

# **Families, Children and Learning Our annual report for 2018-19 and our plans for 2019-20 and beyond**

Taking a whole-family approach, we work with others in the city to enable all children, young people and adults with learning disabilities to live safer, more independent and happier lives.

## **Introduction**

**Pinaki Ghoshal** Executive Director of Families, Children & Learning

## **What we do**

Most families in the city have some interaction with our services, even if they don't realise it. We also provide a range of support to adults with learning disabilities.

### **Early Years**

- 3,906 children attend our children's centres and nurseries
- 88% of two year-olds from low income families take up their free early years entitlement (spring 2019)
- 72.6% of children achieve a good level of development at the end of their reception year

### **Going to school**

- 32,286 children attend school
- 5,471 children receive SEND support in maintained schools (incl. 1,102 EHCPs)
- 4,776 (15.6%) children are eligible for free school meals
- 4,484 (13.9%) pupils have English as an additional language
- 96.6 % get to go to their preferred school

### **Being safe and happy**

- 1,375 receive family support (including the national Troubled Families programme)
- 1,866 children are supported by social work to be safe
- We act as Corporate Parent to 391 children in care and 308 care leavers
- We help support 37 unaccompanied asylum seeking children

### **Moving into adulthood**

- 5,650 young people attend post-16 education and training providers
- 2,348 young people benefit from youth services we deliver or commission
- 308 care leavers aged between 18 and 25 receive our support
- We work with 707 adults with learning disabilities
- 25 adults with learning disabilities are supported to live more independently

### **What Ofsted and external challengers say**

In July 2018 Ofsted inspected our children's social care services. They judged our overall effectiveness as Good. Here are just a few quotes from Ofsted and external scrutinisers.

- Social workers and managers are aspirational for the children in their care and demonstrate a strong focus on improving their experiences and outcomes
- Children's services in Brighton & Hove provide a joined-up response to the needs of vulnerable children and families
- Children with more complex needs receive an effective, multi-agency response
- Social workers show a good understanding of the children they work with; they seek children's views and carry out individual work with them
- Disabled children benefit from high quality, responsive support
- 'People, professionals and relatives told us staff were kind and caring. We asked one person if they liked staff today. The person said "Yes" and nodded. Professionals and relative comments included: "Staff are very good, caring and know [person] well", "Staff are kind and caring" and "Staff really are very, very caring.' Care Quality Commission inspection of Beaconsfield Villas, April 2019. Beaconsfield Villas is a care home providing care to adults with a learning disability.

Read Ofsted's full report about us <https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50014166>

**"Your mantra of improvement as a habit, not a goal, was not lost on us." Ofsted, Annual Conversation.**

**"Clear and confident sense of direction and momentum" South East Sector-Led Improvement Programme.**

**"The key partners in the local area are working cohesively together and know their shared and separate strengths and challenges." (DfE and NHS England)**

## **Our services are performing well!**

- Attainment at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 continues to be above the national average, as are education outcomes for early years children with special educational needs.
- 56 schools in the city have committed to poverty-proofing the school day. This is testament to the concern and commitment Brighton & Hove school leaders have for pupil and student wellbeing.
- Two of our special schools are rated as 'outstanding' and our two Pupil Referral Units are rated as 'good' by Ofsted.
- 97 % of early year's providers, 93% of the city's schools and 100% of our maintained secondary schools are rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted.
- We have high numbers of young people in education employment or training, including 93% of 16-17 year olds with special educational needs.

- Both of our in-house residential settings for children have been judged by Ofsted to be 'outstanding'. All residential in-house provision for adults with learning disabilities has been judged to be 'good' by the Care Quality Commission.
- The percentage of education, health and care plans (EHCP) that are issued within 20 weeks is higher than the national average.
- Decisions to start child protection enquires are appropriate and timely with 87.4% of Strengthening Families assessments completed within 45 working days – above the national average.
- Social workers and managers maintain a strong focus on ensuring that children experience permanence at the earliest opportunity. The average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family is better than the England average, by more than two weeks.
- The numbers of first time entrants into the youth criminal justice system here are among the lowest in the country.
- Our Move On project has successfully supported 25 adults with learning disabilities to live more independent lives.

