of the Inspectors “we found a varied picture at Brighton and Hove Youth Offending Service (YOS). The enthusiasm of case managers was a key asset and there was evidence of some highly competent work and effective joint working. However, there were substantial shortfalls in relation to the YOS management of risk of harm to others and management oversight arrangements were not effective in improving performance in this area or in ensuring the quality of safeguarding work’.

2.2 Whilst there were shortfalls the overall picture in terms of the scores identified by Inspectors is one of slight improvement since the last full Inspection.

2.3 The service was already undergoing a significant restructure prior to the Inspection with the restructure of the management levels having been completed earlier this year. Phase 2 of the restructure is currently underway which is focussed more on operational delivery. Phase 2 will take clear account of the Inspection findings.

2.4 A key aspect of the service restructure is aiming to:

- i. strengthen the management capacity to undertake quality assurance processes;
- ii. to provide more focus to key significant tasks;
- iii. to give a greater focus on prevention and re-offending.

2.5 An initial Action Plan has been devised in response to the issues raised in the report and this is attached (see Appendix 2).

2.6 A full Service Plan, incorporating the feedback from the Short Quality Screening, the consultation on the second phase of restructuring, service data and performance, will be presented to CYP Committee in March 2013.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 3.1 For Committee to note the contents of the YOS Inspection Report and note the Action Plan identified as a consequence of this Inspection.

4. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

Inspection framework.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Young Offenders, families, victims and other agencies are regularly involved in feedback on the service, and young people have been actively involved in the service redesign.

6. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 6.1 There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis

Legal Implications:

No legal implications

Lawyer consulted: Andrew Pack

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

An improved Youth Offending Service will ensure that young people are supported to address their behaviour at an early stage, and will reduce reoffending, and the impact this has on the community.

Public Health Implications:

The health and well-being of young offenders, and victims, are both addressed in the service plans.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

The effectiveness of work undertaken by the YOS has implications on levels of crime committed in the City.

7. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

7.1 No other options have been presented to date.

8. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The local authority must approve the action plan in response to the Short Quality Screening.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Appendix 1 - Report of Short Quality Screening (SQS) of Youth Offending work in Brighton & Hove
2. Appendix 2 – YOS Inspection findings and action plan

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None

Heather Tomlinson
Interim Chair of Brighton & Hove YOS Management Board and Director of Children's Services
Brighton & Hove City Council, Brighton & Hove Youth Offending Service

28th November 2012

Dear Heather Tomlinson,

Report of Short Quality Screening (SQS) of youth offending work in Brighton & Hove

This report outlines the findings of the recent SQS inspection, conducted during 05th-07th November. We carried this out as part of our programme of inspection of youth offending work. This report will be published on the HMI Probation website. A copy will be provided to Ofsted to inform their inspections, and to the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

Context

As an independent inspectorate, HMI Probation provides assurance to Ministers and the public on the effectiveness of work with those who have offended or are likely to offend, to promote continuous improvement by the organisations that we inspect and contribute to the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

Good quality assessment and planning at the start of a sentence is critical to increasing the likelihood of positive outcomes. The purpose of the SQS inspection is to assess the quality and effectiveness of casework with children and young people who have offended, at the start of a sample of 20 recent cases supervised by the Youth Offending Team. Wherever possible this is undertaken in conjunction with the allocated case manager, thereby increasing the effectiveness as a learning opportunity for staff.

We gather evidence against the SQS criteria, which are available on the HMI Probation website <http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/hmi-probation>

Summary

Overall, we found a varied picture at Brighton & Hove Youth Offending Service (YOS). The enthusiasm of case managers was a key asset and there was evidence of some highly competent work and effective joint working. However, there were substantial shortfalls in relation to the YOS's management of risk of harm to others, and management oversight arrangements were not effective in improving performance in this area or in ensuring the quality of safeguarding work.

Commentary on the inspection in Brighton & Hove:

1. Reducing the likelihood of reoffending

1.1. We look to see if the assessment as to why this child or young person has offended at this time is good enough. In three-quarters of the 20 cases we looked at, it was. For

those where we found gaps, the case manager had not identified relevant diversity factors, or had not used information from another agency or had not referred the child or young person on to others for specialist assessments, for example, health, education, etc.

- 1.2. Pre-sentence reports (PSRs) were provided to the court for ten cases. Local management arrangements were effective in ensuring the quality of these in almost every relevant case, and most were of good quality.
- 1.3. Most sentence plans were done on time and were of a good enough standard, especially for custody cases. In four community cases, there was no initial sentence plan. In most instances sentence plans took the form of paper templates, completed by hand from the perspective of the child or young person. This approach is to be commended in that it encouraged engagement but, in most instances, it did not provide all the information necessary for effective planning.
- 1.4. Children and young people's lives change very quickly and so their circumstances need to be reviewed on a regular basis. Just over two-thirds of the reviewed assessments and plans had been completed well enough in the cases we inspected. Significant events did not always trigger a review and some were copies which failed to reflect important new information and prompt the implementation of relevant interventions.

2. Protecting the public

- 2.1. We expect to see a clear, relevant and comprehensive assessment of the risk of harm a child or young person poses to other people at the time of their sentence. We found that this had happened in most of the cases where a PSR had been prepared for the court. However, assessments prepared after sentence were not as good. We were satisfied with the overall standard of the assessment of the risk of harm to others in just over half the cases we looked at. In several, the assessment lacked both detail, such as the inclusion of previous behaviour and relevant information from other agencies, and the essential analysis. As a result, some key triggers and motivators relating to offending, and the potential for further harm to others, were not always identified. We were pleased to note, however, that we agreed with the Risk of Serious Harm (RoSH) classification for all but one case.
- 2.2. Having assessed the risks, the YOS should put plans in place to address them. We found that initial planning was sufficient in custody cases but that effective initial planning had taken place in fewer than half the community cases we looked at. Some plans lacked the objectives and details to adequately support intervention work or were not clear about when and how these would be implemented.
- 2.3. Risk of harm is dynamic in nature and needs to be continuously reviewed. Of the cases where this should have happened (14), only half had been reassessed well enough. Planning had been reviewed to a sufficient standard in only slightly more (nine cases).
- 2.4. Taking account of the needs of victims is not only crucial in helping to keep them safe but also plays an important role in reducing the risk of harm children and young people pose. We found this was not happening as often as it should have been; we expected to have seen evidence that the risk of harm to victims was being effectively managed in 18 of the cases we looked at but found it in only eight.

3. Protecting the child or young person

- 3.1. In many cases, children and young people who offend will present issues relating to vulnerability and/or safeguarding which need to be properly assessed and planned for. We found that assessments prepared for court, pre-sentence, were more likely to be of

good quality than those written at the beginning of the sentence. However, overall, there had been sufficient assessment of vulnerability and/or safeguarding needs in fewer than three-quarters of the cases we looked at and assessments had been reviewed in less than two-thirds.

- 3.2. There had been effective planning to address vulnerability and/or safeguarding, and reviews of plans, in about three-quarters of the cases we looked at, with all plans being completed sufficiently well during the custodial phase of the sentence.

