

Children, Young People & Skills Committee

Date: **11 November 2019**

Time: **4.00pm**

Venue **Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall**

Members: **Councillors:** Allcock (Chair), Knight (Deputy Chair), Clare (Opposition Spokesperson), Brown (Group Spokesperson), Hamilton, Hills, McNair, Nield, Simson and Wilkinson

Co-optees

Karen James (Parent Governor Representative), Amanda Mortensen (Parent Governor Representative), Trevor Cristin (Diocesan Director of Education) and Bernadette Connor (Catholic Diocese)

Non-Voting Co-optees

Adam Muirhead (Community Works Rep)

Contact: **Greg Weaver**
Democratic Services Officer
01273 291214
greg.weaver@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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AGENDA

PART ONE

Page

25 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(a) Declaration of Substitutes: Where Councillors are unable to attend a meeting, a substitute Member from the same Political Group may attend, speak and vote in their place for that meeting.

(b) Declarations of Interest:

- (a) Disclosable pecuniary interests;
- (b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
- (c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare

- (i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
- (ii) the nature of the interest; and
- (iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure, Members should seek advice from the committee lawyer or administrator preferably before the meeting.

(c) Exclusion of Press and Public: To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

NOTE: Any item appearing in Part Two of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.

A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

26 MINUTES

9 - 22

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2019 (copy attached)

27 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

28 CALL OVER

- (a) All the agenda items will be read out at the meeting and Members

invited to reserve the items for consideration.

- (b) Those items not reserved will be taken as having been received and the reports' recommendations agreed.

29 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

23 - 28

To consider the following matters raised by members of the public:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions presented to the full council or at the meeting itself;
- (b) **Written Questions:** to receive any questions submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 5 November 2019;
- (c) **Deputations:** to receive any deputations submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 5 November 2019.
 - (i) Home to School Transport or Students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

30 ITEMS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

29 - 42

To consider items referred from the last meeting of Full Council held on 24 October 2019

- (1) (a) **Deputation:** Home to School Transport for Students with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)
(b) **Notice of Motion:** Home to School Transport – Policy Panel
- (2) **Petition:** Give Kids the Right to Walk Safely to School in Brighton and Hove.

Contact Officer: Mark Wall
Ward Affected: All Wards

Tel: 01273 291006

31 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

43 - 52

To consider the following matters raised by Councillors:

- (a) **Written Questions:** to consider any written questions;
 - (i) **School Exclusions** – Councillor Hills
 - (ii) **Holiday Hunger** – Councillor Nield
 - (iii) **Bullying** – Councillor Clare
- (b) **Letters:** to consider any letters;
 - (i) **Home To School Transport – External Review** – Councillor Wares
 - (ii) **Schools Funding** – Councillor
- (c) **Notices of Motion:** to consider any Notices of Motion submitted directly to the Committee.

- (i) **Sixth Form College Strikes** – Proposed by Councillor Hills
(ii) **Make Your Mark** – Proposed by Councillor Clare

Contact Officer: Greg Weaver Tel: 01273 291214
Ward Affected: All Wards

- 32 SCHOOL OFSTED PRESENTATION 53 - 58**
Update on School Ofsted Inspections
- 33 STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) ANNUAL REPORT 59 - 66**
Contact Officer: Sam Beal Tel: 01273 293533
Ward Affected: All Wards
- 34 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2021/22 67 - 98**
Contact Officer: Richard Barker Tel: 01273 290732
- 35 UPDATE ON JULY 2018 OFSTED ILACS ACTION PLAN 99 - 110**
Contact Officer: Deb Austin Tel: 01273 291407
Ward Affected: All Wards
- 36 MOULSECOOMB PRIMARY SCHOOL UPDATE 111 - 116**
Contact Officer: Mark Storey Tel: 1273 294271
Ward Affected: All Wards
- 37 RE-ORGANISATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION IN THE CITY - PROGRESS REPORT 117 - 122**
Contact Officer: Lisa Brown Tel: 01273 293568
Ward Affected: All Wards
- 38 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL**
To consider items to be submitted to the 19 December 2019 Council meeting for information.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 24.3a, the Committee may determine that any item is to be included in its report to Council. In addition, any Group may specify one further item to be included by notifying the Chief Executive no later than 10am on the eighth working day before the Council meeting at which the report is to be made, or if the Committee meeting take place after this deadline, immediately at the conclusion of the Committee meeting

PART TWO

39 PART TWO MINUTES

There are no Part Two minutes to be considered.

40 PART TWO PROCEEDINGS

To consider whether those items listed in Part Two of the agenda should remain exempt from the press and public.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Greg Weaver, (01273 291214, email greg.weaver@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE

4.00pm 16 SEPTEMBER 2019

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Allcock (Chair)

Also in attendance: Councillor Knight (Deputy Chair), Hills (Opposition Spokesperson), Brown (Group Spokesperson), Clare, Hamilton, McNair, Nield, Simson and Wilkinson

Co-optees: Leslie Hurst, Bernadette Connor, Karen James, Amanda Mortensen, Adam Muirhead, Rob Scoble.

PART ONE

12 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(a) Declarations of Substitutes

1.1 Leslie Hurst substituting for Trevor Cristin.

(b) Declarations of Interest

1.2 In reference to the Letter regarding Issues in the City, Councillor Simson declared that her daughter was employed by Hill Park School.

1.3 Amanda Mortensen declared that she was a Parent Governor at Downs Junior School.

(c) Exclusion of the Press and Public

1.4 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act'), the Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100(I) of the Act).

1.5 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public not be excluded.

(d) Appointment of the Chair

- 1.6 **RESOLVED** – That Councillor John Allcock was unanimously voted as Chair of the Children, Young People and Skills Committee.

13 MINUTES

- 13.1 **AGREED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th June 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

14 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 14.1 The Chair gave the following communications:

"I'd like to inform those present that this meeting will be webcast live and will be capable of repeated viewing.

I would like to welcome Edwyn Wilson-Verrall to the committee today who is a representative of the Youth Council.

As colleagues and members of the public will be aware, this is my first meeting as Chair of this committee and before making any of the comments that had previously been prepared and without in any way wanting to pre-empt further discussion, I want to make a direct and unreserved apology on behalf of the administration, for the distress, anxiety and stress that has been caused to the children, young people and families as a direct consequence of the change to Home to School Transport arrangements.

Members will have an opportunity during this meeting to ask questions and I know that there are a lot of parents here today, many of whom we have spoken to before this meeting, who will be listening very carefully to the answers given.

As our deputy chair, Cllr Knight said in her letter to parents, the absolute top priority at the moment is to ensure the wellbeing of the children and young people concerned and following an urgent meeting this morning I can advise people here that the following steps have been taken:

- Officers will phone all parents/carers affected, or have contacted the leader or the deputy chair over the next 24 hours to provide an update and listen to concerns
- Officers will write individually to every parent/carer whose child or young person who is in receipt of transport, to provide an update. For those parents/carers whose issues are not yet resolved, the letter will deal with the specific problems facing their child or young person.
- Arrange a meeting with PaCC specifically to discuss concerns
- Once all arrangements are satisfactorily resolved, officers will be contacting those contractors that pulled out of routes, without providing the contractually agreed 30-day notice period.

But we **MUST** to do everything we can to ensure not only that nothing like this happens again, **BUT** that we learn from what has happened.

I do want to inform the meeting that the Executive Director for this committee has already been asked to seek an Independent Review of the entire process and last week

approached another Local Authority in the region, with a request to undertake such a review.

This review will:

- Explore and report on what has gone wrong
- Why it went wrong
- Lessons we can learn

I want to give this assurance on behalf of the administration, that absolutely no stone will be left unturned and we will be inviting all involved (parents, schools, governors, parent associations, officers and suppliers) to contribute to that report.

This committee was already scheduled to receive a report in January 2020 to look at the new arrangements and this will now also include the learning from the review.

The agenda today includes an opportunity to consider the points raised in the letter from Cllrs Wares and Mears as a starting point but this committee will not be able to resolve or understand everything that has occurred, this afternoon.

I am grateful for the work of the Parent and Carers Council in supporting families and shining a light on the issues affecting them. They and other representative groups are essential in helping the city provide for what these children and young people need.

Once again, I would like to apologise on behalf of the administration for what has occurred.

As you will see on the agenda today there is a report on the initial assessment and examination results achieved by our children and young people. I would like to congratulate our schools, colleges and early years providers for the excellent results that were achieved at the end of the last academic year. Any council in the country would be proud to have these set of results.

Today we have an urgent notice of motion regarding the potential Academisation of Moulsecoomb Primary which can be seen in addendum 1. This item will be considered under item 6.”

15 CALL OVER

15.1 The following items on the agenda were reserved for discussion:

- 19 Moulsecoomb Primary School Survey of Parental Views.
- 20 Mental Health Update Report: School Wellbeing Service. Trailblazer.
- 21 Early Headlines Standards and Achievement in Brighton and Hove Schools.
- 22 Transition to New Safeguarding Children’s Partnership Arrangements.
- 23 Update on the Brighton & Hove Education Partnership.

16 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

(a) Petitions

16.1 The Chair noted there were NO petitions to be submitted.

(b) Written Questions

16.2 The Chair noted that NO written questions had been submitted by members of the public.

(c) Deputations

16.3 The Chair noted that NO deputations had been submitted by members of the public.

17 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

(a) PETITIONS

17.1 The Chair noted there were no petitions to be submitted.

(b) WRITTEN QUESTIONS

(i) Brighton & Hove City Council Strategy to encourage play.

17.2 Councillor Mears put the following question:

“Given the benefits to wellbeing and learning, what is the Council doing to encourage play, particularly in early years and primary, including outdoor play and learning? Is there a current and up to date play strategy?”

17.3 The Chair provided the following reply:

“The Council supports families with and promotes the importance of play in a number of ways but does not have a separate play strategy. Some two year olds and all 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to free childcare which meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Guidance, which states:

‘Each area of learning and development must be implemented through planned and purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-led activity. Play is essential for children’s development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to this about problems and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play and by taking part in play which is guided by adults.’

In addition:

‘Providers must provide access to an outdoor play area or, if that is not possible, ensure that outdoor activities are planned and taken on a daily basis (unless circumstances make this inappropriate, for example, unsafe weather conditions).’

The Council’s Early Years team offers a training programme and quality support to nursery setting across the City. The quality of early years provision in the city is high

with 97% of childcare providers on the Early Years Register judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted.

All Council nurseries have audited the quality of the play environment both indoors and outdoors. The Council nurseries are working towards offering continuous uninterrupted provision with a focus on sensory play and the natural environment. Mud kitchens, loose part play and heuristic play are being strongly promoted across the service. All nurseries are running regular stay and play information sessions for families. Children's Centres offer well attended baby and stay and play sessions for families running in each of the seven main Children's Centres.

Families can also be visited in the home (by Health Visitor referral) by Early Years Educators to support adult/child interactions, play and development. The Council also supports after-school clubs and holiday playschemes run by voluntary sector and private organisations in the city including giving advice on quality assurance in play for out of school providers.

Play is a very important part of learning. Schools are increasingly looking to develop their grounds and curriculum to ensure that there are opportunities for creative play. One example of this is the work that Fairlight Primary School has been doing with OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) to develop opportunities for more high quality creative play in their playground.

Several schools, including Aldrington CE Primary have an established 'Forest School', where pupils have regular opportunities to develop their creativity, use of skills and tools in a woodland or natural environment. Aldrington also uses the grounds and space for outdoor learning to develop confidence and self-esteem and pupils use the space informally at playtimes. Reception class at St Mary Magdalen Catholic Primary School took part in a series of workshops with the Sussex Wildlife Trust, learning about different habitats. One of these was a Beach School session at Ovingdean. The Children learnt about features of the beach, took part in rock pooling, talked about conservation and staying safe in the beach environment. It inspired the learning for the whole half term. Feedback from teachers, pupils and parents was really positive.

The Outdoor Education Service encourages the development of school grounds for play and active learning through a variety of training and online resources. It also promotes learning outside the classroom in all its many forms to bring the curriculum alive, broaden children's horizons, improve their physical and emotional self-development, enhance their relationship with nature and the environment, foster relationships and help them learn how to manage risk."

(c) LETTERS

(i) School Transport – Letter from Councillors Wares and Mears.

- 17.4 The Committee considered a Letter from the Patcham ward Councillors that requested an update to Home to School Transfers.
- 17.5 The Head of School Organisation and the Assistant Director – Education & Skills provided the following update:

- Officers had been working for months on home to school transport arrangements.
- It was noted that a number of contractors withdrew late August which led to issues that the officer team had been working tirelessly to resolve.
- The Committee were given apologies for all and any distress caused to parents and
- It was stated that a Dynamic Purchasing System had since been employed to help reduce issues and expedite the process of resolving this.
- It was stated that all contractors had been fully briefed with details of what was required of them.
- It was confirmed that a small number of issues were still being resolved.
- It was further confirmed that all temporary routes had been covered.

- 17.6 Amanda Mortensen expressed concern from the perspective as a mother of a disabled child. It was stated that this was an operational disaster and that it presented further issues surrounding safety and, in some cases, worse. It was affirmed that this was an equalities issue and that it was clear that certain sections of BHCC were not working together well. A request was made for further clarity on how this had affected everything.
- 17.7 The Head of School Organisation requested any further information of other examples of any mal practice. It was stated that headteachers were informed of the responsibilities of drivers in advance and that drivers had been instructed not to exceed this as BHCC did not have insurance cover for this. It was confirmed that any necessary changes would be made where possible at no additional cost.
- 17.8 Councillor Clare enquired of the administration's future efforts to resolve this.
- 17.9 The Chair stated that efforts to try and steer committee positively going forward would be undertaken. It was stated that transparency would be paramount and that the first priority would be to ensure services were running properly.
- 17.10 The Head of School Organisation further confirmed that parents making journeys by themselves would be remunerated however this would be on a case by case basis.
- 17.11 Councillor Simson stated that although officers had placed the failure on behalf of contractors, it was apparent that the contract was never fit for purpose. It was furthered that the cost of sending staff out would be larger than any costs covered by BHCC's insurance. It was stated that there was not enough staff to collect non-mobile children and that Officers were pre-warned of this issue. It was further stated that Brighton had high standards which included the blue book that taxis had to adhere to and enquired why operators who were already providing this service not tendering for the contract and if they had why was it not awarded to them? It was stated that an independent review would be insufficient and that a cross party working group was proposed.
- 17.12 The Chair stated that the independent report would provide a report to the committee and requested that Councillor Simson send in points of concern for the independent review.
- 17.13 Councillor Nield enquired why the routes were handed back at late notice and requested confirmation as to whether this could happen again.

- 17.14 The Head of School Organisation stated that the contract required 30 days' notice which was not provided by some of the contractors. It was reaffirmed that efforts to make as many arrangements as possible were made.
- 17.15 The Executive Director for Families, Children and Learning stated that contractors were still delivering routes.
- 17.16 Councillor Knight requested that the independent review considered every aspect and that a review to provide more robust contingency planning in place be brought.
- 17.17 Councillor Hamilton enquired if there was a backup in house should this issue arise again.
- 17.18 The Head of School Organisation stated that the Dynamic Purchasing System required many fields of information be provided in order that the procurement process could judge responses. It was noted that logistical difficulties were considered and would be shared through the review.
- 17.19 Councillor Wilkinson welcomed the independent review and requested that it looked in to the reason for the return of routes.
- 17.20 Leslie Hurst, Diocese Representative, noted that this issue indirectly affected siblings in schools. It was requested that officers clarify if they would also contact families that had to refuse this service due to safety concerns.
- 17.21 The Head of Schools Organisations confirmed that families who met these criteria would be contacted.
- 17.22 The Chair clarified that a full input was sought from everyone not just Councillors. Contact details were provided and that the timescale of the review would be published and that the Children, Young People and Skills Committee would monitor the progress and have input in the final review.
- 17.23 **RESOLVED** – that the letter be noted by Committee.

(d) Deputations

- 17.24 The Chair noted that NO deputations had been submitted by Members.

(e) Notices of Motion: To consider any notices of motion referred from Council or submitted directly to the Committee:

(i) Climate Change Teacher

- 17.25 The Committee considered a Notice of Motion requesting the Executive Director of Families, Children and Learning to write a letter of congratulation to Emily Defries and Headteachers in Brighton and Hove to raise awareness of a Climate Change Course that is available by Councillor Elaine Hills.
- 17.26 Councillor Nield seconded the motion.

- 17.27 Councillor Simson stated that she supported the motion, however enquired if SEN teachers amongst others could be included.
- 17.28 Councillor McNair expressed happiness with Patcham for leading on this issue. It was requested that all sides of this issue be considered and critiqued and that a focus on solutions be the focus.
- 17.29 Councillor Hills stated that knowledge on climate change and how it affected different communities were considered and that a prescriptive approach would not be the case.
- 17.30 **RESOLVED** – that the Committee note the motion.

18 SCHOOL OFSTED PRESENTATION

- 18.1 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement and Head of Service – Early Years Youth & Family Support gave a brief overview of the School Ofsted findings.
- 18.2 Councillor Simson requested clarification of the 76% taking up the offer.
- 18.3 The Head of Service – Early Years Youth & Family Support stated that 76% of children took up free entitlement in early years. For children between 3-4 years old the figure was just under 100% and above 80%.
- 18.4 Councillor Hills enquired if the benefits of outdoor play were measured.
- 18.5 The Head of Service – Early Years Youth & Family Support stated that the Ofsted inspection regime considered various areas and among them outdoor provision was one. It was stated that there were concerns surrounding teachers not monitoring children engagements well enough and not making full use of question techniques.
- 18.6 Councillor Nield enquired if there were any ongoing current inspections.
- 18.7 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement confirmed that there were no current ongoing inspections.
- 18.8 The Chair requested that a letter of congratulations be sent out where good results were attained.
- 18.9 **AGREED** – That the report be noted.

19 MOULSECOOMB PRIMARY SCHOOL SURVEY OF PARENTAL VIEWS

- 19.1 The Head of School Organisation gave a brief overview of the Mouselcoomb Primary School Survey of Parental Views which informed the committee of the arrangements for managing the ballot of parents/ carers at Moulsecoomb Primary School in response to the issuing of an academy order by the Secretary of State.
- 19.2 Councillor Clare proposed an amendment that there be an addition to the recommendations that read as follows:

- That an update, including the full results of the ballot, along with details regarding the progression of the academy at Moulsecoomb Primary School be brought to the next meeting of the Children, Young People and Skills Committee.

19.3 Councillor Nield seconded the amendment.

19.4 The Committee unanimously agreed to the amendment.

19.5 The Head of School Organisation stated that the ballot commenced on the day of Committee and that families will have received communication on this.

19.6 Councillor Simson enquired if consultees being made aware that the Secretary of State were making the decision and that the final result was not dependant on the outcome of the ballot.

19.7 The Head of School Organisation stated that schools were made aware of this in advance and that efforts would be made to confirm that such information was passed on to parents.

19.8 Councillor Brown noted that the ballot would be unlikely to change the mind of the Secretary of State and enquired when the academisation would begin following the Secretary of State's decision.

19.9 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement stated noted that the academy order was already in place however there was no written timescale as to the academisation and no set of guidelines on how this would work.

19.10 The Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning stated that it was unlikely that a sponsor would be appointed before October. It was further clarified that BHCC could not liaise with the sponsor for 9 months following their confirmation.

19.11 Councillor McNair enquired if parents were given information regarding the technical and practical role of an academy.

19.12 The Head of School Organisation stated it was reasonable to expect that information had been made available to families.

19.13 **RESOLVED:**

1. That the ballot of parents/carers taking place at Moulsecoomb Primary School be noted by the Committee.
2. That an update, including the full results of the ballot, along with details regarding the progression of the academy order at Moulsecoomb Primary School be brought to the next Children, Young People & Skills Committee.

