

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 7

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Children's Centres Performance 2008		
Date of Meeting:	17 June 2009		
Report of:	Director of Children's Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Caroline Parker	Tel: 293587
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Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report provides information on the performance of the city's Sure Start Children's Centres in 2008 and priorities for the future.
- 1.2 The performance management arrangements for children's centres sit within the national Public Service Agreement (PSA). The PSA targets relevant to children's centres include the Foundation Stage Profile outcomes, childhood obesity, children in low income households and reducing health inequalities. The full national performance management framework for children's centres is at appendix 1. The Department for Children, Schools and Families requires local authorities to have an annual performance management conversation with each children's centre. This conversation is based on a self-assessment which brings together all performance information, reflects on the previous year's performance and proposes priorities for the future year. An in depth self-assessment framework (SEF) has been completed for each children's centre. The SEFs include linked children's centres in the same document. A summary annual report will also be published and widely distributed for each SEF.
- 1.3 Ofsted are piloting inspections of children's centres in 2009 and plan to begin a full programme from April 2010.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 (1) To note the information in this report and consider, if any, which aspects require further reporting on in the future.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1** Children's experiences in their early years have a major impact on their life chances. Sure Start Children's Centres play a central role in improving outcomes for all young children and in reducing inequalities in outcomes between the most disadvantaged children and the rest. Children's Centre services vary across the city to reflect different levels of need and focus on children most at risk of poor outcomes because of deprivation and disadvantage. Services are available from the city's 16 children's centres, with others delivered at places such as GP surgeries, health centres and community halls. Families may also receive services through visits to their homes. The hub children's centres are based in more disadvantaged areas of the city, include nursery provision, and offer a wider range of services than the gateway children's centres.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1** Each linked hub and gateway children's centre has or is developing an advisory group with local representatives including parents who advise on the development of services and monitor performance.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1** The Department for Children, Schools and Families allocated Brighton & Hove capital funding of £1,882,000 over three years with effect from 2008/09 to fund both new Children's Centres and maintenance for existing Children's Centres. The revenue funding for Children's Centres will increase from £3.69 million in 2008/9 to £5.23 million in 2010/2011. This increase is to fund the new Centres and to increase funding for outreach workers and parenting support in existing Children's Centres. The cost of delivering the priorities in Appendix 2 will be met from within the grant allocation. Any ongoing revenue costs will be met from within the revenue grant allocation for children's centres. Although grant allocations have only been announced as far as 2010/11 it is anticipated that this funding will be ongoing.

Finance Officer Consulted: M Herrington/Jeff Coates

Date: 20th May 09

Legal Implications:

- 5.2** The local authority has a statutory duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to improve early years outcomes and to narrow the gap for the most disadvantaged children by providing integrated early years services. The authority's partners in health also have a statutory duty to work with the authority to make such arrangements. Access to and provision of the services described via the children's centres assists in meeting the statutory duty towards children in need imposed by the Children Act 1989, and in promoting the priorities the Children's Trust must deliver under the Children Act 2006.

Lawyer consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 22 May 2009

Health Implications

- 5.3 Children's Centres promote the Being Healthy outcome for young children by providing access to health services including antenatal services and the Child Health Promotion Programme.

Equalities Implications:

- 5.4 Children's Centres must focus on children and families at risk of social inclusion, fathers, teenage parents, children and families from minority ethnic groups, and children with disabilities and additional needs.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.5 Provision of early years services in local communities supports the sustainable communities goal. Capital developments will take place in accordance with sustainable consumption and production, as well as natural resource protection and environmental impact assessment.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.6 Research shows access to integrated early years services and good quality childcare supports children's learning and achievement in life.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

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

Corporate/Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 The relevant corporate and CYPP objectives is: Reduce inequality by increasing opportunity

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 Considered as part of the self-evaluation reports.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The recommendations are based on the self-evaluations completed by the Children's Centres and the outcome of the annual conversation held on 26 April.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

- 1 Children's Centres Performance Management Framework
- 2 Sure Start Children's Centre Self Evaluation Citywide Summary
- 3 Example of a Children's Centre Annual Report

Documents In Members' Rooms: None

Background Documents: None