4. Ensuring that the sentence is served

- 4.1. We expect to see the YOS doing what it can to help children and young people complete their sentences successfully. This will include engaging them and their parents/carers in the assessment and planning processes, identifying and addressing barriers to engagement, and putting measures in place to ensure they comply with the requirements of their sentence.
- 4.2. Diversity issues and other potential barriers to engagement had been assessed sufficiently well in three-quarters of the cases we looked at and included in the majority of plans. In a couple of cases, the YOS's management of diversity issues had been excellent.
- 4.3. The extent to which the child or young person and their parents/carers had been engaged by the case manager was variable, with better engagement at the assessment stage than with the planning process.
- 4.4. Most children and young people complied with their sentences. About half of those who complied suffered some initial setbacks; many were helped back on track by action taken by the YOS.

Operational Management

There had been changes in staffing, including line management, at the YOS in recent months. This had led to gaps in management oversight which coincided with the timeframe of our inspection case sample. There had also been a lack of consistency for some children and young people in who was managing their case. While a change in case manager had led to improvements in the handling of the case in some instances, in at least one case this had had a negative impact on the experience of the child or young person.

We found that there was a variation in the levels of understanding of the members of the YOS staff interviewed about the principles of effective practice and local policies and procedures. In our view, two thirds understood the principles of effective practice, local policies and procedures in relation to safeguarding and half in relation to promoting engagement and responding to non-compliance. One-third understood local policies and procedures for the management of risk of harm.

There were mixed views from the YOS staff interviewed about how well the organisational culture promoted training and development. Some explained that the ongoing restructuring process had had a negative impact on this as they were unsure about their future in the YOS.

Overall, case managers¹ felt that their line managers had, and used sufficiently, their skills and knowledge to assess, and help them improve, the quality of their work. One-third of those interviewed felt they could describe the countersigning/management oversight of their risk of harm and safeguarding work as an active process and, again, one-third felt they had effective and appropriate supervision. Although the numbers interviewed were small, this means that a worrying

¹ We interviewed six case managers and one senior practitioner during the inspection, six of whom provided their views about organisational support and culture.

proportion felt they were not receiving important aspects of management support. Most advised that they valued the chance to reflect on, analyse and receive feedback on their cases, but demonstrated little awareness or appreciation of the YOS management's recently introduced practice meetings which could offer some of these opportunities.

Management oversight plays an essential role in ensuring that where risk exists in a case, it is properly managed. It can take the form of one-to-one sessions between a case manager and their manager, a wider meeting with internal colleagues or with external partners, or the implementation of sound quality assurance processes. We looked for evidence that, where relevant, management oversight had been effective in ensuring the quality of work to address risk of harm to others, vulnerability and safeguarding. We found that a considerable number of cases had not been sufficiently overseen and, in most of these, this had led to deficiencies in the case manager's assessment and/or planning not being addressed. In some relevant cases, there was no evidence that there had been any oversight at all.

Outstanding strengths

The following were particular strengths:

- The YOS's staff were committed to engaging with the children and young people whose cases they managed, knew their current issues in depth and worked hard to help them progress through their sentences. Above all, they retained the belief that the children and young people they worked with could change.
- We found cases in which YOS workers had given particular attention to diversity needs. In one, having identified that a consistent approach would help to improve the engagement of the young person, the YOS worker ensured that appointments were set at the same day and time each week, and that the same interpreter attended to support the young person. In another case, the YOS worker demonstrated a high level of understanding of the speech, language and communication needs of the young person, referring to educational psychology and consequently employing a range of visual interventions to explore factors which could be associated with his offending behaviour.
- The YOS demonstrated that it was capable of excellent standards of joint working. In a complex case, the YOS's assessment of the young person was comprehensive, drawing on information from other agencies to provide appropriate detail and analysis. The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements framework was used well to facilitate effective multi-agency working, taking account of the diversity needs of the young person and ensuring his smooth transition to probation services.

Areas requiring improvement

The most significant areas for improvement were:

- i. the assessment of risk of harm to others (which in many cases lacked sufficient detail and analysis),
- ii. deficits in planning in community sentences to address the risk of harm to others (with some not supported by specific details as to how to prevent that child or young person hurting others),
- iii. reviews of assessments and plans, as a considerable proportion were not reviewed sufficiently well,
- iv. insufficient attention to victims and potential victims, during the assessment and planning stages,
- v. management oversight, including supervision and quality assurance arrangements.

We strongly recommend that you focus your post inspection improvement work on those particular aspects of practice.

We are grateful for the support that we received from staff in the YOS to facilitate and engage with this inspection. Please pass on our thanks, and ensure that they are made fully aware of these inspection findings.

If you have any further questions about the inspection please contact the lead inspector, who was Vivienne Clarke. She can be contacted on 07795 306910 or by email at vivienne.clarke@hmiprobation.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Fox

HM Assistant Chief Inspector of Probation

Copy to:

Anna Gianfrancesco, Team Manager, Specialist Young People's Services

Catherine Vaughan, Interim Chief Executive, Brighton & Hove City Council

Sue Shanks, Lead elected Member for children's services

Shelley Greene, Business Area Manager YJB

YJB links with HMI Probation

Ofsted

Note: please contact our publications department on 0161 869 1300 for a hard copy of this report.

YOS Inspection findings and action plan

- i. the assessment of risk of harm to others (which in many cases lacked sufficient detail and analysis),
- ii. deficits in planning in community sentences to address the risk of harm to others (with some not supported by specific details as to how to prevent that child or young person hurting others),
- iii. reviews of assessments and plans, as a considerable proportion were not reviewed sufficiently well,
- iv. insufficient attention to victims and potential victims, during the assessment and planning stages,
- v. management oversight, including supervision and quality assurance arrangements

<u>lead</u>	<u>recommendation</u>	<u>action</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Date for review/completion</u>
Anna	1.Improvement in the assessment of risk of harm to others (which in many cases lacked sufficient detail and analysis), iii reviews of assessments and plans, as a considerable proportion were not reviewed sufficiently well,	To identify gaps in assessments and providing training for staff through skills audit To undertake a QA of all cases.	Staff to be better able to undertake robust assessments and put together multi agency plans Set a baseline for improvement to be measured from and use information to develop a more in depth action plan.	Jan-March End March 13

Appendix 2

		To develop a robust QA process and ensure all assessments and plans are reviewed by managers.	All assessment, plans and review will be QA by managers and risk will be identified and managed within the YOS	End of March 13
	ii. deficits in planning in community sentences to address the risk of harm to others (with some not supported by specific details as to how to prevent that child or young person hurting others),	To develop planning to ensure CAF's process are followed and multi agency plans put in place.	All young people within the YOS to have a multi agency plan in line with CAF.	June 13
	insufficient attention to victims and potential victims, during the assessment and planning stages,	Development of effective identification and engagement with victims.	All cases to have victim analysis and work in assessment and plan	End March 13

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Appendix 2

		QA process to include looking at victim work		
	management oversight, including supervision and quality assurance arrangements	<p>Development of a YOS supervision policy that builds upon the delivery into reflective supervision.</p> <p>Embedding new supervision arrangements across the service.</p> <p>Development of a quality standards framework and management within the YOS</p>	<p>All workers with the YOS to have reflective supervision that explores casework and quality.</p> <p>All caseworkers will be signed up to new supervision agreements.</p> <p>Monitoring of the QA of cases and review of gaps in service provision or poor practice.</p>	<p>April 13</p> <p>April 13</p> <p>End March 13</p>

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CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 49

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Family Group Conference Review Proposals
Date of Meeting: 12th November 2012
Report of: Interim Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Name: Rosalind Turner Tel: 29-5511
Email: Rosalind.turner@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Key Decision: Yes
Ward(s) affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Family Group Conferences are an internationally recognised and evidence-based method of family based decision making for children and young people in crisis where a plan needs to be made for their welfare. They are now required under the Public Law Outline, the legal procedure to be followed when considering whether children should be brought into the care of the local authority.
- 1.2 Brighton & Hove have had Family Group Conferences provided by a specialist independent provider since October 2002. Family Group Conferences aim to divert children and young people from public care and maintain them within their families and communities. This is a key objective in improving outcomes for children and young people, and the Value for Money programme in Children's Services.
- 1.3 This report provides information and options for the future delivery of Family Group Conferences for decision by the Children and Young People's Committee

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That CYP Committee consider the financial and comparative information between the current outsourced arrangement for Family Group Conferences, against the financial and comparative information on the provision of an in-house service, alongside demand and quality indicators, discussions with other services across the local authority, and further information from the current provider (**See Appendix 1**)
- 2.2 Committee should then resolve either to retender the service to external providers on the current financial allocation, with the Director of Children's Services having delegated authority to determine the outcome of the tender, **or;**

2.4 Transfer the coordination and provision of Family Group Conferences to a managed service with the local authority Children and Families service, which can then respond to the current and future demand.