20 MENTAL HEALTH UPDATE REPORT: SCHOOL WELLBEING SERVICE TRAILBLAZER

- 20.1 An NHS Officer provided an overview of the paper which sought to update the Committee on the successful outcome of the Schools Trailblazer submission (Mental Health Support Team in Schools).
- 20.2 Councillor Hills referred to item 3.31 and enquired if select groups in the City would be involved and to what extent BHCC were supporting parents at Varndean.
- 20.3 The NHS Officer stated the mental health support team had worked out the population base and concluded that many could benefit from support. It was noted that St Luke's was singled out as they fit the criteria for enhanced support. It was further noted that there were letters and newsletters which included further details available and that the school wellbeing service were present as part of the core team along with CAMHS. Drop in sessions and letters sent out to GPs were also undertaken.
- 20.4 The Chair requested that officers liaised with Councillor Hills on this issue.
- 20.5 Councillor McNair stated that it was evident that Mental Health plans had reached diminishing returns and enquired if it was the case that the focus of the team had become too wide reaching. Reference was made to the prominent Social Psychologist Jonathan Haidt's findings regarding children who were left un-supervised pre 1980.
- 20.6 An NHS Officer stated that the issue was complicated and that efforts were being made to raise awareness in the pursuit of reducing stigma. It was further noted that the team had problem catching up with services and that many positions were considered.
- 20.7 Councillor McNair noted that suicide among women was largely increasing and that further options should be considered in dealing with this issue.
- 20.8 Councillor Brown enquired if there was more certainty regarding finances.
- 20.9 An NHS Officer stated that there was a funding stream nationally for 1 year and that a letter was written to the NHS for a long 10 year plan. It was further stated that this programme would not necessarily disappear in 10 years time.
- 20.10 Councillor Knight enquired if there was any take up of mental health in places that had a reduction of phone use.
- 20.11 The NHS Officer stated that efforts had been made to look in to the whole approach and provide various projects and responses such as digital free days. It was noted that school wellbeing service was all year round.
- 20.12 The Youth Council Representative raised concerns as to provisions for young people looking for consultation in a safe environment.
- 20.13 The Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning stated that efforts would be made to reach out to young people as part of the review process and there would be further opportunities made available as part of this. It was noted that Brighton & Hove already had a wellbeing service in place and that schools worked as part of a wider system.

- 20.14 Councillor Wilkinson referred to items 3.11 and 3.12 and enquired of the take up of schools and the monitoring process.
- 20.15 The NHS Officer stated that training was important and that a universal approach was being fitted in where schools were on inset days.
- 20.16 Amanda Mortensen referred to item 3.28 and enquired of how this would be implemented. Further enquiry was made as to the status of the Hidden Children report)
- 20.17 The NHS Officer stated that a supportive approach to school non-attendance was key and that this included how a child was welcomed in to a school.
- 20.18 The Assistant Director – Education & Skills stated that they would look into the status of the Hidden Children Report.
- 20.19 Councillor Nield requested a detailed report on CAMHS.
- 20.20 The NHS Officer stated that for 2 years there was a resource running in schools for 2 days a week and this provided some level of supervision to the team. It was noted that there was a reduction in CAMHS referrals and the focus would be to tighten up the role of CAMHS in the system so that they could provide further clinical governance.
- 20.21 Councillor McNair noted that there was an amassed amount of research that indicated that high levels of religious belief and practice was indicative of better mental health and enquired if it would be considered that religious belief may have a role to play.
- 20.22 The NHS Officer agreed with this statement.

20.23 **RESOLVED:**

1. That the implication of the implementation of the Trailblazer (Mental Health Support Team in schools) in Brighton & Hove be noted.

21 EARLY HEADLINES STANDARDS AND ACHIEVEMENT IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE SCHOOLS

- 21.1 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement provided a brief overview of the report to committee which outlined the early headlines of the results of the national tests in Summer 2019.
- 21.2 Councillor Clare stated that EBac campaign groups saw a reduction in creative subjects and enquired if this was seen locally.
- 21.3 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement stated that there was no information on individual subject yet. It was further stated that there was no further data on EBac currently other than some improvement.
- 21.4 Councillor Hills referred to the grading system and enquired if this was use across all subjects.

- 21.5 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement confirmed that this was largely the grading system across all subjects. It was noted that preferred Mathematics would change over next year.
- 21.6 Councillor Nield stated that SATs results signified a narrow range of achievement when considering the richness of achievement in other areas and enquired if this could be considered in future reports.
- 21.7 The Assistant Director – Education & Skills stated that this was often considered especially in regards to subjects such as music and arts.
- 21.8 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement stated that Ofsted was the main national system of school measurement which had changed to observe the full breadth of the curriculum. It was further stated that as a Local Authority, a broad view of the City was considered amongst a wide range of national data.
- 21.9 Councillor Brown enquired of any reasons for the reduction in areas of learning across schools.
- 21.10 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement stated that data provided comprised of a series of results added together. It was noted that there was very substantial support in place for schools with slightly lower schools.
- 21.11 Councillor Simson referred to Key Stage 1 and 2 and enquired if there would be a city-wide comparison between boys and girls achievements.
- 21.12 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement clarified that there was no data on this yet.
- 21.13 Councillor Knight enquired if it would be possible to report the anecdotal evidence of the lives that some children in the city were living in regard to financial disparity.
- 21.14 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement agreed to provide this.
- 21.15 Councillor McNair referred to the HEPY report in January 2019 and noted that 1 in 4 A-Level grades were marked inaccurately.
- 21.16 Karen James noted that last year it was stated that there was going to be a follow up workshop and requested an update on this.
- 21.17 The Assistant Director – Education & Skills stated that members had been urged every year to attend the workshop provided.
- 21.18 The Chair congratulated students and teachers and stated the need for a large focus on the disadvantaged.
- 21.19 **RESOLVED:**
1. That the Early Headlines Standards and Achievement Report for the academic year 2018-2019 be noted.

22 TRANSITION TO NEW SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

- 22.1 The LSCB/LSAB Business Manager gave a brief overview of the report which proposed changes to children's safeguarding arrangements in line with new legislation under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and subsequent revision to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.
- 22.2 Councillor Clare referred to the 3 equal partners and enquired of the financial contributions from other partners.
- 22.3 The Executive Director – Families, Children & Learnings stated that under the old safeguarding board 75% of the funding was provided by BHCC. It was noted that there was a significant increase in funding and that the overall budget had not been reduced.
- 22.4 Councillor Brown enquired if anyone had been appointed to the role of Independent Scrutineer.
- 22.5 The LSCB/LSAB Business Manager confirmed that Chris Robson had been appointed the role having previously chaired the LSCB.
- 22.6 Adam Muirhead stated that the Safety Net Group had struggled to attain some funding and enquired if it was possible to clarify what role they may have under the new structure.
- 22.7 The LSCB/LSAB Business Manager stated that conversations were ongoing. It was noted that LSCB funded the newsletter and although it was not yet possible to confirm anything, they would be involved going forward.
- 22.8 **RESOLVED:**
1. That the New Safeguarding Arrangements and reporting structure be noted.

23 UPDATE ON THE BRIGHTON & HOVE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

- 23.1 The Senior Advisor – Education and Partnerships gave a brief update on the structure of the Brighton & Hove Education Partnership and the progress of identified priorities and next steps.
- 23.2 Councillor Nield referred to attendance rates and enquired how BHCC dealt with people whose attendance was not their fault.
- 23.3 The Senior Advisor – Education and Partnerships referred to the miss school miss out campaign and stated that children who were absent due to illness had to be kept in with the data.
- 23.4 Councillor Nield referred to the poverty proofing school day and enquired of the balance of money raised and schools pressuring parents due to school cuts.

- 23.5 The Senior Advisor – Education and Partnerships clarified that the Poverty Proofing school day was about offering children every opportunity.
- 23.6 Councillor Hills noted that since BHCC agreed to involve children in the climate strike, would this be considered as an absence. It was further enquired if this would be seen as negative.
- 23.7 The Executive Director – Families, Children & Learning stated that the decision was down to each individual school. It was clarified that BHCC had provided guidance to each school and that there was a mechanism for schools to accept this under exceptional circumstance and to classify this as an authorised absence.
- 23.8 Councillor Nield requested clarification of measured outcomes.
- 23.9 The Senior Advisor – Education and Partnerships stated that this was very early data across every Key Stage subject.
- 23.10 **RESOLVED:**
1. That the update to the Brighton & Hove Education Partnership be noted.

24 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

- 24.1 There were no items referred to Council.

The meeting concluded at Time Not Specified

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE

11 November 2019

Agenda Item 29(c)

Brighton & Hove City Council

DEPUTATIONS REFERRED FROM THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2019

Deputations received:

(i) Deputation: Home to School Transport or Students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Children as young as 4 or 5 years old, rely on this Service to take them safely to/from the setting named in their Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) in line with Statutory Duties* (Appendix 2). Numbers are rising year on year. The previous 4-year Contractor Framework expired in August 2019.

Several years of Contractor consistency created effective links between Schools/Colleges, Parent Carers (& their CYP) and the local Brighton Contractors (Community Transport take many of the children using wheelchairs, some with profound and multiple learning disabilities). Whilst not without glitches, the long-standing system centred around acquired SEND/Autism training & awareness, plus familiarity with pupils individually, which built trust and delivered a reliable service. Crucially:

Each child was recognised as an individual with discreet Core Support Needs, eg living between 2 parents' homes, or being a child who regularly went to Respite (their Care package), or specialist clubs, to enhance Life Skills. This essential community cohesion was recognised as a fundamental factor in 'Whole Child' Wellness and Development, upholding Equalities and City CYP Key Principles.

Drivers and Escorts, supported by back offices, used their common sense and route knowledge to minimise the stress for children, ensure that they arrived on time and ready to learn, and to enable working parents to meet their obligations, or get other young children to school.

When possible, Drivers and Escorts remained with their cohort of children, building up trust and assisting that difficult transition between home/school/home which many youngsters with SEND, especially those with Autism &/or Sensory Processing Difficulties, typically find overwhelming.

In March 2019, a Dynamic Purchasing System/DPS (a bid-down system) to reduce Overspend was proposed by Edge Public Solutions (employed as Advisors in January 2019). A DPS approach had been discussed at Policy, Resource & Growth Committee (11/10/18*). Meeting minutes (Conclusion 7.2) authorised a new framework, but not a DPS (since the simulated desktop exercise did not prove the anticipated savings to the Committee's satisfaction). Nevertheless, a DPS was approved, via Urgency Powers (March 2019) without passing back through PRG or CYP Committees. As a direct result of these changes the transport scheme is failing to safeguard our children.

We Request A Full Cross-Party Scrutiny Group So This Never Happens Again

We ask Councillors from each Party to fulfil your Responsibilities and *personally conduct* a Beginning to End Scrutiny of events, in keeping with your stated civic duties as elected

Councillors. We challenge the logic & validity of the Independent Review: this was again presented as a 'fait accompli'; 'Officers investigating Officers' cannot be 'independent' (every LA is facing Transport issues); Parent Carers do not want to speak with yet more Officers from another Authority when they struggle with their own; Officers will leave once their report is submitted, and there will be no accountability for changes or a safe framework legacy. You are our Councillors & Moral Guardians of Civic Services. Please, **put our City's Children above local Politics**. We must learn how this has gone so shockingly wrong. No more personal cost to our children's physical safety, mental wellbeing and education; or to families; no more 'wait and see if there are incidents'; no more financial cost of outsourcing to '3rd parties' from our City Budget. Councillors, we are beyond apologies, please Act.

There has been a tsunami of Reported Incidents about Safeguarding Issues; vulnerable pupils with no Escort; pupil-pupil assaults; assaults on Escorts/Drivers; vehicles failing basic safety standards (below the "Blue Book"); DBS Certificates not checked, Personal Handling or Training (eg Epilepsy) not in place; Safety Sheets/Risk Assessments not provided to Contractors; distressed pupils self-harming on journeys of up to 90 minutes; waiting 30 minutes or more to get off once at school; children late/disruptive to class, lost planning/teaching time; students losing *significant* learning time while they try to recover from overcrowded stressful journeys, day after day, week after week. Transport/Edge have received *daily* calls and emails from Schools, Parents, Contractors and the PaCC, who have a 6-week Record* of Complaints. Parents report being bullied into "take it or leave it" unsafe solutions amid their fear of losing jobs. Fragile family life/function is disrupted by the impact.

We are concerned that the 2016 Equalities Impact Assessment* was not updated, allegedly not necessary as Eligibility & Process are unchanged. Recruiting Edge operationally (already paid £96,356.68 in just 3 months to date) and devolving responsibility for Equalities and operational decisions from Contractors back to Transport/Edge (meaning no adjustments that incur 'cost' may be made without their agreement) is a wholesale change with grave consequences for our most vulnerable young citizens. This falls shamefully below our City's stated Aspirations & Values*.

Appendix 1: *Documents & Chronology of Meetings/Responses Regarding Home to School Transport Provision for Students with SEND

Brighton & Hove Corporate Plan & City Vision & Values 2015-2019 - [Corporate Plan](#)

The city's vision is the council's vision "Brighton & Hove – the connected city. Creative, dynamic, inclusive and caring. A fantastic place to live, work and visit"

(especially these Priorities: Increasing Equality; Active Citizenship; Children & Young People; Health & Wellbeing; Community Safety & Resilience)

Equalities & Impact Assessment 2016 (CS37 first written 2015, available on request)

Policy, Resources & Growth Committee (Item 64 11th October 2018 Pages 489 – 500)

[https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000912/M00008107/\\$\\$ADocPackPublic.pdf](https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000912/M00008107/$$ADocPackPublic.pdf)

7.2 Conclusion: approved a new framework and advised against a DPS approach

January 2019

Edge commence work in advisory capacity

March 2019

Urgency Powers applied by Executive Director Families Children & Learning, Pinaki Ghoshal, according to Part 6.2 Part A 7(2) of the council's Constitution, consultation with Chair of Children, Young People & Services Committee, and consent given to procure the Dynamic Purchasing System

Parent Carer Consultation Groups (25/26th June 2019)

<https://paccbrighton.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/PaCConnect-transport-minutes-June19.pdf>

Meetings held for all Parents and Carers to attend at Hill Park School and Downs View School.

Information regarding new system, core operating principles and Q&A

Attended by Richard Barker (Transport Manager) and Stuart Cooper (Edge Public Solutions)

Policy, Resources & Growth Committee (Item 16 11th July 2019 pages 255 – 260)

[https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000912/M00009322/\\$\\$ADocPackPublic.pdf](https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000912/M00009322/$$ADocPackPublic.pdf)

Use of Urgency Powers in Relation to Transport Services for Vulnerable Children and Adults

~~ 25th July Last Day of Summer Term ~~

PaCC Emergency Position Statement (3rd September 2019)

<https://paccbrighton.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Home-to-School-Transport-PaCC-Emergency-Position-Statement-final-3.9.19-4.pdf>

~~ School Term Commences 6th September 2019 ~~

PaCC Document of Concerns on behalf of PaCC Families (11th September 2019)

<https://paccbrighton.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/HTST-Short-and-Long-term-issues-Action-Plan.pdf>

Green Party Statement “Parents Need Reassurances This Will Not Happen Again” (17th September 2019)

<https://www.brightonhovegreens.org/2019/09/17/parents-need-assurances-this-will-not-happen-again-say-greens-on-home-to-school-transport-row/>

Official Response from Pinaki Ghoshal (11th October 2019) (may not reach other families)

<https://paccbrighton.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Briefing-on-school-transport-for-PaCC-network-111019.pdf>

Appendix 2



Local authority duties in brief

All duties are set out the Home to school travel and transport for children of compulsory school age: Statutory guidance for local authorities 2014 issued by the Department for Education

Local authorities are required to arrange free, suitable, home to school transport for children of compulsory school age who are 'eligible', to their nearest suitable qualifying school (section 508B of the Education Act 1996).

This law says a child with SEN, a disability or mobility problems that would prevent them walking to their nearest suitable school must get free transport help regardless of distance. An assessment must be made on the child's individual needs. This is set out in set out in Schedule 35 Education Act 1996.

Suitable school transport

The duty on the local authority is to make suitable 'travel arrangements' are defined in section 508B(4) Education Act 1996. The local authority has a duty to provide suitable transport that is "non-stressful". The courts have defined this as transport that enables a child "to reach school without undue stress, strain or difficulty such as would prevent him from benefiting from the education the school has to offer, [...] [and] to travel in safety and in reasonable comfort".

Statutory guidance recommends maximum journey times of 45 minutes for primary-aged children and 75 minutes for secondary.

Staff training

Some parents report that staff on school transport are caring and a full part of their child's education team. In other cases, drivers and escorts may be unaware of children's difficulties and poorly trained to handle their behaviour. Guidance is clear that all staff should have up-to-date training, including

- An awareness of different types of disability including "hidden" disabilities
- An awareness of what might be discrimination.
- Skills to communicate with children with different disabilities and to manage behaviour.

Local authorities must also ensure that the necessary safeguarding checks are carried out.

Other relevant legislation Local authorities must comply with the Equality Act 2010 and the European Convention on Human Rights, which is incorporated into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998, when exercising their home to school transport functions. The Act also places a legal obligation on the local

authorities to comply with the public sector equality duty. This means they must consider how their home to school transport decisions and policies affect people with protected characteristics and must have due regard to the need to: 'advance equality of opportunity for disabled learners' the transport policy must not have a: 'significant negative impact on the ability of disabled students to access education'.

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Subject:	Items referred from the Council meeting held on the 24 October 2019		
Date of Meeting:	11 November 2019		
Report of:	Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Wall	Tel: 01273 291006
	E-mail:	mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To receive the following deputation and Notice of Motion referred from the full Council meeting held on the 24 October 2019.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee responds to the deputation either by noting it or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter which may give consideration to a range of options and writes to the deputation spokesperson setting out the committee's decision(s);
- 2.2 That the Committee considers the Notice of Motion and decides on whether to take accept the request outlined or to note the motion.

3. CONTEXT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Deputation and Notice of Motion

- 3.1 To receive the extract from the minutes of the full council meeting held on the 24 October 2019 setting out the deputation and the Notice of Motion and recommendations for the committee to consider as detailed in paragraph 3.2. Supporting papers to the deputation are listed as an appendix to the extract.

(1) (a) Deputation concerning Home to School Transport for Students with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

Spokesperson Pippa Hodge

Supported by:

Rob Arbery

Adrian Carver

Sam Bayley

Rachel McDonald

Amanda Stockford

Maxine Pallister

Debby Norris

Jane Kemp

(1) (b) Notice of Motion – Home to School Transport

This council resolves to ask the Children, Families & Skills Committee to urgently establish a cross-party Member led Policy Panel consisting of six Members, two from each political party, and chaired by a Member of the Opposition. It would have the remit to, inter alia, review and discuss solutions to resolving the current negative impact on schools, families, children and young people and generally the implementation of the home to school transport service; and oversee any results of the external investigation proposed by the Administration.

3.2 Extract from full Council:

COUNCIL

**4.30pm 24 OCTOBER 2019
HOVE TOWN HALL, - COUNCIL CHAMBER**

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Phillips (Chair), Robins (Deputy Chair), Simson, Allcock, Bagaeen, Barnett, Bell, Brennan, Brown, Childs, Clare, Davis, Deane, Druitt, Ebel, Evans, Fishleigh, Fowler, Gibson, Grimshaw, Hamilton, Heley, Hill, Hills, Hugh-Jones, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Lloyd, Mac Cafferty, Mears, McNair, Miller, Moonan, Nemeth, Nield, O'Quinn, Osborne, Peltzer Dunn, Pissaridou, Platts, Powell, Rainey, Shanks, C Theobald, West, Wilkinson and Williams.

PART ONE

37 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

- 37.1 The Mayor reported that three deputations had been received from members of the public and noted that there was a Notice of Motion listed at Item 45 (3), Home to School Transport – Policy Panel on the agenda which related to the first deputation. She was also aware of an amendment to the notice of motion from the Green Group and would therefore take the motion and the amendment directly after the deputation had been made and responded to.
- 37.2 The Mayor also noted that some of the people supporting the first deputation had been delayed and therefore invited Mr. Rolfe as the spokesperson for the second deputation to come forward and address the council.
- 37.6 The Mayor then invited Ms. Pippa Hodge as the spokesperson for the first deputation to come forward and address the council.
- 37.7 Ms. Hodge thanked the Mayor and stated that, Children as young as 4 or 5 years old, rely on this Service to take them safely to/from the setting named in their Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) in line with Statutory Duties* (Appendix 2). Numbers are rising year on year. The previous 4-year Contractor Framework expired in August 2019. Several years of Contractor consistency created effective links between Schools/Colleges, Parent Carers (& their CYP) and the local Brighton Contractors (Community Transport take many of the children using wheelchairs, some with

profound and multiple learning disabilities). Whilst not without glitches, the long-standing system centred around acquired SEND/Autism training & awareness, plus familiarity with pupils individually, which built trust and delivered a reliable service. Crucially:

Each child was recognised as an individual with discreet Core Support Needs, e.g. living between 2 parents' homes, or being a child who regularly went to Respite (their Care package), or specialist clubs, to enhance Life Skills. This essential community cohesion was recognised as a fundamental factor in 'Whole Child' Wellness and Development, upholding Equalities and City CYP Key Principles

Drivers and Escorts, supported by back offices, used their common sense and route knowledge to minimise the stress for children, ensure that they arrived on time and ready to learn, and to enable working parents to meet their obligations, or get other young children to school.

