

Subject:	Children's Services Annual Report 2015-16		
Date of Meeting:	Children, Young People and Skills Committee 06 June 2016		
Report of:	Pinaki Ghoshal – Executive Director of Families, Children and Learning		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

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

- 1.1 To set out the work of the Children's Services directorate over the past 12 months and to demonstrate the progress made towards the four strategic priorities set by Committee in July 2015.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the committee note the report.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The new Children, Young People and Skills Committee first met on 1st June 2015 following the local elections in Brighton & Hove.
- 3.2 The committee has formally changed since the previous administration, adding skills to the title to emphasise a renewed focus on this area across the city.
- 3.3 The strategic priorities for this committee are to:
- Ensure that the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children receive the council's support, consolidating services where possible, and targeting resources at those most in need
 - Take the council on an improvement journey to achieve excellent services for children and young people by 2019, as rated by Ofsted
 - Provide greater challenge and support to council maintained schools to close the disadvantage and educational attainment gaps, including a focus on STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
 - Eliminate long-term youth unemployment (18-24 years old) and boost apprenticeships in the city by 2019
- 3.4 The attached report (Appendix 1) sets out a summary of activity within Children's Services over the past year
- 3.5 Members are encouraged to consider what they would like to see included in future reports.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 This committee is responsible for education, children's health and social care services, public health relating to children and young people, including services to young people up to the age of 19, and exercises the council's functions as Local Education Authority. Many of these services are delivered or commissioned jointly with the Health Service and, to reflect this, the Health and Wellbeing Board has concurrent delegated powers with this Committee. The Children, Young People & Skills Committee is also the Council's Children and Young People's Trust Board for the purposes of the Children Act 2004. It is therefore important that this Committee receives an annual overview of activity from Children's Services as well as the individual reports received at each separate meeting.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The annual report sets out a summary of engagement work that is carried out with children, young people and their families.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the annual report.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 Children's Services overspent by £1,927k in 2015/16. This was predominantly as a result of higher numbers of Children in Care than budgeted for plus overspends on agency Social Workers and Home to School Transport.

Finance Officer Consulted: Louise Hoten

Date: 19/05/2016

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 The report sets out the work of the Children's Services directorate over the past 12 months with a view to demonstrating the progress made towards the four strategic priorities set by Committee in July 2015. The meeting of those priorities will assist the Council in meeting a range of statutory duties .

Lawyer Consulted:

Natasha Watson

Date: 23/05/2016

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 The annual report sets out the ways in which Children's Services is committed to improving outcomes for the most vulnerable and excluded children & young people in the city.

Sustainability Implications:

7.4 N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Children's Services Annual Report 2015/16 – Final Draft for Committee

