





Brighton & Hove
City Council

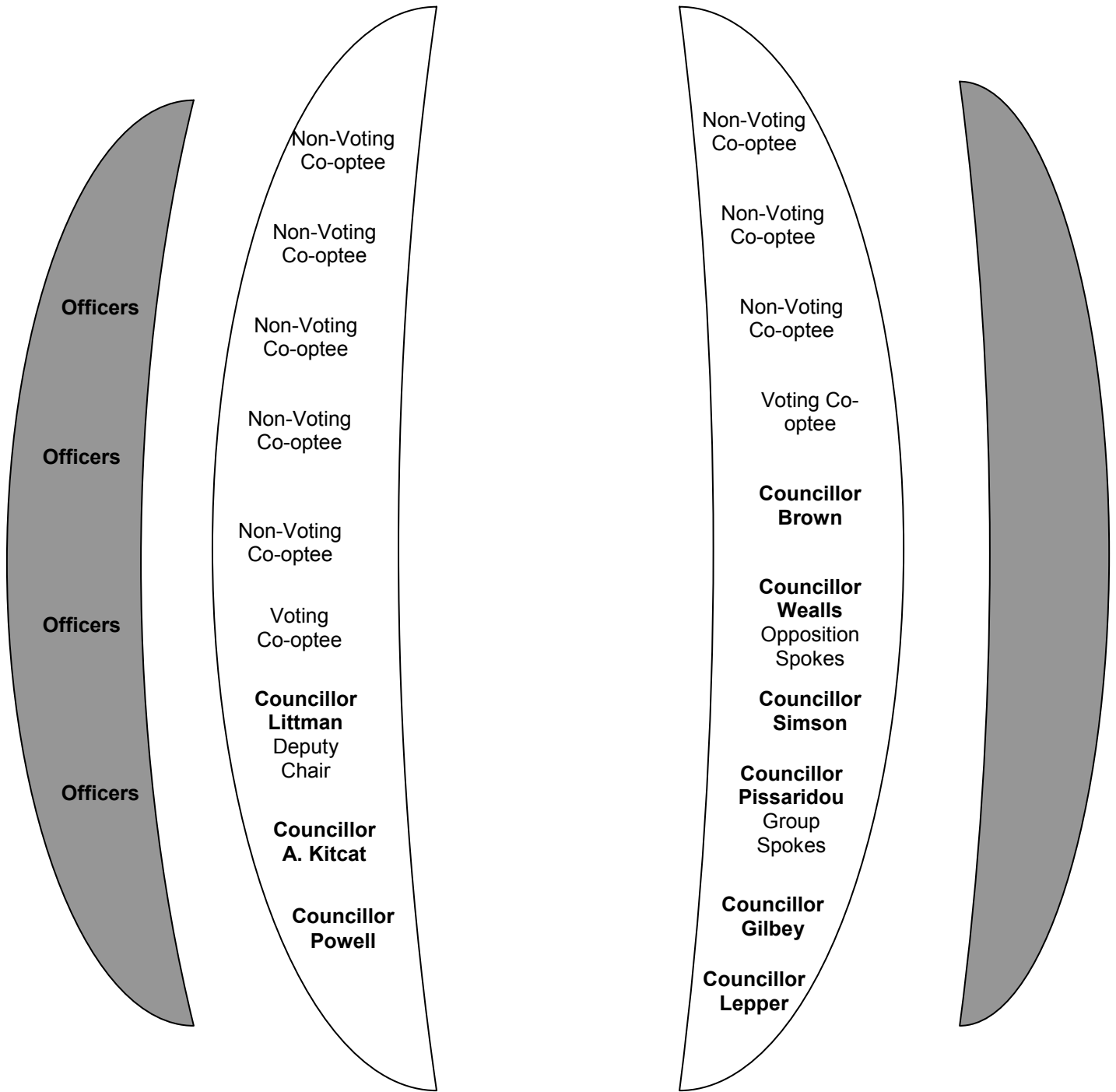
Children & Young People Committee

Title:	Children & Young People Committee
Date:	2 June 2014
Time:	4.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillors: Shanks (Chair), Littman (Deputy Chair), Wealls (Opposition Spokesperson), Pissaridou (Group Spokesperson), Brown, Gilbey, A Kitcat, Lepper, Powell and Simson
	Voting Co-opted Members: Amanda Mortensen (Parent Governor) and Marie Ryan (Catholic Diocese)
	Non-Voting Co-opted Members: Eleanor Davies (Parent Forum), Geraldine Hoban (Clinical Commissioning Group), Andrew Jeffrey (Parent Forum), Sue Sjuve (Sussex Community NHS Trust), Rachel Travers (Community Voluntary Sector Forum) and Youth Council Rep
Contact:	Ross Keatley Acting Democratic Services Manager 01273 291064 ross.keatley@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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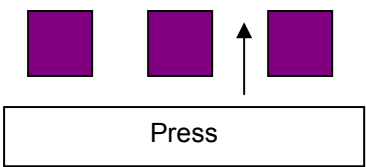
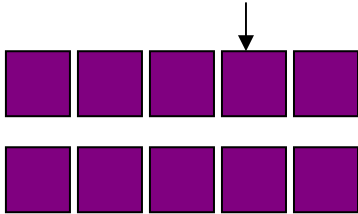
Democratic Services: Children & Young People Committee

ED of Children's Services	Councillor Shanks Chair	Legal Officer	Democratic Services Officer
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Presenting Officer & Public Speaker	Presenting Officer & Public Speaker
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Public Seating



AGENDA

1. 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.

2. MINUTES

1 - 16

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2014 (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Penny Jennings

Tel: 01273 291065

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE

3. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

4. CALL OVER

- (a) Items (8 - 14) 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.

5. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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;
- (b) **Written Questions:** to receive any questions submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 23 May 2014;
- (c) **Deputations:** to receive any deputations submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 23 May 2014.

5. 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.

7. BRIGHTON AND HOVE YOUTH COLLECTIVE - INNOVATIONS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES (PRESENTATION)

GENERAL MATTERS

The items listed below are to be voted on by the 10 Councillors on the Committee

8. BRIGHTON AND HOVE INTER-AGENCY THRESHOLD DOCUMENT FOR CHILDREN IN NEED 17 - 42

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

Contact Officer: Helen Gulvin Tel: 29-2804

Ward Affected: All Wards

9. EARLY HELP PATHWAY AND HUB 43 - 56

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

Contact Officer: Steve Barton Tel: 29-6105

Ward Affected: All Wards

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE

10. CONSULTATION ON CHARGING FOR SOME CHILDREN'S CENTRE SERVICES 57 - 62

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

Contact Officer: *Caroline Parker* Tel: 29-3587

Ward Affected: *All Wards*

11. BRIGHTON & HOVE YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGY 2014-2016 63 - 118

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

Contact Officer: *Steve Barton* Tel: 29-6105

Ward Affected: *All Wards*

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS

The items listed below are to be voted on by the 10 Councillors and the 4 Voting Co-Optees on the Committee.

12. HOVE PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL ACADEMY CONVERSION CONSULTATION 119 - 122

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

Contact Officer: *Jo Lyons* Tel: 293514

Ward Affected: *All Wards*

13. SEN ANNUAL REPORT AND PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SEN STRATEGY 123 - 142

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

Contact Officer: *Regan Delf* Tel: 29-3504

Ward Affected: *All Wards*

14. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) REVIEW 143 - 150

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

Contact Officer: *Regan Delf* Tel: 29-3504

Ward Affected: *All Wards*

15. SCHOOL OFSTED PRESENTATION

16. ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

To consider items to be submitted to the 17 July 2014 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.

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.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE

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

4.00pm 10 MARCH 2014

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

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

Non Voting Co-optees: Andrew Jeffery, Parent Forum, Ben Glazebrooke, Community Works/Voluntary Sector Forum, Graham Bartlett, Chair Local Safeguarding Children Board; Bethan Winstanley, Youth Council; Sue Sjuve, Sussex Community NHS Trust

PART ONE

64. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

64a Declaration of Substitutes

64.1 Councillor Bennett was present in substitution for Councillor Brown.

60(b) Declarations of interest

64.2 Councillor Wealls declared a non pecuniary personal interest in items on the agenda by virtue of his involvement in the Impact Initiative.

60(c) Exclusion of Press and Public

64.3 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ("the Act"), the Committee 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 business to be transacted or the nature of proceedings, that if members of the press and 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 100(I) of the Act).

64.4 **RESOLVED**- That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.

65. MINUTES

65.1 The Chair referred to an error in paragraph 52.2 of the minutes, Jennifer Gander a Senior Social Worker was the officer whose name should have been cited.

65.2 Councillor Wealls referred to the presentation given by representatives on behalf of the Youth Council stating that it would be helpful if Members could be given early notice of meeting dates and times as they had a number of commitments in their diaries tended to fill up very quickly.

62.3 Councillor Pissaridou stated that she would like to receive further information in relation to the level of subsidy in relation to school meals and it was agreed that this information would be provided to her as soon as possible.

65.4 **RESOLVED** – That subject to the amendment set out above in paragraph 65.1 above, the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13 January 2014 as a correct record.

66. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Visit to Royal Spa Nursery

66.1 The Chair reported that since the previous meeting of the Committee the opportunity had arisen to visit the Royal Spa Nursery.

PaCC Champions 2013

66.2 The Chair explained that in late 2013, PaCC had sought nominations from parents of children with special needs in Brighton & Hove for those who had made the biggest impact on their lives during 2013. The winners of the annual awards for 2013 had recently been announced; awards for professionals and volunteers, individuals or teams who did outstanding work with families of disabled children and young people and who had gone above the call of duty in the support they had given to them.

66.3 The Chair was pleased to be able to report that the following had been announced as PaCC Champions for 2013:

Education: Ollie Kendal, Senco and Teacher; Blatchington Mill School;

Social Care: Clare King, Youth Worker, Brighton & Hove City Council Youth Service

Apprenticeships - Update

66.4 The Chair stated that she was pleased to announce that since the last meeting of the Committee 15 new apprenticeship opportunities had been put into place using a targeted approach and 2-8 week work placement programme. This number was made up as follows:

- 6 x ICT;
- 2 x Legal Services;
- 1 X Democratic Services;
- 3 x ASC Assessment Services;
- 2 x. ASC Providers; and
- 1 x Seaside View (Child Development Centre)

Position on 2014/15 Admissions

66.5 The Chair, Councillor Shanks stated that particular issues had arisen in relation to allocation of places in the Varndean and Dorothy Stringer catchment area during the current school admissions round. The Executive Director of Children's Services had exercised his powers under the School Admissions Code in order to address this and she invited him to address the Committee thereon.

66.6 The Executive Director, Children's Services made the following statement which explained the current situation fully and the measures being undertaken in order to address it.

"You will be aware that in this year's school admissions round 22 pupils could not be allocated places within the Varndean and Dorothy Stringer catchment in which they lived. It is the first year in which this problem has arisen and we have been in discussion with both schools regarding possible options. I am, concerned that both schools are genuinely full with Published Admission Numbers that have increased significantly over the years and concerns expressed by Ofsted in its report about Dorothy Stringer about the building. I agree with the governing bodies and head teachers of the two schools that additional pupils above PAN may have an adverse effect on the performance of the school overall.

In recent days our admissions team have looked at whether or not it would be possible to prioritise from the Waiting List the children concerned to go to any places which become free in the catchment. The legal advice has been that there is no power to retrospectively change the admissions criteria in relation to the waiting list.

The local authority has therefore looked at an alternative methodology to address this problem, without changing the waiting list criteria, and which avoids imposing upon the schools more pupils than is in the interests of the school as a whole. Modelling of the waiting list in previous years has demonstrated that it is usual for in excess of 22 places to become available within catchment between offer day and the start of the school year, as pupils choose to take up alternatives or move house.

I have therefore decided in the current exceptional circumstances I will exercise my powers under the School Admissions Code to direct Varndean and Dorothy Stringer Schools to admit in 2014/15 those children now living within the Dorothy Stringer and Varndean catchment area who have expressed a preference for both of the schools within their catchment on or before the closing date on 31 October 2013, and who are not already allocated a place within this catchment, or at a school which was a higher preference, for admission in 2014/15. This will be a temporary increase and I want to make it clear it is not intended to represent an in year variation to the PAN. If and when places subsequently become available at either school, the number of places will drop

back down to the PAN, and places will not be offered from the reallocation pool until the numbers in the year group have dropped to below the published admission number in the usual way. The Waiting List will remain as published and continue to be operated in accordance with the Council's published admissions policy.

The school to be allocated to this group under my direction will be selected via random allocation in accordance with the existing allocation criteria. Parents will of course still have the right of appeal as with any existing offer. The closing date for appeals is March 31.

The allocation to this group of pupils will be notified to their parent or carer after midday tomorrow.

I believe this will remove uncertainty and allow secondary schools to work with the relevant primary schools to provide a better transition into secondary school, whilst at the same time protecting Varndean and Dorothy Stringer from numbers which are not in the interests of the whole school community.

These developments have reinforced the need to address an issue which is referred to in the School Organisation Plan paper which members are due to consider this evening – which is the need to keep the catchments and admissions process under review as populations change.”

66.7 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the Chair's communications be received and noted.

67. CALL OVER

67.1 All of the reports on the agenda were called for discussion.

68. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

68a Petitions

68.1 There were none.

68b Written Questions

68.2 There were none.

68c Deputations

68.3 There were none.

69. MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

69a Petitions

69.1 There were none.

69b Written Questions

69.2 There were none.

69c Letters

69.3 There were none.

69d Notices of Motion

69.4 There were none.

70. OFSTED REPORTS UPDATE

70.1 The Head of Standards Achievement, Education and Inclusion gave a presentation providing an update on Ofsted inspections carried out and published between the Committees' January meeting and March 2014, highlighting the headline results and future focus for the LA as outlined in the schedule circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

70.2 It was noted that changes had been made to the framework for Ofsted inspections in January 2014 and that the framework was "tweaked" each term. The behaviour and safety section had been re-worked and there had also been a focus on looking at pupils who made better progress than expected. Bullet points had been added to the section covering Leadership and Management in order to stress the importance of aspiration and the expectation placed on senior leaders to promote improvement across the system.

70.3 Full Inspections had been carried at St Mary Magdalen Catholic Primary School and Hangleton Junior School and HMI Monitoring visits had taken place at Longhill High School and at St Mark's Church of England Primary School. There had been a positive outcome at Hangleton Junior's where they had received a judgement of "good" from "satisfactory" in 2012. On line information had suggested that St Mary Magdalen was at risk of going into a category. However, the work the school team had been doing to raise standards and achievement and the progress already made had been recognised.

70.4 The HMIs who had visited both St Mark's and Longhill had observed that progress had been and was continuing to be made at both schools.

70.5 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the presentation and schedule be noted.

71. EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME

71.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services detailing the proposed Education Capital Programme. The purpose of the report was to inform the Committee of the level of available capital resources allocated to this service for 2014/15, to recommend a Capital Investment Programme for 2014/15 and to allocate funding available in the capital programme under Structural Maintenance, Pupil Places and Condition Investment for 2014/15.

- 71.2 The Head of Education Planning and Contracts explained that previously the Committee had received a preliminary report to its January meeting with a more detailed follow up report going forward to its March meeting. This year all of the available information had been brought together as a composite report for consideration by the Committee at its March meeting. The report set out the level of resources available over the next three years. The level of funding provided represented a significant improvement on that provided the previous year in recognition of the additional resources required to provide additional number school places over the coming years. Notwithstanding that this increased level of funding would assist future planning similar funding levels would also be required for 2016/17 and beyond in order to address on-going challenges.
- 71.3 Details of the settlement were set out in the report and in addition to the resources identified, the Department for Education would also allocate funding for expenditure at voluntary aided schools across the city under several headings. The extent of the works to be carried out determined by the condition surveys would also form the subject of further discussions with individual schools.
- 71.4 Councillor Buckley referred to the proposed allocation of funding for solar panels and sought clarification regarding the process by which the allocation of this fund would be determined. Councillor Buckley wished to know whether there was commitment to rolling this programme out across all of the city's schools and specifically whether solar panels were to be provided at the converted former police station in Holland Road, which would operate as an extension to West Hove Junior School. It was explained that a review was taking place of current projects and that works decisions would be made as a result of this review. The Chair, Councillor Shanks explained that meetings were in the process of being arranged with Friends of the Earth who would be able to give input regarding the most sustainable options available.
- 71.4 Councillor Pissaridou referred to the agreement that had been given (paragraph 3.30) to the necessity for the Holland Road annexe to West Hove Junior School, to become four forms of entry rather than three as originally proposed stating that she did not recall Committee authority being given for this. It was confirmed however that following the statutory consultation process the Committee had agreed at its meeting held on 14 October 2013 to expand West Hove Junior School by three forms of entry in September 2014 and four forms of entry from September 2015.
- 71.5 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the level of available capital resources totalling £8.887 million for investment relating to education buildings financed from capital grant, revenue contributions and borrowing be noted; and
- (2) That the Committee agree to allocation of funding as shown in appendices 2 and 3 and recommend this to Policy and Resources Committee on 20 March 2014 for inclusion within the council's Capital Investment Programme 2014/15.

72. BRIGHTON & HOVE SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2013-2017

Note: The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 3, Access to Information Procedure Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least

five days in advance of the meeting) were that in the light of information in this report about the allocation of secondary school places it would have been inappropriate to publish this information in advance of 3 March 2014, which was the national offer day in 2014 for all secondary school place offers as set out in the statutory School Admissions Code.

- 72.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services seeking approval of the School Organisation Plan 2013 - 2017. The Committee was required to consider the Plan and then to make recommendations to the full Council which had the authority to approve it.
- 72.2 The Head of Education Planning and Contracts explained that the City Council had a statutory duty to secure sufficient, suitable school places for children of compulsory school age within its area. These places might be in any type of school, including local authority maintained schools, academies and free schools. With the introduction of Raising the Participation Age legislation, the Council also had a duty to ensure there was sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people aged 16 -19 and for those aged 20 - 24 with a Learning Difficulty Assessment in its area. Whilst it was no longer a requirement to produce a School Organisation Plan it was good practice to do so and was a useful tool for forward planning.
- 72.3 The School Organisation Plan focused mainly on the duty to secure sufficient, suitable school places for children of compulsory school age and included forecasts of future pupil numbers in the primary and secondary school sectors, the accommodation requirements arising from these forecasts, a broad outline of how these requirements might be met and the associated funding implications.
- 72.4 The Head of Education Planning and Contracts explained that it should be noted that the increase in primary age pupils which had been experienced across the city over the past ten years appeared to have reached its peak and that this number was now expected to decline from 2016 onwards. Notwithstanding that, the size of current cohorts would create significant and on-going challenges in terms of the need to secure sufficient primary and secondary school places over the coming years and discussions were taking place with school heads and governors in order to identify the best means of addressing the remaining primary places issues and the continuing challenge in relation to secondary school places.
- 72.5 Substantial funding would be required to meet the needs identified by the Plan and whilst the increases in funding announced by the Secretary of State in December 2013 for the 3 year period 2014/15 to 2016/17 would assist in that process, similar allocations would be needed in subsequent years in order to continue to secure sufficient secondary school places for the growing number of secondary school students. Application of the secondary admissions procedures for 2014 had revealed significant pressures on the present arrangements and in consequence it was proposed that an urgent review was commenced in the current year. Arrangements to address issues arising in respect of school admissions for 2015-16 were the subject of a separate report (Item 73) on the agenda.
- 72.6 Councillor Pissaridou stated that whilst noting the work that had been achieved she was disappointed that further work was required, especially in relation to the issue of school

places. The Executive Director of Children's Services explained that the level of grant awarded for the three year period to 2017 had not been notified until December 2013. The recognition of the city's need for new school places was welcomed as it would provide a good basis for planning and securing new provision, notwithstanding that some challenges remained.

- 72.6 Councillor Wealls stated that in his view the demography of different localities in the city could have an impact on forward planning. He enquired to what degree it was possible to predict changing numbers by use of GP registers and other indicators and how this could be utilised in order to consider potential alternative strategies. Councillor Wealls suggested that figures could also be affected by families moving into the area. The Head of Education Planning and Contracts stated that a number of information sources were used including analysis of demographic cycles but that a cautious approach had to be adopted in respect of figures for later years. A balance needed to be struck between ensuring sufficient school places in areas of highest demand whilst making best use of spare places occurring mainly in schools located at the edge of the city.
- 72.7 Mr Jeffery, Parent Forum stated that there needed to be greater clarity for parents. The Executive Director of Children's Services stated that it was recognised that there was an urgent need to review current arrangements for secondary school admissions to ensure that the local authority was able to offer high levels of certainty for children and families and the levels of clarity and transparency that were required.
- 72.8 Councillor Wealls stated that he was in agreement that there was a need for clarity and that there needed to be further discussion regarding the arrangements to be put in place and for the adoption of a consistent approach. Councillor Pissaridou concurred with this view. It was confirmed that further discussions would take place at meetings of the Cross Party School Organisation Working Group and that further reports would come before the Committee in relation to the review of the current admission arrangements and on other related matters.
- 72.9 Councillor Lepper stated that it was unfortunate that the distribution and disparity of school places across the city continued to be an issue, given that this was not a new problem. It was disappointing that measures brought in a few years ago to address this problem had ultimately not done so and now required review.
- 72.10 Councillor Simson referred to specific difficulties in Saltdean where places at the local primary school were limited and the area straddled the border with the neighbouring authority. It was explained that the local authority gave priority to those living within its own catchment area, whilst working closely with the neighbouring authorities who were experiencing similar problems. The capital programme included provision for a further form of entry at Saltdean Primary School from September 2015 (subject to consultation) and it was proposed that this should be preceded by a "bulge" reception class in September 2014.
- 72.11 Councillor Buckley referred to the adverse impact that new housing could have on school places, if not accompanied by a sufficiently high Section 106 contribution from the developer to mitigate against any potential disbenefit citing pressures on Davigdor Infant School in her own Ward as an example.

72.12 Councillor Pissaridou stated that she considered the Plan to be a work in progress and as some elements of it (school places) would require further work over coming months she considered that the School Organisation Plan and its contents should be referred to Full Council by the Committee rather than recommended to it, to do otherwise would be premature. This was put as a formal amendment proposed by Councillor Pissaridou and seconded by Councillor Wealls and Members voted to agree that the resolution to Full Council should be put as set out below.

72.13 **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** - (1) That the Committee has considered and commented upon the School Organisation Plan 2013 – 2017; and

(2) The Committee refers it to the Council at its meeting on 27 March 2014 to approve the Plan subject to any comments the Committee wishes to make.

73. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE SCHOOLS 2015-2016

Note: The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 3, Access to Information Procedure Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that in the light of information in this report about the allocation of secondary school places it would have been inappropriate to publish this information in advance of 3 March 2014, which was the national offer day in 2014 for all secondary school place offers as set out in the statutory School Admissions Code.

73.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services setting out the proposed school admission arrangements for 2015/16.

73.2 It was noted that each year local authorities were required 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 included the proposed admission priorities for community schools and those proposed by the governing bodies of voluntary aided schools and academies. This consultation took place approximately 18 months in advance of the school year in which pupils would be admitted under the proposed arrangements. The consultation papers for the 2015/16 admission year for Brighton & Hove had been circulated at Appendix 1 to the report.

73.3 It was also a requirement that local authorities set out schemes for co-ordinated admissions, including key dates in the admission process, and the arrangements for consultation with Voluntary Aided schools in the City and with other local authorities, to establish the "relevant area" within which the admission consultation should take place.

73.4 The consultation process had needed to be concluded by 1 March 2014, with a minimum of 8 weeks consultation time and this requirement had been fulfilled. The City Council also needed to have reached its decisions and confirmed its admission arrangements for 2015/16 by 15 April 2014 in order to conform to the requirements of the School Admissions Code.

- 73.5 The Head of Education, Planning and Contracts explained that the current arrangements had worked well, however, in view of the measures detailed by the Executive Director which had needed to be made in the current year and in view of the need to create additional school places across the city in future years it was timely for the existing arrangements for secondary school admissions to be reviewed. In answer to questions it was explained that the date(s) by which application forms were due for return was prescribed by Government policy. There was a gap in time between receipt of forms and the allocation of places.
- 73.6 The Chair stated that in order to address the issues raised it was proposed that the recommendations in the report be amended in order for an additional resolution (no 6) to be added as set out below. This was proposed by the Chair, Councillor Shanks and seconded by the Deputy Chair, Councillor Buckley: The amendment was as follows:
- “(6) That the operation of the council’s reallocation pool (also known as waiting list) for each catchment shall give priority to any child still living within their catchment area, who has applied for a school place within catchment before the closing date for the relevant school year, and who was not allocated a placement within the catchment for the relevant year.”
- 73.7 A vote was taken and the recommendations set out in the report including the proposed amendment were agreed on a vote of 8 to 2.
- 73.8 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the proposed school admission numbers set out in the consultation documents be adopted for the admissions year 2015/16;
- (2) That the admission priorities for Community Schools set out in the Consultation documents be adopted for all age groups;
- (3) That the Council should review the final version of the Cardinal Newman Catholic School and King’s School admission arrangements (as amended in light of the Diocesan response and parental and school responses) to decide whether it should comment further;
- (4) That the co-ordinated schemes of admission be approved;
- (5) That the City boundary be retained as the relevant area for consultation for school admissions; and
- (6) That the operation of the council’s relocation pool (also known as waiting list) for each catchment shall give priority to any child still living within their catchment area, who has applied for a school place within catchment before the closing date for the relevant school year, and who was not allocated a placement within the catchment for the relevant year (amendment agreed at the meeting).

Note: Councillors Pissaridou and Powell voted against the recommendations.

74. RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION IN BRIGHTON & HOVE SCHOOLS

- 74.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Children’s Services the purpose of which was to brief Members on the quality and effectiveness of Relationships

and Sex Education (RSE) in Brighton & Hove Schools This was in the context of the high profile being given to the subject nationally in supporting children and young people to understand concepts such as consent, and develop the skills to keep themselves safe and develop healthy relationships which are free from violence and exploitation.