When possible, Drivers and Escorts remained with their cohort of children, building up trust and assisting that difficult transition between home/school/home which many youngsters with SEND, especially those with Autism &/or Sensory Processing Difficulties, typically find overwhelming.

In March 2019, a Dynamic Purchasing System/DPS (a bid-down system) to reduce Overspend was proposed by Edge Public Solutions (employed as Advisors in January 2019). A DPS approach had been discussed at Policy, Resource & Growth Committee (11/10/18*). Meeting minutes (Conclusion 7.2) authorised a new framework, but not a DPS (since the simulated desktop exercise did not prove the anticipated savings to the Committee's satisfaction). Nevertheless, a DPS was approved, via Urgency Powers (March 2019) without passing back through PRG or CYP Committees. As a direct result of these changes the transport scheme is failing to safeguard our children.

We Request A Full Cross-Party Scrutiny Group So This Never Happens Again. We ask Councillors from each party to fulfil your Responsibilities and personally conduct a beginning to end scrutiny of events, in keeping with your stated civic duties as elected councillors.

We challenge the logic & validity of the Independent Review: this was again presented as a 'fait accompli'; 'Officers investigating Officers' cannot be 'independent' (every LA is facing Transport issues); Parent Carers do not want to speak with yet more Officers from another Authority when they struggle with their own; Officers will leave once their report is submitted, and there will be no accountability for changes or a safe framework legacy. You are our Councillors & Moral Guardians of Civic Services. Please, put our City's Children above local Politics. We must learn how this has gone so shockingly wrong. No more personal cost to our children's physical safety, mental wellbeing and education; or to families; no more 'wait and see if there are incidents'; no more financial cost of outsourcing to '3rd parties' from our City Budget. Councillors, we are beyond apologies, please act.

- 37.8 Councillor Allcock replied, Thank you for your passionate and heartfelt deputation Pippa. Obviously, we have been in contact before today in person and by email, but I am glad to have your direct input at this meeting, as I am sure all elected Members are.

I hope you are able to accept that there has been full recognition of the problems that some parents faced at the start of this term and I know that for some this is still

ongoing. Arrangements certainly did not proceed as planned. This should not have happened, and no one wants this to happen again. I want to repeat this unreserved apology today. But I also want to reassure you and all parents and carers that we will not rest until this situation is completely resolved.

I understand we urgently need to re-build trust between the community and the local authority and therefore, as an Administration, we believe it is important that a review is carried out. A review that will be fully independent of the Council which will be asked to investigate all areas of the home to school transport function, including the initial decision-making process to change the arrangements. Lead reviewers have already been identified and a decision on this will be made by me in consultation with the Chair of the Audit & Standards Committee and PACC. In addition, following a suggestion from PACC, the review will be supported by a representative from Contact – a national charity working with the families of disabled children who will also get in touch with families directly. Contact is not a Local Authority service and is not staffed by council officers. We are also considering other ways to enable greater levels of parent/carer oversight of the review.

We want a level of scrutiny and challenge to make sure that we learn all there is to learn from this and so we can use that knowledge to make improvements. We know this will not be comfortable, but it needs to be done and done quickly so that any improvements can be implemented as soon as they are identified. The final draft of the terms of reference for the Independent Review have now been agreed which, again, incorporates valuable input from the Parent and Carer Council as well as the suggestions of the Chair of the Audit & Standards Committee. At our request these are drawn as widely as possible. As Chair of this committee I promise you that I want every aspect looked at and when I say no stone unturned I mean it.

Representative groups, many of them here today, as well as individual families affected must and will have the opportunity to share their views and experiences with the reviewers, as part of their work. I know that you, and others are asking for an internal, cross-party Member led Policy Panel, and we are more than happy to work with Members to provide this additional layer of scrutiny. But our first priority has always been to resolve the problems our young people and their families have faced, with the scrutiny and review now running alongside. Having an independent outsider working on this as well will, we hope, encourage greater openness and transparency. Of course, we completely understand why other elected Members want answers to questions and a degree of oversight themselves. So, as well as encouraging councillors across the spectrum to engage with, and contribute to, the Member-led panel and the Independent Review, I have agreed that there could be a that a short report to provide a progress update on the independent review and the current situation with Home to school transport brought to the next meeting of the Children Young People & Skills Committee in November. Members will have an opportunity there to ask questions about the review.

Once the Independent Review is completed as planned, it is anticipated that a further, final report will be brought to the January meeting of the CYPS committee. The committee system in Brighton & Hove is designed to give opportunities for councillors to both set policy at committees and also to scrutinise the work of the council. I expect and hope that councillors will want to ask questions about any recommendations coming from the review and also to be assured that actions are in place to address these recommendations. Future meetings of the CYPS committee and reports from the policy panel will provide robust opportunities to scrutinise progress.

By its definition, an Independent Review ensures that all areas of the council's work can be explored as part of the review without any party-political influence getting in the way of the changes that I'm sure families in the city would want for the future. If the CYPS committee or the Policy Panel continues to have concerns, then these can also be referred to a future meeting of Full Council. It is vital therefore that we learn from what went wrong and make changes for the future.

45 NOTICES OF MOTION.

(3) HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT – POLICY PANEL

- 37.9 The Mayor then invited Councillor Mears to move the Notice of Motion, Item 45 (3) on the agenda.
- 37.10 Councillor Mears thanked the Mayor and Ms. Hodge for bringing her deputation to the meeting. She stated that all Members had a responsibility as corporate parents and to ensure that the home to school transport service met the needs of the children concerned. She acknowledged that all new contracts experienced teething troubles, but it was clear this contract was not fit for purpose. Members had raised questions at the committee and expressed concern over the lack of Member oversight for the contract. Hence the motion called for a cross-party Member Panel to review the process of issuing the contract and to feed into the Independent Review. She also confirmed that she was happy to accept the Green Group's amendment.
- 37.11 Councillor Simson formally seconded the motion and reserved her right to speak in the debate.
- 37.12 Councillor Clare stated that she wished to thank the parents and children for attending today's meeting and that she believed the changes to the contract had led to an unacceptable level of distress for them. She welcomed the proposal for an Independent Review but agreed that there was a need to begin reviewing the process as soon as possible and therefore the amendment sought to add to the notice of motion.
- 37.13 Councillor Hugh-Jones formally seconded the amendment.
- 37.14 Councillor Knight stated that no-one had wanted to be in the position that currently existed and fully supported the apology given by Councillor Allcock. However, there was a need to move forward and take action and to understand the decision-making process so that improvements could be made. She welcomed the cross-party panel as it would enable Members to review matters and provide transparency and accountability. She hoped that all councillors would work together to resolve the difficulties and to regain the trust of parents and the young people.
- 37.15 Councillor Bell expressed his concern over how the situation had been reached and his frustration that having raised questions previously at committee these had not been addressed. He believed it was appropriate to have a cross-party Member Panel and hoped that it could begin its review as soon as possible.
- 37.16 Councillor Simson noted that the value of the contract had meant it fell below the threshold for a report to have to come to committee, however she felt for such an important matter, Members should have had oversight. She questioned whether the Independent Review would be fully independent given that the decision to award the contract was taken under delegated powers. She fully supported the need for a cross-

party Member Panel and hoped that lessons could be learnt in regard to the process of awarding the contract and a solution found to the current problems with the contract.

- 37.17 Councillor Mears noted the comments and stated that it was important for Members to be involved in the review process and the cross-party Member Panel would enable that. She hoped it would then be able to feed into the Independent Review and that all parties concerned would have the opportunity to input into the review process.
- 37.18 The Mayor thanked Ms. Hodge for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. She explained that the points had been noted and the deputation would be referred to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee for consideration. The persons forming the deputation would be invited to attend the meeting and would be informed subsequently of any action to be taken or proposed in relation to the matter set out in the deputation.
- 37.19 The Mayor then noted that the amendment to the Notice of Motion had been accepted and therefore put the following motion as amended to the vote:
- “This council resolves to ask the Children, Families & Skills Committee to urgently establish a cross-party Member led Policy Panel consisting of six Members, two from each political party, and chaired by a Member of the Opposition. It would have the remit to, inter alia, review and discuss solutions to resolving the current negative impact on schools, families, children and young people and generally the implementation of the home to school transport service; and oversee any results of the external investigation proposed by the Administration.”
- 37.20 The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been carried unanimously.

Deputation:

Para 1

There has been a tsunami of Reported Incidents about Safeguarding Issues; vulnerable pupils with no Escort; pupil-pupil assaults; assaults on Escorts/Drivers; vehicles failing basic safety standards (below the “Blue Book”); DBS Certificates not checked, Personal Handling or Training (eg Epilepsy) not in place; Safety Sheets/Risk Assessments not provided to Contractors; distressed pupils self-harming on journeys of up to 90 minutes; waiting 30 minutes or more to get off once at school; children late/disruptive to class, lost planning/teaching time; students losing *significant* learning time while they try to recover from overcrowded stressful journeys, day after day, week after week. Transport/Edge have received *daily* calls and emails from Schools, Parents, Contractors and the PaCC, who have a 6-week Record* of Complaints. Parents report being bullied into “take it or leave it” unsafe solutions amid their fear of losing jobs. Fragile family life/function is disrupted by the impact.

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Brighton & Hove Corporate Plan & City Vision & Values 2015-2019 - [Corporate Plan](#)

The city’s vision is the council’s vision “Brighton & Hove – the connected city. Creative, dynamic, inclusive and caring. A fantastic place to live, work and visit”
(especially these Priorities: Increasing Equality; Active Citizenship; Children & Young People; Health & Wellbeing; Community Safety & Resilience)

Equalities & Impact Assessment 2016 (CS37 first written 2015, available on request)

Policy, Resources & Growth Committee (Item 64 11th October 2018 Pages 489 – 500)

[https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000912/M00008107/\\$\\$ADocPackPublic.pdf](https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000912/M00008107/$$ADocPackPublic.pdf)

7.2 Conclusion: approved a new framework and advised against a DPS approach

January 2019

Edge commence work in advisory capacity

March 2019

Urgency Powers applied by Executive Director Families Children & Learning, Pinaki Ghoshal, according to Part 6.2 Part A 7(2) of the council’s Constitution, consultation with Chair of Children, Young People & Services Committee, and consent given to procure the Dynamic Purchasing System

Parent Carer Consultation Groups (25/26th June 2019)

<https://paccbrighton.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/PaCCConnect-transport-minutes-June19.pdf>

Meetings held for all Parents and Carers to attend at Hill Park School and Downs View School.

Information regarding new system, core operating principles and Q&A

Attended by Richard Barker (Transport Manager) and Stuart Cooper (Edge Public Solutions)

Policy, Resources & Growth Committee (Item 16 11th July 2019 pages 255 – 260)

[https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000912/M00009322/\\$\\$ADocPackPublic.pdf](https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000912/M00009322/$$ADocPackPublic.pdf)

Use of Urgency Powers in Relation to Transport Services for Vulnerable Children and Adults

~~ 25th July Last Day of Summer Term ~~

PaCC Emergency Position Statement (3rd September 2019)

<https://paccbrighton.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Home-to-School-Transport-PaCC-Emergency-Position-Statement-final-3.9.19-4.pdf>

~~ School Term Commences 6th September 2019 ~~

PaCC Document of Concerns on behalf of PaCC Families (11th September 2019)

<https://paccbrighton.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/HTST-Short-and-Long-term-issues-Action-Plan.pdf>

Green Party Statement “Parents Need Reassurances This Will Not Happen Again” (17th September 2019)
<https://www.brightonhovegreens.org/2019/09/17/parents-need-assurances-this-will-not-happen-again-say-greens-on-home-to-school-transport-row/>

Official Response from Pinaki Ghoshal (11th October 2019) (may not reach other families)
<https://paccbrighton.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Briefing-on-school-transport-for-PaCC-network-111019.pdf>

Appendix 2



Local authority duties in brief

All duties are set out the Home to school travel and transport for children of compulsory school age: Statutory guidance for local authorities 2014 issued by the Department for Education

Local authorities are required to arrange free, suitable, home to school transport for children of compulsory school age who are 'eligible', to their nearest suitable qualifying school (section 508B of the Education Act 1996).

This law says a child with SEN, a disability or mobility problems that would prevent them walking to their nearest suitable school must get free transport help regardless of distance. An assessment must be made on the child's individual needs. This is set out in set out in Schedule 35 Education Act 1996.

Suitable school transport

The duty on the local authority is to make suitable 'travel arrangements' are defined in section 508B(4) Education Act 1996. The local authority has a duty to provide suitable transport that is "non-stressful". The courts have defined this as transport that enables a child "to reach school without undue stress, strain or difficulty such as would prevent him from benefiting from the education the school has to offer, [...] [and] to travel in safety and in reasonable comfort".

Statutory guidance recommends maximum journey times of 45 minutes for primary-aged children and 75 minutes for secondary.

Staff training

Some parents report that staff on school transport are caring and a full part of their child's education team. In other cases, drivers and escorts may be unaware of children's difficulties and poorly trained to handle their behaviour. Guidance is clear that all staff should have up-to-date training, including

- An awareness of different types of disability including "hidden" disabilities
- An awareness of what might be discrimination.
- Skills to communicate with children with different disabilities and to manage behaviour.

Local authorities must also ensure that the necessary safeguarding checks are carried out.

Other relevant legislation Local authorities must comply with the Equality Act 2010 and the European Convention on Human Rights, which is incorporated into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998, when exercising their home to school transport functions. The Act also places a legal obligation on the local authorities to comply with the public sector equality duty. This means they must consider how their home to school transport decisions and policies affect people with protected characteristics and must have due regard to the need to: 'advance equality of opportunity for disabled learners' the transport policy must not have a: 'significant negative impact on the ability of disabled students to access education'.

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Subject:	Items referred from the Council meeting held on the 24 October 2019		
Date of Meeting:	11 November 2019		
Report of:	Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Wall	Tel: 01273 291006
	E-mail:	mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To receive the following petition which was debated at and referred from the full Council meeting held on the 24 October 2019.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee responds to the petition either by noting it or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter which may give consideration to a range of options and writes to the lead petitioner setting out the committee's decision(s).

3. CONTEXT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 To receive the following extract from the minutes of the full council meeting held on the 24 October 2019 setting out the petition and recommendation for the committee to consider as detailed.

(2) Give Kids the Right to Walk Safely to School in Brighton and Hove

Lead Petitioner Councillor Nield

Additional Information:

Every Pupil deserves the right to walk safely to school.

We know how many people are desperate for a solution to the nightmare of the school run.

I'm Sarah Nield. I'm a Councillor and also parent to two children at school in Brighton and Hove. Along with the many other parents who have contacted me -

I WANT SAFE SCHOOL WALKING ZONES. Please join my campaign.

We all want more kids to walk to school: it's good for their health, it combats air pollution - so let's make it a genuine option for our young people.

Schools encourage students to walk. 5,10 and 15 minute walking zones are mapped out around them. But families often find that these walking zones are not actually safe to walk in. Walking zones which contain busy, dangerous roads with no crossing points make a mockery of 'Walk to School' initiatives.

Communities who campaign for crossings around their school are often stonewalled with statistics - and told that 'nothing can be done' until an accident happens.

But there is an alternative...

We want Safe School Walking Zones.

We're pushing for practical action that will make a real difference to the school run.

School Walking Zones would mean parents would no longer have to beg for a single crossing at the worst point of their journey. Instead of just encouragement, children should have the right to walk safely to school, with the changes put in place to make it possible, and the support given to schools to deliver.

This campaign is calling for:

1: New council policy which says all schools will be supported to develop Safe School Walking Zones, and that the necessary crossings and road markings will be added within schools' 10 min walking zones to create them.

2: Safe School Walking Zones to be clearly visually marked throughout so drivers cannot miss the fact they are in one.

3: Consultation with schools and their communities, so that people can share their ideas on how to make a Safe School Walking Zone.

The idea is simple, but the project is big, and the shift in priorities it represents is huge.

In order to happen it needs a massive show of support from parents and school communities.

We need everyone to sign our petition: whether you're a grandparent, parent, member of the community, teacher, someone who walks to school: the school run is a daily nightmare for so many people: we need you to help us solve it.

We want to show how much support there is for safe walking zones around schools. A big enough petition (we need 1,250 signatures) will lead to a full debate in the Council chamber and allow us to gain this issue the attention it deserves. If voted through we can then start the ball rolling to make Safe School Walking Zones a reality in Brighton and Hove.

3.2 Extract from full Council:

COUNCIL

4.30pm 24 OCTOBER 2019

HOVE TOWN HALL, - COUNCIL CHAMBER

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Phillips (Chair), Robins (Deputy Chair), Simson, Allcock, Bagaeen, Barnett, Bell, Brennan, Brown, Childs, Clare, Davis, Deane, Druitt, Ebel, Evans, Fishleigh, Fowler, Gibson, Grimshaw, Hamilton, Heley, Hill, Hills, Hugh-Jones, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Lloyd, Mac Cafferty, Mears, McNair, Miller, Moonan, Nemeth, Nield, O'Quinn, Osborne, Peltzer Dunn, Pissaridou, Platts, Powell, Rainey, Shanks, C Theobald, West, Wilkinson and Williams.

PART ONE

38 PETITIONS FOR DEBATE.

(2) GIVE KIDS THE RIGHT TO WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE

- 38.1 The Mayor stated that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at the council meeting. She had been made aware of two such petitions and noted that there was an amendment to the cover report's recommendation for the first petition from the Green Group. The Mayor also noted that there was a Notice of Motion listed as Item 45 (6) Safe School Walking Zones on the agenda and stated that she was minded to take the motion along with the second petition and to have one debate on the matter.
- 38.2 The Mayor then invited Councillor Nield to present the petition relating to the ability for children to walk safely to schools in the city. The Mayor also noted that there was a Notice of Motion listed as item No. 45 (6) on the agenda which related to the same matter and stated that she therefore intended to take that item at the same time and to have one debate on the issue.
- 38.3 Councillor Nield thanked the Mayor and stated that she also had a notice of motion on the subject and therefore simply wished to point out that the petition had secured over 1,300 signatures in only a few weeks. It highlighted the concerns that parents/carers had in regard to their children being able to walk safely to school and called for action to be taken to address their concerns.
- 38.4 Councillor Allcock thanked Councillor Nield for bringing the petition to the council and congratulated her on the campaign. He stated that the council was fully committed to enabling and encouraging children to walk to and from school safely. He noted that a significant number of initiatives and improvements were underway to assist in achieving this aim with a number of schools having already benefitted. The Safer Routes to School programme had been successful and would continue to create an environment in which children felt safe to walk to school.

45 NOTICES OF MOTION.

(6) SAFE SCHOOL WALKING ZONES

- 38.5 The Mayor then invited Councillor Nield to move the Notice of Motion listed as Item No. 45 (6) Safe School Walking Zones.
- 38.6 Councillor Nield thanked the Mayor and stated that October was the international walk to school month, which promoted the best travel option for children to get to school. She was aware that schools across the city and the country promoted walk to school week and the motion sought to extend that common aim to ensure that children could walk safely to school throughout their school life. At present parents and carers faced the daily struggle of tackling rush-hour traffic and a lack of safe crossing zones to get their children to school. It meant children were also being denied the opportunity to develop an independence and get to and from school by themselves. There was a need to listen to the concerns of parents and to find solutions to the problems faced on a daily basis and to empower them to take advantage of being able to walk safely to school.
- 38.7 The Mayor noted that it was Councillor Nield's maiden speech and congratulated her on behalf of the council.