2.5 Once the decision of the Committee is known, a timetable will be developed to ensure continuity of provision.

3. CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 Following a review of programmes funded by the Early Intervention Grant in 2011, a recommendation was made that there should be a new tender process for provision of Family Group Conferences in Brighton & Hove to ensure value for money and that the service was fit for future purpose. Approval was secured for this at the Cabinet Member meeting on March 5th 2012, with the minutes noting that the option of providing Family Group Conferences in-house through the local authority to be fully considered before making final decisions.

3.2 Following this decision, further research was carried out to determine the best and most cost effective way to deliver a future service. The outcome of this review was a proposal, presented to Children and Young People's Committee on 15th October 2012, to bring support and coordination for Family Group Conferences into direct management and delivery through Brighton and Hove Council's Children's Services.

3.3 At the 15th October CYP Committee, an in-principle decision was taken to proceed with an in house service. This was subsequently called in to Health and Well-Being Overview Scrutiny Committee on 24th October, on the basis that there was insufficient financial and comparative information to enable an informed decision to be taken on the future arrangements for Family Group Conferences in Brighton and Hove.

3.4 The Scrutiny Committee agreed with the points made, and have referred the issue back to this meeting of the Children and Young People's Committee with a request for more detailed financial and comparative information to be provided, and that unless commercially sensitive, the report should be open to the public.

3.5 Further work has been done on itemising the current costs of FGC provision, and a financial breakdown of what could be delivered in house, alongside potential volumes and quality standards for the service. There has also been contact with the current provider who have provided more information, and have made a proposal for further efficiencies in the current delivery. This additional information has been added to the report below.

3.6 Initial conversations have been held with service managers across Children's Services, with the Stronger Families, Stronger Communities Programme, and with adult services, about whether there is potentially more demand and better value for money if the current delivery was enhanced through combining current resources. This can be explored further, no matter which delivery model is decided upon.

4. Background information

- 4.1 **Family Group Conferences (FGCs):** Family Group Conferences originated in New Zealand where they have been used since the 1970s. They are now used in many local authorities as part of the legal process in child welfare, and have considerable benefits in working with children and families to find family based solutions:
- to keep children safe by preventing the occurrence and re-occurrence of child abuse and neglect;
 - to include family members in the creation of their own plan, increasing their motivation and facilitating implementation of actual services provided for children and their families;
 - to strengthen and extend the support networks within and around the family;
 - to increase the number of children and youth living safely with immediate or extended family or friends;
 - to develop plans for children in care which are supported by extended family and significant people in the child or youth's life; and,
 - to divert cases from court thereby reducing delays in decision making
- 4.2 Provision for Family Group Conferences (FGCs) in Brighton and Hove was first tendered In 2002, A specialist voluntary agency called Daybreak was awarded the contract and has been providing the service continuously since then. Daybreak also provide FGC's for a number of other local authorities including Hampshire and Bournemouth and Poole.
- 4.3 Provision of FGC's in Brighton and Hove is overseen by a small multi agency steering group, there is quarterly activity and financial monitoring with an annual report. The latest annual report for 2011/12 and the latest quarterly monitoring report are attached as **Appendix 2 and 3.**
- 4.4 During the ten years in which the project has been operating a number of changes have been made including widening out the age range to include all children and young people from 0-18 including unborn babies. The project now takes 93+ referrals a year. In 2010-11 this related to 177 children, 54% of whom were under 5 years. The focus of Family Group Conferences is to make robust plans for children and young people who are at risk of coming into the care system. This group of children and young people are a key focus of the Value for Money programme in Children's Services to improve outcomes for them, and to reduce the high cost of placing children away from their families.

4.5 Outcomes from Family Group Conferences are positive. For example in 2010-11, of the 44 children in Brighton and Hove referred because of a request for Local Authority accommodation, 43 children (97%) remained living or were placed with either their immediate or extended family. In addition, 97% of children who were in Local authority care when referred had plans agreed for them to return to live within their families.

5. Service Review

5.1 The Review of Family Group Conference provision was carried out by the Head of Schools and Communities, the contract manager, supported by the Children and Families Commissioning Team. It was identified that there are two main mechanisms for provision of Family Group Conferences:

- Commissioned model where FGCs are delivered by an external provider
- Provided by an in house team based in the local authority

5.2 The Family Rights Group who act as the major coordinating body for information about FGC's lists 18 projects providing FGC services for 18 local authorities in the South East. A current check of their website shows that in this area, 15 local authorities provided FGC's in house, 1 was a private provider and 4 were provided by Voluntary or Community sector agencies, including the project in Brighton and Hove, with some working in addition to local authority provision. This means that over 80% of FGC services in this area are now provided for in house by the local authority, with an increasing number having taken this decision, indicating that there are likely cost benefits and service advantages to local authorities to bringing an FGC service in house.

5.3 Comparison with another Local Authority

A detailed comparison was undertaken during the review between one in house FGC project within a neighbouring local authority and the Brighton & Hove Project. The table below outlines the cost comparisons with the two types of service. The comparator local authority is a large county so the travel costs would be considerably more. This local authority employs coordinators who are expected to average about 30 referrals a year.

Local Authority	Type of Provider	Staffing	Overall cost	Number of referrals per year	Unit cost per FGC
Brighton & Hove	Voluntary sector specialist provider	Sessional coordinators	£182, 500	93	£1,962
Comparator LA	In house team	6.7 FTE employed coordinators	£298,000	200	£1,490

5.4 The opportunity to gather additional detailed information from other Local Authorities during the review was limited, with concerns about commercial

confidence, and the difficulty of like-for-like comparisons. For example, information was obtained from another unitary authority in the South East, which has recently gone out to Tender and appointed a Voluntary Sector Provider to deliver FGC's. Reports submitted by the Council identified the advantage of an in house process as being flexibility and accountability, but in this case the most significant disadvantage was cost, as the in house model was judged to be more expensive. Further examination showed this Council was also commissioning FGC's for Adults and provision of Advocacy as part of the Tender process. In Brighton & Hove Advocacy for FGC's is already provided by an in house service and adult services are not currently included in the specification. Specific unit costs of the relevant models were not provided so it is difficult to make accurate comparisons.

5.5 Pressures on Current FGC Service

The current budget buys provision of 93 FGC's a year. Over the last few years there has been increased demand for the service and this has led to the need to find solutions to this pressure. This has required both spot purchasing of FGC's by the Social Work service, affecting social work resources and also tightening criteria for referral which has meant that FGC's are only offered to high end Child in Need cases for example when they could have a more preventative role.

