
Meeting	Cabinet
Date	25 February 2014
Subject	Reference from the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Early Years Provision Task and Finish Group
Report of	Scrutiny Office
Summary of Report	This report submits a reference from the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the recommendations arising from the Early Years Provision Task and Finish Group.

Officer Contributors	Anita Vukomanovic, Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Key Decision	N/A
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	N/A
Function of	Executive
Enclosures	Appendix 1 – Final Report of the Early Years Provision Task and Finish Group Annex 1 – Report to Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 23 January 2014
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1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That Cabinet considers and gives its instructions with respect to the recommendations made by the Early Years Provision Task and Finish Group, as set out at Appendix 1.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 18 April 2012, Agenda Item 14 – Task and Finish Group Appointments
- 2.2 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 7 February 2013, Task and Finish Group Updates – following receipt of a representation from Children’s Services officers, the Committee agreed to defer the start of the Children’s Centres Task and Finish Group to mid-April 2013
- 2.3 Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 23 January 2014, Agenda Item 6, Early Years Task and Finish Group Report – the Committee endorsed the report for onward referral to the next Cabinet meeting.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 As set out in Annex 1.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 As set out in Annex 1.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 As set out in Annex 1 and the report at Appendix 1, specifically the reference in Recommendation 1 to the Childcare Act 2006 which sets out the Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare for working families and secure prescribed early years provision free of charge for all 3 and 4 year olds and a proportion of 2 year olds for 15 hours a week. Also in Recommendation 3 for the integration of health professionals into Children’s Centres which can be provided for under s75 of the National Health Service Act 2006

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 The Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) has the following savings linked to further reconfiguration of early years services:
- 2014/15 – £500k
 - 2015/16 – £700k

- 6.3 The approximate Spend for overall Early Years Provision and related support is £32 million. The overall total would be funded from a combination of schools and Council budgets
- 6.4 This review will assist the Council in meeting future savings by considering early intervention methods with a focus on outcomes that deliver return on investment, such as the Brighton Health Led model, as referred to in Appendix 1. As set out in Appendix 1, recent evidence has identified that if families' needs are met early, then it will improve outcomes for them and reduce the number of costly financial interventions required to be made by the state at a later date.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 As set out in Annex 1 and the report at Appendix 1, specifically the reference in Recommendation 1 to the Childcare Act 2006 which sets out the Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare for working families and secure prescribed early years provision free of charge for all 3 and 4 year olds and a proportion of 2 year olds for 15 hours a week. Also in Recommendation 3 for the integration of health professionals into Children's Centres which can be provided for under S75 of the National Health Service Act 2006

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)

- 8.1 As set out in Annex 1.
- 8.2 Council Constitution, Executive Procedure Rules, Section 2.3– states that “At each meeting of the Executive the following business will be conducted: ...(v) consideration of reports from overview and scrutiny committees.”

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 As set out in Annex 1.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.

Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)	JH & AD
Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)	LC