- 38.8 Councillor Shanks formally seconded the motion and stated that there was a clear need to tackle the issue highlighted by the motion and the petition. She acknowledged that there was a need to change behaviour of parents who opted to drive their children to school as well as other drivers and to reduce traffic levels and hoped that a positive outcome could be found.
- 38.9 Councillor Moonan welcomed the petition and notice of motion and noted that Public Health England had recently published figures for the health profile of Year 6 and noted that Brighton & Hove compared well with the national figure. However, there was a need to do more and to get young people walking to school and to set habits that would benefit them in later life.
- 38.10 Councillor Brown welcomed the petition and stated that it highlighted the problem that needed to be addressed. Whilst most schools had travel plans there were still significant hazards that had to be faced and she hoped that the council would work closely with schools and parents to find solutions and then enable them to be implemented. There was a need to be proactive rather than reactive and not to rely on statistics before addressing calls for crossings to be installed. She also noted that funding had been identified at the last Budget Council to help to tackle the issue but had not been approved.
- 38.11 Councillor O'Quinn noted that 20mph zones had been established in the city and suggested that more signage and consideration of 10mph zones around schools should be considered; as well as action to improve sight lines and to prevent illegal parking around schools. She also suggested that another aspect that should be reviewed was that children were not necessarily local to their school, which meant that parents were choosing to drop them off by car. It was a complex issue and would need to be given full consideration if it was to be addressed.
- 38.12 Councillor Hill stated that there were issues with major junctions being near to or in between schools which caused difficulties for parents and children. It meant there was a need to prioritise when putting solutions into place and she questioned whether it was possible to re-look at the use of school crossing patrol officers and to encourage people to volunteer.
- 38.13 Councillor West stated that it was an important matter that needed to be considered and different solutions found for different areas but with the aim of providing safer to school routes. He was aware of school crossing patrol officers being threatened by drivers for stopping the traffic and that had to be addressed. The use of the car to take children to school should be the exception rather than the norm and children should be given the confidence to be able to walk to school.
- 38.14 Councillor Bagaeen stated that more action was needed to enforce double yellow lines and to get the bus company to improve the quality of buses being used for the school services. Having experienced travelling by bus himself, he could not allow his children to use the current vehicles that were operating as they were over-crowded, and windows could not be opened. He hoped that discussions could be held with the bus companies to improve their fleet and the number of buses operating on school routes.
- 38.15 Councillor Nield thanked everyone for their contributions to the debate and stated she was aware of existing schemes to help children to walk to school. However, they tended to concentrate on how to deal with traffic etc. rather than creating safe walking zones and initiatives such as 'School Streets' created in other cities should be

considered; as well as establishing a network of zones across the city. She also questioned the reliance on accident data to determine whether a crossing could be provided and the struggle to obtain Section 106 funding and hoped that this could be reviewed.

38.16 The Mayor thanked Councillor Nield for presenting the petition and put the recommendation listed in the covering report to the vote which was carried unanimously.

38.17 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and referred to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee meeting on the 11 November 2019.

38.18 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion to the vote;

“This council resolves to ask Environment, Transport and Sustainability committee to commission a report, exploring:

- How existing 10-minute walking zones around our schools can be optimised, adding the crossings and road calming measures necessary to create genuinely safe walking routes to school.
- How visual elements could be used throughout a zone to give drivers a clear message that they are near a school, walking families have priority, and drivers are guests in that zone.
- Funding options available to create these zones (such as grants, planning contributions, parking surplus, bids for funding)

And further, that such a report:

- sets out the ways in which the council will work in close consultation with schools and local communities about the creation of these zones.

38.19 The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been agreed unanimously and would be referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee for consideration.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for questions submitted by Members.

The question will be answered without discussion. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion. The person to whom a question, or supplementary question, has been put may decline to answer it.

(i) Councillor Elaine Hills

The former Chair of this Committee, Councillor Nick Childs, said in the press earlier this year that reducing school exclusions in the City is a priority to the council. Could the administration outline what steps are being taken in order to achieve this?

(ii) Councillor Sarah Nield

What steps are the Council taking to reduce holiday hunger?

(iii) Councillor Hannah Clare

This meeting takes place on the first day of anti-bullying week. What support does the Council put in place for young people to reduce bullying?

Geoff Raw – Chief Executive
Brighton & Hove City Council

29th October 2019

Dear Geoff

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT – EXTERNAL REVIEW

When the catastrophic issues of the new home to school transport scheme came to light, council officers were quick to advise that everything had been done after consultation with lead members of the Labour Administration and the Parent and Carer's Council. Those discussions clearly happening out of sight from everybody else.

Wind forward several months, and we have council officers with lead members of the Labour Administration and the Parent and Carer's Council, albeit this time with the help of the Green Party, again working in secret to decide who will investigate them, how any report will be presented and what the terms of reference will be. They will all also sit on the review panel to oversee the investigators!

This is being presented as an independent review conducted by outsiders. So that the rest of world beyond those being investigated can understand what the so called independent reviewers are being allowed to do and investigate, please would the council release full details of which organisations have been approached, how and why certain organisations have apparently been chosen, how the report(s) will be presented and to whom, what are the terms of reference and release the relevant documents, correspondence, meeting notes etc between all parties involved relating to this matter and including the transport governance meetings.

In addition, please would you advise the relationship between the council and the Parent and Carer's Council, how they are funded (including expenses), providing details for the last two years and how it is envisaged that they are able to function in a critical capacity within the restriction of co-production and when they rely heavily on the very same council that they, in part, have been established to hold to account.

Yours sincerely

Cllrs. Lee Wares and Mary Mears

Dear Geoff Raw,

I am submitting the following letter under Council Procedure Rule 23.3 to be included on the agenda for the Children, Young People and Skills Committee meeting of 11th November 2019.

Recent Government announcements of £14 billion in extra funding for schools have been met with some delight. However, I am concerned that we should not allow political spin to confuse our understanding of the position our schools still find themselves in in Brighton and Hove. I want to ask that when we in this council talk about the funding of our schools we deal only in sober reality.

The fact is that our local schools have endured a decade of cuts which have left them struggling. Teaching Assistants have been lost, repairs have been cancelled, old equipment has not been replaced, and parents are being asked for 'voluntary donations' to pay for the basics.

When our Government announces an enormous figure like £14 billion extra for schools it is meant to create the illusion that the problem is, or is about to be, solved. I feel very strongly that we owe it to our family of schools to level-headedly examine the reality of the situation.

I have been dismayed to see in print and to hear at Full Council our Conservative colleagues joining in with the smoke and mirrors of Boris Johnson's education funding pledges: the £14 billion which becomes £7.1 billion as soon as you look at it in direct sunlight. To be clear: the figure is arrived at by adding the extra spending of £2.6 billion for next year and the £4.8 billion for the year after to the final increased spend of £7.1 billion which is planned for 2022-23. This is not how spending increases are calculated.

The fact is that our school funding crisis is not over. Boris Johnson's promised extra investment will not even begin until the next school year and will not reach its full £7.1 billion until 2022-23. When this money does arrive, the IFS tells us it will bring funding back to roughly the level it was in 2010 in real terms. In other words, I feel it will be most welcome, but it will still represent a 13-year period of no net growth in school spending per pupil. I want us to remember that this is the real situation in our schools.

Our children's education is too important to be spun for political gain. The repetition of the Government's smoke-and-mirrors figures by local councillors seems particularly distasteful when we all, no matter what our political persuasion, represent residents whose children are in schools which have cut support staff, mental health support and outside services. Our schools do an amazing job, but they are often doing it with holes in the roof. If any of us pretend otherwise then how can we also pretend that we support them?

The spin which comes from our government has recently been thrown into sharp relief by the work of local campaigners. I would like to congratulate the parent-led Save our Schools on their ongoing efforts to bring together and empower school communities to take a stand against the cuts and to disseminate their usual meticulously researched information about what is happening in our underfunded and overstretched schools. I would also like to highlight their current social media hashtag #DontBelieveTheHype as being advice I would like us all to take. If and when the increase in education funding arrives it will be hugely useful. In the meantime, to score political points through exaggerated claims shows an unhelpful lack of respect for our still-struggling schools. I would like to request that when we discuss education funding on this committee and in this council we stick to the facts.

I would be grateful if this committee could consider requesting council officers to provide details of the cuts to the Dedicated Schools Grant budget over the last decade, including outlining any loss of ring-fenced grants (e.g. admissions) now included as a liability under the DSG and what an increase in funding to our schools would look like.

Councillor Sarah Nield

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE STRIKES

This committee notes:

- The recent National Education Union strikes at sixth-form colleges - which took place nationwide on 17th October and 5th November;
- the participation of two of the city's Sixth Form colleges (Varndean and BHASVIC) in this strike action;

The committee requests:

(1) That the Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning write to:

- Staff at Varndean and BHASVIC, expressing this committee's support for recent strike action;
- The Secretary of State and Shadow Secretary of State for Education: requesting information on how they plan to meet the demands of striking staff, including any plans to review the obligations for Sixth-Form Colleges to pay VAT.

Proposed by: Cllr Hills

Seconded by: Cllr Clare

Supporting information:

[1] The strike ballot for sixth form colleges closed on 16 September. 84 per cent of members voted Yes to action and Yes to saving the sixth form sector. Demands of the strike include securing the funding needed to sustain fair pay, conditions and employment at sixth form colleges - including by reversing job losses, class size increases and cuts to teaching time and curriculum provision.

[2] The National Education Union represents many teaching and further education college and university staff. Details from The National Education Union:

<https://neu.org.uk/sixth-form-colleges-ballot-and-strike>

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP

MAKE YOUR MARK

This committee congratulates:

- the UK Youth Parliament for completing another Make Your Mark Survey, enabling young people to have their voice in the issues that matter to them.
- Glyn Griffiths who represented Brighton and Hove at their debate in the House of Commons on Friday 8th November
- All young people from Brighton and Hove who took part in the survey this year

In addition, this committee notes:

- The national results of the survey, which found the top five issues to Young People were:
 - Protect the Environment
 - Put an end to knife crime
 - Mental Health
 - Put an end to hate crime
 - Curriculum to prepare for us for life

Further that this committee resolves to request:

- A report to a future meeting of Children, Young People and Skills Committee detailing the council's action towards meeting these demands for young people in our city.

Proposed by: Councillor Clare

Seconded by: Councillor Nield

Supporting information:

1) UK Youth Parliament survey results 2019

<http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/2019/news/climate-emergency-declared-biggest-issue-facing-young-people/>

Item 32 - Ofsted update 10 October 2019

Schools inspected since last committee 2019

School	Date of Inspection	OE Grade	Previous grade
Full inspections			
There have been no inspections since the last meeting			

Snapshot from End of Sept 2019

	% of schools judged to be Good & Outstanding	National % schools judged to be Good & Outstanding	% Pupils in a Good or Outstanding School	% of schools judged to be Outstanding	National % Schools judged to be Outstanding
Primary	90.4	87.5	89.9	11.5	17.5
Secondary	100	75.9	100	0	21.1
Special	66.7	91.6	88.5	66.7	38.8
Colleges	100	-	-	-	-
PRUs	100	83.1	100	0	18.1
All Schools (not colleges)	91.2	86.0	93.9	14.7	19.9

National figures as at end of Sept 2019 Ofsted Monthly Management data

Overview of School Ofsted Outcomes

As at end Sept 2019	Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement	Inadequate
Brighton & Hove: % Schools	14.7%	76.5%	7.4%	1.5%
Brighton & Hove: Number of schools	10	52	5	1
National : % schools (as at end of Sept 2019)	19.9%	66.2%	10.4%	3.6%

The pupil referral units are now one establishment: The Central Hub Brighton

Overview of Early Years Ofsted inspections

- 97% of childcare providers on the Early Years Register in Brighton & Hove were judged good or outstanding (March 2019, published June 2019). This is above the figure of 95% in England and 96% in the SE.
- A high percentage of settings are judged as outstanding in Brighton & Hove, well above national and local outcomes:
 - 30% outstanding (B&H), 23% (South East) and 20% (England).
- Early Years inspections since June 2019
 - 2 settings have retained a good judgement (1 under new framework)
 - 2 settings have moved from outstanding to good (both under new framework)

EY Ofsted inspections since June 2019

Setting	Inspection date	Latest grade	Previous grade
Gingerbread Day Nursery	14.8.19	Good	Good
Torah Montessori Nursery	12.9.19	Good	Outstanding
Wise Owls Nursery	19.9.19	Good	Good
Oak Cottage Nursery	19.9.19	Good	Outstanding

Revised Ofsted Education Inspection Framework 2019

The revised Education Inspection Framework is now in place. It is important to note that achieving a judgement of 'outstanding' is more challenging under this framework:

Outstanding is a challenging and exacting judgement. In order to reach this standard, inspectors will determine whether the early years provision meets **all** the criteria set out under 'good' for that judgement and does so **securely** and **consistently**. In other words, it is not enough that the provision is strong against some aspects of the judgement and not against others: it must meet each and every criterion. **In addition**, there are further criteria set out under the outstanding judgement, **all of which** the provision will **also** need to meet. Provision should only be judged 'outstanding' in a particular area if it is performing exceptionally, and this exceptional performance in that area is consistent and secure across the whole provision (Ofsted 2019)

Accordingly, it is likely that some settings with a current judgement of outstanding will not retain this grading.

Subject:	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report		
Date of Meeting:	11.11.2019		
Report of:	Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Sam Beal	Tel: 01273 293533
	Email:	sam.beal@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	(All Wards);		

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

- 1.1 Since 1988 local authorities have had a duty to establish a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).
- 1.2 The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) from each Local Authority will 'publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year'. This report outlines the work of SACRE from March 2018 – September 2019.
- 1.3 SACRE also deal with complaints about religious education (RE). No formal complaints have been received this year

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the SACRE report and considers how Committee can support the work of SACRE.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The SACRE advises the local authority on matters relating to collective worship in community schools and on religious education in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus. Religious education is a statutory part of the basic curriculum for all pupils, but it is not a National Curriculum subject. SACRE also advises on Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development.
- 3.2 In the 2011 census, 49% of the Brighton & Hove population stated they had a religion, with 8.8% not recorded and 42% stating they had no religion. (Appendix 1). We await the next census to see if this is increasing over time with the changing ethnic demographic of the city.
- 3.3 SACRE believes that all children and young people need to acquire core knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of the religions and

worldviews which not only shape our shared history and culture but which guide their development. The modern world needs young people who are confident in their own beliefs and values so that they can respect the religious and cultural differences of others within their school community and wider. The effective teaching of a quality programme of RE is a key method for achieving these community cohesion outcomes and promoting spiritual, social and moral development.

- 3.4 The Brighton & Hove Council Agreed Syllabus for RE provides opportunities for pupils and students to reflect on a range of religious and secular worldviews.
- 3.5 Children and young people from faith and non-faith backgrounds have the right to go to schools where their community is represented and where they are safe from prejudice. RE, along with PSHE education and other whole school activities provides opportunities to develop understanding, empathy and acceptance in and between faith and non-faith communities.
- 3.6 The *Faith and Belief in Educational Settings Guidance* along with the *Advice for schools and colleges on supporting pupils and students during Ramadan* has continued to be promoted to schools over the last academic year. Increasing numbers of schools appear to be marking Eid al-Fitr, as evidenced through school Twitter accounts and invites to for example the annual Eid picnic at Carden Primary.
- 3.7 RE is also an important curriculum subject in its own right. 7 Brighton & Hove secondary schools entered students for GCSE RE. Numbers of students entered and results are contained in Appendix 2.
- 3.8 In March 2018, a conference was held which launched the revised RE Agreed Syllabus. This was attended by 41 schools, 35 primary schools, 4 secondary schools and 2 special schools and positively evaluated. Schools have been required to deliver the 2018 Agreed Syllabus from September 2019. Church of England and Catholic Schools are not required to follow the Agreed Syllabus – there are 15 of these schools.
- 3.9 SACRE organised a morning training session: “Religious Education Planning a High Quality Curriculum” on 22nd March 2019. The training was offered as a free event to all schools in Brighton & Hove. 23 teachers from 22 schools attended the training and feedback was positive. A similar event is planned for secondary schools in the Autumn Term 2019, co-ordinated by Hannah Kinchin-Frost from Patcham High School.
- 3.10 Effective SACREs should monitor the provision and quality of agreed syllabus RE and collective worship. Over the last year, SACRE has been developing methods to fulfil this monitoring function. For example; a self-evaluation questionnaire has been sent to all schools. Despite reminders, only 14 questionnaires have been returned. The results of this show that there are inconsistencies across the city in approaches to RE. There are differences in staff teaching RE from a school with one specialist who teaches all RE, to others where all classroom teachers are responsible or there are Higher Level Teaching Assistants teaching RE. Time allotted to teach RE was also very different with some schools having a clear amount of time and others who taught RE only in

topics and, or combined in time for PSHE, Monitoring of the subject was also very different; only 2 schools that responded had a governor specifically responsible for monitoring RE and while some schools had a clear monitoring programme looking at development of this subject other schools included this in general teaching observations with no specific focus. The overall impression across the city is that there are very different attitudes and importance placed by schools on this statutory subject and our assumption is that the experience for children and young people across the city would widely vary dependent on the setting. Support for subject knowledge and having enough time allocated to the subject were some of the requests received from teachers.

- 3.11 In the last academic year, SACRE has begun to review school websites for evidence of compliance in their statutory duties. SACRE aims to monitor five websites per term with schools chosen who are likely to shortly be having an Ofsted inspection. This monitoring has revealed that several schools are not sharing their RE curriculum on the website as they are required to do.

4. SACRE

- 4.1 SACRE is a statutory function of the local authority. SACRE has in place a clear constitution which sets out a programme of meetings and the membership.
- 4.2 The range of faith groups represented at SACRE meetings in the last year include: Church of England, Catholic Church, Methodist Church, Religious Society of Friends, Salvation Army, Catholic Church, Muslim and Jewish faiths. Meetings have been held in the Friends Meeting House, the Salvation Army, Patcham High School and Hove Junior School.
- 4.3 SACRE has a budget of £1000 to fund meetings, some training and to provide supply cover to support RE teachers to attend SACRE. The local authority also provides four days of time from a member of staff who clerks SACRE and five days of time from the Partnership Adviser: Health and Wellbeing who is the local authority representative on SACRE and develops resources for SACRE. SACRE would like to provide further training opportunities for RE teachers.
- 4.4 Councillors from Conservatives, Green and Labour Party have attended meetings over the last year.
- 4.5 Teacher representation on SACRE has improved, but it remains difficult to recruit via the teaching unions as described in the constitution.
- 4.6 In 2019-2020 SACRE plans to:
- Review and update the SACRE constitution and membership (for example to include Humanist Representative)
 - Continue to carry out website monitoring
 - Develop an RE curriculum audit tool and pilot this with three schools
 - Learn more about East Sussex SACRE
 - Continue to promote RE teacher training opportunities including those provided nationally and by the two diocese
 - Encourage sharing of resources on BEEM (website) and monitor teacher use

- If funds allow establish regular network meetings for RE teachers supported by specialists.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Current SACRE membership is:
 Group A Faith Groups: Baha’I Faith, Baptist Union, Buddhist Community, Jewish Community, Muslim Community, Religious Society of Friends, Catholic Church, Salvation Army.
 Group B Church of England – 3 representatives
 Group C Councillors – 2 Labour Councillors (Les Hamilton and Gary Wilkinson), 1 Conservative Councillor (Alistair McNair), 1 Green Councillor (Siriol Hugh-Jones)
 Teachers from two teaching unions
 Representative from Brighton University.
 We currently have vacancies for the following faiths/ beliefs: Coptic Orthodox Church, Methodist Church, New Churches, Russian Orthodox Church, Sikh Community, Hindu Faith

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 RE is an important part of a school’s broad and balanced curriculum and to the work in the city to improve community cohesion and prevent prejudice.
- 6.2 Resources to support training for RE teachers and to provide other support is limited. Most schools do not respond to the SACRE questionnaire leaving SACRE unable to monitor RE or identify needs.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations of this report.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis

Date: 17/09/2019

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 As indicated in the report the Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) from each Local Authority will ‘publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 11/09/2019

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 SACRE seeks to ensure quality RE teaching to encourage knowledge of and respect for all religions and for people of no religion.