- 74.2 The national guidance from the Department for Education on the delivery of Relationships and Sex Education had been published in 2000 and the council's last local guidance for schools had been published in 2003. It was now considered appropriate and timely for this to be reviewed and updated in concert with schools, children and young people and key local and national partners in Health and the Community and Voluntary Sector.
- 74.3 Councillor A Kitcat welcomed the report and was pleased to note the strong statistical data available for Brighton and Hove seeking confirmation regarding mechanisms in place to identify strengths and weaknesses and how the city compared with neighbouring authorities. It was explained that some data was collected through the "Safe and Well at School" initiative, available data was shared and used to inform. Individual schools were responsible for delivery but advice and support was given in order to enable them to do so.
- 74.4 In answer to questions by Councillor Pissaridou it was confirmed that schools had a duty to inform parents prior to sex education being taught in schools, that statutory requirements needed to be met regarding the manner in which the subject was taught and that this was tailored in a way that was appropriate for the age group concerned.
- 74.5 Councillor Wealls commended the excellent work undertaken to date welcoming the revised guidance which it was anticipated would be brought back to the Committee for approval in the Autumn.
- 74.6 Councillor Gilbey referred to the a data available which indicated that 87% of students felt confident about using condoms correctly asking whether this was considered to be an accurate figure. It was confirmed that this was a self reported figure and that information on this issue was provided to student in part via their science curriculum and also included in PHSE lessons.
- 74.7 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee supports the review and development of the local authority *Sex and Relationships Education: Guidance for Schools (2003)* by Children's Services and the Public Health Team in consultation with schools, children and young people and key local and national partners in Health and the Community and Voluntary Sector; and
(2) That a draft of the revised guidance to be discussed and agreed at Committee in the Autumn Term of 2014.

75. DISCUSSION DOCUMENT RE IMPLEMENTING A MULTI AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB (MASH) FOR BRIGHTON AND HOVE

- 75.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services which had been prepared in order to update Members with regard to the programme development being undertaken to establish a Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in Brighton and Hove. The proposed programme aspired ultimately to establishment of a

full MASH dealing with adults and children through a staged process. The first stage would be to establish a children's MASH over the next few months. The report set out the intended structure and process for setting up the MASH including proposed governance arrangements and sought the Committees comments in respect the arrangements envisaged and commitment to this programme.

- 75.2 It was explained that the proposal had been discussed by the Brighton and Hove Local Safeguarding Children's Board and other partner agencies who had agreed that a MASH would improve outcomes for children and eventually adults and had signed up to the concept of establishing the hub.
- 75.3 Mr Bartlett, the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board confirmed his endorsement the MASH approach suggested which he considered represented a great step forward in seeking to provide greater levels of support and protection for vulnerable children.
- 75.4 The Chair, Councillor Shanks stated that it was considered that there were benefits to using standardised risk assessments and that it was hoped that the proposed arrangements could be put into place at an early date.
- 75.5 Councillor Pissaridou commended the positive direction being taken, hoping that best practice models used as part of a MASH approach by a number of London Authority could be considered as appropriate. Mrs Sjuve, Sussex Community NHS Trust also commended the approach suggested stating that she hoped reports providing an update on progress would be brought back before the Committee in due course.
- 75.6 **RESOLVED** - That the Committee support the establishment of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub as previously agreed by Brighton & Hove's Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

76. MISSING CHILDREN POLICY AND PRACTICE GUIDANCE

- 76.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services the purpose of which was to raise awareness of this high profile and high risk area of work in children's services, an area whose profile is being raised nationally at policy, inspection and national media level; to allow members to have broad awareness of the processes which will be followed with young people, who may gain a high profile locally within different services and agencies due to repeated runaway/missing episodes and to give this important strategic policy within children's services authority in terms of high level endorsement.
- 76.2 The Head of Service, Children in Need explained that the policy had been formulated as a response for the City Council to the DFE national 'Statutory guidance on children who runaway or go missing from home or care'. It had been published in final draft in June 2013 and finalised in January 2014. This guidance set out some new requirements for Local Authorities and these were contained within the policy document itself.
- 76.3 Councillor Simson welcomed the report which represented a thorough approach particularly in respect of a cross border approach to be adopted in concert with East and West Sussex.

76.4 Mr Jeffery, Parent Forum also commended the approach being suggested, considering that it was also important for the process to be meaningful for the young people involved as well.

76.5 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee notes the contents of the two new missing policy and guidance documents which seek to raise awareness of this high risk area of work; and

(2) That CYP Committee and members give this report endorsement in order that officers could work with to hold services to account on delivering the best possible services and outcomes and delivering the core principles set out in these documents.

77. YOUTH INFORMATION ADVICE AND COUNSELLING SERVICES (YIACS)

77.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services proposing the commissioning of Youth Information, Advice and Counselling Services (YIACS), under the delegated authority of the Executive Director of Children's Services, as a single point of access for young people across the city in order to improve outcomes for young people.

77.2 The Assistant Director Stronger Families, Youth and Communities explained that there was national and local evidence which confirmed the impact and value of YIACS, however, there had never been a joined up commissioning response to this provision in Brighton & Hove. With current funding arrangements, including key contracts, due for review before April 2015, there was an opportunity to commission an integrated, single point of entry YIACS service. It was proposed therefore to test the longer term sustainability of a one-stop-shop YIACS model in a city central location, drawing upon the needs assessment outlined in the commissioned report 'Review of Youth Advice Services in Brighton & Hove' (January 2013).

77.3 Councillor Wealls sought confirmation regarding the manner in which this provision would be delivered to ensure that a joined up approach was adopted and how this would be funded to housing provision for example in addition to other key elements. Councillor Simson also queried the how the proposed hub approach would operate effectively in practice given that provision would be split between two city centre locations albeit that they would be located a short distance apart.

77.4 In answer to further questions, the Service Manager, Employability explained that the potential for some satellite services would remain although this would be for pre-booked appointments, rather than for a drop in service. Funding would flow from the joint commissioning strategy and accordingly it was considered appropriate for the reasons set out in the report to review the broader scope of what was delivered.

77.5 Councillor Wealls sought clarification regarding the prospectus approach proposed and how that would work in practice, the Assistant Director Stronger Families, Youth and Communities explained that a prospectus approach comprising different elements was envisaged, the review would provide the opportunity to determine the approach which worked best.

77.6 Councillor Simson stated that whilst fully appreciating a hub approach she considered that there was merit in having some satellite units citing the successful provision of this approach in her own ward. The Assistant Director Stronger Families, Youth and Communities stated that issues such as this would be looked at as part of the review.

77.7 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee approves the procurement of a new and integrated Youth Information Advice and Counselling Service (YIACS), as set out in section 3 of the report ; and
(2) That the committee grants delegated authority to the Director of Children’s Services to award the contract following the recommendations of the evaluation panel and the results of the tendering process.

Note: Councillors Simson and Wealls abstained from voting in respect of the above recommendations.

78. PARENTS FORUM PRESENTATION

78.1 The Committee received a presentation from Mr Jeffery, one behalf of the Parent Forum representatives on the Committee. He explained that the Forum had been created to ensure that parent’s voices were heard at a decision making level in relation to children and young people’s services locally. It aimed to promote the inclusion of parents and carers across the city and to influence and improve children and young people’s services.

78.2 Mr Jeffery detailed recent work carried out by the Forum and outline future challenges and goals. It had been identified as very important to ensure timely information reached parents about changes to services and consultation exercises, that good and effective parent involvement and engagement took place, particularly feedback and ensuring that views of service users were fully considered and finding a balance between what service providers wanted to know from parents and issues that parents were interested in.

78.3 It was also explained that going forward the Forum would be providing feedback to parents from recent consultations, the Bullying Scrutiny and the Big Parenting Debate; ensuring parent involvement in the Early Help Strategy, particularly Priority 4: “To empower parents and carers to take positive control and resolve emerging problems in their own and their children’s lives; creating a leaflet for parents about bullying and top tips for schools on how to support parents with these issues, in partnership with the Healthy Schools Team; also, enabling the involvement of parents in the ongoing development of the Triple P Strategy.

78.4 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the presentation be noted and received.

79. ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

79.1 Item 72. “Brighton & Hove School Organisation Plan 2013-2017” would be forwarded to full Council for approval as required under the Constitution.

The meeting concluded at 7.15pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

Subject:	Brighton and Hove Threshold document		
Date of Meeting:	2 June 2014		
Report of:	Executive Director for Children's Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Helen Gulvin	Tel: 292804
	Email:	Helen.Gulvin@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 The Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) has the responsibility for ensuring that agencies work together to protect children and share an understanding with regards levels of need and risk.
- 1.2 As part of this responsibility LSCB's need to ensure that there is a common understanding across professionals with regards the circumstances whereby they should be making a referral to Children's Social Work services for a child in high need or at risk of significant harm. The document also clarifies the circumstances when to refer to specific agencies to address individual need and when to undertake assessments.
- 1.3 In order to achieve these aims Brighton and Hove have produced a Threshold Document (Appendix 1)

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To note the content of this report

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The attached document is based on good practice from other local authorities and amendments and consultation with staff from other agencies in this authority. It starts with a preamble explaining the reasoning and understanding behind the document. The appendices take the reader through the 4 levels of need and the assessment and services available to children and families.
- 3.2 The document is meant as an aid. It is not a checklist, as no two cases are the same. The whole purpose is to aid to help clarify thinking and discussion between professionals and, most crucially, to share decisions with regards risk factors, balancing strengths and weaknesses in the situation for individual children.
- 3.3 The threshold document points out that it can appear that similar situations for children can end up with different services and responses. This illustrates the

need to use professional knowledge, based on evidence and an analysis of the resilient factors within each situation or individual child or family.

- 3.4 The threshold document should also be used to constructively challenge each other within a framework which has been agreed across all agencies.

MASH and Early Help Hub

- 3.5 The threshold document is being introduced at the same time as planning for the implementation of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and an Early Help Hub (EHH) in Brighton and Hove. Both these two hubs are being developed in consultation with a wide range of agencies. The MASH is a system for screening and risk assessing high level children's needs in order to pass these on to Social Work services or to the EHH if the threshold criteria are not met. The EHH will provide advice and support and/or receive referrals about children who are beginning to face more difficulties than can be managed by one agency, for example by the child's school and who might benefit from targeted services to address their needs, or to stop those needs from escalating.
- 3.6 Both hubs require agencies to share a solid understanding of levels of need and risk in the aim of ensuring the right children are dealt with in the right place to ensure a better service for vulnerable children in Brighton and Hove. The threshold document will enable this knowledge.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 There has been extensive consultation with agencies represented in the LSCB. Consultation has been through meetings with Head Teachers via school cluster group meetings, meetings with groups of staff, team meetings and through agencies organising feedback through a named worker.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The introduction of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the Early help Hub are integral elements in the Early Help Workstream within the Children's services VFM programme. These are innovative, new initiatives and there is no available evidence, as yet, as to the level of savings, if any, that can be achieved, although it is hoped that some reduction in high cost activities may be possible.

There are likely to be additional costs in setting up the MASH and EHH, in particular costs relating to premises of c£110k (of which c£60k will be ongoing) and IT infrastructure of c£118k. One off funding of £49k capital and £118k carry forward of 2013/14 underspending budgets have been identified to meet these costs. It is also anticipated that the restructure of the social work teams to align them with the new arrangements will generate further savings, however, decisions regarding the restructure have yet to be finalised so it is not yet possible to ascertain the level of funding required.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis

Date: 2/5/14

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 Statutory Guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013' requires LSCB's to publish a threshold document that includes the criteria, including the level of need, for when a case should be referred to local authority children's social care for assessment and for statutory services, per the various key elements of the Children Act referred to in the body of the thresholds document: Under S17 (1) Children Act 1989 it is the general duty of every local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need; and so far as is consistent with that duty, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs. Under section 17(1) Children's Act 1989, a child is considered to be a child in need if s/he is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the help of the services by the local Authority. A child can be both in need, as well as in need of protection. Where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, the local authority is required under s47 of the Children Act 1989 to make enquiries, to enable it to decide whether it should take any action to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child.

Local Authorities must undertake assessments of the needs of individual children to determine what services to provide and action to take.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson Date: 19.05.14

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The threshold document will be used for all children. Its use will mean that children, regardless of their background should receive an appropriate level of support in order to seek to address the needs identified.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 None

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The threshold document and it's use in the MASH will help the MASH achieve two of it's stated aims which is to identify criminal behaviour which puts children at risk and to identify victims of criminal behaviour.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Risks to not having this document are that there will be too many, or too few children, receiving services which are commensurate to the risk in their circumstances.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 None

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.8 This document will apply across the City and all agencies working within the geographic boundaries

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 Without a threshold document we will not have a written basis for a shared understanding of risk factors and of when to refer to different services

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 For information

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Brighton & Hove Inter-Agency Threshold of Need and Intervention Criteria for Children and Young People

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None

**Brighton & Hove
Inter-Agency Threshold of Need and
Intervention Criteria
for Children and Young People**

Document Author	Brighton & Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board	
Document Owner	Brighton & Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board	
Summary of Purpose	<p>The overarching aim of the guidance is to provide a framework for professionals and service users, to clarify the circumstances in which to : Provide clarity and shared agreement on the thresholds for referring a child to Children’s Social Work Services and Early Help Services in Brighton & Hove.</p> <p>Move forward the preventative agenda and support the Early Help and Team Around the Family (TAF) process</p> <p>The Eligibility Criteria and threshold matrix identifies the level of key vulnerability factors such as domestic abuse, mental health problems, substance misuse etc. It is emphasised that the level of vulnerability will be different in each case. The framework assumes that it will usually be a combination of criteria that will determine the level of concern, rather than any one factor.</p>	
Accessibility	This document can be made available in large print, or in electronic format. There are no copies currently available in other languages.	
How was this document created	Step 1	Supporting Families’ booklet published.
	Step 2	Supporting Families in Brighton & Hove – Clarifying expectations for family CAF and Social Work.
	Step 3	Amalgamated and clarified in January 2014. Draft document sent out to all partners for consultation and comments in February. This final amended document based on received comments between 19 th February and 2 nd May. Produced 16th May 2014.
Equalities	During the preparation of this policy and when considering the roles and responsibilities of all agencies, organisations and staff involved, care	

Impact Assessment	has been taken to promote fairness, equality and diversity in the services delivered, regardless of disability, ethnic origin, race, gender, age, religious belief or sexual orientation. These issues have been addressed in the policy by the application of an impact assessment checklist.	
Circulation Restrictions	None.	
Version	Detail of change	Date
1.0	Document Created	January 2014-05-04
2.0	Revised document created	9 th May 2014
3.0	Final document created	16 th May 2014

Brighton and Hove Inter-Agency Threshold of Need and Intervention Criteria

Aim

This document provides guidance for professionals and service users to :-

- Identify and assess level of individual need.
- Clarify the circumstances in which to refer a child to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Early Help Hub (EHH) or to a specific agency to address an individual need.

1. Introduction

Most children and young people have a number of basic needs that can be supported through a range of universal services(Level 1). These services include education, early years, health, housing, youth services, leisure facilities and services provided by voluntary and community sector organisations. However, some children have additional needs(Level 2) or complex (Levels 3 & 4) needs and will require access to Targeted/Early Help (Level 2 and 3) or specialist services (Level 4) to support them.

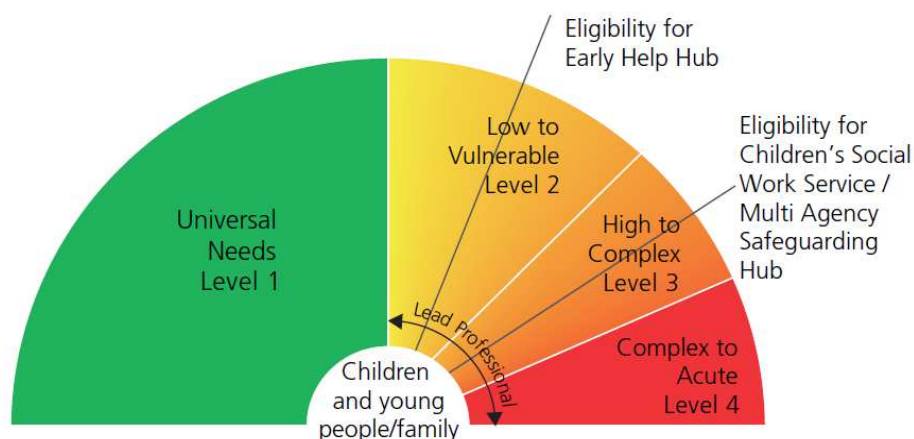
This document describes:

- The criteria for access to the various services within Children Services in Brighton and Hove and
- How that fits within the wider context of multi-agency services and a range of needs;
- The legal definition of ‘Children in Need’ and eligibility for Children’s Social Work Services
- The process by which Children’s Social Work Services assess eligibility for ‘Children in Need.’
- The purpose and structure of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- The purpose and structure of the Early Help Hub (EHH)

2. Children’s Needs and Multi-agency Levels of Intervention

These form a continuum as follows:

Figure 1



A key principle underpinning the delivery of services to children is that additional needs should be identified as early as possible and intervention should focus on working with children and parents/carers in order to provide early help and prevent the need for specialist services.

Children with additional needs should be offered an Early Help Assessment with the consent and involvement of parents/carers, and the young person.

There will be some circumstances where consent to share information is not required. All agencies have a duty to share information where there are clear child protection issues or to prevent a crime.

3. Principles

The following principles should be considered in applying the framework:

- (i) The descriptions in Appendix 1 provide illustrative examples about how need might present itself, rather than an exhaustive list of fixed criteria that must be met. The Level of need will always be increased by the multiplicity of factors.
- (ii) Intervention should be at the lowest tier appropriate to meet the needs of the child and prevent the need for targeted or specialist services.
- (iii) If there are child protection concerns about a child's health, development or welfare professionals must follow the Pan Sussex Safeguarding Children Procedures and make an immediate referral to Children's Social Work Services via the MASH

4. Levels of Need

The four levels of need identified in the windscreen diagram on page 3 have been developed into a matrix of needs and risks below to help describe the circumstances in which a referral to the Early Help Hub (Level 2 and 3) or MASH (Level 3 and 4) should be made.

Which Level?

It cannot be over emphasised that the list of indicators contained in this document is **not an exhaustive one. In assessing need and risk that requires specialist services, multiple factors are likely to be present and decisions as to whether the criteria are met remain a professional judgement.** It is also important to remember that often the signs that a child or young person has particular needs are not found in a single piece of evidence but in a combination of factors of indicators. For example, within the framework described in this document, a cluster of indicators in Level 2 when considered together may indicate the need for a Level 3 assessment. There will also be, in some situations, a single indicator that is so obviously significant that it will demand assessment at a particular level even in the absence of any other indicator.

Transitions between levels

In some cases a child or young person will go through a number of transition points on their journey to having their needs met. A child, for example, whose needs do not respond to services provided under Level 1, may need to receive a more coordinated response within Level 2. Similarly, a child in Level 2 whose circumstances and situation do not improve sufficiently may need to receive the specialist assessment and support provided at Level 3. It is acknowledged that children may move from one level of need to another and that agencies and services may offer support at more than one level. What is important is that this is monitored and reviewed to inform the most appropriate level of support.

5. Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub – MASH

The MASH is a team of professionals based together sharing information in order to make timely and correct decisions to protect and support children and young people. The team consists of social work staff, police officers and staff from Housing, Education, Youth Offending, Probation and a range of Health providers. Decisions are made on all referrals within 24 hours. Action required is then carried out by the relevant team or service e.g. Assessment Teams in Social Work Service.

6. Early Help Hub – EHH

The EHH is a team of professionals from a range of services. It provides support for professionals working with a child, young person or family where the professionals needs additional information, advice or support to improve outcomes.

The EHH offers 3 services to professionals:

- Information and signposting to services
- Advice
- Finding appropriate services and professionals in the city to provide interventions for the child, young person or family.

The EHH team provides these services for children, young people and families with needs in level 2 and 3 with the aim of preventing problems becoming more serious and requiring interventions at level 4.

7. Multi Agency Working

Please note : in all planning around children and families permission must be sought from parents/carers to share information with other agencies / professionals. Only where a child may be at risk, and it is thought that the risk may escalate by approaching the parents/carers, then enquiries can begin without the parents/carers consent.

A) If the Early Help Assessment identifies that multi agency support is required to meet the needs of the child and family then the professionals involved become the Team Around the Family (TAF), develop an Early Help Plan and review progress against the desired outcome. The parent/carer and the professionals involved must then agree who is best placed to coordinate support and be a link person for all (Lead Professional).

B) All children receiving an on-going service from Children's Social Work Services will have a clear plan in place, whether this is a Child Protection plan, 'Child in Need' plan, Looked After Children (LAC) care plan or a plan specific to their circumstances.
All 'Child in Need' plans will be co-ordinated by a Social Worker.

C) For children in need of protection, the Child Protection Conference and the Core Group members are in effect the Team Around the Family. In these circumstances the social worker is always the lead professional.

D) For Looked After Children, the Looked After Children Review forms a Team Around the Child. The social worker is always the lead professional for a looked after child.

Lead Professionals and meetings for multi agency plans around the child and family	
Lead Professional	
Early Help Assessment	Lead Professional agreed in TAF meetings
Child In Need	Social Worker or in some situations most suitable professional
Child Protection	Social Worker
Looked After Child (LAC)	Social Worker
Meetings	
Team Around the Family (TAF)	TAF meetings
Child in Need	Network Meetings
Child Protection	Child Protection Meetings Core Group Meetings Strategy Meetings
Looked After Child (LAC)	LAC Review meetings

8. Eligibility for Children’s Social Work Services

The Children Act 1989 places a general duty on the Local Authority to “safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need and so far as is consistent with their welfare, promote the upbringing of children by their families by providing a range and level of services to meet their needs”.

The [Children Act 1989](#) defines a ‘Child in Need’ as:

- a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or have opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services by a local authority;
- a child whose health or development is likely to be significantly impaired or further impaired, without the provision of services;
- a child who has a substantial and permanent disability.

These are not clear-cut definitions and allow room for discussion and professional judgement about the level of need and the associated risk.

The attached Multi-agency Needs/Risks Matrix - Appendix 1 has been developed to help inform decision-making about when to refer a child to Children’s Social Work Service via MASH and what to expect in terms of who should receive a service and with what level of priority.

The ‘Level’ content has been developed taking into account the learning from local and national serious case reviews, good practice and other case reviews and audits as well as the needs of the local population.

Levels one and two indicate the circumstances in which Children’s Trust partner agencies would be expected to intervene and provide support to a child and family in order to prevent the need for a specialist service. Levels three and four identify the point at which Children’s Social Work Services will become involved.

9. The Process for Assessing Eligibility for 'Child in Need' Services

Consultations

Anyone, including children and young people as well as professionals, can request assistance from Children's Social Work. However, there will be times when professionals are not sure about how to proceed and whether to make a referral.

If a professional is unclear about whether to make a referral they should, in the first instance, consult with their designated Child Protection Lead within their agency. Following this advice can be sought from a professional within the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The MASH hub deals with all referrals relating to safeguarding or the welfare of children in Levels 3 & 4 unless already open to another team in Social Work Services

Referrals to MASH

Professionals wishing to make a referral will need to complete the inter-agency referral form (Inter-Agency Referral Form) and Guidance:

<http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/professionals.html>

If an Early Help Assessment or any service specific assessment has been completed (e.g. DASH, DUST or ASSET) it must be attached to the referral form.

However, it is recognised that some situations will immediately meet the criteria for a direct referral as a 'Child in Need', which may include a 'Child in Need of Protection' and **referrals will be accepted without an assessment.**

Professionals who refer to the MASH will receive a written confirmation of receipt within 24 hours and action being taken.

A referral to the MASH should be made with the parents/carers consent unless there are child protection concerns. If the parents/carers do not consent to a Child in Need referral, and the concerns do not meet the criteria for child protection, the referrer could consider referring to the Early Help Hub. However, should the referrer have concerns about the child's needs which they consider may be increased due to the parents/carers' refusal to engage in the child in need process, then it is essential that they consult within their own agency and, if necessary, with the MASH

Screening

On receipt of a referral, the Practice Manager (Social Work) and other professionals within the MASH will carry out a professional screening and risk assessment, exercise within one working day or 24 hours depending on when the referral was received, to determine if the referral meets the Threshold criteria for an assessment under level 3 or 4.

If the referral appears to be about a child protection concern, the Pan Sussex Safeguarding Children Procedures will be invoked at any stage of the process.

Where the child is not eligible for assessment or services, the Practice Manager in MASH will immediately pass the details onto the Early Help Hub for them to consider what other services at Level 2 or 3 might be needed. The Early Help Hub will then take responsibility for appropriate services to become involved.

If there is a disagreement between the MASH and EHH as to where a referral fits in the Threshold criteria then both parties should use the usual dispute process i.e. escalate via their line managers.

Single Assessments

Under the Children Act 1989, Brighton and Hove City Council are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their

welfare. Brighton and Hove City Council undertake assessments of the needs of individual children to determine what services to provide and action to take. A child in need is defined under the Children Act 1989 as a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health and development will be significantly impaired, without the provision of services; or a child who is disabled. In these cases, **Single Assessments** are completed by a qualified Social Worker are carried out under **section 17** of the Children Act 1989.

Brighton and Hove City Council, with the help of other organisations as appropriate, also have a duty to make enquiries under **section 47** of the Children Act 1989 if there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, to enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.

Some children in need may require accommodation because there is no one who has parental responsibility for them, because they are lost or abandoned or because the person who has been caring for them is prevented from providing them with suitable accommodation or care. Under **section 20** of the Children Act 1989, Brighton and Hove City Council has a duty to accommodate such children in need in their area.