5.5 This year the rate of referral has been very high with half the year's allocation of FGC's used within the first four months of the year. The current provider made efficiencies during 2011/12 to respond to an addition 15 referrals for FGC's. Of the 108 referrals so far in 2012, 87 (80.5%) went on to have an initial FGC. Of these, 51 (58.6%) went on to have a review so 138 family group meetings were held in total. The provider has agreed to accept 105 referrals during 2012/13 for the same funding. However, this pressure indicates a longer term issue with the current arrangements.

5.6 Recent reports indicate that there is only capacity for a further 18 referrals for the rest of the financial year, which means tight prioritisation during January to March 2013, unless additional resources will have to be found to pay for spot purchasing.

5.7 On the basis of cautious comparative cost indicators, based on the above example, the initial review indicated that Brighton & Hove could provide a higher number of FGCs than the current contract provides if an in house model was used. This would enable not only high end Child in Need cases to have an FGC. This would support the VfM prevention outcomes of stopping situations escalating, maintaining children safely in their families and communities and preventing children ending up in care.

5.8 Subsequently, the potential cost and outcome analysis has been shared with the current provider, who has offered to make management efficiencies to increase the number of referrals which can be taken and managed through Family Group Conferences. This is not currently a contract proposal, but if it were to become so, and indeed was further tested on the open market, it would deliver a lower unit cost than the one currently contracted, and would match and possibly exceed the unit cost of an in-house service.

LA	Overall budget	Number of referrals per	Estimated Unit cost
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		year	
Brighton & Hove	£182,500	130	£1,400
Daybreak offer of further efficiencies	£182,500	135	£1,352

A more detailed breakdown of costs between the current contracted provision and a potential in-house services is provided as **Annex 3**.

5.9 Quality Assurance and Independence

An important issue in successful FGC practice is that it is an independent process and there is a clear separation between the social work decision making and the Family Group Conference. The in house providers surveyed for the review had established clear mechanisms that successfully achieved this. For example: in house FGC practitioners did not carry case responsibility, make social work decisions and were located separately from the social work teams. This provided the clear separation that family members needed. In the experience of the Local Authorities consulted, the fact that the FGC service was provided by the Local Authority rather than an independent provider had not caused any difficulties or created any barriers for families in accessing the service. Clearly this would have to be tested with service users and their advocates if the Brighton and Hove Service were to be brought in house.

5.10 Principles and Standards

The Family Rights Group has recently published a Framework of Practice Principles and Standards for Family Group Conferences in the UK that are out to consultation. The Family Rights Group is an independent organisation that has a national role in promoting and supporting Family Group Conferences and hosts the National Family Group Conference Network. The Family Rights Group have been funded by the Department of Education to develop the FGC Framework and the standards apply to all FGC projects whether they are in house or in the voluntary or private sector. It is proposed that Brighton & Hove adopt these standards for FGC's in Brighton & Hove. Independence and neutrality are key principles within the standards framework and the Family Rights Group are also developing an accreditation process which we would propose to use for the Brighton & Hove FGC project. Adoption of the Framework would ensure that FGC provision in the city would be independent and neutral whichever model is used.

5.11 There are no reported quality issues with the current provider, and in fact they have shown flexibility in responding to increasing pressure for additional Family Group Conferences. They also have considerable expertise in covering specialist areas including Domestic Violence and Mental Health.

5.12 Providing the service in-house could mean advantages to the care pathways for children, as social work practitioners would be more closely connected to the process of referral, engaging with the children and families, and working together on improved outcomes. This complements the on-going transformation of social work practice which has led to earlier intervention and support, focused child in

need planning, reducing numbers of child protection plans and reducing numbers coming into the care system.

- 5.13 The initial review concluded that there were significant advantages of an in house model. These include the Local authority having more control over the provision of the service thus making it easier to control quality, better targeting of the service to meet local needs and priorities and embedding the process in daily practice in the social work teams.
- 5.14 The review did indicate some possible disadvantages. A voluntary organisation can apply for and possibly attract additional charitable income. Daybreak employs sessional workers which does allow greater flexibility in matching the FGC coordinator to the families culture or ethnicity.

6. Tendering Process

- 6.1 The advice of the Commissioning and Procurement teams is that the current contract cannot simply be extended again. The current contract has been in place for 10 years, and requires significant updating. The choice is either to move to in house provision, which does not require a tender process, or to develop a full re-tendering process. In consultation with the Strategic Commissioner, an estimate has been made of the costs of a tender process, including officer time which would be £10,500.
- 6.2 A tendering process would require a re-specification, an invitation to tender to various organisations. Best practice indicates there should be involvement of young people and families in contributing to the specification and assessing the bids. The process would take 6 months, at least, and would need to be built into the costed work programme of the Commissioning and Procurement teams and the Service Delivery Unit.
- 6.3 If the Children and Young People's committee decides to proceed with a retendering, consideration will be given to extending the remit of the contract to include a wider range of services, possibly including adult services, if resources can be redirected to this purpose. It is recommended that the Director of Children's Services be given delegated authority to determine the outcome of the tender, with the Director of Adult Services if they wish to join the contract.

7. Development of an in-house Family Group Conference service

- 7.1 It is anticipated that an in-house project would require a part-time senior coordinator, 4fte FGC coordinators and a part time administrator. With this level of managed service, it would be possible to provide overall management for the project within the existing service arrangements. Subject to further discussion with service managers, consideration would be given to locating the project within the Family & Friends team within the Fostering & Adoption service as there are strong connections between the two and they would complement the recently agreed Family First policy agreed by the Corporate Parenting Board. The Family & Friends team has high satisfaction ratings from parents and carers using the service. TUPE may apply to staff employed by the current provider.

- 7.2 If CYP Committee agrees to transfer the service in house, a timetable would need to be developed and costs allocated for recruitment and service development. The contract requires three months notice to the current provider, and the aim would be to develop an in-house service by April 2013.
- 7.3 A business case would be completed to be submitted to the VfM Prevention Workstream to provide the small amount of start up cost on a spend to save basis. It is recommended that a short life group is set up to manage the setting up of the project.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The current provider and steering group partners are aware of the review. There has not been any further community engagement until CYP Committee decide next steps.

9.FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

- 9.1 The financial information relating to current and estimated future costs of services presented in the report and in appendix 3 are accurate. All options identified in the recommendations would result in improvements in efficiency and value for money for the council. The likely costs of a retendering exercise or provision of capital and set up costs if the service is brought in-house would need to be fully explored and funding identified from within the existing resources available. This service is a key element in the children's services prevention strategy, which is vital to the continued success of the Value For Money programme.

Finance Officer Consulted: Name David Ellis Date: 10.12.12

Legal Implications:

- 9.2 Family Group Conferences are required under the Public Law Outline. Any provision in Brighton & Hove would need to comply with this requirement. In addition the use of Family Group Conferences play a role in the requirement for the Local Authority to consider and ensure compliance with the Human Rights Act 1998; in particular Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights – The Right to Family Life.

These services are classified as Part B services for the purposes of the Procurement Rules. As such, if the service is not brought in house, the requirements will be 'light touch' with a general obligation for the process followed in letting a contract to be 'fair and transparent and non discriminatory'

Contract Standing Orders provide that contracts of this type must be procured in accordance with Procurement Rules, and must demonstrate obtaining value for money, but are otherwise exempt from the requirement to obtain a specified number of tenders.