Sustainability Implications:

7.4 There are no sustainability implications.

Any Other Significant Implications:

7.5 None

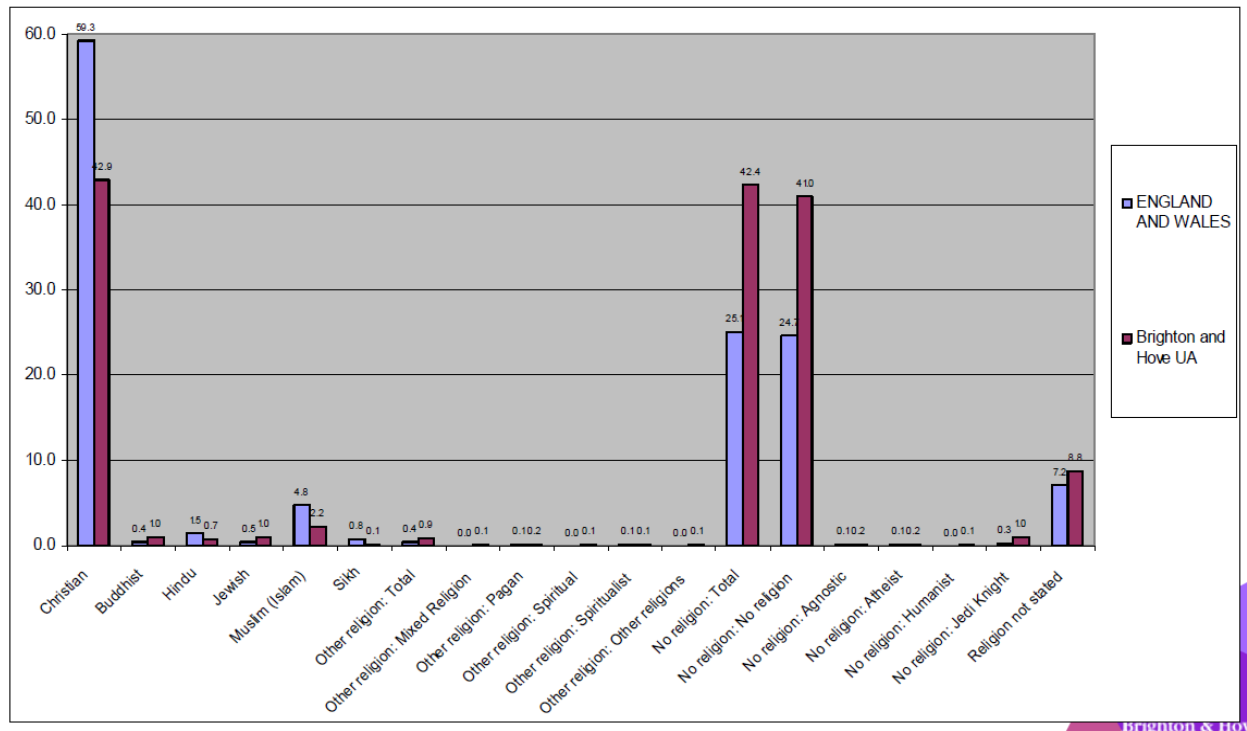
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Census 2011

Religion	Number of Residents	% of the Brighton & Hove population
Christian	117276	42.90%
Muslim	6095	2.23%
Buddhist	2742	1%
Jewish	2670	0.98%
Hindu	1792	0.66%
Pagan	577	0.21%
Sikh	342	0.13%
Mixed Religion	323	0.12%
Spiritualists	328	0.12%
Taoist	87	0.03%
Spiritual	268	0.10%
Wicca	84	0.03%
Rastafarian	79	0.03%
Baha'i	78	0.03%
No Religion	115,954	42%
Religion not stated	24,089	8.8%
Religion not listed	143	0.05%

2011 Census: Religion



2. Religious Studies GCSE results 2019

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCE AS level (121)

QAN: 60187669

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	A	B	C	D	E	U	A-B	A-E	Avg Pts
-	National (All Schools)	583370	30	46.2	-	-	-	-	-	61.5	92.3	8.1
-	National (State Funded)	523630	30	46.2	-	-	-	-	-	61.5	92.3	8.1
-	LA (State Funded)	2169	26	46.2	15.4	15.4	7.7	7.7	7.7	61.5	92.3	8.1
4016	Dorothy Stringer School	325	26	46.2	15.4	15.4	7.7	7.7	7.7	61.5	92.3	8.1

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)																		
QAN: 60184000																		
Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (All Schools)	583370	100020	7.8	10.4	12.9	16.1	14.4	10.9	13.8	8.0	3.9	1.4	0.3	61.7	72.6	98.3	5.2
-	National (State Funded)	523630	93780	6.4	9.5	12.6	16.3	14.9	11.4	14.5	8.5	4.1	1.4	0.3	59.8	71.2	98.3	5.1
-	LA (State Funded)	2169	427	6.6	7.5	16.2	20.6	15.2	9.4	11.2	6.3	4.0	2.3	0.7	66.0	75.4	97.0	5.2
4067	Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College	288	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	100.0	1.0
4016	Dorothy Stringer School	325	315	7.0	6.7	17.1	19.4	14.3	9.5	12.4	6.3	3.5	3.2	0.6	64.4	74.0	96.2	5.2
4068	Hove Park School and Sixth Form Centre	265	11	-	9.1	9.1	18.2	18.2	18.2	18.2	-	-	-	9.1	54.5	72.7	90.9	4.6
4002	King's School	81	74	8.1	10.8	12.2	24.3	20.3	8.1	5.4	8.1	2.7	-	-	75.7	83.8	100.0	5.6
4018	Longhill High School	176	8	-	12.5	-	37.5	-	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	-	-	50.0	62.5	100.0	4.5
4012	Varndean School	255	18	-	5.6	27.8	22.2	16.7	5.6	11.1	-	11.1	-	-	72.2	77.8	100.0	5.2

QAN: 60184012																		
Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (All Schools)	583370	15130	7.2	10.5	12.0	16.3	13.7	12.0	13.3	8.7	4.7	1.4	0.2	59.7	71.8	98.5	5.1
-	National (State Funded)	523630	14320	6.6	10.1	11.8	16.2	13.8	12.3	13.7	9.0	5.0	1.4	0.2	58.5	70.7	98.4	5.0
-	LA (State Funded)	2169	348	4.9	4.3	10.3	15.5	11.8	13.8	17.8	14.1	6.6	0.9	-	46.8	60.6	99.1	4.5
4605	Cardinal Newman Catholic School	361	348	4.9	4.3	10.3	15.5	11.8	13.8	17.8	14.1	6.6	0.9	-	46.8	60.6	99.1	4.5

Documents in Members' Rooms

- 1.
- 2.

Background Documents

1. Brighton & Hove Agreed RE Syllabus, 2018
- 2.

Subject:	School Admission Arrangements 2021-22		
Date of Meeting:	11 November 2019		
Report of:	Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Richard Barker,	Tel: 01273 290732,
	Email:	richard.barker@brighton-hove.gov.uk,	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

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

- 1.1 This report details the proposed school admission arrangements for the city's schools, for which the Council is the admission authority, for the academic year 2021-22.
- 1.2 When changes are proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities must consult on those arrangements that will apply. Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period.
- 1.3 The committee will be asked to approve a consultation based on the proposals being suggested and will then receive a further report in January 2020 seeking their determination of those arrangements.
- 1.4 Local Authorities must also set out schemes for co-ordinated admissions, including key dates in the admission process, and also the arrangements for consultation with own admission authority schools in the city and with other local authorities. They also establish the area (the "relevant area") within which the admission consultation should take place.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 The committee agree to make no changes to the council's admission arrangements or school catchment areas, where applicable.
- 2.2 The committee agree to consult upon a change to the Published Admission Number (PAN) for West Hove Infant School (Connaught Road site) from 90 pupils to 60 pupils and a change to the PAN for Hove Junior School (Holland Road site) from 128 pupils to 90 pupils.
- 2.3 That the Committee agree to consult upon a change of PAN for Mile Oak Primary School from 90 pupils to 60 pupils and a change to the PAN for Hangleton Primary School from 90 pupils to 60 pupils.

- 2.4 That the Committee agree to make no changes to the “relevant area”.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In the School Admissions Code it states who must be consulted in relation to school admission arrangements. This includes parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen; other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions; all other admission authorities within the relevant area and any adjoining neighbouring local authority areas, where the admission authority is the local authority.
- 3.2 The consultation takes place approximately 18 months in advance of the school year in which pupils will be admitted under the proposed arrangements. The relevant papers for the 2021-22 admission year for the City of Brighton & Hove are attached as appendices to this report.
- 3.3 Local authorities must also set out schemes for co-ordinated admissions, including key dates in the admission process, and also the arrangements for consultation with own admission authority schools in the city and with other local authorities. They also establish the area (the “relevant area”) within which the admission consultation should take place.
- 3.4 The consultation process must have been concluded by 31 January 2020, with a minimum of 6 weeks consultation time. The Council must have reached its decisions and confirmed its admission arrangements for 2021-22 by 28 February 2020 in order to conform to the requirements of the School Admissions Code.
- 3.5 It is proposed to start the consultation on 15 November 2019 and for it to conclude on Monday 6 January 2020.

Admission Priority

- 3.6 There are no proposed changes to the council’s admission arrangements as detailed in appendix 3.

Published Admission Number

- 3.7 Starting school places for September 2019 at the City’s infant and primary schools were allocated on 16 April 2019. At that time there were 2560 places offered and 380 places unfilled.
- 3.8 In July 2019 a request to the school’s adjudicator was agreed for a temporary reduction in PAN by 30 places for the following schools: West Blatchington Primary, Hangleton Primary and West Hove Infant – Connaught Road and Mile Oak Primary School. These were all agreed for September 2019 with the support of the schools for a one year arrangement only.
- 3.9 A reduction of PAN for Westdene Primary School was consulted upon last year and will reduce permanently by 30 pupils from September 2020.

- 3.10 In September 2020 the Council is projecting that there will be 2588 applications leaving 322 places unfilled.
- 3.11 In September 2021 pupil numbers are projected to be 2518 leaving 392 places unfilled should no reduction of places take place.
- 3.12 If the reduction in PAN for West Hove Infant School (Connaught Road), Mile Oak Primary School and Hangleton Primary School are agreed the projections indicate there will be 302 unfilled places in September 2021.
- 3.13 Having too many surplus places can lead to schools having financial difficulties when, for example, they have a PAN of 60 pupils but only admit 36 starting school places. Under infant class size regulations a school must have a maximum of 30 pupils taught by one teacher and so the school would be required to fund two class teachers with an average class size of 18 pupils.
- 3.14 In preparation of these proposals, informal discussions took place with some school leaders where a possible reduction in PAN seemed plausible, with the intention of reaching consensus about consulting upon a planned reduction in PAN from September 2021.
- 3.15 Discussion has taken place with the head teacher and chair of governors of Mile Oak Primary School They understood the need to reduce primary places in the city and the impact on schools if no action is taken. They felt that as a school they needed to weigh this against growing and improving their own school. They would prefer to go for a temporary reduction in the first instance and then review the situation over time.
- 3.16 Discussion has taken place with the head teacher and chair of governors at Hangleton Primary school. They understood the strategy of reducing the number of primary places and the potential impact on other schools if no action is taken. They would prefer not to make a decision regarding reducing their PAN until they could see how the future numbers look. They were concerned that reducing places at a good local school was reducing parental opportunity to attend their local school.
- 3.17 Both schools look forward to having an opportunity to feedback their views and concerns as part of the formal consultation.
- 3.18 It is recognised that the length of time before these proposals would come into effect and the recognition that parental preference can change over a period of time can make it difficult for schools to commit to a reduction of PAN.
- 3.19 This has been an area of discussion for a number of years but it has not been possible to reach a consensus on additional proposals to reduce the PAN of other schools.
- 3.20 Community schools have the right to object to the Schools Adjudicator if the PAN set for them is lower than they would wish. There is a strong presumption in favour of an increase to the PAN to which the Schools Adjudicator must have regard when considering any such objection.

- 3.21 The admission number for West Hove Infant School (Connaught Road) has been reduced from 90 to 60 pupils in the other year groups.
- 3.22 A corresponding reduction in PAN at the linked junior school, Hove Junior (Holland Road) is being proposed to ensure there is both sufficient capacity to accommodate all pupils moving up from the infant school but without the potential financial implications associated with the need to operate small classes.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Council could propose to make other changes to its current admission arrangements as part of the consultation process.
- 4.2 The Council could seek to make no change to the PAN of any primary school. Whilst this may ensure the council can meet a high level of parental preferences it places more schools at risk of financial difficulty.
- 4.3 The Council could propose to change the PAN of other primary or infant schools. Under the School Admission Code this must be undertaken following a consultation with the governing body. All admission authorities must consult where they propose a decrease to the PAN. Community schools have the right to object to the Schools Adjudicator if the PAN set for them is lower than they would wish. There is a strong presumption in favour of an increase to the PAN to which the Schools Adjudicator must have regard when considering any such objection.
- 4.4 It is possible for the Council to again seek agreement from the Schools Adjudicator for a variation to the PAN of schools with effect from September 2020 after notifying all other admission authorities within the relevant area.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Council scrutinised the Voluntary Aided (VA) Schools and Free Schools' proposed admission arrangements for 2019/20. VA schools are required to consult their religious authority (in this case the Diocesan Authority) before consulting others. The Council will review the final document published by the Governing Bodies before deciding whether it should comment or act further.
- 5.2 The Council has previously requested that Headteachers and Chairs of Governors inform it if a future reduction in PAN was a proposal that they would wish to undertake. No other schools have indicated a willingness to undertake such a reduction.
- 5.3 If recommended, it is proposed to start the consultation on the reduction on PAN at West Hove Infant School (Connaught Road site), Mile Oak Primary School, Hangleton Primary School and Hove Junior School (Holland Road site) on 15 November 2019 and for it to conclude on Monday 6 January 2020. As a result it is expected that the report for the 13 January 2020 committee will be a late report.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 It is proposed to consult on reducing the Published Admission Number for West Hove Infant School (Connaught Road) and the linked Hove Junior School (Holland Road) each by one form of entry.
- 6.2 It is proposed to consult on reducing the Published Admission Number for Mile Oak Primary School and Hangleton Primary School each by one form of entry. This will support a reduction in the amount of surplus primary school places available in the city.
- 6.3 If the reduction in PAN is determined at all three schools it is projected that there will be 302 unfilled places in September 2021.
- 6.4 It is proposed to make no further changes to admission arrangements and to undertake a public consultation with the results and final recommendations coming back to this committee in January 2020.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The main driver of a school's budget is pupil numbers, therefore as there are no proposed changes in admission arrangements or catchment areas, most schools will not be effected.
- 7.2 For the four schools Hangleton Primary, Mile Oak, West Hove Infant and Hove Junior schools, they will need to plan their budgets over the period of the change in PAN to reflect the expected reduction in pupils and budget accordingly.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore

Date: 25/10/19

Legal Implications:

- 7.3 Section 88C of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the School Admissions (Admissions Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) Regulations 2012 require admission authorities to determine their admission arrangements annually. Arrangements must be determined 18 months in advance of the academic year to which they apply.
- 7.4 Where changes such as a decrease in the PAN are proposed to admission arrangements the admission authority must first publicly consult on those proposed arrangements. The School Admissions Code 2014 states that consultation must be for a minimum of six weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January of the school year before those arrangements are to apply. The admission arrangements must be determined by 28 February 2018.
- 7.5 Community schools have the right to object to the Schools Adjudicator if the PAN set for them is lower than they would wish.
- 7.6 The 1998 Act also requires local authorities to establish a relevant area in which admission authorities must consult regarding their admission

arrangements. The Education (Relevant Areas for Consultation on Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999 requires local authorities to consult on these proposals every two years.

Lawyer Consulted:

Serena Kynaston

Date: 16/10/2019

Equalities Implications:

- 7.7 An equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out. There are no proposed changes to the council's admission arrangements and it is not expected that the proposed change to PANs will result in a significant impact for those with protected characteristics.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.8 There are no sustainability implications as a result of the proposals in this report.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.9 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Various implications
2. Published Admission Numbers for Primary and Secondary schools.
3. Admission arrangements and priorities for community primary and secondary schools
4. Coordinated scheme of admissions – primary.
5. Coordinated scheme of admissions – secondary.
6. Coordinated scheme of admissions – in year arrangements

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 1.1 None

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 1.2 Any change to school attendance patterns and pupil numbers will impact directly on resource allocation both revenue and capital, and on the Council's ability to meet parental expectations on school places. Pupil data and broader population data is used to identify the numbers of school places required and where they should be located. This feeds into the capital programme so that resources are allocated where they will have the most beneficial effect.

Public Health Implications:

- 1.3 None

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 1.4 The allocation of school places affects all families in all parts of the city and can influence where people choose to live. Failure to obtain the desired choice of school can create a strong sense of grievance. The process of expressing a preference and if disappointed, entering an appeal can create intense anxiety for many families in the city. Admission arrangements together with school place planning are framed in such a way as to be mindful of supporting the needs of communities.

Appendix 2

Primary Admissions Numbers 2021-22	Planned Admission No. 2021-22
Name of School	
Aldrington CE Primary	60
Balfour Primary	120
Benfield Primary	60
Bevendean Primary	60
Bilingual Primary	90
Brunswick Primary	120
Brackenbury Primary	30
Carden Primary	60
Carlton Hill Primary	30
City Academy Whitehawk	60
Coldean Primary	60
Coombe Road Primary	30
Cottesmore St Marys Catholic	60
Downs Infant	120
Downs Junior	128
Elm Grove Primary	60
Fairlight Primary	60
Goldstone Primary	90
Hangleton Primary	60
Hertford Infant	60
Hertford Junior	60
Hove Junior School (Holland Road)	90
Hove Junior School (Portland Road)	128
Middle Street Primary	30
Mile Oak Primary	60
Moulsecoomb Primary	60
Our Lady of Lourdes	30
Patcham Infant	90
Patcham Junior	96
Peter Gladwin Primary	30
Queens Park Primary	60
Rudyard Kipling Primary	60
Saltdean Primary	90
St Andrew's CE Primary	90
St Bartholomew CE Primary	30
St Bernadette's Catholic Primary	30
St John The Baptist Catholic Primary	30
St Joseph's Catholic Primary	30
St Lukes Primary	90
St Margaret's CE Primary	30
St Mark's CE Primary	30
St Martin's CE Primary	30
St Mary Magdalen Catholic Primary	30
St Mary's Catholic Primary	30
St Nicolas CE Primary	60
St Paul's CE Primary	30

Appendix 2

St Peter's Community Primary	30
Stanford Infant	90
Stanford Junior	96
West Blatchington Primary	60
West Hove Infant (Portland Road)	120
West Hove Infant (Connaught Road)	60
Westdene Primary	60
Woodingdean Primary	60
Secondary Admission Numbers 2021-22	
Name of school	Planned admission no. 2021-22
Brighton Aldridge Community Academy	180
Blatchington Mill	330
Cardinal Newman Catholic	360
Dorothy Stringer	330
Hove Park	300
King's	150
Longhill High	270
Patcham High	225
Portslade Aldridge Community Academy	240
Varndean	300

Admission Arrangements for Brighton & Hove Schools 2021-22

Admission Arrangements for Secondary Schools

The Council uses a catchment area system with random allocation being used as the tie breaker in each admission priority in the event of oversubscription. These arrangements are also used by Brighton Aldridge Community Academy (BACA) and Portslade Aldridge Community Academy (PACA). Cardinal Newman Catholic School and King's School have their own admission priorities (please visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schooladmissions for details).

The over subscription priorities are applied in the context of an equal preference system as required by the School Admissions Code. They are:

1. Children in the care of a local authority (looked after children), and children who were looked after in England or elsewhere but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangement or special guardianship order).
2. Compelling medical or other exceptional reasons for attending the school.
3. A sibling link applied for those living within the designated catchment area only.
4. Those pupils living in the designated catchment area for the school(s).
5. Other children.

Within all these priorities, the tie break is random allocation.

The current catchment areas are set out in the attached catchment area map. It also includes information about which post codes are in each of the catchment areas.

Admissions Arrangements for Community Infant, Junior and Primary Schools

The over subscription priorities are applied in the context of an equal preference system as required by the Admissions Code. They are:

1. Children in the care of a local authority (looked after children), and children who were looked after in England or elsewhere but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangement or special guardianship order).
2. Compelling medical or other exceptional reasons for attending the school.
3. Sibling link.
4. For junior schools only: children attending a linked infant school.
5. Other Children.

Within all these priorities, the tie break is home to school distance (measured by the shortest available route).

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

Scheme for co-ordinated admissions to infant, primary and junior schools – Admissions Year 2021-22 (Admissions to Reception or year 3 of Junior School in September 2021)

Introduction

The main purpose of the co-ordinated scheme is to ensure that every parent of a child living in Brighton & Hove who has completed a school preference form receives one offer of an infant, primary or junior school place. This will be on a set date following the conclusion of the normal admission round for pupils seeking admission to school. The scheme is designed to foster clear communications on school admissions between the City Council, community schools, Academies (for the purposes of this document Free Schools are included as Academies), and voluntary aided schools which act as their own admission authority, and neighbouring Local Authorities (LAs) and admission authorities. It fulfils the requirements of the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements (England)) Regulations 2014 and more detailed arrangements set out in the School Admissions Code 2014.

The scheme does not affect the rights of voluntary aided schools and Academies to set their own admission priorities, and consider applications on the basis of those priorities. It is intended to set out a process and time scale for the exchange of pupil information between the parties to the scheme, resulting in the offer of a single school place. This should represent a preference listed by the parent /carer following the application of the admission priorities by the Local Authority (LA) or by own admission authority schools. Where it is not possible to allocate a place at any of the preferred schools for a child living in Brighton & Hove, a place will be offered at the nearest school to their home address within the city boundaries with a place available. This will not preclude parents from seeking an alternative place elsewhere if they are unhappy with the offer, nor will it prevent them from lodging an appeal with the admission authority for their preferred school.