- Following an application under **section 31A**, where a child is the subject of a Care Order, Brighton and Hove City Council, as a corporate parent, must assess the child's needs and draw up a Care Plan which sets out the services which will be provided to meet the child's identified needs.

Whatever legislation the child is assessed under, the purpose of the **Single Assessment** is always to :-

- Gather important information about a child and family ;
- Analyse their needs and/or the nature and level of any risk and harm being suffered by the child;
- Decide whether the child is a child in need (section 17) and/or is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm (section 47);
- Provide support to address those needs to improve the child's outcomes to make them safe.

A good assessment is one which investigates the follows the domains of the :

- child's developmental needs, including whether they are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm
- parents' or carers' capacity to respond to those needs
- impact and influence of wider family, community and environmental circumstances.
- analysis of any risk to the child.

A Single Assessment will necessitate the social worker obtaining contributions from other professionals involved with the child/family in order to gain a full picture of the child's circumstances. Working Together to Safeguard Children, March 2013, requires professionals to share information regarding parental learning difficulties, domestic abuse, substance misuse, and mental health difficulties being experienced by relevant family members.

The child's wishes and feelings must be ascertained and recorded where possible and due consideration given to them, having regard to his/her age and understanding.

Each child who has a Single Assessment completed by a Social Worker should have an individual assessment to respond to their needs and to understand the impact of any parental behaviour on them as an individual. Brighton and Hove City Council give due regard to a child's age and understanding when determining what (if any) services to provide under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, and before making decisions about action to be taken to protect individual children under section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

The maximum timescales for completion of a **Single Assessment** is 45 days. The urgency of the situation may dictate that the timescales are much shorter or that more time is required to complete the assessment.

Parental assessment – where the concerns arise as a result of a parent's (or person with parental responsibility) disability, mental health or substance misuse problems, a specialist assessment should be sought from the relevant agency.

Sharing information with parents/carers and child – the assessing social worker must provide a copy of the assessment report to the parents/carers and share appropriately with children of sufficient understanding. Any disagreements about the assessment will be recorded. The family should already have been given a copy of the leaflet. The assessment must have clear conclusions and recommendations. It will identify the child's and family's needs and also what outcomes should be achieved to make improvements and bring about change.

Likely outcomes

The range of recommendations from a Single Assessment includes:

- The child is in need of protection and Pan Sussex Safeguarding Children Procedures have been or must be invoked.
- Legal action is required to protect the child.
- The child meets the criteria for a specialist service such as the Integrated Child Development & Disability Service.
- The child is a 'Child in Need' and a Network Meeting/ multi agency group should be identified to draw up and deliver a 'Child in Need' plan.
- The child does not meet Children's Social Work eligibility and threshold criteria (Level 3 and 4) and can be referred onto the Early Help Hub for an assessment or service , as appropriate. The decision will be recorded in writing to ensure that the decision making process is explicit, particularly where management of risk is a significant issue.
- Case is referred to the Early Help Hub with the consent of the family
- Case is closed as No Further Action.

In all cases the outcome will be communicated to the referring professional.

10. Early Help Assessment

The aim of the Early Help Assessment is to help identify, at the earliest opportunity, a child or young person and family's additional needs which are not being met by the universal services and to provide timely and co-ordinated support to meet those needs.

The Early Help Assessment

- is a process for carrying out a common holistic assessment, to help everyone working with the child or young person understand information about their needs and strengths, based on discussions with the child or young person and their family as appropriate;
- uses a standard form to help record and, where appropriate, share with others the information given during the assessment;
- can only be undertaken with informed and explicit consent from the child/young person and/or their parents / carers.
- Informs the development of the early Help Plan which agrees action to support identified difficulties and is reviewed on a regular basis with the family and the Team around the Family (TAF)

All professionals in the City are expected to complete an Early Help Assessment when at least one child/young person and /or one adult in the family needs, or are likely to need multi agency support because of their additional needs.

If a referral to the MASH has assessed that there are no significant risks but clear difficulties within the family which would benefit from support through the Early Help process then the details are prompted passed onto the Early Help Hub for their involvement.

Or see the Pan Sussex Safeguarding Children procedures:

<http://pansussexscb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

9. Complaints and Representations

Members of the public who are dissatisfied with the service provided by Children's Services should contact the Children's Services – Standards and Complaints Team on Freephone 0500 291229

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Threshold Matrix

Appendix 2 - Glossary

Level 1 – Universal Needs No additional support needs		
Features	ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES	Assessment Process
<p>Children with Level 1 needs</p> <p>Children with no additional needs and where there are no concerns. Typically these children are likely to live in a resilient and protective environment where their needs are met. These children will require no additional support beyond that which is universally available. These indicators need to be kept in mind when assessing the significance of indicators from Levels 2-4</p>	Parents or Carers Capacity	<p>These children require no additional support beyond that which is universally available. An Early Help Assessment is not needed for these children / young people / families. Examples of key universal services that provide support at this level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early year providers, schools and colleges. • Children's Centres, • Nursery • Health Visiting Service • Midwifery • School Nursing • GP • Play Services • Police • Housing • Voluntary & Community Sector • Family information service.
	<p>Basic Care, Safety and Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/carers able to provide care for child's needs 	
	<p>Emotional Warmth and Stability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/carers provide secure and caring parenting 	
	<p>Guidance Boundaries and Stimulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/carers provide guidance and boundaries to help child develop appropriate values 	
	Family and Environmental factors	
<p>Family History and Well-Being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive family relationships 		
<p>Housing, Employment and Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child fully supported financially, accessing all welfare benefits • Adequate housing 		
<p>Social and Community Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and friendship networks exist • Safe and secure environment • Access to regular and positive activities 		
Child or Young Person's Developmental Needs		
<p>Learning/Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at school/college/training (above 90%) • Acquired a range of skills/interests, experiences of success/achievement • No barriers to learning • Sound home/school link • No concerns around cognitive development 		
<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physically healthy, developmental checks up to date • Adequate and nutritious diet, regular dental and optical care • Good state of mental health • Healthy weight 		
<p>Social, Emotional, Behavioural, Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates age appropriate responses in feelings and actions • Good quality early attachments, child is appropriately comfortable in social situations • Knowledgeable about the effects of crime and antisocial behaviour (age appropriate) • Able to adapt to change • Able to demonstrate empathy • Positive sense of self and abilities 		
<p>Family and Social Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable and affectionate relationships with caregivers • Good core relationships with siblings • Positive relationships with peers 		
<p>Self-Care and Independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing age appropriate level of practical and independent living skills • Appropriate dress for different settings - allowing for age • Good level of personal hygiene • Able to discriminate between 'safe' and 'unsafe' contacts • Knowledgeable about sex and relationships and consistent use of contraception if sexually active (age appropriate) 		

Level 2 – Low to Vulnerable Threshold for targeted support for children with additional support needs			
Features	ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES	Assessment Process	
	NB In assessing needs and risk that require additional services, multiple factors are likely to be present.		
<p>Children with Level 2 needs These children can be defined as needing some additional support without which they would be at risk of not meeting their full potential. Their identified needs may relate to their health, educational or social development, and are not likely to be short term needs. If ignored these issues may develop into more worrying concerns for the child or young person. These Children will be living in greater adversity than most other Children or have a greater degree of vulnerability than most.</p> <p>If their needs are not clear, not known or not being met and multi agency intervention is required, a lead professional will be identified to coordinate a plan around the child.</p> <p>Timescale These should be short term interventions (up to 6 months) and reviewed on a regular basis. If longer support is required you should discuss needs with specialist services and may need to move into Level 3.</p> <p>A child and family may need a number of these short term supports over the child's childhood as their needs change.</p>	<p>Parents or Carers Capacity</p> <p>Basic Care, Safety and Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring support to provide consistent care e.g. safe and appropriate childcare arrangements; safe and hygienic home conditions; adequate diet. • Parental health problems that may impact on child's health or development unless appropriate support provided. • Parental mental health issues that may impact on the health or development of the child unless appropriate support provided. • Parental learning difficulties that may impact on the health or development of the child unless appropriate support provided. • Parental health / disability that may impact on the health or development of the child unless appropriate support provided. • Parental substance misuse that may impact on the health or development of the child unless appropriate support provided. • Poor engagement with universal services likely to impact on child's health or development. • Parents/carers have additional support to care for previous child / young person. • Poor supervision and attention to safety issues. <p>Emotional Warmth and Stability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring support for consistent parenting regarding praise and discipline, where the child's development not yet being impaired. • Lack of response to concerns raised about child's welfare. <p>Guidance Boundaries and Stimulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring support for consistent parenting in respect to routine and boundary setting. • Parent has age inappropriate expectations that child or young person should be self reliant. • Lack of response to concerns raised about child. • Lack of appropriate parental guidance and boundaries for child's stage of development and maturity. 	<p>An Early Help Assessment should be completed with the child/family to identify their strengths & needs. The Plan and the Parent's/carers should identify the child's additional needs, appropriate services and will form a TAF interventions to meet those needs and who will co-ordinate support as a LP.</p> <p>If an Early Help Assessment is refused and the needs of a child cannot be met, and may escalate, a referral to Children's Social Work Service via the MASH</p> <p>Exit Strategy The TAF should aim to enable the child and family's move back to universal service's support.</p> <p>Key agencies that may provide support at this level:</p>	
		Family and Environmental factors	Universal and targeted
		<p>Family History and Well-Being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/carers have relationship difficulties which may affect the child. • Parents/carers request advice to manage the child's behaviour. • Children affected by difficult family relationships. • Child is a teenage parent. • Child is a young carer. • Low level concerns about domestic abuse. • Parent was a Looked After Child (LAC) • Large family with several young children under five. <p>Housing, Employment and Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcrowding (as per local housing guidelines) that has a potential impact on child's health or development. • Families affected by low income / living with poverty affecting access to appropriate services to meet child's additional needs. • Low income plus adverse additional factors which affect the child's development. • Housing is in poor state of repair or severely overcrowded. • Family unable to gain employment due to significant lack of basic skills or long term difficulties. <p>Social and Community Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient facilities to meet needs e.g. advice / support needed to access services for disabled child where parent is coping otherwise. • Family require service regarding social exclusion e.g. hate crimes, harassment and disputes in the community. • Child associating with peers who are involved with anti social or criminal behaviour. • Limited access to contraceptive and sexual health advice, information and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth crime prevention • Youth services • Health, e.g. HV (universal partnership), GP, midwifery, school nurse • Adult substance misuse services • Family nurse partnership • Domestic violence services • Ethnic minority Achievement service • Adult Mental Health service. • Probation • ITF • Housing • Sure Start Children's Centres • Health Visitors • School Nurses • Education • Early Years

- services.
- Family demonstrating low level anti social or criminal behaviour towards others
- Parents/carers are socially excluded, have no access to local facilities and require support services.

Child or Young Person's Developmental Needs

- Learning/Education**
- Occasional truanting, non attendance or punctuality issues ,attendance below 85%
 - School action or action plus.
 - Identified language or communication difficulties linked to other unmet needs.
 - Lack of adequate Parents/carer support for child's learning.
 - Lack of age appropriate stimulation and opportunities to learn.
 - Few or no qualifications leading to NEET 9(not in education, employment or training).
 - Child/young person under undue parental pressure to achieve / aspire.
 - No aspiration for young person.
 - Not educated at school (or at home by Parents/carers).
 - The child's current rate of progress is inadequate, despite receiving appropriate early education experiences.
- Health**
- Concerns about reaching developmental milestones.
 - Not attending routine appointments e.g. immunisations and developmental checks.
 - Persistent minor health problems.
 - Missing set appointments across health including antenatal, hospital and GP appointments.
 - Low level mental health or emotional issues.
- Social, Emotional, Behavioural, Identity**
- Emerging anti social behaviour and attitudes and/or low level offending.
 - Child is victim of bullying or bullies others.
 - Expressing wish to become pregnant at a young age.
 - Low level substance misuse (current or historical).
 - Low self esteem.
 - Limited peer relationships / social isolation.
 - Expressing thoughts of running away.
 - Received fixed penalty notice, reprimand, final warning or triage of diversionary intervention.
 - Disruptive / challenging behaviour at school or in neighbourhood.
 - Behavioural difficulties requiring further investigation / diagnosis.
- Lack of age appropriate behaviour and independent living skills that increase vulnerability to social exclusion
- Self-Care and Independence**
- Lack of age appropriate behaviour and independent living skills that increase vulnerability to social exclusion.
 - Early onset of sexual activity (13-14); sexually active young person (15+) with some risk taking behaviours e.g. inconsistent use of contraception.
 - Low level alcohol / substance misuse (current or historical).
 - Some risky use of technology leading to E-safety concerns.

- Educational Psychology
- Specialist play services
- Voluntary & community services.
- Triple P tip sheets plus level 2 / 3 discussion groups & seminars.
- Families & Schools Together (FAST)

**Level 3 – High or Complex
Threshold for Children in Need**

Features	ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES	Assessment Process
	NB In assessing needs and risk that require specialist services, multiple factors are likely to be present.	
<p>This Level applies to those children identified as requiring specialist support. It is likely that for these children their needs and care are at present very significantly compromised. Only a small fraction of children will fall within this band. These children will be those who are highly vulnerable or experiencing the greatest level of vulnerability.</p> <p>Children in Need: These children may be eligible for a Child in Need service from Children's Social Work Service and are potentially at risk of developing acute/complex needs if they do not receive early statutory intervention.</p>	Parents or Carers Capacity	<p>An Early Help Assessment Common should be used as the first assessment tool of choice. This may be used to support a referral to specialist support.</p> <p>Children's Social Work Service will decide on their response based on the information supplied in the referral. If appropriate they will undertake a Single Assessment.</p> <p>Key agencies that may provide support at this level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Service • Integrated Child Development & Disability services • Police • Youth Offending Service • RUOK – Targeted drug and alcohol • CAMHS • Voluntary & Community Services • Services at Universal level • Triple P level 4 group & individual • Integrated Team for families • BILT Team • Education Services <p>Exit Strategy A TAF formed under Early Help Plan process may also be required to support child moving out of complex needs with an agreed action plan. This could include continuing multi-agency support coordinated by a</p>
	<p>Basic Care, Safety and Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/carer is unable to meet child's needs even with support and not providing adequate care. • Serious concern that an unborn child is at risk of significant harm. • Chronic or acute neglect where food, warmth and other basics often not available • Parent/carer has mental health difficulties that have a direct impact on child's health or development. • Parent/carer has substance misuse that has a direct impact on child's health or development. • Parental health / disability that has a direct impact on child's health or development. • Child exposed to contact with individuals who pose a risk of physical or sexual harm to children. • History of previous child protection concerns. <p>Emotional Warmth and Stability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent is emotionally unavailable. • Succession of carers or child/young person has multiple carers, but no significant relationships with any of them. • Inappropriate childcare arrangement. • Inconsistent parenting impairing emotional and behavioural development. • Parental instability affects capacity to nurture. • Parents/carers own emotional needs compromise those of the child/young person. <p>Guidance Boundaries and Stimulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child/young person receives little positive stimulation despite appropriate toys being available. • Parents/carers provide inconsistent boundaries or present a negative role model which seriously impacts on child's development. 	
	Family and Environmental factors	
	<p>Family History and Well-Being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse where the risk to the victim is assessed as standard/medium risk (DASH) and the child is present within the home during the incident. • An initial domestic abuse incident is reported but the victim discloses details of historic abuse with children resident/normally resident. • Child is privately fostered. • Unaccompanied asylum seeking children. • Child subject to a court application where a S7 or S37 report has been ordered to be completed by children's social care. • Pre-birth assessment where a history of past child protection concerns. • Risk of family relationship breakdown leading to need for child to become looked after outside of family network. <p>Housing, Employment and Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless child in need of accommodation including 16-17 year olds. • Extreme financial difficulties impacting on ability to have basic needs met. • No access to funding/community resources. • Family at risk of eviction having already received support from Housing services. <p>Social and Community Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child or family need immediate support and protection due to harassment/discrimination and have no local support. • Significant levels of targeted hostility towards the child and their family, and conflict/volatility within the neighbourhood. 	
	Child or Young Person's Developmental Needs	

	<p>Learning/Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child not in education, in conjunction with concern for child's safety. • Chronic non attendance/truanting/authorised absences/fixd term exclusions • Statement of Special Educational Needs. <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic/recurring health problems with missed appointments, routine and non routine. • Child with a disability in need of assessment and support to access appropriate specialist services. • Serious delay in achieving physical and other developmental milestones, raising significant concerns. • Frequent accidental injuries to child requiring hospital treatment • Mental health issues requiring referral to CAMHS, including self harm or suicidal thoughts • Poor or restricted diet despite interventions • Child has chronic health problems or high level disability which with extra support may/may not be maintained in a mainstream setting. • Learning significantly affected by health problems • Significant dental decay that has not been treated. <p>Social, Emotional, Behavioural, Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child with serious levels of unexplained and inappropriate sexualised behaviour • Child is at risk of sexual exploitation • Child missing from home and concerns raised about their physical and emotional safety and welfare. • Child whose behaviour is putting them at risk, including substance and alcohol misuse. • Evidence of regular/frequent substance misuse which may combine with other risk factors • Evidence of escalation of of substance use and of changing attitudes and a more disregard to risk • Continuous breeches of curfew / order with other risk taking behaviours that impact on the child's welfare and safety. • Frequently goes missing from home. • Failure or inability to address serious (re)offending behaviour leading to risk of serious harm to self or others. • Child/young person out of control in the community. <p>Self-Care and Independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child suffers accidental injury as a result of inadequate supervision • Child found wandering without adequate supervision • Child expected to be self reliant for their own basic needs or those of their siblings beyond their capabilities, placing them at potential risk. • Severe lack of age appropriate behaviour. 	<p>Lead Professional to enable the child and family's move back to universal services.</p>
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**Level 4 4 – Complex or Acute:
Threshold for Child Protection**

Features	ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES	Assessment Process
<p>Children with Level 4 Needs Children requiring statutory/specialist integrated support.</p> <p>Child Protection Children experiencing significant harm that requires statutory intervention such as child protection or legal intervention. These children may also need to be accommodated (taken into care) by the Children's Social Work Service either on a voluntary basis or by way of Court Order.</p> <p>Definition Section 47 of the 1989 Children Act. Child or young person. Where a child is at risk of significant harm. Through neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse.</p> <p>Process Agencies must make a verbal referral to MASH and accompany this with written referral form.</p>	<p align="center">In assessing needs and risk that require specialist services, multiple factors are likely to be present.</p> <p align="center">Parents or Carers Capacity</p> <p>Basic Care, Safety and Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/carers are unable to care for the child. Parents/carers have or may have abused/ neglected the child/young person Pre birth assessment indicates unborn child is at risk of significant harm Parent's own needs mean they cannot keep child/ young person safe. Parent unable to restrict access to home by adults known to be a risk to children and other adults. Child/young person left in the care of an adult known or suspected to be a risk to children, or lives in the same house as the child. Low warmth, high criticism is an enduring feature of the parenting style Parent's own emotional needs/experiences persistently impact on their ability to meet the child / young person's needs. Parent/carer has mental health issues, including self harming behaviour, that present a risk of significant harm to the child. Parent/carers' substance misuse that presents a risk of significant harm to the child. Parental learning difficulties that present a risk of significant harm to the child. Parental health / disability that presents a risk of significant harm to the child. <p>Emotional Warmth and Stability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliberate cruelty or emotional ill treatment of a child resulting in significant harm Child id continually the subject of negative comments and criticism, or is used as a scapegoat by a parent/carer, resulting in feelings of low worth and self-esteem and seriously impacting on the child's emotional and psychological development. Previous child/young person(s) have been removed from the parents care. <p>Guidance Boundaries and Stimulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of appropriate supervision resulting in significant harm to a child. Child id given responsibilities that are inappropriate for their age / level of maturity resulting in significant harm to the child. Adult in a position of trust, staff member or volunteer behaves in a way that results in harm to a child, or that might indicate unsuitability to work with children. <p align="center">Family and Environmental factors</p> <p>Family History and Well-Being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment identifies risk of physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect History of previous significant harm to children, including any concerns of previous child deaths Family characterised by conflict and serious, chronic relationship difficulties Parent/carer has unresolved mental health difficulties which affect the wellbeing of the child Adult victim of Domestic Abuse is assessed as high level risk (DASH) and the child (including unborn) is at risk of significant harm Child's carer referred to MARAC Members of the wider family are known to be, or suspected of being, a risk to children Child needs to be looked after outside of their immediate family or parents/carers due to abuse / neglect <p>Housing, Employment and Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hygiene conditions within the home present a serious and immediate environmental / health risk to children. <p align="center">Child or Young Person's Developmental</p>	<p>Children's Social Work Services In the case of suspected abuse they will follow the Working Together procedures as laid out in the Pan Sussex Safeguarding Children's Procedures.</p> <p>Key agencies that may provide support at this level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Services – Social care, Fostering, Adoption Teams Family Group Conferencing Service Police Other statutory service e.g. SEN services; Education & Child Psychology Clermont Family Assessment Centre Specialist health or disability services Youth Offending Service RUOK – Targeted drug and alcohol Specialist CAMHS Children's Centres Voluntary & Community Services Services at Universal level Triple P level 5 path ways, group and individual Functional family therapy Integrated team for families <p>Exit Strategy Children's Services will work with the child and family</p>

Needs	
<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/carers refusal to recognise or address high level disability, serious physical and/or emotional health problems. • Carers refusing medical care endangering life/development. • Carers unable to manage high level of child's disability. • Child not accessing appropriate medical care which puts them at direct risk of significant harm. • Concerns that a child is suffering or likely to suffer harm as a result of fabricated or induced illness • Sexually Transmitted Infection in a child under 13 • Child who is suspected to having suffered inflicted, or serious unexplained, injuries. • Female Genital Multination <p>Social, Emotional, Behavioural, Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenging behaviour resulting in serious risk to the child and others. • Child/young person beyond parental control – regularly absconds from home and places self at risk of significant harm. • Failure or inability to address complex mental health issues requiring specialist interventions. • Under 13 engaged in sexual activity • Subject to sexual exploitation under 18 years of age. • Is missing from home for repeated short periods of time or prolonged periods. • Young people experiencing current harm through their use of substances. • Young people with complicated substance misuse problems requiring specific interventions and/or child protection. <p>Self-Care and Independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child is left 'home alone' without adequate adult supervision or support and at risk of significant harm. • Distorted self image and lack of independent living skills. 	<p>either to reduce the risk to a child in need and ultimately a move out of statutory intervention as described in Level 3, or will embark on Court Proceedings to accommodate the child or young person in a kinship, fostering or residential placement, or to place the child for adoption.</p>

Glossary

ASSET	Structured assessment tool to be used by Youth Offending Teams
ACAS	Advice, Contact and Assessments Team now MASH and Assessment Service in Children's Social Care
CAMHS	Child Adolescent Mental Health Services
CSW	This document can be made available in large print, or in electronic format. There are no copies currently available in other languages.
DA	Domestic Abuse
EHH	Early Help Hub
LAC	Looked After Child
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment

Subject:	Early Help Pathway and Hub		
Date of Meeting:	2 June 2014		
Report of:	Executive Director of Children's Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Steve Barton	Tel: 29-5145
	Email:	steve.barton@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to note the key principles underpinning the design, consultation and implementation of an Early Help Pathway and Early Help Hub for children's services as part of the Brighton and Hove Early Help Partnership Strategy 2013-2017.
- 1.2 The Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and the council's children's service is consulting on three key developments to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families: the Brighton and Hove Thresholds Document (subject to a separate report to this committee); a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH); and an Early Help Pathway and Hub.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee note the contents of this report

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The central importance of Early Help in enabling children and adults to reach their full potential has been a common theme in a number of reviews that have been commissioned by successive governments (*Working Together*; Munro Review; Allen Review; Field Review; Marmot Review). They have all independently reached the same conclusion that it is important to provide help early in order to improve outcomes for children and young people.

In Brighton & Hove the majority of children and young people are well supported through universal services. However we recognise that our outcomes for children and young people are not as good as they should be, and there are particularly challenging outcomes for vulnerable groups of children and young people.

In Brighton & Hove we support the principle of Early Help, which recognises that it is better to identify and deal with problems early rather than respond when difficulties have become acute and demand action by services which often are less effective and more expensive. We identified the need to develop an Early Help strategy to set out clearly what we plan to do, and how we intend to work, with an increasing emphasis on the value of Early Help.

The Early Help Strategy was developed through thorough consultation with key partners across the city, culminating in the Early Help Strategy Conference on 5th November 2014, which was attended by over 200 delegates, including our schools, council services working with vulnerable groups, community and voluntary sector organisations, and partners in health and the police.

The Early Help Strategy was published in January 2014:

<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/childrens-services/early-help>

This includes the key priority to establish an Early Help Hub, to improve the assessment of problems facing children and families and to ensure prompt access to the right support services to create a single integrated system for identification, referral, assessment, and monitoring of effective early help interventions, and offer support and guidance to all providers of services to children and young people.

In addition we aim to ensure all adult and children's services are using a new streamlined Early Help Assessment as the initial multi-agency identification and assessment process including evidence based plans and regular reviews.