There is no need to tender for the service if the decision is to bring it in house, however this could amount to a relevant transfer for the purposes of TUPE. In such a case, staff currently working for the existing contractor would be eligible to transfer to the Council on their existing (or broadly comparable) terms and conditions.

Lawyers Consulted: Sandra O'Brien & Jill Whittaker

Date: 21.12.12

Equalities Implications:

- 9.3 FGC's support the care of vulnerable children within their own families and within all the diverse communities of Brighton & Hove. Provision of Advocacy supports children and young people in voicing their views in the FGC process and Advocacy is also provided for vulnerable adults. Wherever possible FGC's take place in a family's own language and coordinators are matched to the family in terms of culture and language. Family Group Conferences are an empowering process whereby families are fully involved in making decisions for their children and the resources of the extended family and community are engaged in supporting some of the most vulnerable children in the city.

Sustainability Implications:

- 9.4 Family Group Conferences improve a sense of community and support the capacity of the community to support themselves through an empowering family centred decision making process.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 9.5 Family Group Conferences can be used in situations where young people are offending or are at risk of offending and therefore are a positive tool in preventing or reducing crime and disorder.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 9.6 Risks relevant to the process and continuity of provision will be addressed and appropriate advice and guidance will be sought.

Public Health Implications:

- 9.7 Family Group Conferences support wider health and wellbeing through engaging and involving vulnerable children and families in making crucial decisions about their lives, promoting self efficacy.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 9.8 These proposals support the corporate objectives of tackling inequality and engaging people who live in the city. Family Group Conferences are an empowering process whereby families are fully involved in making decisions for their children and the resources of the extended family and community are engaged in supporting some of the most vulnerable children in the city. Family Group Conferences have proven that they can prevent children coming into the

care system and help maintain them in their families and communities. The process also addresses the corporate Value for Money objectives.

9. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 10.1 The options in relation to a full tender process or of providing Family Group Conferences in house through the local authority have been fully set out in this report.

10. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To maintain children and young people at home in their families and communities wherever this is safe and in the best interests of the child or young person, utilising the resources and support of local families and communities through ensuring best value provision of Family Group Conferences in the city over the next two years, either through the transfer of the service in house, or through a retendering exercise, possibly incorporating additional requirements from other services across the council.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. 2011/12 Annual report of Family Group Conference provision in Brighton and Hove by Daybreak.
2. The quarterly monitoring report for FGCs to October 2012
3. Breakdown of costs of current contract and possible in-house provision of Family Group Conferences

Rosalind Turner
Interim Head of Children and Families Delivery Unit
01273 295511
rosalind.turner@brighton-hove.gov.uk



Brighton & Hove

Family Group Conference Project



Annual report

2011-2012

Executive Summary



- **42 (98%) of children identified by the referring social worker as at risk of accommodation had an agreed plan to divert from such care.**
- **This is estimated to have made potential savings of £1,176,000.** This figure uses the base line cost of £28,000 per year for a child in care, as in the Loughborough University cost calculator, a formulae utilised by 15 Local Authorities in the UK. This is not an exact science, but has some academic and practical credibility.
- **21 (95%) of children in care had a plan made by their family and agreed with the referring social worker to reintegrate them into their extended family, therefore making savings whilst enhancing outcomes for children.**
- **28 children for whom court proceedings were being considered had a FGC plan that was agreed with the referring social worker.** Timely Family group Conference referrals have helped reduce the need for court applications by providing alternate planning. Alternate planning done in conjunction with the family has reduced the number of contested court proceedings which has reduced the length of time cases remain within the court system. The Review of Child Care proceedings (2006) estimated that for each child each care proceeding cost an average of £25,000. We believe that these successful FGC meetings also enabled substantial savings to be made.
- **80% progression from referral to first FGC meeting.** The project has continued to show an improvement in its service delivery and this year an impressive 80% of our referrals has gone on to have an initial FGC. It is important for commissioners of service to be assured that referrals will have a high level of success in progressing to meetings, to maximise best use of resources, and best outcomes for children.

We believe that Daybreak has been able to achieve these very positive outcomes because of the specialist and expert service we can provide, as an independent charity focused entirely on family group conferences. All our staff are highly knowledgeable and skilled in work with FGCs, and this can maximise successful outcomes.

We have also been reminded recently of the importance of an independent service by a referral concerning a mother and 3 children, where relationships with the Local Authority had resulted in the family only agreeing to work with an independent

Appendix 1

agency. Although not characteristic of most referrals, this is an advantage in some situations, and can achieve positive results impossible in another context.

Appendix 1



Outputs

	Number	Conversion %
Agreed number of referrals in contract to accept this financial year	93	
Actual number of referrals accepted	108	
Number of initial meetings convened	87	81%
Number of review meetings convened	51	59%
Number of referrals not progressing to a meeting	21	19%
Total number of meetings held	138	

We continue to see a rise in the conversion rate of referrals into conferences, which is up 4% on last year to an impressive 81%. We also have a 35 increase in the number of Initial meeting which have a review. I believe this is a reflection on the close working relationship between local social work teams and Daybreak, which has ensured referrals made are appropriate and that social workers have been able to gain informed consent from families for making the referral. Nearly 50% of initial FGCs go on to have a review, which is a good indication that families as well as social workers find the FGC process a useful tool in making decisions and plans for the care and protection of children.

19% of referrals did not go on to have a FGC and the reasons given are as follows:

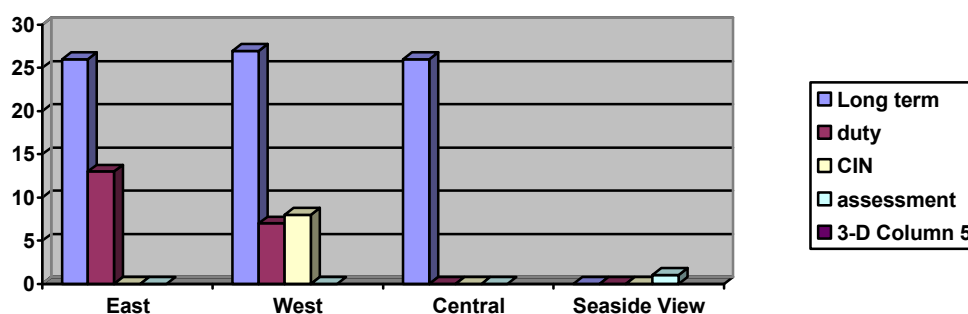
	Number	%
Family decided not to go ahead	8	38%
Referrer decided not to proceed with the referral	5	24%
Family resolved the situation prior to meeting	5	24%
Key family member wouldn't engage with process	3	14%
Total	21	

While families originally agree to the referral being made, once they learn more about the process they may decide that a FGC is not right for them or they manage to resolve the situation during the preparation period. The reasons given by family members for not proceeding include key family member being ill, family organising support before FGC, and parents separating during preparation period. Reason given by social workers for not proceeding includes a change in family circumstances and family reaching contract agreement prior to FGC.

Appendix 1

Referral information

Referring teams



We have received referrals at a fairly even spread from the teams.

Children referred

Ages

In total 169 children were referred for a family group conference this year of which 143 went on to have a FGC. The age ranges of the children referred were:



Unborn: 16 (9%) 0-5 years: 76 (46%) 6-13years: 61 (36%) 14+: 16 (9%)

In line with previous years the largest number of children referred are ages 5 and under, while there has been a slight increase the number of unborn babies referred. These age groups account for 54% of our referrals.