All residents of Brighton & Hove should apply using the City Council's common application form (online or paper) even if they are seeking a place at a maintained school in the area of another Council.

The time scales set out in the scheme will be broadly in line with the time scales used by neighbouring LAs. **Please be aware that governing bodies for VA schools and Academies will need to meet between 15 February 2021 and 08 March 2021 when the ranking order needs to be returned to the Local Authority.**

Key dates

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| • Online application facility available | 1 September 2020 |
| • Distribution of admission booklets | on request |
| • Closing date for applications | 15 January 2021 |

- Preference data exchanged with Voluntary aided schools and other LAs. 15 February 2021
- Voluntary Aided schools provide Council with provisional ranking order of all applicants. 08 March 2021
- Data exchanged with VA schools and neighbouring authorities 08 March 2021
- Consider qualifying late applications. 08 March 2021
- Finalise allocations and provide schools with offer details. 06 April 2021
- Decisions emailed to parents/carers, Letters posted to parents who applied on paper. 16 April 2021
- Deadline for acceptance of places and appeals to be heard in the main round. 18 May 2021

Process and detailed time scale – infant, junior and primary schools

1. The school admissions booklet published by the City Council will be distributed on request to parents/carers applying for infant or primary school places. A publicity campaign will be launched in September 2020 encouraging parents to apply online. Leaflets and posters will be sent to schools, other council services, early years settings, the press and other media to parents of those pupils seeking places in school. Schools will be asked to act as a collection point for information about pupils seeking school places.
2. Parents/carers will be invited to list 3 preferences for a school place ranked in order of priority. These may be at a City Community School, an Academy, a Free School or a voluntary aided school, or any maintained school outside the City of Brighton & Hove. Those residents in the City must use the Brighton & Hove school admission preference form to indicate their preferred schools, either the paper or online form. No other form of application will be valid. The LA allocates places on the basis of equal preferences, and each preference listed will be prioritised on the basis of the published admission priorities for community and own admission authority schools. If it is possible to offer more than one place on the basis of those priorities, the one ranked higher on the preference form will be offered.
3. Parents and carers are strongly advised to apply online through the facility available on the Brighton & Hove City Council website. This will provide them with a response which confirms their preference listing and acts as proof of application. Alternatively the paper form should be completed and returned to their local infant/primary school or to the Admissions Team at Hove Town Hall, Hove **by 15 January 2021**.
4. Where as part of its admission priorities a voluntary aided school requires additional supporting information, such as a Supplementary Information form, or proof of denominational commitment, that form or proof should be completed and returned by the same closing date. This is to ensure that target dates for the exchange of pupil information and the notification date

for parents/carers can be met. Provided the LA preference form has been completed and returned, that additional information may be given direct to the school, or handed in with the preference form. Parents/carers will be advised through the admissions booklet for Brighton & Hove, and through school published information, of any such additional information requirements for voluntary aided schools. Parents/carers with queries about voluntary aided school admission requirements should contact the school for further information.

5. If using an application form rather than online application parents and carers are strongly advised to send their form via a preferred school. Parents who post the form should understand that proof of posting is not proof of receipt, and they will not have confirmation in the same way as those applying online or returning the form to a school. All maintained infant and primary schools in the city will return preference forms to the LA in batches as they are received, with the final batch as soon as possible after the closing date. Schools should maintain a record of the date on which each form was received, and if required will provide proof of receipt to the parent/carer. This ensures that on time applications and late applications are clearly recorded as such. It also provides assurance for parents should the school or the LA subsequently mislay the form.
6. **No later than 15 February 2021**
 - ❖ LA will identify the numbers of preferences (first, second and third) received for each school.
 - ❖ Voluntary aided schools, free schools and academies will be provided with details of parental preferences where their school is given as a preference. They will apply oversubscription criteria to prioritise all preferences. Where pupils have an Education, Health & Care Plan (naming the school) and must be offered a place this will be indicated. These pupils must be given a place at the school in accordance with the SEN and Admissions Code. This applies to all maintained schools, including Voluntary Aided.
 - ❖ West and East Sussex and other LA's as necessary will be forwarded the details of preferences expressed for their schools by Brighton & Hove parents/carers (first, second and third). Where the pupil has an Education, Health & Care Plan this will be indicated.
 - ❖ West and East Sussex will be asked to provide a list of pupils living in those areas who have expressed a preference for a Brighton & Hove school (first, second or subsequent).
7. **No later than 8 March 2021**
 - ❖ Voluntary aided schools, free schools and academies will provide the LA with a list showing children in priority order for places at the school. The list will show which oversubscription criterion was applied to each child, and relevant information to apply any necessary tie-break. The school will advise the LA of such additional information as is necessary to inform parents of the reason for its decision when allocation letters are sent on 16 April 2021.

- ❖ Other LAs will provide Brighton & Hove LA with a list of which Brighton & Hove pupils could be offered places in their schools. They will advise Brighton & Hove of the reason where a preference cannot be met for inclusion in the allocation letters on 16 April 2021.
- ❖ Brighton & Hove will apply its admission priorities to all preferences received for community schools, and where the children are resident in other LAs, will inform that LA.

8. No later than 6 April 2021

- ❖ Brighton & Hove will establish whether more than one offer could be made on the basis of the application of its own admission priorities and those of voluntary aided schools, free schools, academies and other LAs. It will determine in each case which is the highest parental ranking.
- ❖ Final lists of school allocations will be prepared.
- ❖ Emails to parents/carers will be prepared.
- ❖ Consideration will be given to qualifying late applications received before 8 March 2021.
- ❖ Discussions will take place with other admission authorities as necessary to resolve any remaining unallocated applications.
- ❖ Neighbouring LAs will be sent final details of children living in their area offered a place at a Brighton & Hove school, and for whom they will need to send allocation letters.

9. 16 April 2021

Online applicants will receive their decisions by e-mail. Letters will be sent to parents/carers who did not apply on line. The LA email or letter to parents will contain the following:

- ❖ If they have not been allocated a school of preference, the reason why not.
- ❖ How places at the preferred schools were allocated.
- ❖ The right of appeal to an independent panel, and how to arrange an appeal for a community school or a voluntary aided school.
- ❖ Details about waiting lists for preferences that could not be met.

10. 18 May 2021

Parents and carers should accept offers of places by this date in order to allow schools and the LA ample planning time for the new intake. This does not affect their right to appeal if the place they are accepting is not their highest preference. Parents should have also exercised their right to appeal by this date if they want to be assured of having their appeal heard in the main round of appeals.

11. Proof of address

The LA may require parents/carers to provide proof of address if they are applying for a community school place. Own admission authority schools may also request proof of address from their applicants.

Appendix A – Changes of address and late applications

New arrivals in the city

Parents/carers moving into the City in the course of the admission process who are making an application on the basis of their new address must provide evidence of either a tenancy agreement of six months or more or an exchange of contracts if they are purchasing a property. Applicants should submit their application by the closing date if possible, especially if their move took place before the closing date, forwarding proof of the move at the earliest opportunity. If they provide the form and the evidence of the move by 8 March 2021 their application will be included in the main admission round.

Late applications received before the allocation date

- I. With the exception of families moving into the area and cases as described at V below, forms received after the closing date will not be considered by the LA until allocations have been made for those received before the closing date. Any received for an own admission authority school will be forwarded to the school. The school will decide whether or not there is a good reason to include these late applications in the main admission round, but will only consider them if they are received before **8 March 2021**.
- II. Any preference forms received for community schools in respect of children in care will be included in the main admission round as valid preference at any time up to **6 April 2021**. Where such applications are received after that date, the LA will, if attendance at that school is seen as a necessity for the welfare of the child, seek to offer places at the school ranked highest on the preference form. If, however, it is acceptable to offer a place at a lower ranked school without going over numbers, the LA will discuss that possibility with the social worker for the child. Applications to voluntary aided schools, free schools and academies received on behalf of children in public care will be considered in line with the published admission policy for each school and the requirements of the School Admission Code.
- III. Applications received after the closing date but before the 8 March 2021 will be sent a letter or email allocating a school place on 16 April 2021 or as soon as possible after that date if the volume of late applications is high. Applications received after this date will be sent an allocation letter or email as soon as possible after 16 April 2021.
- IV. Applications received after the closing date will be sent a letter allocating a school place as soon as possible after the main notification date of **16 April 2021**.
- V.
- VI. Parents/carers living in the City who change any preference as a result of a change of address, and who return the new application by **8 March 2021** will have that change considered in the main round of allocations. They will have to provide evidence of their new address and will not have their changed application accepted without that evidence.
- VII. Other late applications where there is a good reason for this will be considered in the main round of allocations if received by **8 March**

2021 where independent evidence is given by a third party (usually a professional source such as a doctor or social worker) to support the reason for the delay.

Applications received after the allocation date

1. Where an application is received after the allocation date, from a parent/carer living in the City, they must use a Brighton & Hove preference form. If the preference(s) is for a community school, the LA will allocate a place if the school remains under subscribed. If the school(s) is fully subscribed, a place will be allocated at the nearest school to the home address that has a vacancy. Brighton & Hove will seek to make a decision as soon as possible after receiving the form. Where a preference is given for an own admission authority school or a school in a neighbouring LA, the form will be passed to that admission authority for a decision. They will be asked to reach a decision within fourteen days of receiving the form. Brighton & Hove will endeavour to send a decision to the parent /carer either as soon as possible once it has reached a decision, or has been informed of a decision by the other admission authority.
11. If a change of preference or preference order is received following the decision letter on **16 April 2021** and the home address has not changed, that changed preference will not be considered until after **30 June 2021**. This allows reasonable time for the consideration of late first applications and the operation of the waiting list where places have been offered and refused.
111. All applications received after the beginning of the autumn term 2021 will be regarded as outside the admission round. Nonetheless, the LA will act as the point of contact for all preferences from parents/carers living in the City. The LA will liaise with own admission authority schools over applications for admission to those schools, and will inform parents of their admission decisions, if necessary allocating an alternative school place. The LA online or paper preference form should be used in all cases. The same arrangements will apply to applications for admission to schools for year groups other than the normal Reception year. (See also co-ordinated scheme for in-year applications.) This ensures that the LA has a full record of pupil admissions, and supports both the schools and the LA in their responsibilities for pupil tracking and safety.

Waiting List

- I. Brighton & Hove will operate a waiting list system for its community schools. (Own admission authority schools make their own waiting list arrangements). The waiting list ranking will be based on the LA admission criteria. Rankings within each priority will be determined by home to school distance. All children will be automatically placed on the waiting list for the community school for which they have expressed a first preference, although parents will be given the option of also

asking to go on the waiting list for a different preferred school when places are allocated on **16 April 2021**. Places will be offered to children from the waiting list as soon as a place becomes available at an over subscribed school and the admission criteria have been applied. The waiting list will operate until the 31st December.

- II. Parents/carers wishing to keep their child's name on the list for longer than the 31st December they must inform the LA. They must renew the waiting list place each term thereafter. Applicants outside of the main admission exercise will be placed on waiting lists for one term, and must ask for the child's name to remain on the waiting list each term thereafter.

School Admission Appeals

- I. Parents/carers wishing to appeal against the LA's decision not to offer a place at a preferred school should do so by **18 May 2021** if they want to be assured of having their appeal heard in the main appeal round.
- II. The LA will not arrange an appeal or ask a voluntary aided school to arrange an appeal for a school that was not included on the original application. It will only arrange an appeal for a school which was listed as a preference, as it will not have given a decision to the parent/carer for schools not included on the form. If a parent/carer wishes to receive a decision for a school not included in their original application, and thus acquire a right of appeal, they must complete a further application. However, unless there is a good reason for a change of preference this new form will not be considered until after **30 June 2021**.
- III. Parents/carers will receive 10 school days notice of the date of the appeal hearing, and will receive copies of any documentation relating to the appeal 7 days in advance of the hearing.
- IV. Appeals for on-time applications must be heard within 40 school days of the closing date for appeals to be lodged. The volume of appeals to be heard and the availability of the appeal panel members, who are volunteers, will have a direct affect on the timing of the appeal hearings.
- V. Appeals for late applications and school transfers outside the normal admission round will be arranged as soon as practicable after the decision to refuse a preference has been conveyed to the pupil and the parent/carer, and in any case within 30 school days.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

Scheme for co-ordinated admissions to secondary schools – Admissions Year 2021-22 (Admissions to year 7 in September 2021)

Introduction

The main purpose of the co-ordinated scheme is to ensure that every parent of a child living in Brighton & Hove who has completed a school preference form receives one offer of a secondary school place at the conclusion of the normal admission round for pupils transferring from primary to secondary school. The scheme is designed to foster clear communications on school admissions between the City Council, community schools, Academies (for the purposes of this document Free Schools are included as Academies), Cardinal Newman School, which as a voluntary aided secondary school acts as its own admission authority, and neighbouring Local Authorities (LAs) and admission authorities. It fulfils the requirements of the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co ordination of Admission Arrangements (England)) Regulations 2014 and more detailed arrangements set out in the School Admissions Code 2014.

The scheme does not affect the rights of the different admission authorities mentioned to set their own admission priorities, and consider applications on the basis of those priorities. It is intended to set out a process and time scale for the exchange of pupil information between the parties to the scheme, resulting in the offer of a single school place. This should represent a preference listed by the parent/carer that it is possible to meet following the application of the admission priorities by this LA or by other admission authorities. Where it is not possible to allocate a place at any of the preferred schools for a child living in Brighton & Hove, a place will be offered at the nearest school to their home address within the city boundaries with a place available. This will not preclude parents from seeking an alternative place elsewhere if they are unhappy with the offer, nor will it prevent them from lodging an appeal with the admission authority for their preferred school.

All residents of Brighton & Hove should apply using the City Council's common application form (online or paper) even if they are seeking a place at a maintained school in the area of another Council.

The time scales set out in the scheme work towards the prescribed date (1st March or the first working day following 1st March where it falls at a weekend) on which secondary school place decisions must be notified to parents/carers. It will also be broadly in line with the time scales used by neighbouring LAs.

Key dates

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| • Online application facility available | 1 September 2020 |
| • Distribution of admission leaflets | by 12 September 2020 |
| • Distribution of admission booklets | on demand |
| • Closing date for applications | 31 October 2020 |
| • Preference data exchanged with Cardinal | |

Newman School, King's School and neighbouring LAs	20-27 November 2020
• Cardinal Newman & King's School provide LA with provisional ranking order of applicants.	18 December 2020
• Consider qualifying late applications.	22 January 2021
• Finalise allocations and exchange offer details with Cardinal Newman, King's school and neighbouring LAs	Between 28 January- 8 Feb 2021
• Notification e-mails sent to parents, decisions posted to applicants using paper forms	1 March 2021
• Deadline date for acceptance of places and appeals to be heard in the main round.	1 April 2021

Process and detailed time scale

1. The school admissions leaflet published by the City Council will be distributed to parents at the beginning of September 2020. This LA will have identified those pupils entering Year 6 in city maintained schools (the transfer cohort) from primary school records. Neighbouring LAs will be asked to provide records of Brighton & Hove children attending schools in their areas so that admission leaflets can be sent to their parents/carers. Brighton & Hove will in return provide information to other LAs about their residents attending Brighton & Hove schools.
2. Parents/carers will be invited to list 3 preferences for a school place ranked in order of priority. These may be at a City Community School, an Academy, a Free School or a voluntary aided secondary school, or any maintained school outside the City of Brighton & Hove. Those residents in the City must use the Brighton & Hove school admission preference form to indicate their preferred schools, either the paper or online form. No other form of application will be valid. The LA allocates places on the basis of equal preference, and each preference listed will be prioritised in accordance with the published admission priorities for community and own admission authority secondary schools in the City. If it is possible to offer more than one place on the basis of those priorities, the one ranked higher on the preference form will be offered.
3. Parents and carers are strongly advised to apply online through the facility available on the Brighton & Hove City Council website. This will provide them with a response which confirms their preference listing and acts as proof of application. Alternatively the paper form should be completed and returned to the child's primary or junior school in the City, or to the Admissions Team at Hove Town Hall **by 31 October 2020**. Applicants for Cardinal Newman and/or King's School will need to return their supporting information directly to the school as well as submitting an online application or paper form to the Council. If supporting information is returned to the Local Authority, the documents will be shared with the school.
4. Where as part of its admission priorities a voluntary aided school, free school or academy within the City or beyond requires additional supporting

information, such as a Supplementary Information form, or proof of denominational commitment, that form or proof should be completed and returned by the same closing date. This is to ensure that target dates for the exchange of pupil information between authorities and the notification date for parents/carers can be met. Provided the LA common application form has been completed and returned, that additional information may be given direct to the school, or handed in with the preference form. Parents/carers will be advised through the admissions booklet of Brighton & Hove or neighbouring LAs, or through school published parent information, of any such additional information requirements for own admission authority schools.

5. If using an application form rather than online application parents and carers whose children attend maintained primary schools in the City are strongly advised to return the form via the school. Parents who prefer to post the form should understand that proof of posting is not proof of receipt, and they will not have confirmation of receipt in the same way as those applying online or returning the form to their child's school. All maintained junior and primary schools in the city will return secondary preference forms they receive to the LA in batches as they are received, with the final batch as soon as possible after the closing date. Schools should maintain a list to record the date on which each form was received, the school preferences, and if required will provide proof of receipt to the parent/carer. This ensures that on time applications and late applications are clearly recorded as such. It also provides assurance for parents should the school or the LA subsequently mislay the form.

No later than 20 November 2020.

- ❖ LA will identify the number of preferences (first, second or third) received for each school.
- ❖ Cardinal Newman School and King's School will be provided with details of any parental preference where it gives the school as a preference (first, second or third) received by the LA. It will apply its oversubscription criteria to prioritise all preferences. Where pupils have an Education Health & Care Plan naming the school and must be offered a place this will be indicated. (These pupils must be given a place at the school in accordance with the SEN and Admissions Codes of Practice.)
- ❖ West and East Sussex and other LA's as necessary will be forwarded the details of preferences expressed for their schools by Brighton & Hove parents/carers (first, second and third). Where the pupil has an Education, Health & Care Plan this will be indicated.
- ❖ West and East Sussex will be asked to provide a list of pupils living in those areas who have expressed a preference for a Brighton & Hove school (first, second or subsequent).

No later than 18 December 2020

- ❖ Cardinal Newman School and King's School will provide the LA with a list showing children in priority order for places at the school. The list will show which admission criterion was applied to each child. The

school will advise the LA of such additional information as is necessary to inform parents of the reason for its decision when allocation letters and emails are sent on 1 March 2021.

- ❖ Brighton & Hove will apply its admission priorities to all preferences received for community schools, and where the children are resident in other LAs, will inform that LA.

Between 28 January and 8 February 2021

- ❖ Brighton & Hove will establish whether more than one offer could be made on the basis of the application of its own admission priorities and those of voluntary aided schools, free schools/Academies and other LAs. It will determine in each case which is the highest parental ranking.
- ❖ Final lists of school allocations will be prepared.
- ❖ Emails and letters to parents/carers will be prepared.
- ❖ Consideration will be given to late applications received before 22 January, as set out in Appendix A below.
- ❖ Neighbouring LAs will be sent final details of children living in their area offered a place at a Brighton & Hove school, and for whom they will need to send allocation letters.

1 March 2021

Online applicants will receive their decisions by e-mail. Letters will be sent to parents/carers who have not applied online or who have specifically requested this. The LA email or letter to parents will contain the following:

- ❖ If they have not been allocated a school of preference, the reason why not.
- ❖ How places at all Brighton & Hove schools were allocated.
- ❖ Where it is an own admission authority school, the fact that the offer is made on behalf of the governing body of the school.
- ❖ Where it is a school maintained by another LA, the fact that the offer is made on behalf of that LA.
- ❖ The right of appeal to an independent panel, and how to arrange an appeal for a community school, a voluntary aided school, and in the case of schools in other LA's, who to contact.
- ❖ Details about waiting lists and reallocation pools for preferences that could not be met.

1 April 2021

Parents and carers should accept offers of places by this date in order to allow schools and the LA ample planning time for the new intake. This does not affect their right to appeal if the place they are accepting is not their highest preference. Parents should also have exercised their right to appeal by this date if they want to be assured of having their appeal heard in the main round of appeals.

Proof of address

The LA may require parents/carers to provide proof of address if they apply for a place at a community school. Own admission authority schools may also request proof of address from their applicants.