- 3.2 Attached as Appendix 1 is the consultation paper in respect of the Early Help Pathway and Hub, the MASH and the Inter-Agency Threshold Criteria.
- 3.3 The paper describes the key purpose of the Early Pathway as setting out new arrangements to manage concerns and issues that fall outside of safeguarding and child protection procedures but which currently may challenge individual organisations. The paper emphasises that safeguarding and child protection concerns will continue to follow mandatory LSCB procedures by making a referral to the new MASH. A draft, and schematic representation of the proposed early Help Pathway, is attached as an appendix to the report.
- 3.4 The paper sets out initial thinking about the functions of an Early Help Hub i.e.
 - Responding to enquiries:
 - o Provide advice, signposting, mentoring and/or case consultation sharing knowledge and expertise held by hub staff
 - o Collate and/or update information currently held in various directories or by services and initiatives such as the Family Information Service (FIS), the advice part of ACAS, youth information and advice services and the Vulnerability Index.
 - Responding to referrals:
 - o Build on Early Help/CAF assessments, cross-checking data systems, including possible home visits for complex cases, to create a detailed family profile
 - o Inform an EHH multi-agency, multi-disciplinary triage process to identify and agree services/interventions
 - o Support families/individuals to engage with services including, where appropriate, enabling the referrer to continue their input/lead professional role

- Informing commissioning and service redesign:
 - o Collate, quality assure and evaluate outcome data from interventions
 - o Support an evidence based, value for money approach
 - o Inform commissioning/joint commissioning and/or service redesign

3.5 During the extensive consultation process, and through the work of the Early Help Implementation Group, these functions are being refined and developed in much more detail. It has become clear, for example that the Early Help Hub has a fourth function which is to continue to support and strengthen inter-agency partnership and multi-professional working.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 The purpose of the consultation paper (Appendix 1) is to review our current thinking and explore alternative options. The paper concludes with a set of questions to enable us to collate responses from partners and service users.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

5.1 Details to follow

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The Early Help Pathway and Early Help Hub has the potential, alongside the Threshold Document and the MASH to effect a significant, 'whole-system' change across children's services which will improve outcomes for children, young people and their families and the efficiency, effectiveness and value for money of the children's services.

6.2 The committee is therefore asked to consider the proposals set out in Appendix 1 as part of the consultation and development process.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

7.1 The Early Help Hub and the development of the Early Help pathway are integral elements of the children's services VFM programme. It is hoped that this initiative will result in the reduction of social care activity across the spectrum and in particular, high cost provision. At present it is not possible to gather any evidence from this authority or others as to the level of savings that can be realistically achieved. Investment in early help provision currently stands at £7.6m and it is crucial that these resources are deployed in the most effective way possible to maximise potential to improve outcomes while ensuring value for money and reducing spend in high cost services elsewhere.

7.2 Some additional costs may be incurred in setting up the early help hub, although at this stage no specific costs or commitments have been incurred. In the event that new investment is required a robust business case will need to be written identifying where and how mitigating savings will be made.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis

Date: 02/04/14

Legal Implications:

- 7.3 The Early Help Hub and the development of the Early Help pathway are integral to the capacity of the local authority and partner agencies to meet their obligations under a range of legislation relating to services for children, including:

S10 The Children Act 2004 provides that each local authority in England must make arrangements to promote co-operation between the authority and other relevant partners with a view to improving the well-being of children in the authority's area so far as relating to— (a) physical and mental health and emotional well-being, (b) protection from harm and neglect, (c) education, training and recreation, (d) the contribution made by them to society, and (e) social and economic well-being.

S1&2 of the Childcare Act 2006 introduced a duty on local authorities to improve the well being of children with reference to the outcomes above, and to reduce inequalities between young children in their area in relation to those matters. Under S17 (1) Children Act 1989 it is the general duty of every local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need; and so far as is consistent with that duty, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs. Under section 17(1) Children's Act 1989, a child is considered to be a child in need if s/he is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the help of the services by the local Authority . Under Schedule 2 Part 1 S7 of the Children Act 1989 every local authority shall take reasonable steps designed to reduce the need to bring proceedings for care or supervision orders or any family or other proceedings with respect to such children which might lead to them being placed in the authority's care.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 15.05.14

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 Compilation of an Equalities Impact Assessment is included in the work programme and project plan for the Early Help implementation Group.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 There are no sustainability implication

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.5 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Consultation Paper: Early Help Pathway, Early Help Hub, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and Inter-Agency Threshold Criteria

Appendix 1.

Consultation Paper: Early Help Pathway, Early Help Hub, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and Inter-Agency Threshold Criteria

1. Purpose of the consultation

To involve partners in the design and implementation of the early help pathway and hub (EHH) and the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) and to consult on the Inter Agency Threshold Criteria (the Threshold Document).

2. Timeline

- Publish final proposals by May
- Begin incremental implementation in June/July
- Formal launch of EHH and MASH in September.

3. Why do we need to make changes?

Early Help

Although we have a range of effective early help services, often delivered by universal services and especially schools, the needs assessment for the Early Help Strategy concluded:

- Our outcomes for children and young people are not as good as they should be, and there are particularly challenging outcomes for vulnerable groups of children and young people.
- Although there is some good practice and evidence of co-ordination and integration across the city this is not embedded.
- Despite a significant amount of Early Help intervention across the city it is not always clear what impact and difference it makes to outcomes for children and young people and families. We need to make sure our Early Help services target those that need it most and are of both high quality and good value for money.

We know our partners often continue to struggle with the complexity of the systems for obtaining support, especially in multi-agency situations and that some children and young people continue to ‘slip through the net’ until problems are entrenched and harder to resolve.

MASH – Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

Serious Case Reviews continue to identify missed opportunities for information sharing and effective communication between agencies. This in turn translates to missed opportunities to implement appropriate safeguarding measures before the advent of some critical (sometimes fatal) outcomes.

A new single inspection framework led by OFSTED began this year. Its remit is the joint inspection of multi-agency arrangements for the protection of children and states that “child protection does not begin at the point at which a referral is made to children’s social care”. The focus of the inspections will be on “the effectiveness of... services for

children who may be at risk of harm, including the effectiveness of early identification and early help”.

Over the last five years there has been movement nationally towards the creation of multi-agency safeguarding hubs for children and adults.

Threshold Document

Children’s Social Work Services (CSW) and the Local Children’s Safeguarding Board (LSCB) recognise that there is a need to provide guidance to professionals and service users to clarify the circumstances in which to refer a child to a specific agency to address an individual need, to carry out a Family Common Assessment (CAF) or to refer to CSW.

We are therefore undertaking a major consultation on the final draft of the Brighton and Hove Inter-Agency Threshold Criteria for Children in Need document.

4. Strategy

Ambition and Scope:

- Improve our multi-agency identification, referral and partnership response where there are early help needs or concerns which can no longer be met by one organisation working with the family.
- Strengthen our multi-agency safeguarding and child protection response where there may be or are risks to a child’s safety or well-being as described in the LSCB Pan Sussex Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures
- Agree and publish Threshold Criteria for Children in Need

Governance:

- Development of the pathway and the hubs is being led by the Director of Children’s Services and the Directorate Management Team and is one of the critical systems changes to deliver the priorities in the council’s Corporate Plan and the Children’s Service three year strategy
- The MASH is being developed under the auspices of the Local Children’s Safeguarding Board. Cross-agency Strategy and Operational Boards are in place to design and implement the MASH.
- The proposal for the early help pathway and hub flows from the Early Help Strategy, developed with partners during 2013 and which we anticipate will move forward under the auspices of an appropriate multi-agency group such as the Stronger Families Stronger Communities Partnership Board. An Early Help management team is in place to oversee the design and implementation of the pathway and hub.
- The development and implementation of the Threshold Criteria is under the auspices of the LSCB

The changes in this paper mean the current ACAS service will be replaced by the MASH and a Social Work Assessment Service and there will be a new context for multi-agency working currently described in the CAF/TAF arrangements.

5. What are we proposing to do?

Early Help Pathway:

Appendix 1 is a draft and *schematic* representation of what an early help pathway for the Children's Service.

The early help pathway will be firmly based on the strengths of our existing systems including arrangements across early years services, parenting programmes, community CAMHS, behaviour and attendance partnerships, the pilot Youth Early Help Pathway and the processes and relationships established by the Stronger Families Stronger Communities programme. (See Appendix 2)

The pathway is based on 4 principles:

- Early help support and interventions provided by universal services very often meets the needs of children, young people and their families
- The pathway underpins CAF/TAF arrangements i.e. when concerns, needs and/or support can no longer be held or provided by one organisation and further advice, information or services is required.
- The key purpose of the pathway is to set out new arrangements to manage concerns and issues that fall outside of safeguarding and child protection procedures but which currently may challenge individual organisations
- Safeguarding and child protection concerns must continue to follow mandatory LSCB procedures by making a referral to the new MASH (rather than ACAS)

The pathway presents both opportunities and challenges:

- An integrated system for advice, referral and the coordination of evidence based interventions will improve how all partners manage demand but will require a shared commitment to common processes and delegated decision making
- The pathway is an opportunity to develop sharing of information and intelligence about groups of children (as well as individuals) to develop responses to emerging issues but will require clear protocols to preserve the collaborative, consent based relationships that inform early help
- Data from monitoring early help interventions can inform commissioning and service redesign but may require greater clarity about partnership and funding arrangements

Early Help Hub

The EHH will be based on what is works well including the strengths of our CAF/TAF arrangements, the lessons learned from the Youth Pathway and from the SFSC multi-agency triage process. (See Appendix 2)

Our initial thinking has identified the following functions for the EHH:

- Responding to enquiries:
 - Provide advice, signposting, mentoring and/or case consultation sharing knowledge and expertise held by hub staff
 - Collate and/or update information currently held in various directories or by services and initiatives such as the Family Information Service

(FIS), the advice part of ACAS, youth information and advice services and the Vulnerability Index.

- Responding to referrals:
 - o Build on Early Help/CAF assessments, cross-checking data systems, including possible home visits for complex cases, to create a detailed family profile
 - o Inform a EHH multi-agency, multi-disciplinary triage process to identify and agree services/interventions
 - o Support families/individuals to engage with services including, where appropriate, enabling the referrer to continue their input/lead professional role

- Informing commissioning and service redesign:
 - o Collate, quality assure and evaluate outcome data from interventions
 - o Support an evidence based, value for money approach
 - o Inform commissioning/joint commissioning and/or service redesign

MASH

In order to address the issues set out at the beginning of this paper and make children safer, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the council's Children's Services Committee propose to establish a MASH which co-locates key agencies and their data into a secure assessment, research and referral unit for notifications regarding vulnerable children, young people and adults.

Principles underpinning a MASH:

- Strategic commitment and ownership by all agencies
- Strong accountability and leadership within the MASH
- Rotate staff in MASH to ensure in touch and connected to home agencies
- Effective referral and assessment point and outcome based interventions provided by Early Help services (the Early Help Pathway and Hub)
- Joint Information sharing protocol across adults and children's services.
- Ongoing joint training ensuring good practice shared
- Excellent communication strategy

Our initial thinking is that the MASH will consist of a co-located team of people from core agencies including: Children's Social Work services (CSW); Police; Health; Mental Health; Education and Youth Offending Team.

Staff in the MASH will work together to jointly to assess and decide on appropriate levels of information sharing required for each case – replacing the functions currently undertaken by ACAS.

Team members will continue to be employed by their own agencies but will be co-located in one office to offer an integrated service. The MASH will work to an agreed process for analysing and assessing risk, dealing with all notifications relating to safeguarding or the welfare of children.

Anticipated benefits:

- A standard risk assessment and decision making process leads to consistency and clarity of decision making

- Reduces the risk of information being overlooked as all agency information relevant to each child/family is identified and therefore needs fully assessed
- The most appropriate agency to meet the child's needs can be identified reducing unnecessary referrals
- Effective interventions can be accessed at an early stage to prevent needs escalating
- Information in the MASH is kept confidential and only disclosed on a 'need to know' basis.
- MASH performance is research based and can be monitored and evaluated
- A reduction in inappropriate referrals to children's social work services

Threshold Document

The Threshold Document is not a definitive tool. The aim is to provide guidelines for decision making with regards risk factors, balancing the strengths and weaknesses in the situation for individual children. The attached threshold consultation document points out that it can appear that similar situations for children can end up with very different services. This illustrates where professional knowledge, based on evidence and an analysis of resilience factors, makes the difference. The document is also there to ensure that professionals can challenge each others thinking using the same basis for setting the conversation on equal footings.

6. Framework for discussion/consultation questions:

Early Help Hub:

- What works well currently in relation to Early Help?
- What are the obstacles and challenges and do you feel the EHH proposal could help overcome these?
- Would you welcome a single Early Help Pathway and would you agree to work within the system and accept advice and decisions?
- Have you any thoughts about the model of hub you would like to see?

MASH:

- What works well currently when you have a safeguarding concern?
- Are there any obstacles or challenges in this area of work?
- Have you any thoughts on the MASH proposals and how they would make your role as a potential referrer easier?

Threshold Document:

- What is your view of the new draft Threshold document?
- How helpful do you find the 'windscreen' diagram and the level descriptors in terms of knowing how to access the right support and advice?

Overview:

- How do you think the three initiatives (EHH, MASH, Thresholds) work together in guiding the levels of support and intervention from Children's Services and other partners?
- Have you any suggestions for a communication strategy in respect of these developments or any other improvements in how they are linked and co-ordinated?
- How could your organisation contribute to and/or be part of the EHH team?

7. Links:

Pan Sussex Safeguarding Procedures

<http://pansussexscb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

Brighton & Hove Early Help Strategy

<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/childrens-services/early-help>

Family CAF

<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/childrens-services/family-caf-common-assessment-framework>

Support for Families

<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/community-and-life-events/support-families>

Brighton & Hove Corporate Plan

<http://corporateplan.brighton-hove.gov.uk/>

EARLY HELP PATHWAY

Linked to Thresholds Criteria

Emerging problem identified and assessed

Needs met by universal / mainstream provision

OR

Needs are not clear, not known or not met

Safeguarding
Refer to MASH.
Immediate or significant risk of harm.

Enquiry
Seek informal advice and / or guidance from the EHH

Referral
Open Early Help Assessment / CAF and refer to the EHH

Needs Met
by single or multi-agency intervention following Early Help Assessment / CAF

Early Help Hub (EHH)

- Offer advice, guidance or mentoring
- Screen, gather information and create family profile
- Evaluate and build EH Assessment / CAF
- Identify intervention and engage services
- Escalate if necessary to MASH in consultation with referrer
- Monitor & quality assure interventions
- Inform commissioning and service re-design

EH Intervention

- Complete EH Assessment
- Co-ordinate and deliver interventions
- Evaluate and report impact

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

- Act as front door to child protection services
- Build intelligence via multi-agency information sharing
- Provide emergency response function
- Allocate casework, including referral to EHH
- Monitor & quality assure interventions

Level 1
Universal needs

No additional support needs

Level 2
Low to vulnerable needs

Threshold for targeted support for children with additional support

Level 3
High or complex needs

Threshold for Children in Need

Level 4
Complex or acute needs

Threshold for Child Protection

Appendix 2

Current Early Help arrangements – key components of an integrated Early Help Pathway

Early Years Early Help Pathway

Every child is assessed by a Health Visitor and if additional help or support is required then the Health Visitor will plan this with the family. The extra support levels are called Universal Plus or Partnership Plus, and are part of the Healthy Child Programme. Health Visitors are based in Children's Centres and work closely with Children's Centre staff and other professionals, including midwives, GPs and nurseries, so that the child gets the right level of support they need. Health Visitors use the Common Assessment Framework to assess needs and plan and coordinate care, and work with families so that things get better for children.

Children's Social Work Services: re-direct pathway

Initial contacts to Children's Social Work that do not meet the threshold for Social Work intervention are "re-directed" one of 3 "contact-points" in the community, depending on the age of the child / young person: Health Visiting (for under 5's); School Nursing / Family CAF team (for 5-11 year olds); and the Youth Early Help Pathway (for 11 years +). These contacts currently decide which service / professional is best placed to have a conversation with the family to offer support. The outcome of the re-direct pathway varies from: an offer of support through a single agency (e.g. health visiting, school, youth service); initiation of a CAF process; or support declined by the family.

Youth Early Help

Key services for young people (the Youth Work service, Youth Offending Service, Youth Employability Service, school nursing and the SFSC Integrated Team for Families (ITF), have worked together since September 2013 to pilot a single early help pathway for school age young people (11-19). Staff work together with referrers to find the most appropriate help and support to the young person. In the first 3 months were 141 referrals with the majority coming from schools, the police and children's social work services.

Stronger Families, Stronger Communities

To be eligible for the SFSC programme, families must meet at least 2 of 3 criteria, as defined by the Troubled Families Unit. There are various routes by which eligible families are identified:

- Youth Early Help Pathway: see above
- Identification Checklists: completed eligibility checklist sent directly to the ITF
- School meetings: regular meetings between all schools and the ITF where all children known to be eligible are discussed and support and intervention agreed.
- ITF also sit on a number of multi-agency forums where potential referrals are discussed
- A significant number of cases have been identified through mapping different databases against each other.

Subject:	Consultation on charging for some Children's Centre services		
Date of Meeting:	2 June 2014		
Report of:	Executive Director for Children's Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Caroline Parker	Tel: 293587
	Email:	Caroline.parker@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 Brighton and Hove City Council is facing a challenging reduction in funding from central Government over the next few years. The Council's budget for 2014/15 included a commitment to consult on a proposal for charging for some Children's Centre services. The aim is to use the income from charging to continue to provide services that would otherwise have to be reduced. The budget proposal for 2014/15 was to generate £20,000 income for charging based on introducing charging from September 2014. To ensure sufficient time for a detailed consultation the proposal, subject to the results of the consultation, is to introduce charging from January 2015.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee agree to a consultation on charging for drop-in, open access Children's Centre services for parents.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The core purpose of Children's Centres, as set out in the Government's Sure Start Children's Centre Statutory Guidance, is to improve outcomes for young children and their families and reduce inequalities between families in greatest need and their peers in:
- child development and school readiness;
 - parenting aspirations and parenting skills; and
 - child and family health and life chances.
- The guidance states that a children's centre should make available universal and targeted early childhood services either by providing the services at the centre itself or by providing advice and assistance to parents (mothers and fathers) and prospective parents in accessing services provided elsewhere. Local authorities must ensure that children's centres provide some activities for young children on site.

- 3.2 In Brighton and Hove there is an integrated, citywide Children's Centre service with health visitors seconded into the Council. Midwives are based in the larger centres. All centres provide play and learning activities for children and parents, healthy child clinics, parenting advice and support groups, volunteering opportunities and information about training or getting back to work. Some of the activities are drop-in sessions and available to all local families and others by appointment or referral. Children's centres also provide home visiting for families who need additional support. A fuller description of services is set out in the leaflet "Your Sure Start Children's Centre Team".

Which services to charge for

- 3.3 Children's Centres already charge parents for childcare provided by Children's Centre nurseries. The consultation will consider charging for other Children's Centre activities. The Council has the power to charge for discretionary, non-core activities, ie. those services not required to fulfil the core purpose of children's centres.
- 3.4 The most frequently used groups in children's centres are stay and play groups (including Stay and Play, Toddler and You and Jump for Joy). Groups are run in both Children's Centre buildings and other locations including libraries. Before Children's Centres were established it was common practice for parents to pay a small contribution to attend parent and toddler groups. Some children's centres also run groups for childminders which are similar to stay and play groups. The proposal is to charge for these Stay and Play drop-in, open access groups.
- 3.5 There is no proposal to charge for services delivered by health staff or core Children's Centre activities including healthy child clinics, Baby and You groups which provide information for new parents, groups aimed at particular groups (eg. children with disabilities, bilingual families, children with speech and language difficulties), referral groups (eg. post natal depression), courses (eg. parenting programmes, family learning, adult education) or the crèches which support these courses. Charging for a wider range of Council funded services will be considered in the future.

How to charge

- 3.6 Handling cash is expensive and time consuming to administer. The proposal is to use the Parent Pay system which is used by schools across the city for parents to pay for school meals and trips. All Schools in the city will use Parent Pay from June. Parents join the system on line using a computer or a smart phone. Parents can pay on-line or with cash at Paypoint outlets across the city. Parents with school age children who pay for school meals will already have a Parent Pay account and can add their younger children. Parents of infant children who will receive free school meals from September will still be asked to register with Parent Pay to receive communications from schools. Parents would not be able to pay cash at Children's Centres. They would be able to attend a session and pay later. Attendance at sessions will be recorded using the CC attendance system and will then be matched to parents' Parent Pay accounts.

Who to charge?

- 3.7 The proposal is to not charge for the children of families receiving:
- Out of work, means tested benefits,
 - Working tax credit with a maximum income of £16,190 per family
 - Disability Living Allowance for a child.
- And
- Adopted and looked after children.
 - Children with a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Action Plan, Child in Need (CIN) or Child Protection Plan (CP);
 - Children of parents aged under 20.
- 3.8 The first four criteria are consistent with the national eligibility criteria for free childcare places for two year olds. The Government's estimate is that 34% of two year olds will be eligible for places in the city from September. This is likely to mean that at least 34% of parents will still be able to attend sessions for free. Parents will be asked to show proof of benefits or tax credits to qualify for free sessions. The two last criteria are to ensure children with identified needs can access services and to encourage teenage parents to access services.

How much to charge?

- 3.9 The actual cost of drop-in groups varies according to the level of staffing and average number of children attending each group. As an example a 1.5 hour drop-in group staffed by one staff member and attended by 15 children would cost £3.60 per child including back office costs.
- 3.10 The proposal is to charge a standard amount for all groups of £3.00 per child per session (usually 1.5 hours). Charges for other parent and toddler groups across the city vary from £1 to £3.50. However these groups tend to charge all parents.
- 3.11 We do not have an accurate figure for the number of children attending activities who would qualify for free sessions. The proportion will be higher than the 34% who qualify for free two year childcare places. We have used an assumption of 50%. The estimate is that a charge of £3.00 for 50% of attendees would generate a total income of approximately £25,000. The total Parent Pay cost is estimated to be less than £2,000 based on parents paying for 5 sessions at one time. The net annual income is estimated to be around £23,000.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The alternative to charging for some Children's Centres would be to no longer provide some services or to reduce funding for another service. The proposals described above aim to ensure that parents on low income will be able to access services and to reduce the cost of administration.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The proposal is for the consultation to be publicised by email to Children's Centre users, Facebook and Twitter. A leaflet will be available in Children's Centres and distributed to parents and childminders who attend the groups which may be charged for. Responders will be encouraged to use the Council's consultation

portal but will be able to request a paper questionnaire. Consultation meetings will be held with Children's Centre Advisory Group members. Partnership organisations will also be consulted. They include Sussex Community Trust, Schools which host Children's Centres, the Library Service, and Voluntary organisations which provide services.

- 5.2 The consultation will run from June to early September and will report to the Children and Young People's Committee in October.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The consultation will propose charging for drop-in, open access activities at £3 a session using Parent Pay. Parents on low incomes and disabled, looked after and adopted children or those with CAF or CIN or CP plans will not be charged.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The budget for Children's Centres for 2014/15 is £2,526,000. If the decision is taken to implement charging from January 2015 then the likely income for 2014/15 is £6,000. The remaining £14,000 for 2014/15 will be found from other savings including vacancies. The income for 2015/16 is projected to be £23,000.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis

Date: 9 April 2014

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 The Department for Education has published statutory guidance for local authorities on their duties relating to children's centres under the Childcare Act 2006. The guidance states that Local Authorities must ensure there is consultation before making a significant change to the range and nature of services provided through a children's centre and / or how they are delivered, including significant changes to services provided through linked sites. Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003 contains the power to levy charges for discretionary services provided by a local authority. This could include such discretionary services provided by the Authority in fulfilment of its duties under section 1 of the Childcare Act 2006 to improve the well-being of young children in the area. An LA can however only recover the costs of the service and not make a profit through charging.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 29 April 2014

Equalities Implications:

- 7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed as part of the consultation and will consider the impact on protected groups including single parents.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.3 Continuing to provide Children's Centre stay and play groups contributes to the One Planet principle of Health & Happiness: Encouraging active, sociable, meaningful lives to promote good health and well being.

7.2 Any Other Significant Implications: None.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Documents in Members' Rooms:

- Your Sure Start Children's Centre Team Leaflet
- Sure Start Children's Centre Statutory Guidance

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 1.1 None.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 1.2 Risks have been considered in the development of the consultation proposals. The proposal to not charge parents on low incomes is to reduce the risk of the most vulnerable families no longer accessing services. The proposal to use a cash less system is to reduce the risk that the cost of administering charging could significantly reduce the income. There is a risk that charging will reduce the number of children attending sessions and therefore generate less income. There is also a risk that, despite being offered free sessions, low income parents may be deterred from attending. A full risk assessment will be completed as part of the final proposals.

Public Health Implications:

- 1.3 The proposal in the consultation aims to ensure that services will still be delivered for all parents. There is no proposal to charge for any health services.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 1.4 The aim of the consultation is to contribute to the savings the Council has to make because of the reduction in Government funding.

Subject:	Brighton and Hove Youth Justice Strategy 2014 - 2016		
Date of Meeting:	2 June 2014		
Report of:	Executive Director of Children's Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Steve Barton	Tel: 29-6105
	Email:	steve.barton@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to approve the Youth Justice Strategy for Brighton and Hove 2014-2016
- 1.2 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 there is a requirement for the multi-agency Youth Offending Management Group to produce a local Youth Justice Strategy setting out how Youth Offending Services (YOS) will be resourced and provided

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee approves the Youth Justice Strategy for Brighton and Hove 2014-16

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory responsibility on local authorities acting with statutory partner agencies to establish a Youth Offending Service (YOS). The statutory function of the YOS is to co-ordinate the provision of youth justice services. The Act also sets out responsibilities in relation to the production of a Youth Justice Strategy setting out how youth justice services are to be provided, how the YOS will operate and which functions it will carry out.
- 3.2 The proposed Youth Justice Strategy is compliant with guidance issued by the national Youth Justice Board and includes:
 - Purpose, priorities and values
 - Structure and Governance of the Youth Offending Service
 - Resourcing and Value for Money
 - Partnership arrangements
 - Risks to future delivery
 - Key priorities

- 3.3 The key priorities developed and agreed by the YOS Management Group are:
- Preventing youth crime and reducing offending
 - Reducing Reoffending
 - Keeping the number of children and young people in custody to a minimum
 - To effectively manage risk of harm for victims and harm caused by perpetrators
 - To reduce the number of looked after children within the criminal justice system and support those within the system away from offending behaviours
- 3.4 The Strategy will also be taken to the city's Safe in the City Partnership Board for discussion and agreement and must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board by the 8th July 2014.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 Publication of the strategy is a statutory requirement.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Direct community engagement and consultation has not been a part of the development of this strategy. However the operational Business Plans which underpin the strategy do ensure the involvement and participation of young people in the design and delivery of services and include specific community orientated initiatives such as Restorative Justice.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to approve the strategy as part of discharging the council's statutory responsibilities.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The financial information detailed within Section 4 of the body of the attached supplementary report accurately reflects the current budgetary position of the YOS. The risk attached to any reduction in anticipated funding from the PCC and the Probation service would need to be managed, with Finance support, within the service with economies made and service delivery assessed/re-designed accordingly

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis

Date: 02/05/14

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory responsibility on local authorities acting with statutory partner agencies to establish a Youth Offending Service. The strategy meets the requirements under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to produce a local Youth Justice Strategy setting out how Youth Offending

Services will be resourced and provided. The strategy must be published, and refer to the key requirements referred to in the body of the report.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 15.05.14

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 The strategy explicitly addresses equalities implications under Purpose, Priorities and Values (page 9) and as one of the cross-cutting themes identified (page 35) which will be monitored by the Management Board.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 There are no sustainability implications.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 7.5 The Youth Justice Strategy is one of the key multi-agency strategies addressing crime and disorder in the city.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 7.6 Section 6 of the Strategy addresses risk to future delivery and Section 7 sets out the priorities, and opportunities the service will address.