Ethnicity

Similar to previous years the majority of children referred were white British (82%), while the remaining 18% were of dual heritage background.

Appendix 1

Legal status

Supervision order	4
CIN	3
ICO	16
Directed by court	1
Special guardianship	7
Residence order	2
Contact order	1
Police protection order	3
Interim residence	1
Family assistance order	2
CP plan:	93
neglect	61
emotional	14
physical	12
sexual	6

55% of children referred are on a Child protection plan. This indicates that in line with government policy FGCs are being used as a tool to reduce the number of children on CP plans, and to reduce the length of time they stay on CP plans.

Special needs/issues in the family identified on the referral form

	Parent	Child
Substance misuse	43	3
mental health	27	6
Physical disability	6	8
Learning disability	21	6
Offending	1	1
Young carer	0	1
Contact issues	0	6
Domestic abuse	25	34
Special educational needs	0	4
Mum under 16 years	2	0

Substance misuse amongst parents as well as mental health issues continue to be raised as a concern in FGC referrals along with domestic abuse. However this year we have seen a significant increase in the number of parents with learning disabilities being referred. Last year we had 1 parent referred while this year 21 parents identified as having a learning disability. This increase follows the national debate about providing parents with learning disability with support in order to enable them to parent their children.

Appendix 1



Care givers at the time of referral

Care giver	No of children
Mum	57
Dad	6
Parents	34
LAC	24
Grandparents	22
Aunt	7
Sister	2
Stepdad	1
unborn	16

57% of children (incl unborn babies) referred lived with one or both parents, while 19% lived with extended family and 24% lived in Local Authority Care. This breakdown in care givers is similar to that of previous years.



FGC outcomes

Of the 169 children referred 143 had a FGC meeting and of those 93 children had a review FGC meeting.

Concerns addressed at the FGC

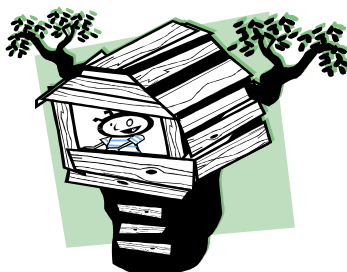
Concern	No of children	No of children for whom concerns were addressed in plan	%
Children for whom physical and/or emotional health was a concern	123	122	99%
Children for whom safety was a concern	100	100	100%
Children affected by Domestic Abuse	21	11	52%
children for whom school attendance or behaviour was a concern	21	16	76%
Children referred because court proceedings were being considered	28		

Appendix 1

All plans were accepted by the referring social worker as being safe and addressing agency concerns regarding safety and the physical and emotional wellbeing of children. Many domestic abuse concerns were historical, but where current they were addressed in the families plan.

Having a clear plan that is owned by all parties will improve the outcome for children and their families and hopefully reduce the need for expensive court applications.

Care of children



Number of children deemed to be at risk of family breakdown or had a request for LAC	43	
How many of these had a plan to remain or be placed within their immediate or extended family	42	98%
Number of children living in LAC	22	
How many of children already living in LAC had a plan to return to live with immediate or extended family	21	95%

Many of our referrals were for children who were at risk of becoming looked after or who were already looked after by the local Authority. Family Group Conferences has been successful in deflecting children from care by the early identification of support, and if necessary, of alternate carers. This has not only improved the outcome for children but has also potentially reduced placement costs and the costs of court applications. Family group Conferences has also been successful in identifying alternate carers which has enabled looked after children to be reunified with their immediate or extended family.

All parties agreeing plans and where necessary identifying alternate carers should also reduce the number of contested court applications as well as reduce the length of time cases spend in court. It may also reduce the number of court procedures where the court finds against the Local Authority.



Participation

Children and young people

Daybreak works hard at developing children and young people’s sense of belonging by encouraging them to contribute to plans about their own safety and well being. In Brighton & Hove the majority of children age 5 and above attended their meeting and were able to contribute to plans being made for their welfare.

Number of children who attended their initial FGC meeting	71
Number of children who attended their review FGC meeting	41
Number of children who did not attend for the following reasons:	
Parental decision	32
Under the age of 5	47
Did not wish to take part	19
Social workers decision	14
Other (unwell)	3
Unborn	9

Support

Number of children who did not attend their meeting who had their views brought by other means such as advocate or letter	30
How many children were supported by a professional advocate	30
How many children were supported by a designated and prepared support person.	13
How many other people were supported by an advocate or designated and prepared support person	11

Daybreak is committed to ensuring that children, young people and vulnerable adults are properly prepared and supported during the FGC process. 74% of children over the age of 5 who attended their meeting were supported by an advocate or a prepared support person, while 86% of children over the age of 5 who did not attend their meeting had their views brought to the meeting.

Family members.

Appendix 1

A total of 831 family members attended the 138 meeting making an average of 6 family members per meeting. Of these 11 key family members were supported by a professional advocate during the meeting. This is some of the things family members said about their meeting:

“The child is safer because the family’s views were listened to”

“The FGC was linked to the Children Act principle of “children are better off in the family” and was delivered independently of social services which was great”

“ It was good the child came and to hear their view”

Service providers

262 service providers attended the meetings making an average of 2 per meeting. This is what some social workers had to say:

“The coordinators contact with the extended family enabled us to identify potential carers for the child”

“Without a FGC I suspect we would have had contested proceedings with all the stress and expense involved”

“It brought the two sides of the family together to make a joint plan”



Reviews

We normally hold a review meeting between 6 and 12 weeks after the initial FGC. At the review meeting we ask all participants how things have been since the initial meeting. Our feedback forms show that things have started to improve for families following their FGC.

	Better	The same	Less good
The safety of the children has been	77%	23%	0%
The support from the extended family has been	77%	23%	0%
The support from service providers has been	56%	46%	0%
The child’s contact with key family members has been	58%	42%	0%
The children’s attendance/behaviour at school (where applicable) has been	74%	26%	0%
The leisure and social activities of the child has been	71%	29%	0%

Appendix 1

The physical and emotional health of the child has been	75%	25%	0%
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At the review it was deemed by all participants that the safety of 77% of children for whom safety was a concern had improved and that the physical and emotional health had improved for 75% of children. This underpins the notion that with the right information families are able to keep their children safe. While for some children things were the same as before, no children were worse of following their FGC.

Case studies

R/BRI/12/108: This case study illustrates that a FGC meeting can successfully identify a safe and wide ranging plan for a baby to remain within its extended family, and divert from care of the Local Authority. It also illustrates that FGCs are successful in working in the context of learning disability and substance misuse.

The referral was for an unborn baby. Mum has learning disabilities and the father has long standing substance misuse issues. Mum has had 2 previous children removed and had been assessed as unable to care for this new baby.

The FGC was to identify alternate carers for the baby and how this could be supported.

The family identified the maternal grandmother as a carer and developed a plan of support for her that included managing contact with the baby's mum. This plan was accepted by the department.

Category of referral: Child protection and PLO.

R/BRI/12/98: This case study illustrates that a FGC meeting can enable a family to plan for the safe return of a child from care, and also to make a back up plan if this first plan was unsuccessful.

The referral was for a baby who had been removed from his parents and placed in LAC on an ICO following a non accidental injury. The aim of the conference was to identify support for the parents should the baby return home and to identify alternate carers should the baby not be able to return home.