Appendix A – Changes of address and late applications

New arrivals in the city

Parents/carers moving into the City in the course of the admission process who are making an application on the basis of their new address must provide evidence of either a tenancy agreement of six months or more or an exchange of contracts if they are purchasing a property. Applicants should return their preference form by the closing date if possible, especially if their move took place before the closing date, forwarding proof of the move at the earliest opportunity. If they provide the form and the evidence of the move by 22 January 2021 their application will be included in the main admissions round.

Late applications received before the 22 January 2021.

- I. With the exception of families moving into the area and cases as described at V below, forms received after the closing date will not be considered by the LA until school allocations have been made for those received by the closing date. Any received for Cardinal Newman School and/or King's School will be forwarded to the school, which will decide whether or not to include the application in the main admission round.
- II. Any preference forms for community schools received in respect of children in care will be included in the main admission round as valid first preferences at any time up to the allocation date on **8 February 2021**. Where such applications are received after that date, the LA will, if attendance at that school is seen as a necessity for the welfare of the child, seek to offer places at the school of first preference, if necessary negotiating with that school to admit beyond the published admission number in order to do so. If, however, it is acceptable to offer a place at a lower ranked school without going over numbers, the LA will discuss that possibility with the social worker for the child. Applications for Cardinal Newman School, King's School or schools in other LA areas for children in care will be considered in line with the admission arrangements for those schools and the requirements of the Admissions Code.
- III. Applications received after the closing date but before the 22 January 2021 will be sent a letter or email allocating a school place on 1 March 2021 or as soon as possible after that date if the volume of late applications is high. Applications received after this date will be sent an allocation letter or email as soon as possible after 1 March 2021.
- IV. Parents/carers living in the City who change a preference as a result of a change of address within the city, and who return the new form and evidence of the address change will have that change considered in the main round of allocations if it is received by **22 January 2021**. They will have to provide evidence of the address change. Those

applications received after that date will be considered as late applications.

- V. Other late applications where there is good reason for the delay will be considered in the main round of allocations if received by **22 January 2021** where independent evidence is given by a third party (usually a professional source such a doctor or social worker) to support the reason for the delay.

Late applications received after the 22 January 2021.

- I. Where an application is received after the allocation date, from a parent/carer living in the City, they must use the Brighton & Hove online application service or paper preference form. If the preference(s) is for a community school, the LA will allocate a place if the school remains under subscribed. If the school(s) is fully subscribed, a place will be allocated at the nearest school to the home address that has a vacancy. Brighton & Hove will seek to make a decision as soon as possible after receiving the application. Where a preference is given for a free school, an Academy, Cardinal Newman School or a school in a neighbouring LA, the form will be passed to that admission authority for a decision. They will be asked to reach a decision within fourteen days of receiving the form. Brighton & Hove will endeavour to send a decision to the parent /carer as soon as possible once it has either reached a decision, or been informed of a decision by the other admission authority.
- II. If a change of preference or preference order is received following the decision letter on 1 March 2021 and the home address has not changed (and there has been no other relevant change of circumstances), that changed preference will not be considered until after 30 June 2021. This allows reasonable time for the consideration of late first applications and the operation of the reallocation pool where places have been offered and refused.
- III. All applications received after the beginning of the autumn term will be regarded as outside the admission round. Nonetheless, Brighton & Hove will act as the point of contact for all preferences for parents/carers living in the City, and will liaise with Cardinal Newman School, King's School, Brighton Aldridge Community Academy (BACA), Portslade Aldridge Community Academy (PACA) and other LAs over applications for admission to schools other than Brighton & Hove Community Schools. The Brighton & Hove online or paper form should be used in all cases by City residents and returned to the Brighton & Hove Admissions Team. The same arrangements will apply to applications for admission to schools for year groups other than the normal admission group in Year 7. Where the LA, Cardinal Newman School, King's School, BACA, PACA or another admission authority is not able to offer a place in accordance with a parental preference, the LA will offer a place at the nearest school to the home address of the applicant with a vacancy in the appropriate year group. This may be an Academy or a church VA school. Admissions to Years 12 and 13 in those schools that make such provision will be regarded as transfer

admissions rather than admission at a normal point of entry. (The majority of such pupils will have attended the school from Year 7, or transferred to the school in Key Stage 3 or 4.) Should any other schools adopt Academy status, this paragraph will also apply to them.

Re-allocation Pool

- I. Brighton & Hove will operate a re-allocation pool system for its community schools, BACA and PACA. (Cardinal Newman School and King's School will operate their own waiting list/reallocation arrangements.) The ranking within this system will be based on the Brighton & Hove admission criteria. All children will be automatically placed in the re-allocation pool for all un-met first preferences for community schools. Parents/carers will be asked to indicate if they also wish to be placed in the re-allocation pool for a different preferred school when the allocation emails and letters are sent on 1 March 2021. Places will be offered to children from the pool as soon as a place becomes available at an over subscribed school and the admission priorities have been applied. This LA will notify other LAs as appropriate if it offers a place from the pool at a Brighton & Hove school to a pupil living outside the City. The pool will operate until the 31st December.
- II. Other admission authorities will operate a re-allocation or waiting list system. If they are able to place a child resident in Brighton & Hove in one of their schools they are asked to notify this LA at the earliest opportunity.
- III. Parents/carers wishing to keep their child's name in the reallocation pool beyond the 31st December must inform the LA. They must renew the position on the reallocation pool each term thereafter.

School Admission Appeals

- I. Parents/carers wishing to appeal against the LA's or a voluntary aided school's decision not to offer a place at a preferred school should do so in writing or using the online appeal facility by 1 April 2021 if they want to be assured of having their appeal heard in the main appeal round.
- II. The LA will not arrange an appeal, or ask an own admission authority school to arrange an appeal for a school that was not included on the original application. It will only arrange an appeal for a school that was listed as a preference, as it will not have given a decision to the parent/carer for schools not included on the form. If a parent/carer wishes to receive a decision for a school not included in their original preference, and thus acquire a right of appeal, they must complete a further application. However, unless there is a change of address or other change of circumstances leading to the change of preference this new form will not be considered until after 30 June 2021.
- III. Parents/carers will receive 10 school days notice of the date of the appeal hearing, and will receive copies of any documentation relating to the appeal 7 days in advance of the hearing.
- IV. Whilst the City Council, other LAs and the Governing Bodies of Academies and voluntary aided schools will make every effort to hear

appeals within 40 school days of the deadline for submitting appeals, as suggested in the Appeals Code, they cannot guarantee this time scale. The volume of appeals to be heard and the availability of the appeal panel members, who are volunteers, will have a direct affect on the timing of the appeal hearings.

- V. Appeals for late applications and school transfers outside the normal admission round will be arranged as soon as practicable after the decision to refuse a preference has been conveyed to the parent/carer or if appropriate to the student, and in any case within 30 school days of the appeal being lodged.
- VI. Appeals will be heard for refusals to places in Years 12 and 13 on the basis that they are school transfers.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

Scheme for co-ordinated admissions In Year allocations – Admissions Year 2020-21

Introduction

The requirement for In-Year co-ordination was abolished by the School Admissions Code 2012, however there is still a requirement for the Local Authority to retain a monitoring role in in-year allocation of school places. In view of this it is proposed to continue to retain in-year co-ordination between maintained schools in Brighton & Hove. The co-ordination referred to in this document will be offered to schools free of charge. However, it may be possible for own admission authority schools to purchase additional services should they wish to do so.

This scheme for in-year admissions will come into force from 1 September 2020.

Procedure

1. Parents may name up to three preferences on the Brighton & Hove application and all preferences expressed by parents will be treated equally. This means that each preference will be measured against the published oversubscription criteria only, without reference to the order stated by the parent. Only one school place will be offered, and this will be the highest possible preference expressed by the parent that can be agreed.
2. Where it is not possible to offer any of the named preferences, the applicant will be advised to remain at their current school if possible, or an alternative school place within Brighton & Hove will be offered. This will normally be the nearest school appropriate to the child's age and educational needs with a place available.
3. In order for parents to make a valid application for a maintained school place in Brighton & Hove, parents must complete a common application form provided by Brighton & Hove City Council. The Brighton & Hove application form will be available in paper form or can be accessed directly online or as a download from the Brighton & Hove City Council website.
4. Schools where the governing body is the admission authority may require additional information in order to apply their oversubscription criteria and in the case of church voluntary aided schools will provide a supplementary information form to the parent. Where the parent fails to complete the supplementary form, the governing body will rank the application according to the information given on the application form only. Where the parent completes the supplementary form but fails to complete the application form, this will not constitute a valid application.
5. Completed supplementary information forms will be returned to the individual schools, and not the School Admissions Team.

Preferences for own admission authority schools.

1. Where the parent names an own admission authority school in Brighton & Hove (ie a Voluntary Aided school, a Free school or an Academy), the child's details, (i.e. name, address, date of birth and any supporting documents) will be sent to the governing body. They will rank the preferences according to their published admission criteria and confirm with the City Council, no later than **five school days** after receipt of the form, whether it would be possible to offer a place. Should any other schools become Academies before or during the 2020-21 academic year, this paragraph will also apply to them.

2 Any applications submitted by parents/carers to schools in error must be forwarded to the City Council admissions team.

3 Brighton & Hove admissions authority acting for BACA, PACA and City Academy Whitehawk will rank admissions priorities as these Academies are at the present time retaining the same arrangements as other Brighton & Hove Community Schools.

Notifying parents of the outcome of their applications.

1. The City Council will notify parents of the outcome of their applications. This is regardless of whether the City Council is the admission authority. This will be done by email or letter as appropriate, and will advise parents to contact the allocated school to arrange a mutually convenient start date.

2. Parents are expected to confirm acceptance of the offer of a school within fourteen days after the date of the offer.

Postdated Applications and changes of address

1. Parents who apply for a school place for a date which is more than half a school term in the future will be sent a holding letter explaining that their application will not be processed until the half term before the date the place is required. Their application will be considered along with any others which are outstanding at that point.

2. Parents who are moving into, or within, Brighton & Hove, may apply at any time during the moving process. However, their application will not be processed until the City Council has received proof of the new address (e.g. evidence of exchange of contracts or a copy of a signed tenancy agreement). This allows the Council to apply the appropriate priority for admission based on the new address.

Appeals

1. Parents will be informed of their statutory right of appeal when they receive the outcome of their applications. Parents can appeal for any preference expressed but not allocated, even if it was a lower preference than the one offered.

2. Appeal forms for Brighton & Hove schools will not automatically be sent with the notification letter, but are available on the council's website and hard copies are available on request.

Waiting lists

1. Waiting lists for all Brighton & Hove community **primary** schools will be held by the City Council, but schools where the governing body is the admission authority will maintain their own waiting lists and advise on the ranking of these lists in accordance with their published oversubscription criteria.
2. All community school waiting lists or re-allocation pools will be cleared at the end of each term. Any parents wanting their child to remain on a waiting list or reallocation pool will need to contact the admission authority to request this on a termly basis.
3. There is no requirement to maintain waiting lists after the end of the Autumn term of the year of entry (ie Reception, year 3 or year 7). This being so, Brighton & Hove City Council will close re-allocation pools for **secondary** schools in year 11. Other admission authorities may continue to maintain waiting lists.

Subject:	Update on July 2018 Ofsted ILACS Action Plan		
Date of Meeting:	11TH November 2019		
Report of:	Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Deb Austin	Tel: 01273 295237
	Email:	deb.austin@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All Wards		

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

- 1.1 To provide the committee with a further update on progress made in addressing the recommendations arising from the 2018 Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the progress made in respect of the recommendations made by Ofsted following the 2018 ILACS.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In January 2018 Ofsted launched the 'Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services' or ILACS, a flexible framework for inspecting children's services for local authorities. The ILACS replaced the Single Inspection Framework (or the SIF), which was in use 2013 - 2018.
- 3.2 The ILACS framework focuses on the effectiveness of local authority services and arrangements to help and protect children; the experiences and progress of children in care; the arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after, including adoption; the experiences and progress of care leavers. In addition, it evaluates the effectiveness of leaders and managers and the impact they have on the lives of children and young people and the quality of professional practice.
- 3.3 Brighton & Hove were notified on 2nd July 2018 that a standard inspection under the ILACS framework would commence the following day. A local authority receives a standard inspection if their previous Ofsted judgement was "requires improvement to be Good". Brighton & Hove received this judgement following the previous SIF inspection in May 2015.
- 3.4 The ILACS inspection involved one-week off-site analysis of data, followed by two weeks on site activity by four Ofsted inspectors, who were joined by an Education HMI for one day and a Regulatory Inspector for two days. The team

were also joined by a Quality Assurance officer for several days across the inspection.

- 3.5 The inspection ran from 9th July to 20th July 2018. During the inspection Ofsted looked at over 200 cases, met with young people and a group of foster carers. They spoke with adopters and visited all the social work teams across the city. They spent much of their time with social workers talking about cases and reviewing case files.
- 3.6 The inspection report was published on 21st August 2018 and confirmed the overall effectiveness as Good, an improvement on the 2015 Requires Improvement judgement.
- 3.7 Sub judgements were:
- The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families – Good
 - The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection – Requires improvement
 - The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers – Good

Ofsted recognised the effective work that had taken place to improve service since the 2015 inspection. Leaders were judged to have improved services which had resulted in children in need of early help and children in need of protection receiving prompt and appropriate help in line with their needs.

- 3.8 Children in care and care leavers were judged to be in receipt of a good service, with improvements in the planning for these children resulting in timely child-centred work and a positive impact on their lives. Social workers and managers were seen to be aspirational for the children in their care and to demonstrate a strong focus on improving their experiences and outcomes.
- 3.9 Social workers' morale was noted to be high, that they enjoyed working in Brighton and Hove and had a good understanding of the children they work with. Senior managers worked purposefully across the partnership to tackle exploitation, including the growing problem of criminal exploitation leading to the development of a detailed understanding of risk in the area.
- 3.10 The response to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children was identified as a strength. Social workers knowledge was highlighted as was their ability to carefully assess the needs of these children and to advocate to ensure that their health, education and well-being needs were well met.
- 3.11 There were 5 recommended areas of action identified by Ofsted:
- Case recording to be consistent in all areas
 - Response to Children in Need to be as robust as that for Children in Need of Protection and Children in Care
 - The progression of pre-proceedings work to be effectively monitored to reduce any delay
 - The response to children who go missing, in particular Return Home Interviews to be more robust

- All private fostering and care leaver cases to be allocated to named workers
- 3.12 An ILACS action plan was drafted and this was presented to Children, Young People & Skills Committee on 17th September 2018.
- 3.13 Since this time, further progress has been made in addressing the recommendation made by Ofsted with 3 of the 5 actions fully addressed:
- A pre-proceedings tracking forum, chaired by a Head of Service, has been established and meets on a quarterly basis to ensure effective oversight of relevant cases and that delay is minimised.
 - The contract for undertaking Return Home Interviews (RHI) was terminated in August 2018 and the service brought in house resulting in improved performance. A dedicated RHI worker is now part of the Adolescent Service and is co-located at the Front Door for Families. In addition to undertaking RHIs for cases not open to social work services, the RHI worker attends weekly missing meetings with the police and is linked into the Adolescent Vulnerability & Risk Meeting, thereby enabling intelligence to be shared across the partnership and patterns and trends to be identified.
 - Recruited staff are now in post and all private fostering and care leavers cases have an allocated worker.
- 3.14 Significant work has been undertaken to ensure that the social work response to Children in Need is robust and responsive. This has involved a review of procedures and processes, building in mandatory review mechanisms to ensure social work intervention is purposeful and impacts positively upon outcomes for children and their families. A Child in Need steering group, comprised of frontline practitioners and managers, has been working on devising new documentation and piloting these. The new system will be launched on 1st October 2019 with presentations to partners scheduled to ensure multi-agency sign up to the new arrangements. Additionally, a Lead Practitioner for Children in Need has been appointed to support social work staff with this new approach to Child in Need cases. Whilst this work has been in development, there has been an improvement in Child in Need work under the existing procedures, with Pod Managers and Heads of Service promoting this work within their teams, ensuring effective oversight and supervision. Quality assurance activity shows that 63% of (52 out of 81) CIN cases audited over Q3 & Q4 18/19 & Q1 19/20 were judged overall as Good; 100% of cases CIN cases audited during Q4 18/19 & Q1 19/20 had a standalone Plan and 90% had evidence of effective analysis of risk and strengths; supervision & management oversight; involvement of child/young person. There remains work to do to ensure every case has a chronology and genogram on record.
- 3.15 Consistent good quality case file recording is a key component of excellent social work practice. Records should be written in a way that enable a child and their family to have a clear narrative about why decisions were made and what their purpose is. The current Integrated Children's System (CareFirst) is a barrier to achieving this given the limitations of the system. A new system, Eclipse, has been procured and from September 2020 this will enable social workers to use technology to record in a more innovative way (e.g. audio files & photographs).

Work has also taken place to review current assessment documents to ensure these are child and family focused and support the social worker to record in a way that is proportionate and meaningful. The One-Story Recording Group, comprised of front line practitioners and led by the Principal Social Worker, oversees this work. A recording audit was completed in May 2019 and this highlighted the areas that continue to require improvement, namely the use of chronologies and genograms.

- 3.16 Appendix 1- Updated ILACS Action Plan- details progress made against the 2018 recommendations.
- 3.17 Whilst receiving an Ofsted overall judgement of Good is an achievement, there is still work to do. All children who require a social work service should consistently receive a high-quality service that builds on the strengths in families and improves outcomes. The service is committed to moving from Good to Great and areas for further development include:
- The 'One Story' model of relationship-based assessment and recording (including the use of chronologies) is further embedded supported by the new Eclipse integrated children's system.
 - A continuation of the successful recruitment and retention of social workers to provide stability and continuity for families.
 - Further development of the Fostering Development Programme to provide children in care with high quality well supported placements, which meet budgetary targets.
 - Building resilience in families where exploitation is a feature and the embedding the response to contextual safeguarding issues in practice, via innovative and creative approaches.
 - Providing community and wider family support to families at the earliest opportunity via the introduction of earlier Family Group Conferences.
 - Developing a reunification project so children & young people can safely return to the care of their family at the earliest opportunity.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The statutory inspections of children's social work services are conducted under S136 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The voice of children, young people and their families is an integral part of social work delivery in the city. The inspection report is positive about the engagement of children and young people, in particular with children in care and care leavers.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Ofsted have judged Brighton & Hove to overall be delivering Good children's social care services. Work has taken place over the past 12 months to improve

the quality of social work provided to all children, regardless of their legal status but there remains further work to do.

- 6.2 The main areas that require further improvement are case file recording and the response to Children in Need. Both areas have been a priority in terms of strategic development over the past 12 months and there are clear plans in place to deliver further improvement over the coming months. The procurement of a new integrated children's system, Eclipse, will further support these improvements.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no financial implications as a direct result of the recommendations in this report. The procurement of the new integrated children's system has been fully funded and resourced without impacting on operational budgets within Families, Children and Learning.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis

Date: 24/09/2019

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 In seeking to meet and exceed the ILACS framework measuring the effectiveness of local authority services and arrangements to help and protect children, the Council will be enhancing the ability to meet a range of statutory duties to children and families, including those children for whom the council are corporate parents.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 30.9.19

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 Broader arrangements for children and young people with disabilities are covered in a separate local area SEND framework. The 2018 ILACS inspection found that "disabled children benefit from high quality, responsive support" and that the support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children was a strength, with social workers giving "good consideration to children's cultural and religious needs".

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 None

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.5 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Updated ILACS Action Plan Sept 2019

Families, Children & Learning

Ofsted Inspection 2018

Brighton & Hove City Council: Post Ofsted inspection action plan – updated September 2019

Brighton & Hove was inspected under the new ILACS framework in July 2018 and the following 5 recommendations were made. This plan sets out how progress made in respect of these recommendations. This action plan is owned and monitored by the directorate management team (quarterly performance reporting) plus an update to CYPS committee on an annual basis.

We accept the findings made by the Ofsted inspection team and they recognised that we know ourselves well and plans were already in place for these areas of improvement.