Public Health Implications:

- 7.7 Public Health are members of the Youth Offending Service Management group and have been fully involved in producing the strategy.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 7.8 The strategy will also be taken to the Safe in the City Partnership Board as part of ensuring a consistent corporate and city wide approach.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Confirm if strategy to be attached and/or placed in Members room
- 2.

Documents in Members' Rooms

- 1.
- 2.

Background Documents

**Brighton & Hove Youth Justice Strategy
2014/15 to 2015/16**

1. INTRODUCTION

Introduction

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory responsibility on local authorities acting with statutory partner agencies to establish a Youth Offending Team (YOT). The statutory function of the YOT is to co-ordinate the provision of youth justice services. The Act also sets out responsibilities in relation to the production of a Youth Justice Plan setting out how youth justice services are to be provided, how the YOT will operate and which functions it will carry out.

The Brighton & Hove Youth Justice Strategy will cover a two year period from 2014/15 to 2015/16 and will be refreshed annually to reflect any changes to the national and local youth justice landscape. The work of the YOS in Brighton & Hove is governed by the Brighton & Hove Youth Justice Strategic Management Board which comprises of the statutory partners: Sussex Police, Probation, Children's Services National Health Service and the Courts as well as the Voluntary Sector.

Brighton & Hove YOS works with Pan Sussex YOS providers to ensure that we provide a joined up YOS service across Sussex for those young people who may cross boundaries and also to develop better joint working with Pan Sussex partners. This has for example enabled work with Functional Family Therapy Team and the YMCA Reaching Your Potential projects to be developed across the whole area. The three Sussex YOS also work together with the Police and Crime Commissioner to address issues that affect young people and youth offending and are joint partners on the Sussex Criminal Justice Board, currently represented by East Sussex YOS

2. PURPOSE, PRIORITIES and VALUES

Purpose, Priorities and Values

The Youth Justice Plan overseen by the Brighton & Hove Youth Offending Service Strategic Management Board will focus on three primary aims: to prevent and reduce offending, reduce the use of custody and improve the outcomes for young people by working proactively with them and their families and carers.

The Youth Justice Strategy incorporates the purpose and ambition of the city council's Corporate Plan which places great importance on the relationship between the council and the communities it serves and aims to:

- Tackle inequality
- Creating a more sustainable city
- Engage people who live and work in the city
- Modernising the council

With support from all partner agencies YOS staff are expected to achieve their personal best for our young people, families, communities, victims and for the city. In doing this the YOS Partnership will ensure staff have the knowledge and skills to adhere to the council's six values:

- **Respect**
- **Collaboration**
- **Efficiency**
- **Openness**
- **Creativity**
- **Customer Focus**

Brighton & Hove YOS seeks to create a reflective and efficient culture that continuously improves, responds to lessons learned and consistently achieves high performance.

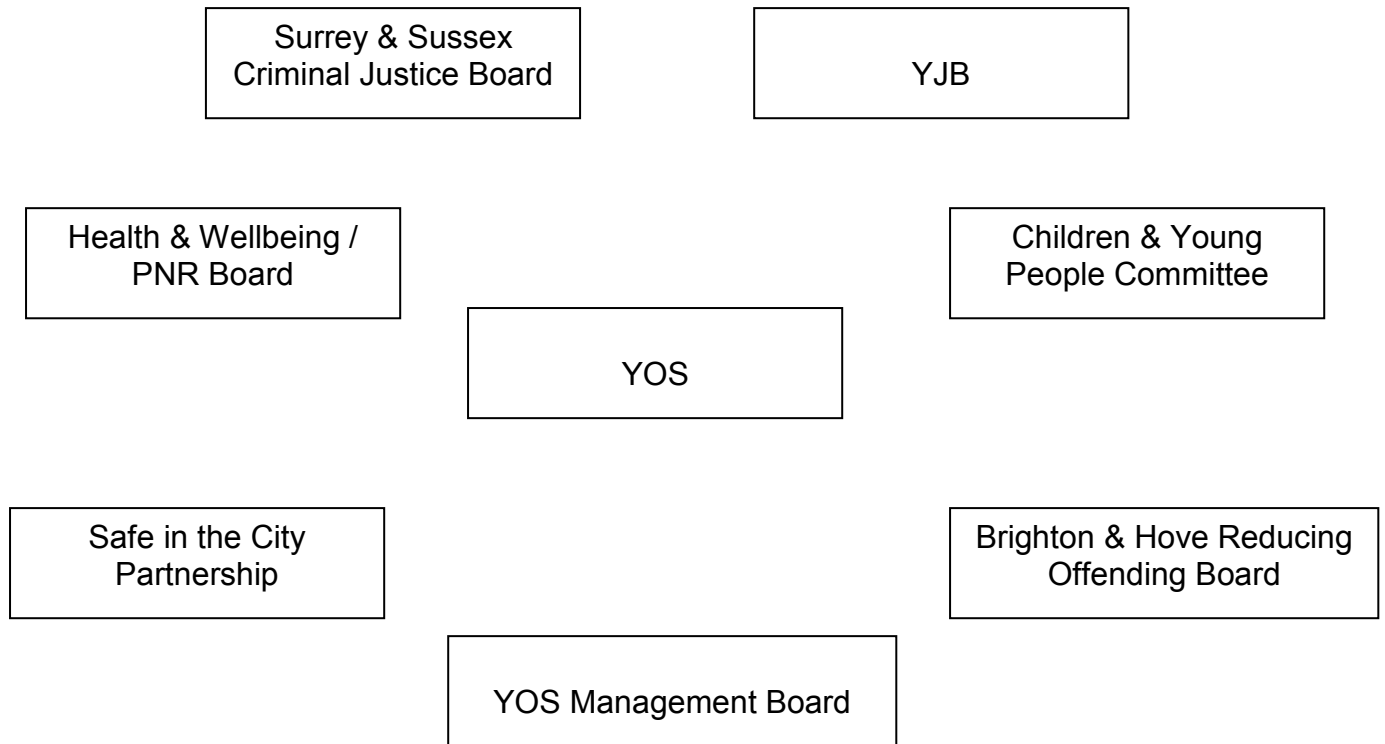
We aim to do this by managing risk and safeguarding all vulnerable young people in the Criminal Justice System or those at risk of entering it, taking into account their gender, sexuality, ethnicity, religion or disability.

We will work collaboratively and creatively with young people, their families and carers to stop, or prevent the young person's offending and support them to realise their full potential and achieve positive outcomes for themselves. We will also support victims of youth offending and increase restorative justice measures.

We will build on our partnership working in collaboration with the Safe and the City Partnership Board to ensure that the Youth Justice Plan feeds into, works alongside and incorporates the wider strategic plans for the city, including the Safe in The City Strategy, Children's Strategy and the Public Health Business Plan.

3. STRUCTURES and GOVERNANCE

Structures and Governance



The YOS sits with the Stronger Families, Stronger Communities branch in the Children and Family Directorate within the city council. The YOS services manager is accountable to the Director of Children’s Services through the Assistant Director of SFSC who monitors the YOS operationally through regular supervision.

YOS Management Board

Governance of the YOS is provided by the YOS Strategic Management Board. It oversees the local delivery of responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for the Youth Offending Service. Chaired by the Director of Children’s Services, the Board is responsible for the governance of the Service and monitors and challenges the functions and performance of the YOS and the wider partnership. The Board reports to the City Council’s Children and Young People’s committee, to the Safe in the City Partnership, the Reducing Reoffending Board and the Youth Justice Board. The YOS is represented at strategic level on the Brighton & Hove Safe in the City Partnership. The YOS Board will also report to and seek governance from the Sussex Criminal Justice Board as appropriate.

The YOS Strategic Management Board meets quarterly and is made up of the members of the Community Safety Partnership who have statutory responsibility for YOS funding and other agencies, such as Courts and Voluntary sector. The board is made up of members who are senior representatives of their organisations and are able to make a significant contribution to the prevention and reduction of youth crime, with enough seniority and authority to be able to commit resources to the YOS and wider youth crime agenda.

The YOS Strategic Management Board scrutinise YOS performance and develop actions for improvement where necessary. Its purpose is also to provide clarity for partners about the scope of their role in governing the YOS and to maintain a good understanding of the range and quality of youth justice services delivered in Brighton & Hove. Staffing and resource issues are reviewed and the Board assists in setting the strategic direction of the YOS.

The YOS Management Board takes an active role in ensuring that young offenders and those at risk of entering the youth justice system have access to universal and specialist services within Brighton & Hove and that partner agencies recognise and maintain responsibility for contributing to the reduction of offending by children and young people.

What the Board does to ensure effective governance

- Supports the YOS in achieving its principal aims of reducing the number of first time entrants, reducing reoffending and reducing the use of custody.
- Ensures the effective delivery of youth justice services via monitoring of the implementation of the annual youth justice strategic plan.
- Monitors YOS performance against the National Indicators by scrutinising comprehensive quarterly performance reports and monitoring the progress of the actions for improvement where needed.
- Scrutinises the YOS annual spending to ensure that all core YOS services are delivered within the allocated budget.
- Ensures that the YOS is fully integrated into and able to influence strategic developments with which the partners are engaged.
- Reviews YOS delivery through case studies and thematic reviews

All key partners are represented on the Management Board and where appropriate the Board will extend its membership to other partners to ensure the progression of a specific development issue.

Membership

Name	Role and Agency
Pinaki Ghoshal	Director of Children Services, BHCC
Steve Barton	Assistant Director of Children Services, BHCC
Deb Austin	Head of Safeguarding, BHCC
Helen West	Inspector, Sussex Police
Peter Castleton	Community Safety Manager BHCC
Linda Beanlands	Commissioner, Community Safety, BHCC
Leighe Rogers	Acting Chief Executive Surrey & Sussex Probation (LDU Director Brighton & Hove and East Sussex, SSPT)
Claire Malarkey	Justice Clerk, Surrey and Sussex. HMCTS
David Standing	Chief Executive, YMCA
Kerry Clarke	Strategic Commissioner, Public Health, BHCC
Angela Smithers	Head of Housing, BHCC
	Youth bench member
Andrea Saunders	Director of Public Protection, National Probation Service
Katy Bourne	PCC

4. RESOURCING and VALUE for MONEY

Resourcing and Value for Money

Budgets

The YOS is funded through contributions from the statutory partner agencies in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. These are the Local Authority (including Education), the Probation Service, the National Health Service and the Police Service. The table below shows the amount of funding from each of the partner agencies for the year 2014 – 2015. The YOS also receives a Youth Justice Effective Practice Grant from the Ministry of Justice and a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner which has incorporated the monies previously received in the YOS via the Home Office Grant and Positive Futures Grant.

Below is the projected 2014/15 budget

Contributing organisation (2012/13)	Amount (£)	Expected reduction or increase	In Kind
YJB	342,452	Remains the same	Nil
PCC includes positive money future	90,692 (unconfirmed)	unknown	Nil
Police	17,449	Remains the same	1 IOM officer linked to the team 1 PC seconded to the team
Probation	12,000 (unknown)	unknown	1 probation officer
BHCC including DSG funding	950,972	Reduction £50k	0.1 Ed Psych
Health (SLA with SPFT, commissioned as part of CAMHS commissioning)	Nil	Nil	1 CAMHS nurse 0.1 term time psychiatrist Access to CASH nurse
Budget for 2014/15	1,413,565		

Funding contributions from the NHS through staff in kind has been maintained over the last few years, while the funding from the PCC has been maintained at last year's level and it is anticipated that the seconded Police Officer post will be formalised within the team.

The contribution from the Local Authority has been reduced by 5% from April 2014 and efficiency savings have had to be made. In respect of the Youth Justice Grants this year, there are no cuts to the YOS Efficiency Grant however the YJB will be making cuts in the grant related to remand costs. It is not yet known what this will be and is therefore hard to predict how this will affect the wider YOS or children in care services, however there will be an impact on the children in care budget.

With regard to probation the funding contribution is not yet known, however probation will maintain the PO post within the service and this will move to National Probation Service in June 2014.

During the period covered by this Youth Justice Plan, it is likely that all agencies will be looking for opportunities to make further savings due to the scale of the financial challenge ahead, and the YOS will come under increased pressure to demonstrate value for money to ensure continued financial support from partners.

It is vital therefore that over the coming year Brighton & Hove YOS partnership work with the PCC to look at and address the historical anomalies related to the funding of Youth Offending Services across Sussex from the police.

For the last 3 years the YOS in conjunction with Sussex Partnership Trust have received money from the NHS for a Liaison and Diversion pilot scheme. This was to identify those young people who may have mental health, learning difficulties or substance misuse issues who are coming into the criminal justice system and support their diversion out of criminal justice. This year that scheme is being rolled out pan Sussex and the money coming directly to Brighton & Hove will now be transferred to the pan Sussex project. This money has been used to purchase additional educational psychology and CAMHS nurse time into the YOS, it is likely that this additional time will be lost.

A costed plan giving a description of how the YJB Good Practice Grant will be completed in accordance with the requirements of the conditions of grant.

Staffing

In accordance with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the YOS has a full skill set within the workforce which is made up of professionals from a variety of agencies whose skills and experience complement each other.

Staff are recruited into all the posts based upon their experience and expertise and their skills are developed through supervision, appraisal and training.

Regular analysis of need and review of service provision have underpinned staff training and development to ensure that partnership resources are used effectively. This will continue to be a priority and a workforce development plan will be put in place in order to ensure that staff have clear direction and are enabled to further develop the skills needed to respond to new Youth Justice legislation and the changing landscape in regard to regulation and inspection.

To ensure the quality of practice by the workforce and as part of the workforce development plan all staff will be supervised in line with children's service social work supervision policy and PDP's will be undertaken on a yearly basis with a 6 month review cycle. There will also be robust quality assurance framework in place to ensure staff are working in an effective evidence based way.

The YOS has a good range of specialist services 'in house'. Specialist services located within or attached to the YOS team include:

Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) specialist nurse, CAMHS consultant, substance misuse worker, sexual health worker, education psychologist, education workers, parenting worker, a restorative justice coordinator, reparation workers and victim worker.

The substance misuse worker while employed by the YOS is linked to ru-ok, the young person's specialist substance misuse service.

The YOS sexual health worker is a post held within the CASH service that provides outreach into the YOS and undertakes physical health as well as sexual health assessments on all young people who access the YOS.

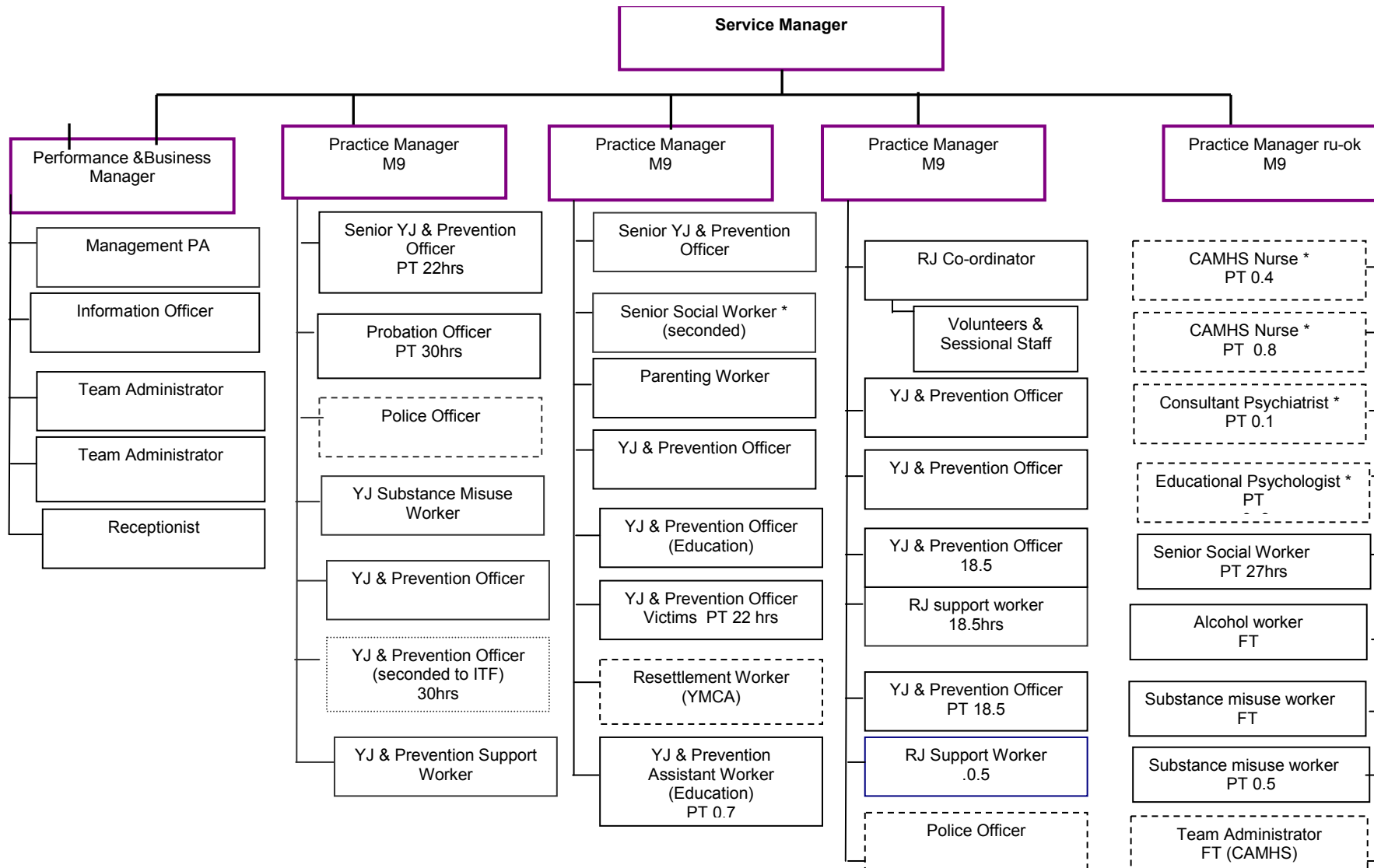
CAMHS provide the full time equivalent of a mental health nurse into the service and a consultant for 1 session (4 hours) per week during term time.

Through the provision of the two education workers, the YOS is now able to support young people into education, employment and training (ETE) as well as work with the behaviour and attendance team to address the education needs of young people working with the YOS.

In order to achieve the 5% cuts in local authority funding a Practice Manager post has been deleted in 2014/15. During 2013/14 a vacant admin worker post and youth crime prevention worker post were deleted to make efficiency savings and a further post was deleted following a voluntary severance agreement made towards the wider council efficiency savings.

Pan Sussex Liaison and Diversion Scheme 2014/15 will offer a service to young people across the whole of Sussex, the details of this have yet to be agreed with health. It is likely there will either be CAMHS Nurse or Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) time available.

Youth Offending Service Staff Structure Chart April 2014



88

Key Code - - - - - seconded to YOS seconded out of YOS

5. PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

Partnership arrangements

The Brighton & Hove YOS is a partner on the Surrey & Sussex Criminal Justice Board (SSCJB) and it is through this Board that the Pan Sussex work is monitored and the YOS is represented on the Board and all of the sub groups. The 3 Sussex YOS managers represent each other at all the Pan Sussex meetings, with East Sussex currently the YOS representative on the Surrey & Sussex Justice Board and Brighton & Hove and West Sussex on the subgroups. They have also recently set up meetings with the Surrey part of the Surrey & Sussex Criminal Justice Board. Through the SSCJB the Pan Sussex and SE7 protocols to reduce offending and reoffending of Looked after Children have been developed and rolled out across all partner agencies.

The YOS is a partnership which includes, but also extends beyond, the direct delivery of youth justice services. In order to deliver youth justice outcomes, the YOS must be able to function effectively in both of the two key sectors within which it operates:

- criminal justice services
- services for children and young people

The YOS partnership must ensure a strong strategic fit with both the Children's Services and the Safe in the City Partnership, and through these into the wider local strategic partnerships and strategies.

In order to do this the YOS contributes to a number of the working groups which have been set up to develop and deliver appropriate plans and services to support the priorities for the Brighton & Hove Children and Young People

The YOS is represented on the following multi agency strategic groups with Children's Services

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Partnership
- Parenting Strategy Group
- Participation Strategic Group
- Youth Early Intervention Group
- Functional Family Therapy Strategy Group
- RYP Steering group
- SFSC Delivery Board

In relation to the Community Safety Partnership, the YOS is represented on the following multi agency strategy groups:

- Safe in the City Partnership
- Reducing Reoffending Board
- Pan Surrey & Sussex Justice Liaison Diversion Steering group
- Child Sexual Exploitation Operational group
- Integrated Offender Management Strategy group

The YOS is also a statutory partner on the Local Safeguarding Children Board

The YOS during 2013/14 developed protocols with Children's Social Care, to reduce the offending of children known to them and to define roles and responsibilities in regard to the management of cases where both services are involved with the young person / family. During 2014/15 work will be undertaken between the YOS and Children's Social Care teams to ensure all staff are aware of the protocols and joint working is developed between the services.

Wider partnership agreements

The YOS has developed a number of wider partnership arrangements with the community and voluntary sector and across the statutory sector not just in Brighton & Hove but with East and West Sussex.

In conjunction with East and West Sussex YOS, Brighton & Hove have joined together with the YMCA to develop a resettlement project, Reaching Your Potential (RYP), supporting young people in custody and upon their return to community. This project is funded by the Big Lottery. It recognises that young people who receive custodial sentences are more likely to be at risk of reoffending upon their release in the community. The aim of the project is to not just support their rehabilitation back into the community during the period of their licence but to offer ongoing longer term support.

Brighton & Hove along with East and West Sussex have also worked in collaboration with Functional Family Therapy team (FFT) to provide FFT to those at risk of receiving custodial sentences or entering care as a result of their offending.

With the court provision significantly reducing across Sussex and the role out of one Saturday court for the whole of Sussex, again along with East and West Sussex YOS Brighton & Hove have collaborated to pool resources and now share the management and staffing for the Saturday court between the 3 services. This has reduced the number of staff required from each area needed to work on Saturdays.

For the last 3 years Brighton & Hove with Audio Active have received funding for a Youth Music mentoring project. This has seen 86 young people go through the project and 10 went on to train as music leaders and have gone onto paid employment as music mentors. The YOS and Audio Active have just had confirmed a bid to Youth Music Programme for a continuation of the project until May 2016. Audio Active and the YOS also have a funding from Artsmark to develop a creative Restorative Justice programme.

YOS has also worked in the past with Brighton Dome and Miss Represented and it is hoped through the Artsmark funding to undertake further projects in 2014/15.

Local Strategic Plans

The strategic plans which most closely relate to the strategic priorities of the YOS are the Corporate Plan, the Safe in the City Strategy and the Substance Misuse Strategy.

The role of the YOS partnership is to ensure that local partnerships and strategies give sufficient priority to the needs of children and young people at all stages of their involvement, (or potential for involvement) in the youth justice system.

Surrey & Sussex Justice Board

Brighton & Hove YOS is a member of the Sussex (and Surrey) Criminal Justice Board (SSCJB), along with the East and West Youth Offending Services.

Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs) are an important element of the Criminal Justice System (CJS). The aim is to join up local criminal justice agencies, across an area, and create a system where they work together to achieve common aims and objectives. The Surrey & Sussex Justice Board are working together to link up across the wider area and making significant progress in achieving both nationally and locally set targets. The aim is to deliver a more effective, transparent and responsive Criminal Justice System for victims and the public.

The Surrey & Sussex Criminal Justice Board are fully signed-up to delivering improvements for victims and witnesses, suspects and offenders, and the general public of Surrey & Sussex through investments in modern technology and better ways of working.

Following significant groundwork by partners during the period leading up to April 2014 it is the intention of the Surrey and Sussex Criminal Justice Board to deliver the following by April 2015:

- Identify priority areas of work through an annual Delivery Plan
- Identify areas of risk where a multi-agency response is necessary
- Identify performance measures necessary to monitor progress

- Commit appropriate resources in support of partnership work-streams
- Agree a delivery model aligned to the Delivery Plan
- Agree a communications and information sharing protocol
- Respond to consultation requests where resources allow
- Provide a well-equipped Support Team to support delivery
- Provide reports from meetings with decisions taken
- Provide access to approved non-confidential documents on a public facing website

Representation on the SSCJB for YOS is undertaken currently by the three Heads of East Sussex Youth Offending Service on a rotation basis. There are a number of working groups set up to develop and deliver the SCJ Board's priorities. These are made up of representatives of the Criminal Justice Agencies within Sussex and YOS representation on these working groups is shared amongst the Sussex YOS Managers. Currently Brighton & Hove is a member of the Efficiency Board, the Video Task and Finish group and the RJ task and finish group. The role of the efficiency board group is to review IT systems across the criminal justice system and address where efficiency can be made through the linking up of IT systems and the use of video conferencing.