At the FGC the family devised a detailed plan of support should the baby return to the care of his parents. The family also identified the paternal grandparents as alternate carers for the baby should he not be able to return to the care of the baby.

Category of referral: Child protection and PLO

Appendix 1

R/BRI/12/86: This case study illustrates that a FGC meeting can successfully plan for the reunification of a child from the care of the Local Authority to within the extended family network.

The referral was for a boy aged 5 who had been placed in LAC on an ICO for the 2nd time in 2 years due to Mum placing him at harm by having contact with a dangerous ex-partner and by having a substance misuse habit.

The purpose of the FGC was to identify alternate carers for the boy. A large number of family and friends attended the FGC including the boy's mother. The paternal grandmother and an uncle & aunt were identified as alternate carer's and at the time of the review the paternal grandmother was being assessed.

Category of referral: PLO and reunification from care



Progress report

April – November 2012

Number of referral agreed for the year in the contract	93	
Number of referrals agreed for the year with steering group	105	
Number of referrals received	78	
Number of initial FGC meetings	53	83%
Number of review meetings	12	23%
Number of no conferences	11	
Open referrals	14	

With 5 month till the end of the financial year it looks like we are again going to be faced with a situation of demand outstripping the supply of available referrals. This situation needs to be reviewed early in the new year. The conversion rate of referrals into FGCs continues to be high which indicates that referrals are appropriate and timely. While the number of reviews appears low it is because many referrals have got reviews booking in for later in the year.

Link work

Alex, our senior FGC practitioner, goes into each team every 3-4 weeks to raise the profile of FGCs, discuss potential referrals and provide individual training. This system seems to work well for the department and ensures FGCs remain embedded in social work practice and that referrals are appropriate. She also attends team meetings every quarter.

We also have strong links with RISE and YAP. The RISE manager attended our practice development groups twice a year to discuss issues relating to domestic abuse, while YAP attends twice a year to discuss advocacy and participation.

Training

We are notified when a new social worker join the department and we make sure that we meet with them and talk to them about FGCs and how they are used in B&H. We also do short training sessions in teams to ensure everyone is up to date with current FGC practice and outcomes.

Accredited training

There is a drive nationally to ensure Family group conference coordinators are accredited to an agreed national standard. Daybreak is accredited by the open college network to provide accredited FGC coordinator training externally as well as internally. We are working towards all our coordinators being accredited within 3 years. Currently 6 of the 9 B&H coordinators as well as our senior practitioner are accredited.

Appendix 2

Student placement

We continue to have SW students on placement in our B&H project and we currently have a 2nd student from Winchester University on placement.

Added value

As an independent organisation Daybreak is often able to engage with families who have a difficult relationship with children's services. An example of this is a recent referral from the 16+ team for a young girl CJ. The relationship between this girl, who is a ward of court, and children's services has totally broken down. A FGC would only be possible if facilitated by an independent agency.

We are also able to visit families pre-referral if they or the social worker is not sure a FGC is appropriate for them. We discuss the FGC process and make sure the family is able to give informed consent for the referral.

Lis Gohrisch
FGC manager

6th November 2012

Costings document

3.1 Detailed financial breakdown of costings has been provided by the Commissioning team and finance. The costings model for an in-house service uses information from East Sussex County Council. Reference to another unitary authority in paragraph 3.11 of the part 1 report refers to Medway Council.

1. Breakdown of the costings of the current commissioned service including overheads.

Ref	Item	Amount £
1.	FGC meetings costs	58,148
2.	Salaries including on-costs	87,605
3.	Travel	3,950
4.	Training and development	2,000
5.	Office rent	6,192
6.	Office running costs	5,895
7.	Contribution to central office overheads	11,045
8.	Surplus for the year	7,665
	TOTAL	182,500

2. Estimated costs of BHCC in-house service

Ref	Item	Amount £
1.	Staffing – Senior Co-ordinator 0.5 FTE	17,400
2.	Staffing – Co-ordinators 4 FTE	118,500
3.	Admin 0.6 FTE	13,900
4.	Training	7,500
5.	Conference (venue etc)	10,000
6.	Travel	3,500
7.	Set up/office costs	5,000
	TOTAL	175,800

In addition to the above, 15% costs are estimated for overheads. However, as the proposal is to transfer to an existing team, these would be absorbed by the council, with no actual cost to the service. For the purpose of a full cost comparison, if the service had to contribute 15% overheads, the total cost would equate to £202,170.

3. Unit cost comparison:

Appendix 3

	Estimated number of conferences per year	Total costs £	Unit cost/conference £
Current Commissioned service	105	182,500	1,738
Offer of additional efficiencies from current provider	135	£182,500	£1.352
In-house service with notional overheads	130	202,170	1,555
In-house service without overheads	130	182,500	1,400

The in-house service is estimated to be more economical (10.5% if overheads are included and 22% if overheads are excluded, as would be the case) compared to commissioned service.

3.4 Detail of Tendering Costs

	Number of hours	Personnel concerned	Cost (£35 per hour)
Client consultation, specification design etc.	25	3	£2,625.00
Create public notice and advertise including writing to potential service providers	10	1	£350.00
PQQ design and creation	10	3	£1,050.00
PQQ distribution	5	1	£175.00
PQQ receipt, distribution	3	1	£105.00
PQQ assessment	10	4	£1,360.00
Create tender documents	10	3	£1,050.00
Distribute tender documents	4	1	£140.00
Respond to enquiries	5	1	£175.00
Opening ceremony	2	2	£140.00
Distribution of tenders to evaluation panel	5	1	£175.00
Tender evaluation	12	5	£2,100.00
Notification of decision	2	1	£70.00
Overheads			
Stationary/printing			£1,000.00
		Total	£10,515.00

Appendix 3

Subject:	Review of the Secondary Admission Process for 2014/15		
Date of Meeting:	14 January 2013		
Report of:	<i>Director of Children's Services</i>		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Gil Sweetenham	Tel: 29-3474
	E-mail:	Gil.sweetenham@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	Yes	Forward Plan Number CYP	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 The present Secondary School Admissions system was agreed at the full Council Meeting held on 27 February 2007.

1.2 At that meeting the following recommendations were agreed:

(4) That it be agreed that the new schools admission system be kept under review so that if necessary the catchment area boundaries could be adjusted after the first year of operation, in light of the pattern of preference and allocations in that year; and

(5) That as recommended by the Working Group, a review of the whole secondary schools admissions system in 2012 be approved.

1.4 In 2011, a cross party working group was set up to look at the availability of school places. This has proved a useful vehicle for seeking consensus in an area which can be very difficult for parents/carers and their children. In June 2012 the remit of the group was expanded to review the secondary schools admissions policy and relevant catchment areas.

1.5 This report details the results of this review, and recommends that no changes to the present Catchment areas be proposed for adoption for the academic year 2014/2015.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) That the Committee notes the summary details of the Review into the Secondary School Admissions process for Brighton & Hove and its particular focus on the delineation of Catchment areas .

(2) That the Committee agrees that no changes will be made to the existing Secondary Catchment areas for the academic year 2014/15.

