



***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 (LSCB) which oversees work locally and in partnership with Police, Health and social care providers. The numbers of children in care and Children in Need plans are significantly higher than in similar authorities. The number of children and young people who are sexually exploited is also of concern.

**Potential Conseq** The complexity of circumstances for many children presents a constant state of risk which 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, exploitation and/or 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.

<b>Initial:</b>	High		<b>Revised:</b>	Significant	
<b>Risk Identified Date:</b>	8/5/2013		<b>Date Modified:</b>	10/6/2014	

**Risk Category:**  
 - BHCC Strategic Risk  
 - Legislative

**Existing Controls:**

- \* LSCB Work Plan established with strong leadership by the Independent Chair with aligned LSCB sub-group work plans;
- \* Serious Case, Local Management and Child Death Reviews identify learning and action for improvement;
- \* Quality Assurance within the city and also across key agencies monitored by the LSCB sub group;
- \* MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) launched in September 2014 to provide robust risk assessments and information sharing between partner agencies which will lead to robust assessment of need using agreed Child Protection threshold document, policies and procedures;
- \* Early Help Strategy in place and Early Help Hub launched in September 2014;
- \* Stronger Families, Stronger Communities work targets support to the most troubled families;
- \* Reports delivered to LSCB following robust auditing of multi-agency case files and safeguarding practice;
- \* Clarity regarding roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of all professionals and agencies;
- \* Threshold document, agreed by all agencies, signed off by Children and Young People Committee; and LSCB on 2nd, and 3rd June 2014;
- \* Continuous professional development and learning opportunities offered by the LSCB and good multi agency take up of training;

<b>Effectiveness of Controls:</b>	Adequate	<b>Issue Type:</b>	Threat
		<b>Risk Treatment:</b>	Treat, Treat


**Solutions:** SR 15 Action: Address failures in ICT information storage and retrieval processes to ensure appropriate access to case files by social workers.

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.

<b>Initial:</b>	High		<b>Revised:</b>	Significant	
<b>Risk Identified Date:</b>	25/9/2013		<b>Date Modified:</b>	10/6/2014	

**Risk Category:**

- BHCC Strategic Risk
- Customer / Citizen

**Existing Controls:**

- \* Cross party school place planning group chaired by Risk Owner;
- \* 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;
- \* Secondary Continuing Education meeting established to raise awareness including and involving all schools, colleges and two city universities. This has focused on school organisation;
- \* School Admission project group established to review current admission arrangements. This includes Schools' and Member representatives;
- \* 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;
- \* One new permanent form of entry opening in September 2014 at West Hove Infant School (Connaught);
- \* Public consultation being undertaken on proposals to provide two permanent additional forms of entry from September 2015 in primary schools serving areas of highest demand, with funding identified in the capital programme;
- \* 80% of schools are currently assessed by Ofsted as good or outstanding and a new School Improvement Strategy has been adopted to support the target of all schools being good or outstanding.

<b>Effectiveness of Controls:</b>	Adequate	<b>Issue Type:</b>	Threat
		<b>Risk Treatment:</b>	Treat

**Solutions:**

SR 17 Risk Action: Review of secondary school admissions arrangements commissioned by Children and Young People Committee, to be steered by cross party working group :

SR 17 Risk Action: Review of 'lessons learned' from 2014 primary admissions round to be undertaken in consultation with the cross party working group with a view to agreeing earlier any bulge classes required

SR 17 Risk Action: Deliver the School Improvement Strategy to support the remaining 20% of schools to be good or outstanding

