

NOTICE OF MOTION**LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP****SUPPORT PROPERLY FUNDED EARLY YEARS EDUCATION AND
CHILDCARE**

“This council believes that all families in Brighton and Hove should have access to good quality, affordable early years education and childcare. It praises the work of the city’s early years providers and pledges to continue to support their valuable work. It recognises that access to childcare and early education is a vital part of maintaining a strong local economy that enables parents who wish to work to do so and where children can be helped to get off to a good start in life.

Furthermore, the council believes that properly funded family support projects and early intervention schemes such as Surestart are essential to help support struggling families and, by intervening early, to reduce future costs. It supports the free early learning places for 2 year olds being further extended to those on low incomes.

However, the council deplores the actions of the Coalition Government to effectively scrap the Early Intervention Fund in order to fund the free early learning places for 2 year olds, as confirmed by DCLG, and to also pass £300m from this fund to the Treasury for purposes that remain unclear. It notes that as a result of these actions this council will lose approximately £3m in 2013/14 from its own Early Intervention Grant funding.

This council also raises the concern that whilst there will be a statutory duty placed upon it to provide the 600 early years places needed for 2 year olds living in areas of disadvantage from September 2013, with at least 1,300 similar places needing to be provided the following year, the Government is failing to give assurances that the necessary capital funding will be made available to create the places in the areas that need them most.

This council therefore;

- Expresses its strong concern that cuts to the Early Intervention Grant will impede the council’s ability to properly support vulnerable families and children in Brighton & Hove and calls on the government to fund the early years places for 2 year olds with new money;
- Supports the actions of the Conservative Leader of the LGA who has written to Ministers asking that the Government returns to councils the

£300m cut from the EIG budget that represents a 1m cut per council and;

- Calls on the Chief Executive to write to relevant Ministers requesting that they provide adequate capital funding for the provision of the additional early years places for 2 year olds so that the Council can properly fulfil the statutory duty placed upon it.”

Proposed by Cllr Penny Gilbey

Seconded by Cllr Gill Mitchell

Supported by: Cllrs Mitchell, Morgan, Hamilton, Pissaridou, Meadows, Marsh, Fitch, Carden, Gilbey, Wilson, Lepper, Robins, and Farrow.