6. RISK TO FUTURE DELIVERY

Risk to Future Delivery

The greatest risk to future delivery, post 2014, is the financial uncertainty faced within the public sector. The statutory members of the YOS partnership, including the Local Authority, are all experiencing pressures within their own agencies and this will inevitably affect the degree to which they are able to contribute financially and 'in kind' to the YOS.

During 2014/15 we will also see the transfer of Unpaid Work requirement from Probation into the YOS and await guidance and confirmation on funding around this, and the transition of Junior Attendance Centres to the YJB with a view that in 2015 the Attendance centres will transfer to local YOS teams. At present there has been neither guidance on the transfers nor agreement on funding, either locally or nationally. It is important that we work with the YJB to address these issues at both a local and national level.

The current plan for delivery of youth justice statutory services can be delivered in 2014/15 within the resources available. However, it is difficult, at this point in time to predict future delivery for the following year covered by this Strategic Plan. The future budget position affecting the statutory partners is uncertain and further cuts are forecast. It is known that the Children's Services will have to find approximately £5million each year for the next four years, what this will mean to the delivery of the YOS service is unknown.

From 2014, the YOS staff compliment will reduce by one FTE practice manager and this work will have to be covered by the remaining management team. The YOS restructure in 2013/14 has enabled the YOS to use staff resources creatively, by mixing roles and responsibilities of statutory, preventative and part time staff in order to meet the needs of the client group and service priorities. While the YOS Partnership has ensured that flexibility and a range of skills are contained within the workforce there has over the last 3 years been a gradual reduction of staff and posts and in the future the YOS partnership will have to review what it delivers as resources become more constrained.

As a result of the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) which came into force in 2012/13, remand budgets previously funded from central government became the responsibility of Local Authorities in 2013/14. While funding in 2013/14 was provided by the Youth Justice Board for this initial year it appears this funding will be significantly reduced in 2014/15. This will have significant impact on the Out of Area LAC budget and it remains unclear what impact it may have on the YOS. It is also difficult to both predict the number of remands and determine the placement, as placement decisions are made by the YJB placement team, therefore making it hard to forecast any possible overspend.

Following the appointment of the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) for each of the Country's police force areas, funding to YOS previously supplied by the Home Office was transferred to the PCC. To date the PCC has continued to give the YOS the equivalent level of funding to the Home Office grant, however future funding arrangements are not known.

In addition to the financial risk there are significant changes happening with the Criminal Justice arena with Transforming Rehabilitation and the resulting changes not only to the delivery of probation services but also the delivery of unpaid work to under 18's and to Junior Attendance Centres. We will need to ensure during 2014/15 that as the National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company develops locally that the joint work with the YOS board is maintained and we are able to continue to work to address transitions of those young people into adult services, to ensure they receive a safe and appropriate service which address their needs as offenders but also as young people.

We also need to ensure that when the delivery of unpaid work is moved from probation into the YOS there are good plans in place that both enable the work to continue in a safe way, for the offender and community, that resources are transferred and in place and there is a good understanding of any new guidance and protocol on delivering this service within the YOS, as well as transition plans of young people into probation. Equally we need to be addressing in 2014/15 the impact of Attendance Centres being moved to YOS in 2015/16 and in particular the fact that Brighton & Hove attendance Centre is a Pan Sussex resource.

During 2014/15 the YOS with Social Care will undertake a joint audit of a case to explore how the YOS works with young women and whether the wider service is able to think about needs of young women and their vulnerabilities. This will then be looked at in light of findings (yet to be published) from the thematic inspection on young women in the criminal justice system and a development plan will be put in place to address the needs of young women. This will take place alongside the Children's Service review of services to vulnerable adolescents.

7. KEY PRIORITIES

Key Priorities

Throughout all of the priorities there will be some cross cutting themes that the management board will monitor. These will be:

- Quality of practice monitored through the workforce development plan
- Service user perspective and participation, monitored through service user feedback and the development of a service user forum in line with the wider children service participation strategy which is being developed
- Equality and Diversity which will be through the Equality Impact Assessment on the Strategic plan
- Pan Sussex work through the Sussex Criminal Justice Board.

In order to ensure that the priorities are being met across all agencies there will be annual analytical review of the causes and patterns of crime and disorder in the city. Key findings from the analysis will inform both the YOS strategic review and plan but also partners business plans. It will include a review of offence types and characteristics of offenders.

The key priorities for 2014/15-2015/16 are:

1. Preventing youth crime and reducing offending
2. Reducing Reoffending
3. Keeping the number of children and young people in custody to a minimum
4. To effectively manage risk of harm for victims and harm caused by perpetrators
5. To reduce the number of looked after children within the criminal justice system and support those within the system away from offending behaviours

Priority 1:

Preventing Youth Crime and Reducing Offending

Why is this a priority?

Intervening earlier to address risk factors, challenge anti-social behaviour and improve parenting prevents children, young people and their families from becoming socially excluded within their communities and therefore less likely to offend or reoffend in the future.

What is our aim?

Building on our success in the reduction of the number of First Time Entrants (FTE's) into the Youth Justice System and recognising that the numbers have now stabilised.

We aim to reduce the number of FTE's to 70

To prevent those receiving early Out of Court Disposals from progressing further into the Criminal Justice System

To increase the number of appropriate and timely referrals into the YOS Prevention Service by Police Neighbourhood Teams, the Schools Police Officer and Children's Social Care Teams

To ensure the YOS partnership is embedding in the development of the Youth Early Help Hub and MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)

How will we measure success?

Referral rates into prevention services (Early Help Services) alongside the number of FTE's will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the YOS Performance Management Board.

The YOS will also report to the management board:

- Number of young people successfully completing a prevention intervention programme
- Number of young people whose risk of reoffending have been reduced after completing an intervention programme
- Number of young people completing a prevention programme who have not been charged within 6 months of completion

What we will achieve.

- Maintain a low level of first time entrants into the Youth Justice System whilst ensuring that those who do not respond to prevention programmes are escalated appropriately
- Closer working between and including ITF (Integrated Team for Families), PCST (Partnership Community Safety team), social care and the police to achieve a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour with the children and young people from families who meet the ITF criteria
- Implement the 2014/15 YOS Action Plan and embed crime prevention in the Youth Early Help hub

How will we do this?

- Continue partnership working with Youth, ru-ok, YES (Youth Employability Service) and ITF. YOS to deliver the youth early help pathways and work with partners on the development and implementation of the Youth Early Help hub
- Continue to raise awareness of the Prevention Service to the Police Neighbourhood Teams, the Schools Police Officer and Children's Social Care Teams
- All parents/carers whose children are referred into the YOS Prevention Service will be offered an individual or group parenting intervention.
- Regular Meetings will take place between partners and the YOS to discuss current cases/vulnerable young people, children in care and identify those at risk of offending to offer early interventions and diversion away from the criminal justice system
- Work in partnership with Sussex Police in relation to joint decision making for first time entrants into the Youth Justice System

Priority 2:

Reducing Reoffending

Why is this a priority?

Reducing reoffending by children and young people can significantly improve their life chances as well as having a wider impact on local communities. By breaking the cycle of reoffending means that our local community will be safer and there will be fewer victims of crime.

Reducing reoffending by Children in Care (CIC) is particularly important as this group of children and young people are already disadvantaged by their earlier life experiences and their offending can be the result of poor coping skills, rather than criminal intent. Nationally CIC and care leavers are over represented in the Criminal Justice System and all agencies need to work together to ensure that this over representation is not reflected locally.

It is recognised that within Brighton & Hove over the last few years while the cohort of offenders has reduced, from 350 in 2010-11 to 212 in 2011-12 and the number of offences committed has reduced, from 549 in 2010-11 to 349 in 2011-12 the reduction has not been at the rate of the national average and Brighton & Hove remains above the national average for the frequency rate of reoffending.

What is our aim?

It is a small proportion of young people who do reoffend, 91 in 2011-12, compared to 135 in 2010-11 and within this number it is a small cohort who commit a significant number of offences. We aim to address reoffending with our partner agencies, targeting those high risk young people and ensure there are robust joined up plans in place, which will lead to a reduction in offending behaviour and enhance public protection.

We aim to reduce the number of young people reoffending in 2014/15.

How will we measure success?

Data will be provided quarterly to the YOS Performance Management Board on the reoffending rate.

The YOS will also provide:

- Proportion of statutory interventions completed successfully (without reoffending or breach)

- Proportion of young people whose risk of reoffending (Asset score) has reduced on completion of a YOS intervention

What will we aim to achieve this coming year.

- Prevent those receiving early out of court disposals from reoffending and progressing through the Youth Justice System
- Reduce the rate of reoffending of the local cohort of young offenders and ensure that Brighton & Hove performance compares favourably with the overall performance of the South East region
- Reduce the reoffending rate amongst Brighton & Hove Children in Care
- Increase the use of Restorative Justice amongst partner agencies and placement providers working with Children in Care to enable alternatives to prosecution to be considered
- Ensure continuation of support from partner agencies following completion of Court Ordered interventions by YOS so that the risk of reoffending is reduced

How will we do this?

- We will offer voluntary intervention to young people and families when a child or young person has received an Out of Court Disposal
- Through YOS Quality Assurance processes and partnership working we will ensure that intervention plans to prevent reoffending are robust, prioritised and targeted at the risk factors closely linked to the likelihood of reoffending and risk of harm to others
- Ensure that on case closure the exit strategy provides appropriate support from partner agencies, including education, for the child or young person and their family to prevent them reoffending
- Monitor and review intervention plans for Children in Care who offend with social care teams and education services
- Roll out joint working protocol with social care and education services to ensure there is robust joined up work at both a prevention level and for those within the criminal justice system
- Develop a young woman pathway to ensure those who do enter the criminal justice system are not marginalised and have their needs met while also appropriately addressing their offending behaviours.

Priority 3:

Keeping the number of children and young people in custody to a minimum

Why is this a priority?

We know that Custody has a detrimental impact on the lives of children and young people and their families and resettlement into the community is difficult.

Reoffending statistics show that short custodial sentences that are received for persistent reoffending or noncompliance are not effective in reducing further offending on release. It is a priority for YOS to encourage the courts to use community sentences in place of custody for all but the most serious cases

Legislative changes, through the introduction of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, have increased the cost of remand to Youth Detention Accommodation to the Local Authority in terms of financial and staff resources.

What is our aim?

Ensure that only those who commit the most serious offences or present a risk to the local community are remanded or receive a custodial sentence

Maintain the confidence of partner agencies and the general public by providing robust interventions in the community as an alternative to Custody

Ensure that children and young people leaving custody receive effective support and supervision as they transfer from the secure estate and resettle into the community to prevent them returning to custody for failure to comply with Licence condition.

We aim to keep the numbers entering custody below 14.

How will we measure success?

Data will be supplied to the YOS Performance Management Board on the numbers of young people remanded or sentenced to Custody on a quarterly basis

The YOS will also provide

- Number of young people sentenced to custody
- Number of remand episodes and number of young people

What will we aim to achieve this coming year

- Ensure that only those young people who have committed the most serious offences or are a present risk to the public receive a custodial sentence or remanded to custody
- Provide robust alternative to Custody or Remand packages, providing these with partner agencies and in conjunction with social care.

How will we do this?

- Provide the Courts with robust bail supervision packages, which include support from partner agencies, to reduce the risk of remand into Youth Detention Accommodation
- YOS Service Manager will work with the Her Majesties Court Services to improve the process for youth cases going through the courts, in order to avoid long periods of remand
- YOS, social care and education will develop robust joint working processes to identify at an earlier point those who may be at risk of remand and ensure support packages are in place, particularly around education and accommodation issues.
- For those young people who are in Custody, YOS will begin planning for a young person's release from Custody (remand or sentence) at the earliest opportunity and work with Reaching Your Potential to ensure there is additional support in place upon leaving custody.
- Develop custody panels that review all custody cases and lessons learnt taken forward. The panels will also review the custody plans and exit plans and ensure ROTL (Release on Temporary Licence) are considered for all young people.

Priority 4:

Managing risk of harm for victims and perpetrators

Why is this a priority?

Effective Risk Management protects the public from harm and reduces the impact of offending in the local community

What is our aim?

Our aim is to robustly supervise children and young people who pose a risk of harm to others towards the successful completion of their Court Order or Individual Support Plan and achieve a reduction in the risk they pose by case closure

How will we measure success?

- The YOS partnership will closely monitor relevant cases through the Multi Agency Risk Management Meeting and put in place actions to reduce risk of harm
- We will monitor the number of young people who are subject to MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements)-and work towards the reduced MAPPA level

The YOS will also provide:

- Proportion of young people whose risk of harm (Risk of Serious Harm ROSH score) has reduced on completion of a YOS intervention

What will we aim to achieve this coming year

- Convene monthly Management of Risk Meetings (MRMP), chaired by a YOS Practice Manager or Police Sergeant to facilitate defensible decision making and share accountability
- We will aim to have no Public Protection incidents meeting the criteria for reporting to the Youth Justice Board
- Development of a new Integrated Offender Management (IOM) policy and joint working pathway.

How will we do this?

- Cases will be Quality Assured by Managers and discussed at 4 weekly Staff Supervision meetings and Risk Focus meetings
- Multi Agency Risk Management Plan (MRMP) meetings will identify IOM with the police and ensure IOM plan is in place.
- Relevant cases will be referred to MAPPA and YOS will attend all meetings
- Intelligence will be shared with Police and at MAPPA /IOM meetings
- To work with Safe in the City partnership to develop and roll out the Pan Sussex and Brighton & Hove IOM (Integrated Offender Management) strategy and ensure multi agency focus on IOM young people.

Priority 5:

Reducing the number of children in care within the criminal justice system and support those within the system away from offending behaviours

Why is this a priority?

Children in Care continue to be significantly over represented in the youth justice system relative to their non-looked after peers who are 2 to 3 times less likely to offend. Furthermore, unacceptably high numbers of CIC are in the prison system. A survey (**Prisoners' childhood and family backgrounds** Results from the Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction (SPCR) longitudinal cohort study of prisoners Ministry of Justice February 2012) published in March 2012 looking at the past and present family circumstances of 1,435 newly sentenced (2005 and 2006) prisoners reported that 24% stated that they had been in care at some point during their childhood. Those who had been in care were younger when they were first arrested, and were more likely to be reconvicted in the year after release from custody than those who had never been in care.

What is our aim?

- To reduce the number of young people in care entering the criminal justice system
- To reduce the number of young people in care becoming persistent offenders
- To ensure that all those young people who are looked after and enter into the adult criminal justice system, either through transition or reoffending are fully supported and an understanding of the looked after status and support needed is considered within their plan by probation and CRC's (Community Rehabilitation Companies).

How will we measure success?

Data on the number of children in care in the CJ system in Brighton & Hove will be provided to the YOS management board on a quarterly basis

The YOS will provide

- Number of looked after young people on the caseload on the last day of each quarter (excluding remand LAC status)

- Proportion of First Time Entrants to the criminal justice system who are Looked After.

Through social care the partnership will also monitor the level of offending for those placed out of area.

What will we aim to achieve this coming year

- Reduction in the number of CIC who are entering the criminal justice system
- Reduction in CIC who go on to be repeat offenders
- Reduction in number of CIC whose outcome results in a period of remand.

How will we do this?

- Roll out of joint working protocol with social care teams
- Training provided to social care teams and IRO's on LASPO and criminal justice system
- Training provided to the police on CIC
- Roll out with criminal justice partners the SE7 and Pan Sussex protocols.
- Develop better working between the 16+ team and CRC's/probation for the care leavers.

Appendix

Current Performance

Preventing youth crime and reducing offending

Referrals to YOS Prevention

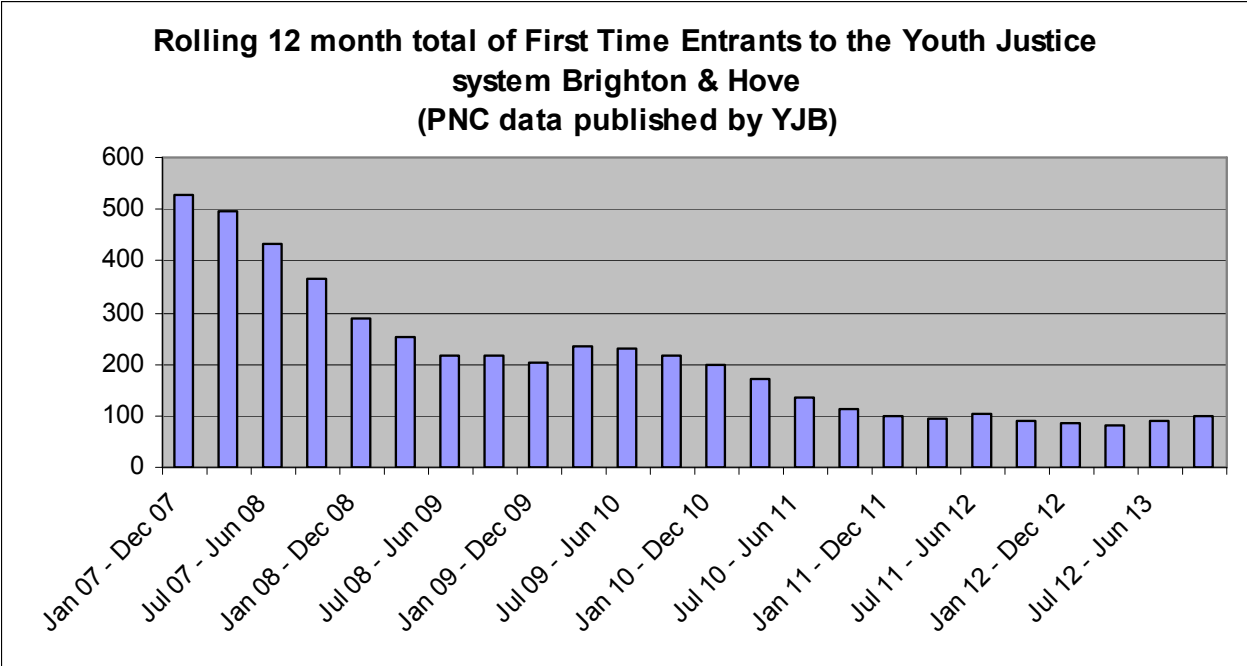
In September 2013, the Youth Early Help Pathway (YEHP) was launched by Brighton & Hove City Council. This has enabled referrals to Youth, YES, ITF, YOS prevention to be looked at as a multi-agency referral and the partner most appropriate to address the need of the young person and family.

From September 2013 to January 2014 there were 180 YEHP referrals with 30 of these being allocated to YOS prevention.

Between May 2013 and March 2014, 76 young people were referred to YOS Prevention by Sussex Police. These young people were offered a restorative intervention in order to avoid a criminal conviction.

First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system

The number of young people entering the youth justice system is low in Brighton & Hove and has reduced significantly from a high of 609 FTEs in 2006/7 to 100 for the period October 2012 to September 2013. Since January 2011 the number of FTEs has evened off to between 85 and 100 FTEs per 12 month period.



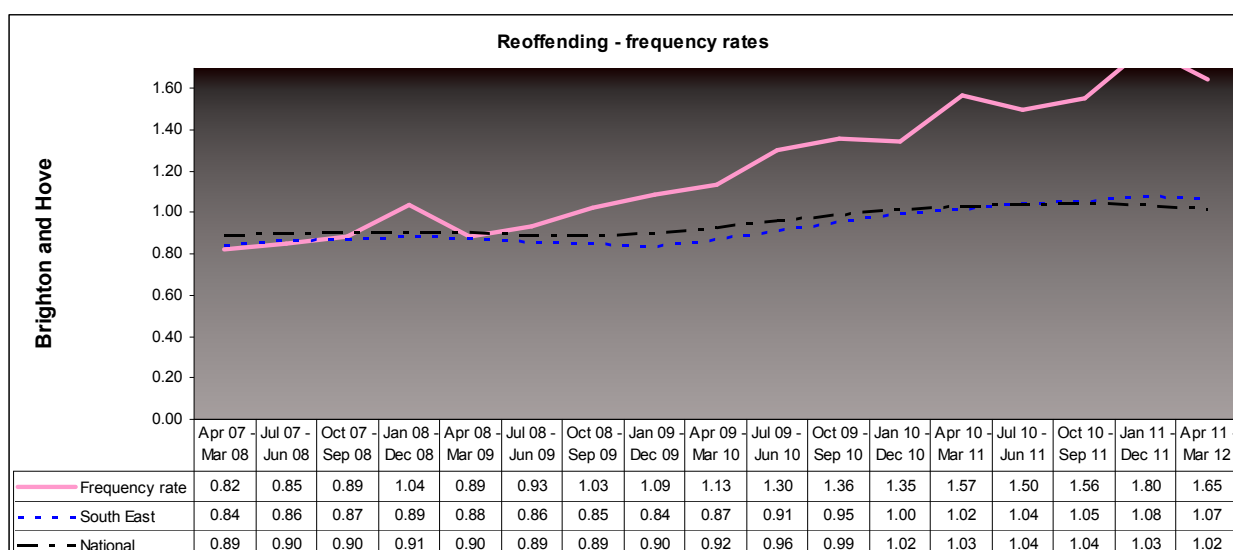
Comparative data is available as a rate of FTEs per 100,000 young people population. For the most recent available 12 month period, October 2012 to September 2013, Brighton & Hove had 471 FTEs per 100,000 young people population (actual number of FTEs is 100). This figure is slightly higher than the National rate for England of 460 FTEs per 100,000 population. It is anticipated that numbers have fallen following the introduction of Youth Early Help pathway and police triage process in September 2013.

Reducing Reoffending

Most recent reoffending data published by the Youth Justice Board is for a cohort of young people who offended between April 2011 and March 2012. During this period there were 212 young people in the cohort (compared to 350 for the same period the previous year).

The graph below shows the reoffending rate (average number of offences per offender in the cohort) for Brighton & Hove is almost double that of the South East and National average.

The April 2011 to March 2012 Brighton & Hove cohort committed 349 offences, compared to 549 for the same period the previous year. These figures indicate that whilst the cohort and number of offences are reducing, the rate is rising.



Graph produced by the YJB and published on YJMIS

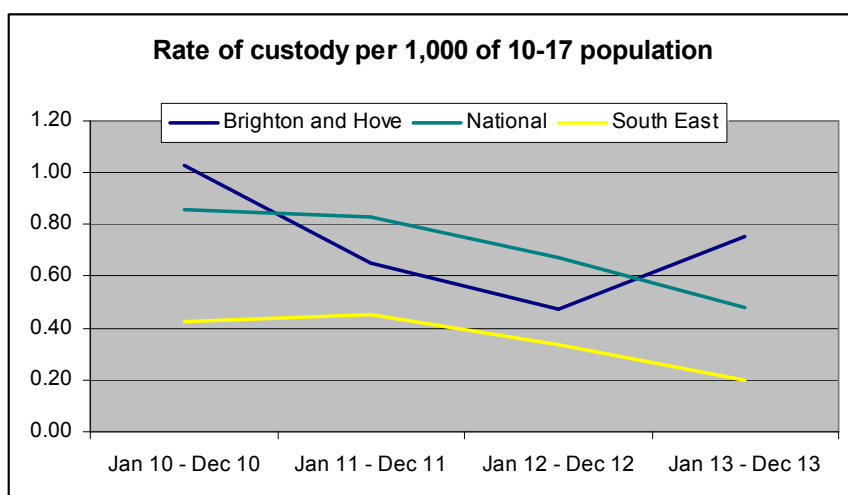
42% (91) of young people in the cohort reoffended within the following 12 month period. This compares to 38.57% (135) of young people reoffending in the same period the previous year. The number of young people reoffending in Brighton & Hove has reduced but when expressed as a percentage this figures is increasing. Comparative data also shows a rise nationally in the percentage reoffending but at a lower rate than seen locally, with the South East figure of 35.16% and National of 35.39%.

Keeping the number of children and young people in custody to a minimum

Most recently published YBJ data shows that there were 16 sentences to custody in January to December 2013, annual comparisons are shown in the table below.

Number of custodial sentences in Brighton & Hove by calendar year			
Jan 10 - Dec 10	Jan 11 - Dec 11	Jan 12 - Dec 12	Jan 13 - Dec 13
22	14	10	16

Comparative data is shown on the graph below as a rate of custodial sentences per 1,000 young people population. The rate for Brighton & Hove has been reducing but has increased for the most recent period and is slightly higher than the National and South East figure.



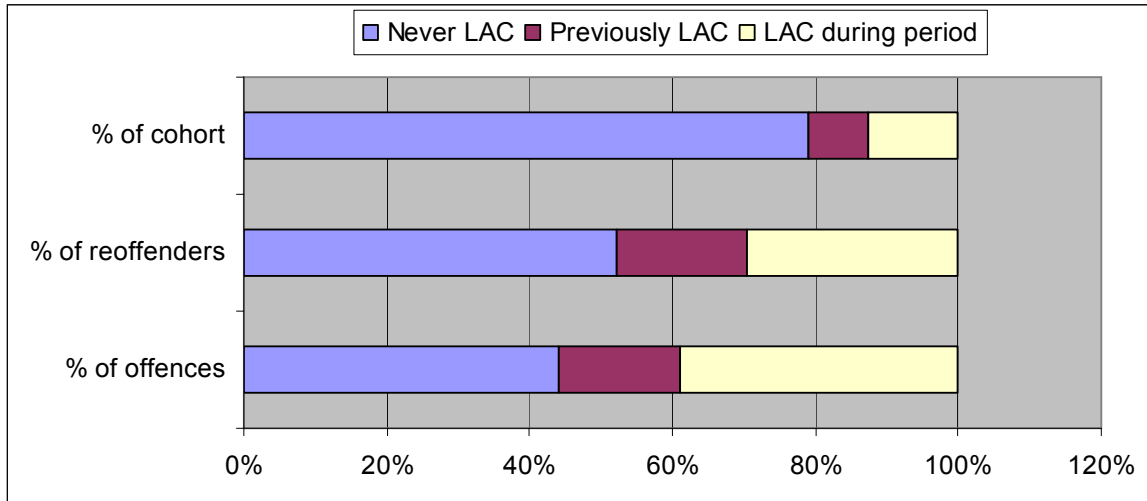
Local data from January 2012 to December 2013 shows that 2 out of 29 custodial were Section 90/91 with one for 4 years and one for 6 years. The DTO sentences averaged a term of 10 months. The average age of those receiving a custodial sentence was 16 years.

