






Brighton & Hove City Council
Strategic Risk Assessment Report
Pinaki Ghoshal

Risk Category - BHCC Strategic Risk;

ROM Issue:	Keeping children safe from harm and abuse	Responsible Officer:	Pinaki Ghoshal
		Risk Code:	SR15

Identified Keeping vulnerable children safe from harm and abuse is a legal responsibility of the Council. Legislation requires all local authorities to act in accordance with national guidance (Working Together) to ensure robust safeguarding practice. This includes the responsibility to ensure an effective Local Safeguarding Children Board which oversees work locally and in partnership with Police, Health and social care providers. The numbers of children in care, and with Child Protection and Children in Need plans, are significantly higher than in similar authorities.

Potential Conseq The complexity of circumstances for many children presents a constant state of risk. Understanding and managing risk demands informed and reflective professional judgement, and often urgent and decisive action, by all agencies using agreed thresholds and procedures. Such complexity inevitably presents a high degree of risk. Children subject to abuse and neglect are unlikely to achieve and maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health and development will be significantly impaired. In some circumstances, abuse and neglect may lead to a child's death.

Initial:	High		Revised:	Significant		Future:	Significant	
Risk Identified Date:	8/5/2013		Date Modified:	17/2/2014		Date Modified:	23/5/2013	

Risk Category:
 - BHCC Strategic Risk
 - Customer / Citizen

- Existing Controls:**
- * LSCB established with strong leadership by the Independent Chair;
 - * LSCB high level plan agreed with intent for sub-groups to develop detailed action plans;
 - * Early Help Strategy consultation started in October 13, with conference launch of Strategy on 5 November 13;
 - * Planning for an Early Help Hub is taking place
 - * Report delivered to LSCB following robust audit programme of multi-agency activity via audit of case files and safeguarding practice;
 - * Internal Audit recommendations on children's services implemented;
 - * New supervision policy launched for all staff in children's services involved in safeguarding activities;
 - * Plans to introduce a MASH (Multi-Assessment Safeguarding Hub) with police and health colleagues
 - * Serious Case, Local Management and Child Death Reviews to identify and learning and action for improvement;
 - * Clarity regarding roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of all professionals and agencies;
 - * Robust assessment of need using agreed thresholds, policies and procedures;
 - * Continuous professional development and learning opportunities;

Effectiveness of Controls: Adequate **Issue Type:** Threat
Risk Treatment: Treat, Treat

- Solutions:**
- Ensure multi agency Quality Assurance and audit arrangements.
 - Address failures in ICT information storage and retrieval processes to ensure appropriate access to case files by social workers.
 - New threshold document agreed and widely disseminated
 - Ensure coherent early help strategy and provision for school age children
 - Establish a multi-agency hub (MASH) in partnership with the Police.
 - Development of detailed action plans to support LSCB high level plan by sub-groups of LSCB

ROM Issue:	School Places Planning	Responsible Officer:	Pinaki Ghoshal
		Risk Code:	SR17

Identified The Council has a statutory role to ensure primary and secondary school places meet future need. There has been an upturn in the birth rate so that since 2003, the number of school aged children living the city has been increasing year on year therefore pupil places are increasingly challenged.

This is particularly acute in areas when in previous years pupil yield has previously been very much lower. While previously there has been a focus on primary school places in the next few years we will have a significant pressure on secondary school places.

Potential Conseq

- * Parents may not feel able to secure a place for their child in the local community
- * There may be increased travelling
- * Without identifying new sites, existing schools may become overcrowded or larger.

Initial: High  **Revised:** Significant 
Risk Identified Date: 25/9/2013 **Date Modified:** 17/2/2014

Risk Category:

- BHCC Strategic Risk
- Customer / Citizen

Existing Controls:

- * 465 new primary school places (15.5 classes) added in last five years;
- * Two new free schools opened in city;
- * Four class junior site to open on Hove Police Station site September 2014;
- * Work with Members on a cross-party basis and with partners to bring forward proposals and share understanding;
- * Regular review of pupil number forecasting has made it clear that primary growth starts to reach secondary schools by 2014, with the issue becoming acute in subsequent years. The future need focus relates to secondary school places
- * New cross party school place planning group chaired by Executive Director Children's Services

Effectiveness of Controls: Adequate **Issue Type:** Threat
Risk Treatment: Treat

Solutions: Cross-party Members and partners working group terms of reference agreed and school organisation plan being considered at Children's Committee in March 2014
 Report to Children's Committee in October 13 to recommend opening of junior school site at Police Station
 Council and education providers work together to improve school performance so that all are outstanding