What needs to improve – from the Ofsted report		Required action from BHCC	Responsible officer(s) and timescales	Measures of success	Progress – September 2019 (RAG rated)
1	Case recording, including the recording of management oversight and supervision, to monitor children's progress and outcomes effectively.	<p>New integrated children's system (ICS) to be procured and case record templates to be reviewed to ensure child's journey is explicit</p> <p>Senior managers to be responsible to ensure case file recording is prioritised within social work pods</p> <p>Quality assurance process to include regular dip sampling of records to check for quality</p>	<p>Assistant Director – Safeguarding & Care, Principal Social Worker, Head of Safeguarding & Performance plus Operational Heads of Service</p> <p>Eclipse (new ICS) due to go live September 2020</p>	All cases open to social work will have up to date and appropriate case recording evidenced on file	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Story Recording Steering Group has continued to meet and completed an audit of recording in May 2019 Completion of good quality chronologies had increased from 16% (in May 2018) to 32% and genograms from 33% to 61% 79% of records evidenced clear management oversight and 70% had regular supervision records An action plan has been written based on this audit and is monitored by SLT A chronology exemplar has been written and chronology workshops

Families, Children & Learning

Ofsted Inspection 2018

					<p>booked</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recording continues to be monitored as part of regular audits (in Q1 58% of cases had a chronology and 73% had a genogram) Workshops have commenced to plan the detailed implementation of Eclipse. The new ICS will support more innovative methods of recording (e.g. audio files)
2	The response to children in need (CIN), including clear plans with appropriate actions and timescales and regular reviews through network meetings.	Implementation of the June 2018 CIN strategy action plan to ensure CIN work is prioritised alongside the Child Protection / Children in Care work.	Assistant Director – Safeguarding & Care and Head of Service (Child in Need Strategic Lead) December 2019	CIN receive a robust and effective service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Child in Need steering group, comprised of frontline practitioners and managers, has devised new CIN processes and has been piloting these. New CIN framework to be launched on 1st October 2019 with presentations to partners scheduled to ensure multi-agency sign up to the new arrangements. Lead Practitioner for Child in Need has been appointed to support

Families, Children & Learning

Ofsted Inspection 2018

					<p>social work staff with this new approach to Child in Need cases and embed this in day to day SW practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QA activity -100% of cases CIN cases audited during Q4 18/19 & Q1 19/20 had a standalone Plan. • 90% of audited cases had evidence of effective analysis of risk and strengths; supervision & management oversight; involvement of child/young person. • 63% of (52 out of 81) CIN cases audited over Q3 & Q4 18/19 & Q1 19/20 were judged overall as Good • Areas for improvement relate to up to date chronologies and genograms.
3	The progression of pre-proceedings work, in order to reduce unnecessary delay for children.	A Public Law Outline (PLO) tracker to be introduced to ensure effective oversight	Assistant Director – Safeguarding & Care and Principal Social Worker October 2018	All cases in PLO will be subject to regular review and progressed in a timely manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly PLO tracking Forum established September 2018, chaired by Head of Service to ensure effective oversight of all cases within PLO
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing People

Families, Children & Learning

Ofsted Inspection 2018

4	The response to children who go missing from home and care, including the timeliness and recording of return home interviews (RHI) to capture intelligence to inform service delivery.	<p>Implement plan to bring this work in-house via the following:</p> <p>Establishment of RHI worker in Front Door for Families to support and coordinate RHI activity including data and intelligence capture.</p> <p>Missing and RHI assessment document to be reviewed</p>	Assistant Director – Safeguarding & Care and Head of Service (Exploitation Strategic Lead) August 2018	<p>All children who go missing received a timely RHI service</p> <p>Intelligence from RHI informs multi-agency strategic service delivery</p>	<p>contract terminated July 2018 & Missing Children worker established in FDFF August 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Missing Procedures, including revised documentation launched November 2018. Will enable information from RHIs to be utilised to identify patterns and trends and informs service delivery.
5	The allocation of private fostering (PF) and care leaver (CL) cases to workers, to allow timely statutory checks and regular visits and contact, in order to ensure that children live in safe arrangements to meet their needs.	Recruited fostering social worker and leaving care personal advisors to take up posts	Head of Service (Child in Care Strategic Lead) August 2018	All PF and CL cases have allocated workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Fostering SW started in post August 2018 • Leaving Care Personal Advisors started in post August 2018. • All PF & Leaving Care cases are allocated to a named worker

Update on July 2018 Ofsted ILACS Action Plan

Appendix One: Overview of inspection frameworks that apply to our children's social care arrangements

For information

[Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services \(ILACS\)](#)

Ofsted launched this framework in 2018 and as the main body of this report explains, it looks at local authority services for children in need of help and protection, children in care and care leavers. This inspection results in a judgement grade from Ofsted, contained within a published letter.

As we had this inspection just last year we are not expecting to be inspected under this framework again for at least a further two/three years. It is likely that the inspection framework will be revised before we are inspected under it again. It is common practice within Ofsted to review and revise inspection frameworks once all local authorities in England have been inspected.

[Joint Targeted Area Inspections \(JTAI\)](#)

These are joint inspections carried out by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). The purpose of the JTAI is to jointly assess how local authorities, the police, health, probation and youth offending services are working together in an area to identify, support and protect vulnerable children and young people. They are happening all around the country and Brighton & Hove could receive a visit at any time – we have not yet had this inspection locally. This inspection results in a published letter but no judgement grade is applied.

The JTAs always include an evaluation of the multi-agency front door for child protection, where children at risk of harm first become known to local services.

The inspection will also then include a 'deep dive' investigation, evaluating the experiences of children and young people at risk of a specific type (or types) of harm, or the support and care of children looked after and/or care leavers.

Examples of deep dive themes include

- Child exploitation and children missing from home, school or care
- Children living with domestic abuse
- Older children living with neglect
- Children's mental health
- Child sexual abuse in the family environment

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE

11 November 2019

Agenda Item 38

Appendix 2

Brighton & Hove City Council

Focussed Visits

These are not formal inspections but are conducted by Ofsted in order to capture best practice or to help identify areas for improvement outside of the main inspection frameworks. A focused visit will look at one or more aspects of service, themes or cohorts of children. We have not yet had a focussed visit from Ofsted so may get one at any time. This visit results in a published letter but no judgement grade is applied.

Guidance on Focussed Visits features on [page 26 of the main ILACS guidance](#).

Local Area SEND Inspection

This is a joint inspection between Ofsted and the CQC and explores how well local areas (for us this means Brighton & Hove) fulfil their responsibilities for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. This covers education, health and social care. We had this inspection in 2016 and had a positive letter published. This inspection does not result in a judgement grade.

It is likely that Ofsted and the CQC will now review this framework as most local areas have been inspected. We are not therefore expected to be inspected again in the near future.

Any questions?

Any questions about these inspection frameworks can be directed to
Carolyn Bristow
Service Manager – Policy & Business Support
Families, Children & Learning

Carolyn.bristow@brighton-hove.gov.uk
01273 293736

Subject: Moulsecoomb Primary School Update
Date of Meeting: 11 November 2019
Report of: Executive Director Families Children & Learning
Contact Officer: Name: Mark Storey Tel: 01273 294271
Email: mark.storey@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

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

- 1.1 This report aims to provide to update on academisation and provide progress of Moulsecoomb Primary since last Ofsted.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the report is noted

3. CONTEXT/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Moulsecoomb Primary School is a two-form entry primary school with 283 children currently on roll. Over 50% of children qualify for pupil premium subsidy. The proportion of pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) is also well above that seen in other schools across the country.
- 3.2 Moulsecoomb Primary School was inspected by Ofsted on 3rd and 4th of April in a section 5 inspection. Following this inspection the school's overall judgement moved from Requires Improvement to Inadequate. This overall judgement can be broken down as follows:

Overall effectiveness	Inadequate
Effectiveness of leadership and management	Requires Improvement
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment	Inadequate
Personal development, behaviour and welfare	Requires Improvement
Outcomes for pupils	Inadequate
Early years provision	Good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All safeguarding requirements are met.

- 3.3 The reasons for the inadequate judgement are outlined in the report.
[Moulsecoomb Primary School Ofsted Report.](#)

Schools that have been judged inadequate fall into two categories: Schools Ofsted judge as requiring significant improvement (known as serious weaknesses) and schools Ofsted judge as requiring special measures.

Moulsecoomb has been judged to have serious weaknesses. This is the better of the two categories as it means that Ofsted consider leaders, managers and governors are demonstrating the capacity to improve the school.

- 3.4 The school was recognised by the LA to be “in need of intervention to provide support and challenge” prior to inspection. This was particularly due to its low 2018 KS2 outcomes. A School Improvement Board has been in place that provided challenge combined with significant additional support. This support has included monitoring and support from a school partnership adviser; the school being involved in a major Mathematics initiative; support from the Brighton and Hove Education Partnership and a National Leader of Governance. The school was, and still is, on a positive improvement journey under effective leadership. Evidence of this now includes improving data (2019) in: Early Years; KS1; attendance. It also includes evidence of good care and support for children with SEND or those with vulnerabilities such as being on a child protection plan or in care.

School Improvement Progress since last inspection

- 3.5 Since last inspection EY, Phonics, KS1 and KS2 for the results have been published and show a marked increase and are as follows:

At KS2 (age 11)

65 % (provisional) of children nationally got age related expectation in reading writing and maths in 2018.

At Moulsecoomb this was:

In 2019: 41% (34)
In 2018: 13% (38)
In 2017: 36% (36)
In 2016: 20% (41)

At KS1 (age 7)

65% (provisional) of children got age related expectation in reading writing and maths nationally in 2019

At Moulsecoomb this was:

In 2019: 56% (32)
In 2018: 49% (39)
In 2017: 20% (40)
In 2016: 29% (31)

In Early Years (age 5)

Emerging National from NCER 2019 is 71.7% of children achieved a Good Level of Development nationally

At Moulsecoomb this was:

In 2019: 62% (37)
In 2018: 61% (33)

In 2017: 63% (38)

In 2016: 52% (44)

Year 1 Phonics 2019

Emerging National from NCER 2019 is 82% working at the level of the check

At Moulsecroomb this was:

In 2019: 84%

In 2018: 77%

In 2017: 76%

- 3.6 The school is now being supported by two headteachers (one is a National Leader of Education). A school partnership adviser (ex Head) and two teaching and learning consultants have been seconded for 4 days per week between them.
- 3.7 There have been various staff changes including 2 new teachers in KS2.
- 3.8 Current reports are that there has been improved observation of teaching and learning at KS2 and improved behaviour for learning. Although the school self-evaluates overall as Requires Improvement it is felt there is still further work to do to ensure absolute consistency of good teaching and learning across the school.
- 3.9 There has been no inspection at the school or monitoring visit.

UPDATE ON ACADEMISATION

- 3.10 An academy chain has now been identified. They are called New Horizons Academy Trust and consist of one school based in Lancing. The chain will now work with the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Local Authority so that Moulsecroomb Primary School becomes an academy.
- 3.11 The Regional School Commissioner (RSC) has a legal duty to make an academy order for any maintained school that has been judged inadequate, to enable it to become an academy. This academy order has been made. The Regional Schools Commissioner, acts on behalf of the Secretary of State, takes responsibility for ensuring that conversion to academy happens. The RSC choose academy sponsors and make arrangements with those sponsors so that academisation can take place.
- 3.12 A decision on the academy sponsor was made at the RSC's Headteacher Board on October 17th. The LA was informed of the sponsor shortly after that meeting. When a primary or secondary school converts to an academy it receives its funding directly from central government, rather than through a local authority. The school is overseen by an academy trusts and not the LA and may be part of an academy chain.
- 3.13 The LA are under a legal duty to cooperate with the RSC. The LA also has a duty to complete a statement of action which outlines the support that the school will receive. This was submitted to Ofsted on 6/6/19 and signed off as fit for

purpose by Ofsted's Quality Assurance. The support is an enhancement to what has already been put into place. It includes additional LA monitoring; additional resource; additional support from the Brighton and Hove Education Partnership. The focus is mainly on teaching and learning at KS2 however has also linked to all areas identified for improvement by Ofsted.

- 3.14 Ofsted have a role to monitor the school to check the school are making progress to be able to remove the Inadequate judgement. A monitoring visit is expected. A full section 5 inspection where grades can be changed will take place within 30 months. Academisation of the school would mean the Ofsted monitoring stops and full inspection does not take place.

BALLOT OF PARENT VIEWS

- 3.15 On 7/10/2019 a ballot of parents took place. 142 ballots were counted (61% turnout). Of these 137 said 'No' when asked should the school become an academy. 96.5% of ballots said that the school should not become an academy.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 None identified

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Detailed within the report.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The report is for information purposes.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications

- 7.1 The Local Authority is supporting the school improvement progress, and this is being funded by existing Children's Services Education & Skills budgets. Further resources (by way of staff time) will be provided by the Brighton and Hove Education Partnership.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore

Date 09/10/19

Legal Implications

- 7.2 Following the recent Ofsted inspection the school has been issued with an Academy Order under section 4 of the Academies Act 2010 by the Regional School Commissioner (RSC), on behalf of the Secretary of State. There is no legal requirement for a consultation to be carried out by the governing body or by the academy trust on whether the conversion should take place. The Order will not take effect until the date of conversion. Under section 5B of the Academies Act 2010, the governing body of the school and the local authority are under a legal duty to take all reasonable steps to facilitate the conversion of the school into an academy by a date to be

determined by the Regional Schools Commissioner. This will include agreeing property and asset transfer arrangements to the Academy Trust. It will also be necessary to complete the TUPE process including informal and formal consultation with staff and union representatives in a timely manner. During the interim period between a maintained school receiving an academy order and the school re-opening as an academy the local authority retains the responsibility for the school's performance, including provision for school improvement. The RSC has the power to revoke the order only in exceptional circumstances.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 29.10.2019

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None

Background Documents

1. None

Subject:	Re-organisation of Special Education in the city - Progress Report on the Complex Needs and SEMH Hubs		
Date of Meeting:	11 November 2019		
Report of:	Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Georgina Clarke-Green	Tel: 01273 292257
	Email:	Georgina.ClarkeGreen@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	(All Wards);		

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

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Children Young People and Skills Committee on the Re-organisation of Special Education in the city
- 1.2 The two Complex Needs hubs and the SEMH hub have been open since September 2018 and a paper was presented in November 2018 to set out progress on the first stage of implementation and next steps

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the report

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 On 18 September 2017, the Children, Young People and Skills Committee approved final recommendations to create three special school hubs from the previous six special schools and two Pupil Referral Units in the City.
- 3.5 Specifically recommendations were to:
 - expand, re-designate and extend the age range up to the age of 19 years of Hillside Community Special School, and close Downs Park Community Special School so as to form the integrated hub for severe and complex learning difficulties in the west of the city - now re-named Hill Park
 - expand and re-designate Downs View Community Special School, and close the Cedar Centre Community Special School so as to form the integrated hub for severe and complex learning difficulties in the east of the city – now named Downs View
 - expand and extend the age range of Homewood College from 11-16 to 5-19
 - approve the merger of the existing Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and the

Connected Hub, and the arrangements to bring the merged PRU together with Homewood College to form the integrated hub for social, emotional and mental health – known as the Central Hub Brighton

3.2 The success of the re-organisation will be judged on the basis of the agreed outcomes being sought, notably:

- Excellent quality local provision for all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities
- Improved academic outcomes for all
- Improved attendance rates and a reduction in exclusions
- Increased percentage of young people in further education, employment or training post statutory school age
- Reduction in family breakdown and the number of special school pupils needing to be in the care of the Local Authority
- Reduction in number of children placed in expensive out of City independent provision
- All three Hubs judged outstanding by Ofsted
- All three Hubs financially stable and no budget deficits in our special provision

3.3 Agreed efficiency savings made through consolidation of sites, leadership and back office functions

4. PROGRESS UPDATES

4.1 Buildings update

4.1.1 Work commenced on both sites over the summer holiday period. Unfortunately it was only possible to give the instruction to start in early July owing to protracted discussions regarding the costs provided for some elements of work. The constructor was unable to commence works at the start of the summer holiday period as a result of the necessary mobilisation period for some items of work. We are working with the schools and the constructor to ensure that the work is completed in as short as possible time while maintaining the quality of the work and the ability of the schools to operate. It is hoped that both projects will be completed within the original timeframes but it too early to confirm that this is the case.

4.1.2 Design work for the central SEMH hub will commence once the outcome of the SEMH Consultation is known and then a brief can be prepared for the accommodation needed.

4.2 SEMH Consultation

4.2.1 A consultation into changes for the Central Hub (formerly SEMH Hub) was launched on 9th September 2019, ending 20th October 2019. The proposals were;

- Homewood College moves from the current site in Queensdown Road to the Cedar Centre site on Lynchet Close once it has been vacated by the special school.
- The KS3 PRU located on Dyke Road moves to the current KS1, 2 and 4 site on Lynchet Close.

- The KS1 and 2 PRU move from their current site in Lynchet Close to spare accommodation located in a local primary school, thereby providing adequate space for KS3 to move onto the Lynchet Close site.
- 4.2.2 Consultation events were held with staff at Homewood and Pupil Referral Units and a public meeting held. Stakeholders were able to respond in person, consultation portal, email and dedicated voicemail. The analysis of responses is included in section 5 below (to be completed at the end of the consultation).
- 4.2.3 Current parents have been sent a letter by Executive Head Teacher of Central Hub which included an offer to follow up on any issues related to current pupils on an individual basis. This is in addition to the other forms of contact available to other stakeholders.

4.3 Post 16

- 4.3.1 Special Educational Needs Young People's Employability Task & Finish Group has looked at a range of data provided by the FCL Employment and Skills Project Officer. Discussions have taken place with providers from the local post 16 sector to consider the *post-16 provision landscape*, including independent provision. Consideration has been given to looking at provision being available in the right locations across the city; access to provision in schools, identifying good practice; and agreeing the need for communicating better with parents about the post 16 offer – with potential for a transition online guide to support this.
- 4.3.2 Further work is required to investigate and address:
- How Post-16 education providers work with social care when progression stalls for children in care or previously in care with an Education Health & Care Plan?
 - How well are the EHC Plans working for young people in Post-16 provision?
 - Are providers putting the right support in place?
- 4.3.3 Further work is also required to clarify the reasons which lead to EHC plans ceasing and the implications of cessation;
- Is it the right thing for the young people?
 - And clarity of the Legal Advice which informs the Local Authority duties.

4.4 Under 5

- 4.4.1 We are currently looking at options to improve the under 5 offer to children with Special Educational Needs and Disability. The Jeanne Saunders Centre offers 18 part time places for children in their year before starting school agreed as needing assessment and specialist provision by a multi-agency panel. There are several options being discussed, once a preferred option has been agreed all stakeholders will be consulted.

4.5 Project Governance

- 4.5.1 In order to monitor progress of the project and ensure that intended objectives were achieved an Oversight and Steering group was formed. Attendees included Executive Head Teacher from each hub, Chair of Governors from each of the hubs and Local Authority representatives from key departments.

- 4.5.2 At the most recent meeting, it has been agreed that this group will become part of an existing Special School Partnership meeting. The purpose will remain and ensure that key actions are being completed and outcomes for young people achieved.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Since the SEND Review in 2014 there have been a number of engagement and consultation opportunities for stakeholders to help shape recommendations and provide information to support key decisions. This approach has been continued with recent consultation into proposed changes to Central Hub (formerly SEMH Hub) which are detailed below.
- 5.2 Central (SEMH) Hub Consultation;
- On proposed changes to Homewood College, Key Stage 1 & 2 and Key Stage 3 & 4 Pupil Referral Units.
 - Proposed changes are to relocate SEMH Special School from Homewood College to Cedar Centre site, move Primary PRU from Lynchet Close to a mainstream secondary and move Secondary PRU to Lynchet Close from Dyke Road
 - Consultation ran from 9th September to 20th October. Opportunities for people to respond included;
 - Meeting with staff groups at each provision
 - Online Consultation Portal
 - Dedicated Voicemail and email address
 - Open meeting which included local residents
- 5.3 Following completion of the consultation, responses were analysed by Local authority officers, Executive Head of Central Hub and Governor representative. The analysis and local authority response have been shared with Executive Director for Families Children & Learning and lead member for Children, Young People and Skills Committee for a final decision.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Re-organisation of Special Education in the city continues; work is under way at the East and West Hubs with design work to start at the end of the consultation in the Central Hub. Under-5 offer and Post 16 are key areas of development where work will continue.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The establishment of the three hubs have generated savings enabling funding to be used in more efficient and effective ways. In previous committee reports it was estimated that the changes to special schools would save in the region of £700k over a multi-year period starting in 2018/19. To date revenue savings have been achieved through the closure of smaller schools (where additional subsidy funding was previously required) and school staffing re-organisations. Further

savings are likely to be realised when consolidation of sites is fully implemented and the economies of scale should, in particular, facilitate savings in management, administration and premises budgets. Work will be undertaken with schools to capture the level of savings achieved as the re-organisation phase continues. In addition, other non-cashable savings, such as specialist teaching expertise being shared and families being able to access support from one place are further benefits.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steve Williams

Date: 03/10/19

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report. Individual projects referred to in the report, such as the review of post 16 provision, will give rise to specific legal issues which will be covered in reports at future meetings.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 25/10/2019