Most recently published YJB data shows there were 206 remand bed-nights in 2012/13 compared to 351 in 2011/12. The placement type is detailed below alongside the estimated costs based on most recent YJB figures.

	2012/13 Remand bednights			Total
	Secure Children's Home	Secure Training Centre	Young Offenders Institution	
Number of bednights	21	112	73	
Cost per night	£575	£759	£164	
Estimated cost	£12,075	£85,008	£11,972	£109,055

Reducing the number of looked after children within the criminal justice system and support those within the system away from offending behaviours

Local analysis of reoffending data (2011) found that Looked after Children (LAC) make up a higher proportion of young people who offend when compared to young people who had never been looked after. They also committed a higher proportion of offences and were more likely to reoffend.



Graph showing reoffending data for 2001 cohort (119 young people)

A Snap Shot Characteristics of cases as of 17th January 2014

As can be seen below, as young people progress into the criminal justice system and commit either further offending or more serious offences that require a higher tariff outcome those young people are known to a significantly higher proportion of services and have higher needs in terms of their own vulnerabilities and care needs.

Characteristics: Referral Orders

	Number (of 33 in total)	%
% SEN	3	9.1
% LAC	8	24.2
% NEET (from Aspire)	4 (28 records found on Aspire)	14.3
% social care involvement	17	51.5

Characteristics: YRO

	Number (of 34 in total)	%
% SEN	5	14.7
% LAC	8	23.5
% NEET (from Aspire)	10	29.4
% social care involvement	26	76.5

Characteristics: DTO/DTO Licence/Sec 90/91

	Number (of 9 in total)	%
% SEN	4	44.4
% LAC	6	66.7
% NEET (from Aspire)	4	44.4
% social care involvement	9	100.0

MANAGEMENT BOARD SIGNATURES

NAME	ROLE	SIGNATURE
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Subject:	Hove Park Secondary School Academy Conversion Consultation		
Date of Meeting:	2 June 2014		
Report of:	Executive Director, Children's Services		
Contact Officer:	Jo Lyons, Assistant		
	Name:	Director Children's Services Education & Inclusion	Tel: 29-3514
	Email:	Jo.lyons@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 On 31 March 2014 the Governing Body of Hove Park Secondary School resolved to begin a process of consultation regarding the possibility of the school converting to become an academy. It was proposed that the consultation would involve both current and prospective parents of pupils at the school, students, staff and the Local Authority (LA).
- 1.2 Academies are state funded schools which are directly funded by central government and independent of direct control of the LA. As Hove Park are voluntarily considering conversion to academy status it would not be necessary for the school to have a sponsor.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the committee consider the Chair of the Children & Young People's Committee's request that as part of the consultation process the Council should administer a ballot asking parents whether they agree with the governing body's proposal that Hove Park School should convert to academy status. It is proposed that all parents of pupils currently attending the school together with parents of those pupils offered places for September 2014 should be invited to take part in the ballot.
- 2.2 That the committee agree to the council undertaking a parent ballot. That the ballot be in paper form including a short covering letter to parents. It is proposed that the ballot asks one simple question; "Do you agree that Hove Park Secondary School should convert to become an Academy – Yes or No". It is proposed that the ballot is circulated via the school with a pre-paid envelope provided by the council for parents to return their response to the council who will analyse and communicate the results. Reference to the ballot will be referred to on the council website.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The decision on whether schools should convert to academy is for the governors only, not for the LA. The Council has a legal and moral obligation to work with all schools, irrespective of their governance status. This includes providing them the necessary support and guidance to ensure the maintenance of high educational standards and secure sufficient number of places for pupils in the area.
- 3.2 On 31 March 2014 the Governing Body of Hove Park Secondary School resolved to begin a process of consultation regarding the possibility of the school converting to become an academy. They agreed that the consultation would involve Hove Park current and prospective parents and carers, students and staff.
- 3.3 The governors also agreed to register an interest in becoming an academy with the Department for Education. This allowed them greater access to advice, thereby enabling them to become better informed in order to move forward and fully investigate the pros and cons of transfer to Academy Status. They committed to sharing this information with stakeholders.
- 3.4 The governing body is due to make the decision on whether the school will proceed with conversion to academy status on the 14 July 2014.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The general consultation requirements on a school when they are considering conversion to an academy are as follows: Section 5 of the Academies Act 2010 requires that:
 - (1) Before a maintained school in England is converted into an Academy, the school's governing body must consult such persons as they think appropriate.
 - (2) The consultation must be on the question of whether the school should be converted into an Academy.
 - (3) The consultation may take place before or after an Academy order, or an application for an Academy order, has been made in respect of the school.
- 4.2 The Department for Education gives the following advice on its website regarding consultation:

"All schools are required to carry out a consultation but it is up to them to decide whom and how to consult. There is no specified length of time for the consultation and schools have flexibility in how it is conducted. None of the schools which have already converted has had any problems with the process of consultation, which is very straightforward. "
- 4.3 Consultation events with parents and stakeholders have taken place throughout May.

- 4.4 The school website has a dedicated 'Academy Consultation' page which contains letters which have been sent out to parents listing the dates of the consultation evenings for parents of both current and pupils starting at the school in September. Each year group has had its own consultation evening at which representatives from the school (Headteacher and governors), DfE and LA were present. Enclosed with this letter to parents is a 16 page document entitled "Why we are considering academy status" which provides further detailed information for parents.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 That any costs of administering the ballot including printing and distribution be covered by the council. As it is proposed that the ballot will be distributed via the school to parents using usual systems, costs will be kept as low as possible. It is estimated that the printing and distribution costs will not exceed £2000.

Finance Officer Consulted: Louise Hoten

Date: 20/05/14

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The governing body of a school considering conversion to academy status must comply with the statutory requirements regarding consultation contained in section 5 of the Academies Act 2010 .The provisions of section 5 are set in paragraph 4.1 of the main body of the report above.

In view of the lack of specific requirements regarding the form and manner of consultation it is necessary to look to the general law which will apply whenever a public body consults. In the context of consultation about an academy conversion this might mean that the school should consult parents (and potentially pupils) at the school already, together with parents at feeder schools, those consultees should be given sufficient information about what is being proposed to understand why it is being proposed, the information needs to be in a form which people can understand, consultees should be given sufficient time to digest the information and the opportunity to ask questions, and the governors should be open minded on the question of whether to go ahead with conversion when they consider the consultation responses.

The governing body should therefore consult with parents as stakeholders in the process, but the manner of that consultation is a decision for governors There is no requirement that a parental ballot be held. When reaching a decision on conversion the governors will be obliged, as a matter of administrative law, to take into account all relevant considerations and responses to the consultation, which would include the results of any ballot held. Failure to do so could leave them liable to challenge on the basis that the decision that they have taken is unreasonable in all the circumstances.

It is the decision of the governing body whether or not to resolve to apply to the Secretary of State for an Academy order to be made in respect of the school (section 3 Academies Act 2010). Once the Secretary of State approves the

application an Academy order is issued which gives the school the legal right to start the conversion process.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 20/05/14

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Subject:	Special Educational Needs Annual Report and Progress Report on the SEN Partnership Strategy		
Date of Meeting:	June 2014		
Report of:	Executive Director, Children's Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Regan Delf	Tel: 293504
	Email:	Regan.delf@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 This is the report on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Performance for the academic year 2012/2013 incorporating progress on the SEN Partnership Strategy and the SEN Pathfinder Project.
- 1.2 The analysis of SEN and disabilities across the City is largely based on census information from January 2014. The January 2014 census is still on-going and national data will not be published until the autumn of 2014. However where we can, we have included more recent internal data to show a continuing trend. Pupil performance data relating to SEN and disabilities is based on national tests and public examinations in the summer of 2013.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Council agrees to the publication of the final draft of the new SEN Annual Report 2012/2013.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 This report updates the previous SEN Annual Report 2012/13 with some significant additions.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 No consultation has been undertaken as part of this audit exercise as it is not relevant to this report.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:Financial Implications:

- 5.1 This report is historical in looking at outcomes and outputs in relation to children and young people with SEN and disabilities across the City. However it shows a positive

trend in most key areas that has resulted in considerable on-going savings in relation to the SEN 'agency' or out of City budget. It has been possible to re-invest savings in mainstream schools and this has further improved inclusivity of our mainstream provision, such that more than half of our Statements of SEN are now in mainstream schools.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steve Williams Date: dd/mm/yy

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Local Authority has a statutory duty under the Education Act 1996 to ensure that the needs of children and young people with SEN and disabilities are met and to publish the arrangements for meeting those needs. The Authority must also ensure that it complies with the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that disabled children are not discriminated against.

Substantial SEN reforms are contained in the Children and Families Act due to be implemented from September 2014. This legislation will significantly change current SEN practice and procedure, particularly in relation to the assessment process.

Lawyer Consulted: Name Serena Kynaston Date: dd/mm/yy

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The LA is committed to fair, equitable and transparent processes in relation to assessment, funding and decision making for pupils with SEN and disabilities. A widely representative SEN Panel oversees all decisions about the statutory process in terms of assessment and making statements of SEN.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are no specific sustainability implications

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There is no relevant data in this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Elements of the budget for SEN and disabilities are demand-led and come under sustained pressure. The SEN team has been successful to date in managing pressures and reducing spend on out of City 'agency' placements but continues to work closely with partner services and agencies to reduce risks for the future in terms of unaffordable budget demands.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 There are no public health implications in this report.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 The success of the City's provision for children and young people with SEN and disabilities depends on the quality of the LA partnership arrangements. Support for young people with SEN and disabilities extends much beyond education. Such partnership is currently strong and effective, enabling a multi-agency approach to implementing the new SEN Partnership Strategy.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Background Documents

1. SEN Partnership Strategy.

Subject:	Special Educational Needs Annual Report		
Date:	2 June 2014	Version:	1
Report of:	Acting Assistant Director Children's Services		
Contact Officers:	Name:	Regan Delf	
	Email:	regan.delf@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk	Tel: 01273 293504

CONTENTS

1. Background and context
2. Improving outcomes for children and young people with SEN.....
3. Identification and assessment.....
4. Quality of provision and value for money
5. Partnership with parents, children and families
6. Transition
7. Impending SEN reforms - SE7 SEN Pathfinder Project

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Glossary of terms and abbreviations
- Appendix 2 – Outcomes for pupils in 2013
- Appendix 3 - Identification and assessment
- Appendix 4 – Characteristics of pupils identified with SEN
- Appendix 5 - Placement of pupils with SEN

1. Background and Context

- 1.1 **SEN Partnership Strategy** - The City has a five year SEN Partnership Strategy (2013-2017) which is steered by the multi-agency and widely representative SEN Partnership Board.
- 1.2 The Strategy integrates the work of the **SE7 SEN Pathfinder Project** introducing early the wide-ranging **SEN reforms** in the Children and Families Act which will be implemented nationally from September 2014
- 1.3 The Strategy has five priorities, each of which has a lead officer and a deputy lead. In addition there are two areas of SEN which have a special focus within the strategy, notably autistic spectrum condition (ASC) and behavioural, emotional and social needs (BESD)
- 1.4 This report outlines progress against the priorities and actions in the strategy. Supporting data is set out in the appendices as listed above.
- 1.5 Indicators at the end of Year 1 of the strategy show a positive direction of travel with a range of early successes.

- 1.6 Brighton and Hove has just taken on the lead for the SE7 Pathfinder Project from East Sussex and will now lead the new **national champion** role for the SE7. This will involve supporting and consulting to all LAs in the south-east and in south London as well as taking forward national support in key areas. Additional capacity can be resourced from the associated government grant.
- 1.7 **SEN and Disability Review** - the Director of Children's Services has appointed to a temporary Assistant Director post to bring together and lead a review of SEN and disability services in the City to conclude at the end of the year. The scope and remit of this review is being drafted currently as a Project Development Plan.

2. Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People with SEN

- 2.1 Attainment of SEN pupils overall against national benchmarks compared positively to the national average in 2013 at all Key Stages and very positively at Key Stage 2, where performance was in the top quartile of LAs. Gaps also closed at all Key Stages although at Key Stage 4 the gap in the City is still wider than the national average
- 2.2 SEN attainment improved and achievement gaps narrowed at all Key Stages within the context of a reducing percentage of pupils on school SEN registers
- 2.3 Although outcomes are showing strong improvement, there are statistical caveats to be borne in mind:
 - 2.3.1 Standards across the country are too low for pupils with SEN and gaps are the widest for any vulnerable group so there is much improvement needed still
 - 2.3.2 Brighton and Hove identifies more pupils with SEN than the national average. (BHCC = 23.4% , National = 18.7%)
 - 2.3.3 Pupils with Statements of SEN (984 SEN2 Jan 2014) do less well comparatively than pupils with SEN as a whole (ie 6431pupils at 'school action', 'school action plus' and with Statements of SEN) – performance for pupils with Statements of SEN overall is around the national
 - 2.3.4 Identification of SEN is not moderated locally or nationally and thus there are variations in practice, meaning it is not always possible to be sure that comparisons are 'like with like'
- 2.4 **At Key Stage 1**, SEN gaps narrowed further by 1.9% in maths, 6 % in reading and 8.3% in writing with all groups showing increase in attainment (see appendix 1 for tables)
- 2.5 **At Key Stage 2** outcomes for pupils with SEN against national benchmarks (Level 4+ in Reading, Writing and Maths) were good compared to national average and statistical neighbour (SN) average:
 - 2.5.1 Brighton and Hove results were 23rd highest out of 152 LAs
 - 2.5.2 Performance improved by 7% over that in 2012

- 2.5.3 Performance was 6% above the national average and 7% above the south east average
- 2.5.4 The SEN achievement gap closed by 4% over 2012 performance and is 3% below the national average gap

(see appendix 2 for tables)

2.6 **At Key Stage 4**, outcomes for pupils with SEN against the national benchmark (5+ A*-C including English and maths) were above the national average:

- 2.6.1 Brighton and Hove results were 47th highest out of 152 LAs
- 2.6.2 Performance improved by 7% over that in 2012
- 2.6.3 Performance was 2% above the national average and top of the south east table
- 2.6.4 The SEN achievement gap closed by 1% but is still 3% above the national average

(see appendix 2 for tables)

- 2.7 The LA's Closing the Gap Strategy has been compiled and launched in July 2013 with a focus on the SEN gap as well as gaps relating to socio-economic disadvantage
- 2.8 The LA has published data for all schools on the gaps for vulnerable groups in attainment and progress, including the new 'quadrant graphs' showing schools where they sit in terms of gaps and value added against national benchmarks

3. Identification and Assessment

- 3.1 For a number of years, Brighton and Hove has had higher identification of SEN across its schools than statistical neighbours
- 3.2 Since 2009 there has been a steady decrease in the percentage of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs while over the same period the equivalent for England and or statistical neighbours remained constant.
- 3.3 However the percentage of statements of SEN in the City remains slightly higher than the national average, although it needs to be noted that this percentage includes a proportionately high number of pupils with Statements from neighbouring authorities in B&H schools and particularly certain special schools such as Downs View and Hillside
- 3.4 Decisions about whether to undertake a statutory assessment of pupils with SEN and whether or not to issue a Statement of SEN are taken at a widely representative SEN Panel, including a parent representative
- 3.5 The SEN Panel system was introduced in June 2012 to ensure a transparent, open and fair system for decision-making and has been very successful in improving the confidence of stakeholders in decisions made. One source of evidence for this is the continuing very substantial reduction in appeals to the SEN Tribunal

- 3.6 Current legislation requires us to complete statutory assessments within a 26 week timeframe. We continue our record of 100% completion within this timeframe (excluding permitted exceptions) which is above the national and statistical neighbour averages
- 3.7 New legislation coming into force from September 2014 will require completion of statutory assessments within 20 weeks as part of the more complex process of producing Education, Health and Care Plans (replacing Statements of SEN). This will be a challenge for capacity of the SEN team
- 3.8 As part of the SEN Pathfinder Project, Brighton and Hove has been involved in converting existing Statements of SEN to the new Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in an initiative involving a wide range of partners including parents and young people. Currently we have converted just over 10% of existing Statements to EHCPs
- 3.9 EHCPs are co-constructed by families and the LA in a much more personalised way with casework officers from the SEN team meeting parents to ascertain the family's view on the provision needed to meet those needs
- 3.10 A recent survey of the views of parents where EHCPs have been co-produced indicates high levels of satisfaction with the process
- 3.11 From September 2014, all new statutory assessments will result in an EHCP rather than a Statement of SEN and families will be offered a 'personalised budget' where schools receive 'top-up funding' from the LA for pupils with complex SEN

(see appendix 3 for tables)

4. Quality of Provision

- 4.1 For pupils with Statements of SEN, just over half (52%) are in mainstream schools and the rest in a variety of specialist provision
- 4.2 While exact numbers change throughout the year, there has been a fall in the numbers of pupils attending LA special schools over the years from 474 in September 2009 to 411 in September 2013. Percentages of pupils now in special schooling is around the national average, having been significantly above the national average in previous years
- 4.3 The number of pupils in independent and non-maintained schools has dropped to its lowest ever level with 54 pupils attending agency schools from September 2013 compared to 60 in September 2012. This has resulted in a continued substantial saving in associated costs. Savings have been used to provide additional funding for mainstream and specialist provision in the City
- 4.4 In terms of schools overall, Brighton and Hove has a higher percentage of provision rated good and outstanding in the Early Years at both primary and secondary phases than the national average. Although SEN is no longer given a separate judgment by Ofsted, this area is largely praised by inspection teams and if there is an issue raised, schools receive challenge and support from the LA to improve

- 4.5 All six LA special schools are rated good (50%) or outstanding (50%) currently in most recent Ofsted inspection.
- 4.6 In terms of special facilities, all are in schools rated 'good' in terms of most recent Ofsted inspection except for the Swan Centre in BACA (school requires improvement) and in West Blatchington Primary School (school requires improvement). However in both BACA and West Blatchington inspections, the special facility provision itself was praised by the inspection team as offering a good standard of education
- 4.7 A re-designated Special Facility at Hove Park School now offers provision for young people with a range of communication disorders including Autistic Spectrum Condition (formerly this was an under-used Facility for pupils with dyslexia). This provision replicates that offered in the Swan Centre in the east of the City and precludes the need for long journeys for pupils needing provision in the West
- 4.8 In terms of BESD provision, two new 'short stay schools' are in development in the East and West of the City to be run by the secondary school partnership with support from the LA. These will provide a resource aimed at early intervention and prevention for pupils referred by schools, aimed at reducing demand further down the line for Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and special school provision for this group of young people
- 4.9 Progress for all pupils with Statements wherever educational provision is made is checked via the statutory annual review process
- 4.10 The publication of phase1 of the '**Local Offer**' this spring ahead of this becoming a national requirement has provided a single point of contact for families and professionals wishing to find out about all provision that could meet their child's needs. The Local Offer provides information on provision in all mainstream and special schools, all FE providers and all special facilities as well as specialist services in education, social work, health and the community and voluntary sector that exists to meet the needs of children and young people with additional needs
- 4.11 In relation to access for pupils with SEN to **music and the creative arts**, a strand of the SEN Partnership Strategy is working to improve this area with a range of projects for young people with SEN in mainstream and special schools using traditional and digital technology
- 4.12 The LA has continued to provide a programme of **continuing professional development** (training, support and advice) for teachers, school leaders (including governors) and SENCOs in relation to SEN and disabilities, including now provision for disability equality training. Some of this training and support is provided by the educational psychology service, by the SEN team more widely, by LA support services and by outreach provision from special schools. All training is evaluated and feedback used to improve future training
- 4.13 As part of the SEN Partnership Strategy, an **Autism Plan** has been produced to improve provision in this area and one action will be a re-launched tiered training offer to all schools ranging from short awareness sessions to intensive support for the most complex and challenging young people.

- 4.14 However capacity to provide sufficient training internally is stretched and a plan for the future is to improve the LA's commissioning and brokering role in relation to training for staff in SEN and disabilities

5. Partnership with Parents, Carers and Young People

- 5.1 Through strong links and partnership with the aMAZE Parent Partnership Service and the Parent and Carers Committee (PACC), parents are represented on the vast majority of strategic and operational policy and decision-making forums in the LA
- 5.2 Parents now represented on SEN Panel. The SEN Panel, which makes decisions on whether or not to start a statutory assessment and whether or not to make a Statement of SEN for young people, now has a trained parental representative member sourced through the aMAZE Parent Partnership Service
- 5.3 Co-construction with parents and carers of the new EHCPs in the SEN Pathfinder Project has been very successful with parental feedback in a recent survey suggesting improved confidence in the system and a positive experience
- 5.4 As part of the Pathfinder, personalised budgets have been trialled for 'home to school transport' as part of a small but successful pilot and two primary schools are now involved in a pilot to trial personalised budgets for the additional 'top-up' funding provided for schools to meet their children's SEN
- 5.5 The rate of appeals to the SEN Tribunal has shown a dramatic and continuing reduction from 39 registered in 2011/12 academic year to 15 in 2012/13 academic year and continuing to fall in 2013/14
- 5.6 As of April 2014, we have only 2 registered appeals.
- 5.7 The reduction in appeals is attributed to a positive and solution-focussed attitude to working with parents from an early stage and a more personalised and empathic system, combined with good local special provision and positive professional relationships with parent and carer groups locally
- 5.8 While young people have been extensively involved in the Pathfinder and have spoken at a range of public forums of their experience, an area for further development is an engagement strategy which brings the voice of the wide range of young people with SEN into the heart of policy and decision-making

6. Transition 16-25

- 6.1 The Children and Families Act will extend the life of EHCPs for young people in education or training up to 25 years where needed.
- 6.2 This is a considerable challenge as up until this point in time, the age limit for Statements has been 19 and as yet no further funding has been announced by the DfE to support LAs and FE providers to meet potential new demand

- 6.3 Very close links and partnership with all local FE providers was recently noted by a visiting HMI and the LA has already offered one training event on the SEN reforms to post 16 providers and a further event is in planning
- 6.4 A Transitions Steering Group with wide representation including from Adult Services and FE has established a series of meetings over the year with themes including health, housing, employment and training and independent travel
- 6.5 2012-2013 saw the successful merger of the SEN and Youth Employability Service Learning Difficulties and Disability (YES LDD) teams resulting in a more streamlined service for young people in this key transitional period. As a result of this merger we are better prepared to support all of our children and young people from 0-25
- 6.6 The LA is in discussion with Downs View School re proposals to extend provision at the Downs View Link College to meet the needs of a small number of pupils up to the age of 21

7. Impending SEN reforms – SE7 SEN Pathfinder Project

- 7.1 The key SEN reforms being trialled by the national SEN Pathfinder projects are:
 - 7.1.1 The requirement to publish a 'Local Offer'
 - 7.1.2 New Education, Health and Care Plans to replace Statements of SEN
 - 7.1.3 An extension of the remit for EHCPs from 0-25 years
 - 7.1.4 The introduction of 'personalised budgets' for parents and carers
 - 7.1.5 Joint commissioning arrangements between Children's Services and Health
 - 7.1.6 Associated workforce reforms
- 7.2 A recent HMI study in the City's preparation for the SEN reforms gave positive feedback and the detail of progress on all projects is set out in a self-evaluation tool provided by Ofsted
- 7.3 New legislation will be introduced in a phased manner we understand from September 2014
- 7.4 In April 2014 Brighton and Hove has agreed to become the lead LA for the SE7 National Champion Pathfinder role
- 7.5 This new and extensive regional and national remit will involve with partners from across the SE7 supporting all LAs in their preparations
- 7.6 Additional capacity for this work will be funded by an additional grant to the SEN team of £165,000 from now until March 2015
- 7.7 The Pathfinder Project is steered by the SEN Partnership Board which operates as the required 'Change Board'

8. Priorities for Future Development

- 8.1 Establishing the scope and remit for the SEN and Disability Review including governance arrangements
- 8.2 Bringing together services across SEN and the integrated disability service to improve our holistic support for children and families across all areas of children's lives
- 8.3 Taking the SE7 SEN National Champion Pathfinder project to the next stage of development in terms of introducing SEN reforms early and to a high standard both locally, regionally and nationally
- 8.4 Contributing to the development of the Early Help Hub with a focus on early help for young people with SEN
- 8.5 Post 16 transition and extension of EHCPs to 25. Nationally this has been one of the most challenging areas for the DfE. In this complex area with multiple stakeholders, joint leadership at the appropriate level from Adult Services is being sought to take the work of this group further forward.

Appendix 1

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

SEN Key	
ASC	Autistic Spectrum Condition.
BESD	Behaviour, emotional & social difficulties
HI	Hearing impaired
Med/PNI	Medical/Physical and Neurological Impairment
MLD	Moderate learning difficulty
PD	Physical disability
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
SLD	Severe learning difficulty
SpLD	Specific learning difficulties
VI	Visual Impairment
0-19 Population (2001 Census)	52576
Total School Population (including Independent Schools)	34760
B&H Maintained Population (PLASC returns 2014)	31388

To be completed

Appendix 2

Data on Achievement and Standards in 2013

EYFSP

The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile was changed for 2013 so cannot be directly compared to data from previous years. 'GLD' stands for a good level of development. In order to achieve this, a pupil must be assessed as expected or exceeded in all the Prime Learning Goals plus expected or exceeded in all elements of Literacy and Maths.

