

Subject:	Update on Childcare for Two Year Olds and Provision for the East of the City		
Date of Meeting:	3rd June 2013		
Report of:	Interim Director of Children's Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Vicky Jenkins	Tel: 296110
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Disadvantaged two year olds have received free childcare since September 2009; this currently applies to around eight per cent of two year olds in Brighton and Hove. The government is extending this entitlement as a statutory duty to 20 per cent of two year olds from September 2013 and 40 per cent from September 2014. This paper explains the work being carried out to develop proposals for capital expenditure to attempt to ensure that there are sufficient places for all eligible two year olds by September 2014. It also draws the committee's attention to the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA), completed in March 2013, which sets out current childcare supply in Brighton and Hove.
- 1.2 A specific issue in relation to childcare in East Brighton is dealt with in a Part II paper

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the committee notes work being undertaken to develop proposals for capital spend.
- 2.2 That the committee notes the CSA and agrees to its publication.
- 2.3 That the committee agrees to the proposal set out in the Part II paper

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 From September 2013 20 per cent of Brighton & Hove's two year olds (estimated 517 children) will be entitled to a free early education place, rising to 40 per cent (an estimated 1,300 children) from September 2014.
- 3.2 Based on current data available, there appears to be sufficient provision for eligible two year olds in September 2013, but a shortage of places in the areas where they are needed in September 2014.
- 3.3 The government has provided a capital allocation of £421,653 to develop childcare places and we have allocated an additional amount of "trajectory funding" of £350,000, approved by the DfE, from the two year old childcare allocation in the Dedicated Schools Grant, making a total capital budget of £771,653 available.

3.4 In order to ensure that there is sufficient childcare provision for September 2014 and to develop a strategy for capital spend, the following pieces of work are being undertaken:

- A review of the data on where eligible children are likely to live. This will continue when more government data is available later this year
- A review of existing childcare provision in accordance with the CSA May 2013
- Discussions regarding expansion with local childcare providers in relevant areas of the city
- Discussions about taking two year olds with maintained nursery schools and classes in relevant areas
- Capital feasibility studies in accordance with the above

3.5 A report will be brought to the Children and Young People's committee on 14th October 2013 containing a proposal for capital spend which will aim to get the most childcare places where most needed at best value for money.

3.6 In the meantime the CSA is attached for approval prior to publication.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

4.1 Childcare providers and maintained provision in relevant areas of the city have been or will be contacted regarding the possibility of expanding their provision

4.2 A marketing strategy is in place to inform parents of their entitlement to free childcare.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 The budget for disadvantaged two year olds is contained in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The total budget for 2013/14 is £1,991,000. Its use was agreed at the Schools' Forum on 28th January 2013. There is an additional DfE capital allocation of £421,653.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore

Date: 08/05/13

Legal Implications:

The report sets out how the Local Authority intends to meet its' statutory duty to extend free childcare to disadvantaged two year olds in the City.

Lawyer Consulted: Hilary Priestley :

Date : 23/05/13/

Equalities Implications:

5.2 Equality Impact Assessment was completed for two year funding in November 2012 and no adverse impacts were found.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 There are no specific sustainability implications

- Crime & Disorder Implications:
- 5.5 There are no specific crime and disorder implications
- Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:
- 5.6 Risk management will be carried out prior to any capital spend
- Public Health Implications:
- 5.7 There are no specific public health implications
- Corporate / Citywide Implications:
- 5.8 The two year old childcare scheme supports the council's priority of tackling inequality through providing high quality childcare in a disadvantaged area of the city.
- 6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):**
- 6.1 Options for capital spend will be explored prior to final decisions being made
- 7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 7.1 To note the information in the report, pending decisions to be made regarding capital spend
- 7.2 Part II report is for separate decision

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2013

Background Documents

None