## Listening and acting on feedback and giving thanks

We have seen the numbers of complaints about us decrease by 29% in the past year and we still continue to receive a high number of compliments.

“The social worker was amazing. Brilliant! Loved her! She connected with my daughter very quickly and the relationship she built was amazing. She couldn't have done anything better, she was so good.”

“Personally I couldn't manage without Tudor House, the staff and the placement, and I am extremely grateful. I can fully relax when B is at Tudor I can confidently hand my precious son over to the wonderful staff.”

“The special educational needs team played a huge role in getting our son into the school of his choice and where we feel that he will have a chance to fulfil his potential. It has made such a difference for us to have a contact person who has been prompt in responding to our queries. We have really experienced you to be on 'G's team' – advocating for his needs in the face of considerable challenges.”

Thank you

For going the extra mile  
 For always wanting to do your best  
 For encouraging people to do more than they think they're capable of doing  
 For supporting people even when you don't have all the answers  
 For sharing your ideas  
 For your creative and purposeful work

For caring  
For being part of the solution  
Your work is vital, is noticed and is appreciated  
Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning

## **Key decisions made this year by our children, young people and skills committee**

### Ensuring that the most vulnerable and disadvantaged receive support and to ensure gaps are closed

- Endorsed the hidden children strategy to better identify, track and improve outcomes for children and young people for whom full-time education is a protective factor
- Supported the re-organisation of special educational needs provision in the city, including the creation of specialist centres within two local schools to provide support to children with autism
- Agreed a programme of work to support people with disabilities into suitable employment within council services

### Improving our services

- Supported the development of a city-wide strategy to tackle violence, vulnerability and exploitation
- Supported plans to extend mental and emotional support for young people
- Endorsed growing the Independent visiting service to provide a strong befriending scheme for children in care and care leavers

### Supporting young people

- Approved the youth justice strategy to support the prevention and reduction of youth offending
- Endorsed plans to provide additional out-of-school respite provision for disabled children and young people
- Agreed increased investment in the community and voluntary sector to deliver youth work

## **Our future plans – From good to great!**

Based on feedback from Ofsted and from our staff engagement consultations, our future plans to move us from being good to being great include:

- Ensuring all children we work with consistently receive a high quality service that builds on strengths in families and improves outcomes
- Providing children in care with consistently high quality, well supported placements
- Helping families to receive community and wider family support at the earliest opportunity
- Making sure we listen to the opinions of the people we work with, and where appropriate act on their suggestions for improving services
- Enabling more adult service users with learning disabilities to live more independently

- Reviewing all our residential units, care homes and day activities provision to improve choice, control and experiences for the people who use them
- Improving education outcomes for disadvantaged and SEN pupils, and creating more post-16 opportunities
- Improving school attendance
- Improving transition arrangements for children moving from child-centred services into adult-orientated ones, including young people with learning disabilities

**Whole-family working:** We know that helping families as early as possible can stop problems getting worse and can enable them to lead happier, healthier lives. We will continue to work with the whole family and promote the whole-family working strategy - <http://brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Whole-family-working-strategy.pdf>

**Partnership Working:** We will continue to work with Sussex Police and the NHS to establish our new safeguarding children partnership arrangements (formerly the Local Safeguarding Children Board). We will continue work to develop greater integration with the council's health and adult social care team and the Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group We will also continue to work with the city's Education Partnership to address the disadvantage gap, recruitment, retention and celebration of education staff, and to improve attendance and exclusion rates for young people.

## Find out more

- Brighton & Hove City Council
- Brighton & Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board
- Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Adults Board
- Our FCL directorate plan sets out our vision, objectives and key actions for the next few years – weblink

## Related plans

- Brighton & Hove City Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019
- Brighton & Hove: The Connected City

For further information about the work of our families, children and learning directorate please contact [FCLComms@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:FCLComms@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

You can also follow us online at:

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