- (3) That the Committee agrees that the cross party working group will continue to meet on a termly basis to monitor the impact of national and local changes related to Secondary Admissions. This will include the creation of new academies or free schools.
- (4) That the Committee agrees that the cross party working group will reform its stakeholder group as and when needed to consider proposals for any change beyond 2014/15.
- (5) That Committee notes that the Admissions Team will review its annual publications in the light of concerns over the 'equal preference' system and the continuing misunderstanding regarding parental 'choice'.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Each year local authorities are required by statute to consult upon school admission arrangements and school admission numbers with community schools and voluntary aided schools, neighbouring Local Authorities and with parents living in the City. This process includes the proposed admission priorities for community schools and those proposed by the governing bodies of voluntary aided schools and academies. The Council has carried out the required consultations on school admissions each year, however this Review was intended to be an additional wholesale review of the secondary admissions policy following the adoption of the new policy in 2007.
- 3.2 The annual consultation exercise carried out in 2012 identified concerns regarding the Patcham, Portslade and BACA catchment areas and this led to the changes for 2013 regarding Portslade and Dorothy Stringer/Varndean catchment areas being proposed and agreed.
- 3.3 Additionally an independent review of the Secondary Admissions process was commissioned by the Council through Cognisant Research in January 2012. A number of issues were raised at focus groups meetings in local primary schools and at public meetings. The findings of Cognisant Research require contributed to this review of the Secondary Admissions process.
- 3.4 Secondary school number projections identify the need for up to another 500 places by 2018/19. These may be provided through increasing existing schools or by providing entirely new schools. If a new school is to be provided this has to be as a free-school or academy. It was necessary in the review to consider where these schools are likely to be established and their potential impact on existing catchment areas.
- 3.5 The terms of the Review of the Secondary Admissions process were as follows:
 - Establish monthly meetings of the cross party working group to consider progress with the Review
 - Analyse the number projections for each catchment area between 2013/18
 - Identify possible new secondary school provision in the City
 - Model possible changes to catchment areas including potential new schools and identify those that ensure that catchment areas 'catch'

- Agree with the cross party working group consultation processes to ensure that the community, members and schools are fully informed regarding any proposed changes
 - Ensure that the implications of potential changes are fully detailed in the School Organisation Plan which is published annually
- 3.6 The cross party working group began meeting on 8th December 2011 and has continued to meet on a monthly basis. Following the Children and Young Peoples Committee of June 2012 it was agreed that the focus of this group would move from school place planning to that of the Secondary Admissions process and relevant catchment areas. Membership of the group was expanded to include two councillors from each of our local political parties.
- 3.7 The Cross Party group agreed that the present process for Secondary Admissions involving designated catchment areas and the use of random allocation as a 'tie-breaker' should continue. This system, although controversial at its inception, is now well understood by parents and has led to a significant reduction in directed school places in the last four years.
- 3.8 The national change to an equal preference system replacing the 'first preference first' system is still not universally recognised and is further confused by the publication of first preference data and frequent references to parental 'choice'. As these are dictated by the national agenda they cannot be changed by the Council. However members of the working group felt that we should review the admissions booklet, website and any other published material to better explain the change to the preference model and amplify the fact that parents can express preferences rather than have a 'choice' of secondary school for their children. This will be done as part of the annual review of published admissions details.
- 3.9 The Cross Party Group also felt that further focussed work should be carried regarding the delineation of catchment areas.
- 3.10 To do this the cross party working group agreed the introduction of a stakeholder group which included a representative from each of the secondary schools in the City. The group included a Headteacher, assistant heads, bursars, and Chairs of Governors. The group was supported by a team of four officers. The Stakeholder group met on three occasions beginning on 23rd October 2012 with members of the cross party group attending the final two meetings.
- 3.11 Officers visited each of the secondary schools in September/October and met with Headteachers and their Governor Representative to garner their views regarding any potential catchment area changes for 2014/15.
- 3.12 Both the cross party and stakeholder groups were presented with number projections for each catchment area between 2013/18. Both groups received Officers reports on their visits to individual schools.
- 3.13 It was concluded that there were four possible catchment area changes being requested by individual schools. Patcham, PACA, BACA and Longhill were all keen to have their catchment areas expanded.

- 3.14 Following discussion with members and school representatives, Officers modelled a range of changes and their associated permutations. These were presented to the groups alongside amended figures identifying potential student numbers in each postcode area and relevant trend data.
- 3.15 Both groups also considered the introduction of King's Church of England School, a Secondary Christian Freeschool, and its likely impact on projected pupil numbers and existing catchment areas. This was seen as the biggest unknown and in the absence of trend data for King's Church of England School intake was seen as a key concern in the immediate future.
- 3.16 Having looked in detail at this array of information and having set these against the potential impact of a range of catchment area changes and the introduction of Kings School, both groups recommended no change for 2014/15.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Review of Secondary School Admissions for 2014/15 included consultation with the cross party working group, with headteachers and their governor representative, and with a stakeholder group comprising of a representative from each secondary school in the City and King' Church of England School.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1.1 It is not possible to quantify in detail the financial implications of these recommendations. However, any changes to admission arrangements or patterns may impact on the numbers of pupils at individual schools and therefore individual school budget allocations which are largely driven by pupil numbers.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis

Date: 20 December 2012

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 Any admissions policy adopted by the Council must comply with the requirements contained in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, and in the School Admissions Code 2012. In carrying out the Review the working group has also been mindful of the need to ensure that it fulfils its statutory duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to secure that there are sufficient school places in the City.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 3 January 2013

- 5.3 Equalities Implications:

Planning and consultation for school admissions procedures and school places and the operation of the admission process are conducted in such a way as to avoid potentially discriminatory admissions priorities or planning processes. The city council and voluntary aided school and academy governing bodies must be mindful of bad practice with regard to equalities issues as described in the School Admissions Code of Practice.

- 5.4 Sustainability Implications:

School admission arrangements are intended so far as it is possible to provide pupils with local places where they have asked for them. The planning of school places for the City takes into account the changing population pattern and resultant demand for places. The current pattern of parental preference is reflected in different schools operating both over and under capacity. In planning for school places the Council will have regard to sustainability priorities and seek to provide local places and places which are accessible by safe walking and where possible cycling routes and public transport wherever this is possible.

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

Balanced school communities with firm parental support contribute to orderly and harmonious communities.

5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

Any change to school attendance patterns and pupil numbers will impact directly on resource allocation both revenue and capital, and on the Council's ability to meet parental expectations on school places. Pupil data and broader population data is used to identify the numbers of school places required and where they should be located. This feeds into the capital programme so that resources are allocated where they will have the most beneficial effect.

5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

The allocation of school places affects all families in all parts of the City and can influence where people choose to live. Failure to obtain the desired choice of school can create a strong sense of grievance. The process of expressing a preference and if disappointed, entering an appeal can create intense anxiety for many families in the City. Admission arrangements together with school place planning are framed in such a way as to be mindful of supporting the needs of communities.

6. **EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):**

6.1 The cross party working group and the stakeholder group considered the introduction of King's Church of England School, a Secondary Christian Freeschool, and its likely impact on projected pupil numbers and existing catchment areas. This was seen as the biggest unknown and in the absence of trend data for King's Church of England School intake was seen as a key concern in the immediate future.

6.2 Having looked in detail at this array of information and having set these against the potential impact of a range of catchment area changes and the introduction of King's Church of England School, both groups recommended no change for 2014/15.

7. **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 The present Secondary School Admissions system was agreed at the Full Council Meeting held on 27 February 2007. At that meeting it was agreed that as recommended by the Working Group, **a review of the whole secondary schools admissions system in 2012** be approved.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. NONE

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. NONE

Background Documents

[List any background / supporting documents referred to or used in the compilation of the report. The documents must be made available to the public upon request for four years after the decision has been taken]

1. NONE