EYFSP 2013	EYFSP Cohort	SEN Pupils	SEN GLD	% SEN GLD	Not SEN Pupils	Not SEN GLD	% Not SEN GLD	EYFSP SEN Gap
LA Level (Maintained Settings Only)	2831	415	51	12.3	2416	1203	49.8	-37.5

Key Stage 1

At key stage 1, the SEN gap is narrowing in all three key subjects and is lower than the statistical neighbour and England benchmarks. The largest gap is in writing, although there was a 7 percentage point reduction in this gap on the previous year.

Attainment of SEN pupils in all three subjects has risen with significant increases for reading and writing.

KS1 L2+ Reading	2010	2011	2012	2013
B&H SEN	52.7%	55.7%	60.9%	67.0%
B&H Non SEN	96.0%	96.3%	96.4%	97.8%
B&H SEN Gap	43.3%	40.6%	35.5%	30.8%
SN SEN Gap	41.8%	42.4%	40.2%	39.1%
England SEN Gap	42.8%	43.0%	40.1%	39.0%

KS1 L2+ Writing	2010	2011	2012	2013
B&H SEN	46.4%	49.1%	48.8%	57.0%
B&H Non SEN	93.0%	93.8%	94.3%	95.5%
B&H SEN Gap	46.6%	44.7%	45.5%	38.5%
SN SEN Gap	48.3%	48.3%	47.7%	46.1%
England SEN Gap	48.6%	49.0%	46.9%	47.0%

KS1 L2+ Maths	2010	2011	2012	2013
B&H SEN	68.9%	73.7%	75.0%	76.0%
B&H Non SEN	98.0%	98.4%	98.4%	98.8%
B&H SEN Gap	29.1%	24.7%	23.4%	22.8%
SN SEN Gap	32.9%	31.9%	30.6%	30.8%
England SEN Gap	32.8%	33.0%	31.0%	32.0%

Key Stage 2

In 2013 the Department for Education redefined the key stage performance accountability measure to level 4+ in reading, writing and maths combined. The new measure is more challenging than the former measure percentage English (combining reading & writing) and Maths at level 4+, and so cannot be compared. To indicate the trend from a baseline the 2012 figures have been calculated by applying the new measure to historical data. In 2012 writing became assessed by teachers and not standardised tests, as it was previously.

The gap is much wider at key stage 2 and the differential to the statistical neighbours and national benchmark is much smaller, however the SEN pupil attainment has increased by 7 percentage points on last year.

KS2 R, W & M	2012	2013
B&H SEN	33%	40%
B&H Non SEN	90%	93%
B&H SEN Gap	57%	53%
SN SEN Gap	No data	54%
England SEN Gap	55%	54%

A summary of the South East local authorities provides more detail. Whilst the performance gap for our SEN pupils is not the smallest, both our non-SEN and SEN pupil groups have the best performance in the South East LAs. Both groups have performed better than last year and the gap has narrowed by 4%.

The achievement of stated pupils is not proportionate however, with 9 local authorities performing better for this group. A factor for this could be that in Brighton and Hove we currently have 24.8% of our pupils with special educational needs, which is significantly above the National figure of 19.8% (source data School Census Jan 2013)

- 2.9% (906) of our pupils have a statement (National 2.8%)
- 13% of our pupils are on school action (National 12.1%)
- 8.9% of our pupils are on school action plus (National 6.6%)

	Pupils with no identified SEN	All SEN Pupils	SEN Gap	Pupils at School Action	Pupils at School Action Plus	Pupils with SEN but without a statement	Pupils with a statement of SEN
KS2 2013 Level 4+ Reading & Writing & Maths	% achieving level 4 or above	% achieving level 4 or above	% Gap	% achieving level 4 or above	% achieving level 4 or above	% achieving level 4 or above	% achieving level 4 or above
Southampton	90	x	x	44	26	39	x
Isle of Wight	85	x	x	31	24	28	x
Brighton and Hove	93	40	53	50	34	44	13
Windsor and Maidenhead	90	39	51	52	37	45	13
Bracknell Forest	90	39	51	46	38	43	20
Milton Keynes	89	39	50	54	32	44	16
Wokingham	91	38	53	42	37	40	23
Kent	87	37	50	42	39	41	10
Buckinghamshire	90	36	54	46	30	40	19
Medway	86	35	51	38	38	38	15
Slough	88	34	54	41	32	38	7
West Berkshire	90	33	57	43	32	38	16
Oxfordshire	91	32	59	45	21	35	9
East Sussex	85	30	55	38	23	33	14
Surrey	90	29	61	43	19	33	12
West Sussex	87	29	58	37	23	32	10
Hampshire	89	29	60	35	22	31	14
Reading	81	28	53	30	32	31	13
Portsmouth	85	28	57	33	27	30	15

England	88	34	54	42	31	38	14
South East	89	33	56	41	29	36	13

Key Stage 4

KS4 SEN Gap	2010	2011	2012	2013
B&H SEN	13%	22%	19%	25%
B&H Non SEN	62%	66%	69%	75%
B&H Gap	49	44	51	50
SN Gap	49	50	50	Not released
England SEN	21%	22%	22%	23%*
England Non SEN	67%	70%	70%	70%*
England Gap	46	48	48	47

In terms of attainment SEN pupils were above the national proxy, as were non SEN.

For progress, SEN pupils were below the national proxy in 3+ levels of progress but above in 4+ levels of progress. For SEN pupils some schools were above or in line but others were below the national proxy.

Further key stage 4 analysis produced in October 2013 using the provisional KS4 data and National proxy information, based on key stage 2 prior attainment. The National revised data is due to be released on 23rd January 2014 so this data is very provisional, but provides an idea of progress.

*The 2013 figures in the above table are based on a National proxy using early download data and is likely to change when the data is published on 23rd Jan.

Appendix 3

Identification of pupils with SEN

Table 5 The Prevalence of SEN in the city

	School Action	School Action Plus	Non Statemented %	Statemented Pupils in B&H Mainstream Schools	B&H maintained School Population
Jan-10	4464	2662	23.90%	521	30250
Jan-11	4200	2773	23.40%	484	29822
Jan-12	4308	2879	21.10%	506	30035
Jan-13	4021	2768	21.9%	494	31022
Jan-14	3639	2792	20.4	494	31388

PUPILS WITH STATEMENTS OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

As at January each year: 2009-2013

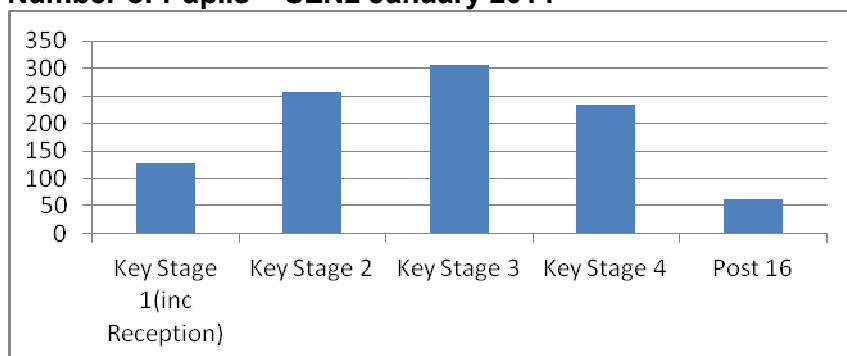
	2009	2013	2014 to be added
ENGLAND	2.8%	2.8%	N/A
Stat Neighbours	2.7%	2.7%	N/A
B & H	3.5%	3.0%	N/A

Appendix 4

Characteristics of pupils with SEN

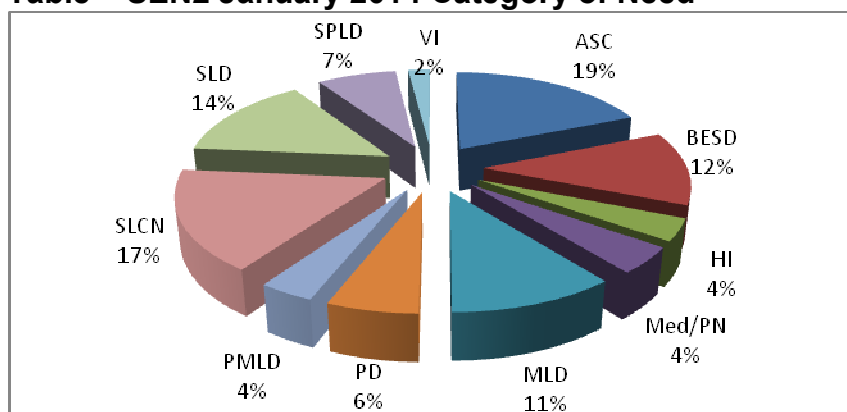
Data in the table below shows that almost two thirds of pupils with Statements of SEN are in the secondary phase

Number of Pupils - SEN2 January 2014



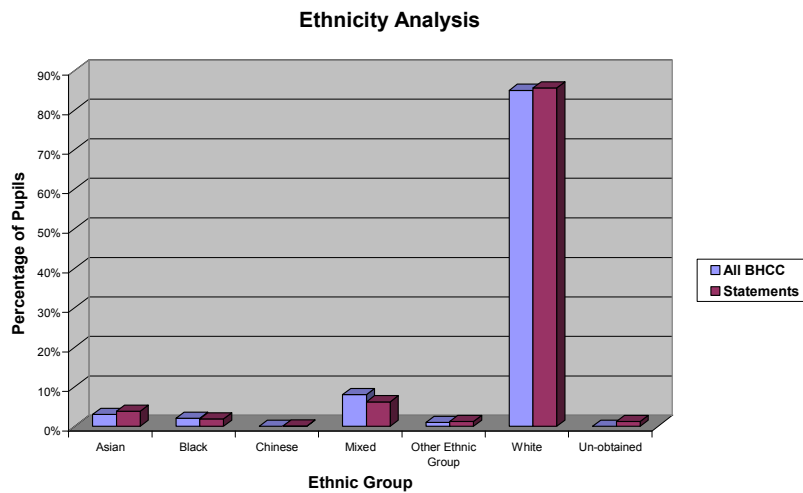
Data in the table below shows that the most frequently identified primary SEN for pupils in 2014 was ASC with SLCN and SLD second and third respectively.

Table – SEN2 January 2014 Category of Need



SEN Category Of Need	Percentage of Pupils in receipt of FSM
Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC)	22%
Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD)	51%
Hearing Impaired (HI)	47%
Medical (Med)	8%
Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)	45%
Physical Difficulties (PD)	33%
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD)	22%
Speech, Language and Communication (SLSN)	34%
Severe learning Difficulties (SLD)	31%
Specific Learning Difficulties (SPLD)	36%

Ethnicity



Reviewing pupils with Statements by ethnic background, the table above shows that the distribution of statements is very similar to the distribution of ethnic groups overall and shows no particular bias in this regard.

In the January 2014 School Census, 23% of pupils were identified as part of the ethnic minority group, at the same time, 23% of those pupils on the SEN register were identified as being from the ethnic minority group.

Appendix 5

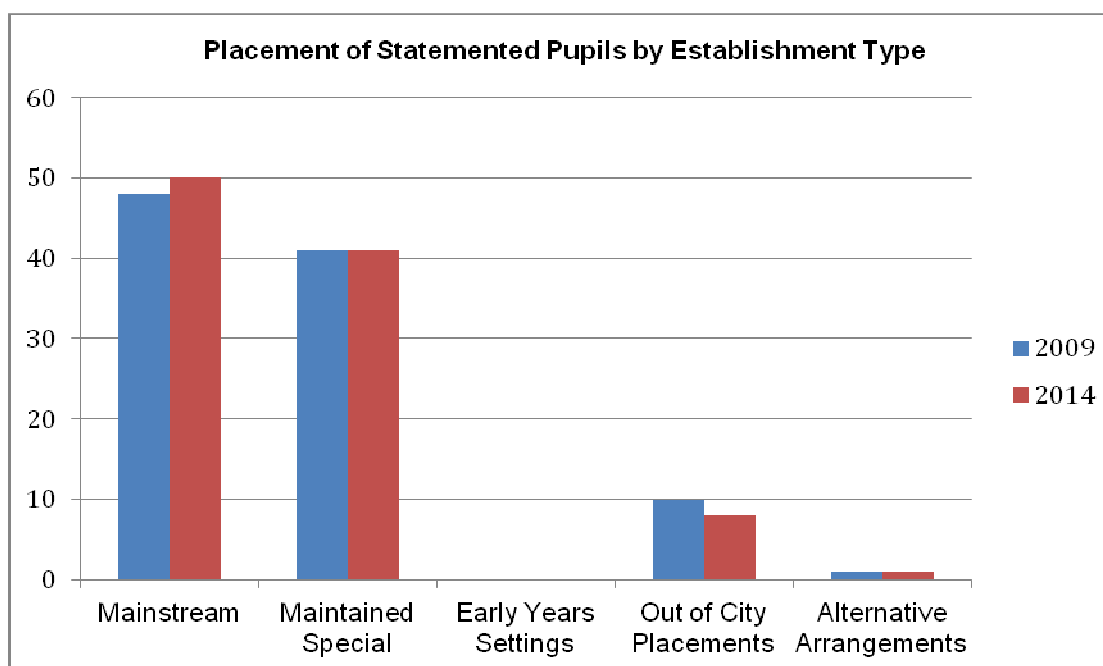
Placement of pupils with SEN

Maintained Special School Provision (School Census January 2013)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cedar Centre	111	94	77	78	78
Downs Park	88	84	70	76	82
Patcham House	54	48	44	46	36
Hillside	50	54	60	60	57
Downs View	115	105	106	110	115
ACE	56	52	44	47	43
total	474	437	401	417	411

Placement of pupils with statements of SEN (SEN2 January 2014 Census) Please note, this only includes those statements that Brighton & Hove have to maintain

School Type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Mainstream	515 (48%)	533 (51%)	529 (52%)	507 (52%)	487 (51%)	488 (50%)
Maintained Special	435 (41%)	410 (39%)	386 (38%)	398 (40%)	398 (41%)	407 (41%)
Early Years Setting	5 (0%)	2 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)
Out of City Placements	102 (10%)	97 (9%)	88 (9%)	70 (7%)	71 (7%)	75 (8%)
Alternative Arrangements	10 (1%)	5 (0%)	6 (0%)	2 (0%)	6 (1%)	13 (1%)
Total	1067	1047	1009	977	962	984



Whilst the number of statements maintained by B&H has decreased over the years the proportion of those educated in a mainstream setting has increased. This reflects the progress of our inclusion agenda and brings us significantly closer to the national profile.

Agency/Out of Authority Placements

In line with national trends and targets, Brighton & Hove has continued to focus on reducing the overall number of Out of Authority Placements and the table below shows the achievements over the last five years. We report on the number of Agency Placements in two different ways. From a budgetary point of view we calculate the Full Time Equivalents (FTE) and this includes all pupils placed in that particular financial year. For census statistics we use the Numbers on

Roll (NOR) at a given point in time. When comparing year on year we use the SEN2 census which takes place in January each year.

	FTE	Agency Budget – Year End	unit cost
Apr-09	109	£3,761,167	£34,506
Apr-10	95	£3,452,942	£36,349
Apr-11	79	£3,002,159	£38,002
Apr-12	63	£2,422,871	£38,458
Apr-13	58	£2,242,987	£38,672
Apr-14	57	£2,044,770	£35,873

The SEN Team supported by our colleagues in schools and our partner agencies, has been very successful in bringing about this reduction and the impact on pupil numbers and the actual impact on the budget is very noticeable. The LA has worked very closely with the maintained sector, both mainstream and special, in order to bring about more appropriate local provision. We have not only been successful in our attempts to prevent pupils from going in to Out of Authority Placements, we have had some success in taking pupils out of these placements and re-integrating them in to maintained provision. One particular area of success has been in securing local provision in our mainstream schools for pupils with complex physical and medical needs.

Together ASC and BESD account for over 50% of Agency Placements, and pupils that fall in to these two categories have complex needs, including social or mental health issues, and appropriate local provision is hard to find. However, the number of placements needing to be made solely because our local school provision is at capacity has reduced this year.

Subject:	Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Review	
Date of Meeting:	10 June 2014	
Report of:	Executive Director, Children's Services	
Contact Officer:	Regan Delf, Acting	
	Name: Assistant Director, Children's Services	Tel: 293504
	Email: Regan.delf@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All	

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 The report sets out the terms of a review of SEN and disability service in Children's Services, including related Health services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Board notes the commencement of the review and approves the scope, vision and aims.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 There are a number of contextual factors that make a review of SEN, disability, care and related health services a productive way forward at the current time, notably:
- 3.1.1 The government is introducing wide-ranging reforms to the way services for children and young people with SEN and disabilities are delivered through the Children and Families Act from September 2014
 - 3.1.2 New demands from the SEND reforms require local authorities to commission services jointly with our Health colleagues and to be clear about such arrangements through the LA's published 'Local Offer'
 - 3.1.3 A review of the current Section 75 commissioning agreement in relation to health service provision is being undertaken
 - 3.1.4 Families continue to feedback that SEND services are not always sufficiently well-aligned or responsive to the specific needs of their children and young people and also that choice can be limited in terms of provision, hence there is scope for further improvement

- 3.1.5 Changes to the ways schools are funded through the High Needs Block (HNB) part of the Designated Schools Grant (DSG) means that we need to ensure sustainable models of special educational provision for the future particularly for special schools and special units and facilities
- 3.1.6 For financial sustainability into the future, services and provision need to be delivered increasingly within a best value context with maximum on-going efficiencies
- 3.1.7 Our aim is to for any efficiencies to come first and foremost through integrated, innovative and flexible models of delivery that provide for young people close to home and allow choice and control for parents and young

3.2 The vision for the review is as follows:

‘Our vision is to provide inclusive fully integrated disability, care, health and education services to children and young people with SEND. Services will be personalised to each child and family. Families will have as much choice and control over services and provision as possible. Quality of provision will be excellent and promote measurably improved outcomes and better lives into adulthood. Streamlined well-integrated systems and efficiencies will enable the vision to be achieved within the value for money framework that the council is required to operate’

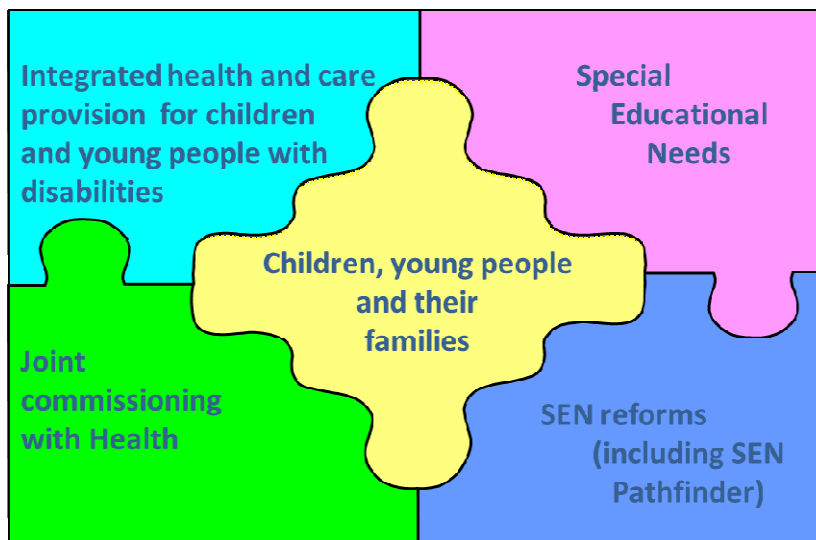
3.3 The key aims of the review are:

- To create inclusive fully integrated SEN, health, care and disability provision of outstanding quality ranging from 0-25 years
- To ensure excellent practice in identification and assessment of SEN and disability
- To provide a new framework for joint commissioning of services
- To deliver high quality provision and services within a value for money context, acknowledging need for on-going efficiencies in council spending
- To improve transition arrangements to adulthood and ensure extended assessment and provision from 19 to 25 years
- To provide choice for families and facilitate best use of integrated personalised budgets and direct payments
- To engage parents and young people effectively at all levels of strategic and decision-making forums

3.4 Four cross-cutting strategies will under-pin the review and ensure it is conducted on a secure footing:

- Engagement of children and young people and their families
- Accommodation
- Value for money and savings
- Communication and consultation

- 3.5 Governance of the review will come from a specially constituted Governance Board consisting of high level representation from Children’s Services, CCG, schools and parents.
- 3.6 The newly amalgamated SEN and Disability Board will help support and steer the work of the review and provide a reference group
- 3.7 It is proposed to engage an external consultant for a prescribed number of days to provide objectivity and support with research and review methodology
- 3.8 The proposed timeline for the review is as follows:
- End July 14 – project initiation completed
 - Key partners informed of review scope and remit
 - Initial consultation complete
 - Young person’s engagement strategy in place
 - Value for money strategy in place
 - External consultant engaged
 - End of Aug 14 – preliminary report on project first stage
 - End of November 14 – review of all providers and services concluded
 - **End of December 14 – draft final report published**
 - End of February 15 – consultation responses incorporated and final report and recommendations
 - End of March 15 – report and recommendations agreed by committee
- 3.9 The four areas covered by the scope and remit of the review are set out below with services for children, young people and families at the heart:



- 4.0 Integrated health and care provision for children and young people with disabilities includes:
- The current model of integrated service delivery via Seaside View
 - The children’s homes at Drove Road and Tudor House
 - Fostering
 - Respite and short breaks
 - Agency placements
 - Direct payments

- Potential new provision possibly linked with East and West Sussex

4.1 Special Educational Needs includes:

- Special schools including agency placements
- Special Facilities
- SEND provision in mainstream schools, PRUs and alternative provision
- Education support services
- Staff training and development

4.2 Joint commissioning with Health includes:

- New joint commissioning arrangements with CCG, Public Health and NHS England
- Review of service delivery for mental and physical health - CAMHS, therapies, specialist health services at Seaside View
- Review of jointly funded Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) contracts
- Review of parental engagement services at aMAZE

4.3 SEN reforms (including SEN national champion Pathfinder) include:

- `Local Offer` phase 2
- Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
- 19-25 agenda and links with adult services
- Personalised budgets
- Joint commissioning
- Associated workforce reform
- National champion role

5. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION**

5.1 Key to the success of the review will be the quality of engagement of children and young people, their parents, carers and families

5.2 One of the cross-cutting strategies underpinning the review will be an engagement strategy with children and families as exemplified in the diagram above:

6. **FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

6.1 The SEND review will be set in a value for money framework and will seek efficiencies where appropriate to meet targets for council funding in future years.

6.2 The aim is for any savings to be identified through improved integration of services and provision such that streamlining of delivery can produce further improvements at lower cost.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Name Steve Williams (yet to be consulted)
Date: dd/mm/yy*

Legal Implications:

6.3 Local authorities have a statutory duty to keep their arrangements for special educational provision under review (section 315 Education Act 1996). The review proposed in this report will span the introduction of wide ranging new SEN reforms contained in the Children and Families Act 2014 which are due to come into force on 1 September 2014. Section 27 of the new Act (which will replace section 315 of the 1996 Act) is more prescriptive regarding the duties of the Local Authority when reviewing SEN provision, in particular requiring the Authority to consult with a defined list of parties, including children and young people with SEN and disabilities and their parents, academies, early years providers, children's centres and Youth Offending Teams. Local Authorities are also under a new duty to have regard to the relevant Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Health and Wellbeing Strategy when carrying out reviews under this section.

6.4 Key reforms to be introduced by the 2014 Act include:

- The introduction of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) to replace Statements of SEN, to be co-constructed between families and the Local Authority
- The extension of the remit for EHCPs from 0-25 years (currently 0-19 years) and the extension of the statutory nature of Plans into all forms of further education, training and apprenticeships
- The introduction of 'personalised budgets' to be available to families where children have EHCPs attracting 'top-up' funding (i.e. above the level of delegated funding for SEN normally provided by schools)
- The requirement to publish a 'local offer' of services and provision available for SEND
- New requirement to commission education, health and social care services and provision jointly with Health (CCG, Public Health and NHS England Area Team as appropriate)

Lawyer Consulted:

Serena Kynaston

Date: 14/05/2014

Equalities Implications:

6.5 An Equalities Impact Assessment will form part of the review as there are significant implications for a large group of young people with special needs and disabilities.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 6.6 The draft SEN Code of Practice places new requirements on Local Authorities to consider the special needs of young people attending the Youth Offending Service
- 6.7 Increased identification of need amongst young offenders may lead to targeted provision that helps to reduce offending behaviour

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 6.8 A risk management assessment will be completed as part of the review process

Public Health Implications:

- 6.9 A representative from Public Health will be on the Governance Board for the review to ensure all implications are fully recognised

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 6.10 The review aims to further corporate priorities as follows:

- 6.10.1 Tackling inequality

- The gaps in achievement, health, well-being and longer term life chances for CYP with SEN and disabilities are far too wide still and this review aims to improve outcomes via improved sustainable and integrated service provision

- 6.10.2 Engaging people who live and work in the city

- The review will have a strategy to engage parents/ carers and CYP at its heart

- 6.10.3 Modernising the council

- The new SEN reforms in the Children and Families Bill and the need to secure a sustainable financial footing for services going forward for the future will be addressed in the review

7. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 7.1 The alternative option is to bring in the new SEN reforms and maintain SEND services within the context of a reducing council budget without a review of services and provision

- 7.2 The risk in the option above is that services and provision across agencies as they stand currently will not offer the fully integrated service to children and families required by new legislation

- 7.3. A further risk is that the status quo in provision and services for SEND may not offer best value for the public purse in a changing national and local financial context and may not therefore be sustainable into the future

8. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The report is outlining a review of services and provision for children and young people with SEND for the reasons given above.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None at this initiation stage of the review

