



# Families, Children and Learning

Taking a whole-family approach, we work with others in the city to enable all children, young people and adults with learning disabilities to live safer, more independent and happier lives.

**Our annual report for 2018-19 and our plans for 2019-20 and beyond**



**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

# Introduction

**'We hope this annual report will give you an idea of the sheer city-wide scale of what we do and some of the challenges we face.'**

**'I believe that it also shows that our staff are doing a really good job and that we're going in the right direction.'**

**Pinaki Ghoshal**  
Executive Director of Families, Children & Learning



**'Protecting vulnerable children and helping families to thrive are two of our top priorities.'**

**'We've improved a number of things in recent years, but standing still is not an option.'**

**'We know that the way forward is to engage even more closely with our families and communities and respond to their needs.'**



**Councillor Nick Childs**  
Chair of the Children, Families and Skills Committee

# What we do

Most families in the city have some interaction with our services, even if they don't realise it. We also provide a range of support to adults with learning disabilities.

## Early Years

- **3,906** children attend our children's centres and nurseries
- **88%** of two year-olds from low income families take up their free early years entitlement (spring 2019)
- **72.6%** of children achieve a good level of development at the end of their reception year

## Going to school

- **32,286** children attend school
- **5,471** children receive SEND support in maintained schools (including 1,102 EHCPs)
- **4,776 (15.6%)** children are eligible for free school meals
- **4,484 (13.9%)** pupils have English as an additional language
- **96.6 %** get to go to a school they have expressed a preference for

## Being safe and happy

- **1,375** receive family support (including the national Troubled Families programme)
- **1,866** children are supported by social work to be safe
- We act as Corporate Parent to 391 children in care and 308 care leavers aged between 18 and 25
- We help support **37** unaccompanied asylum seeking children

## Moving into adulthood

- **5,650** young people attend post-16 education and training providers
- **2,348** young people benefit from youth services we deliver or commission
- We work with **707** adults with learning disabilities
- **25** adults with learning disabilities are supported to live more independently

### Report Card

Subject	
Maths	
English	
Science	
History	

### YEAR TO DATE

Total Pay	
Taxable Pay	
Tax	
Tax Credit	
NI Employee	

# What Ofsted and external scrutiny say

In July 2018 Ofsted inspected our children's social care services. They judged our overall effectiveness as 'good'.

## Here are just a few quotes from Ofsted and external scrutinisers

**'Social workers and managers are aspirational for the children in their care and demonstrate a strong focus on improving their experiences and outcomes'**

**'Children's services in Brighton & Hove provide a joined-up response to the needs of vulnerable children and families  
Children with more complex needs receive an effective, multi-agency response'**

**'The local authority is supporting you well in developing the role of executive headteacher and in making the necessary improvements in order to raise standards.'**

**'Disabled children benefit from high quality, responsive support'**



**'People, professionals and relatives told us staff were kind and caring.'**

Care Quality Commission inspection of our Beaconsfield Villas care home for adults with a learning disability.

**'Your mantra of improvement as a habit, not a goal, was not lost on us'**

Ofsted, Annual Conversation

**'Clear and confident sense of direction and momentum'**

South East Sector-Led Improvement Programme

**'The key partners in the local area are working cohesively together and know their shared and separate strengths and challenges'**

(DfE and NHS England) Read Ofsted's full report about us  
[Files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50014166](https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50014166)

# Our services are performing well!

Two of our special schools are rated as **'outstanding'** and our two pupil referral units are rated as **'good'** by Ofsted.

Our **Move On** project has successfully supported **25 adults** with learning disabilities to live more independent lives.

**56 schools in the city have committed to poverty-proofing the school day.** Poverty proofing the school day' listens to the voices of children, young people, families and staff to identify and overcome any barriers to learning that families with less financial resources face.

Decisions to start child protection enquires are appropriate and timely with **87.4%** of Strengthening Families assessments completed **within 45 working days – above the national average.**

The numbers of first time entrants into the youth criminal justice system here are **among the lowest in the country.**

Both of our in-house residential settings for children with disabilities have been judged by Ofsted to be **'outstanding'**. All residential in-house provision for adults with learning disabilities has been judged to be **'good'** by the Care Quality Commission.

# Our services are performing well!



The percentage of education, health and care plans (EHCP) that are issued within 20 weeks is **higher than the national average.**



We have high numbers of young people in education, employment or training, including **93% of 16-17 year olds with special educational needs.**

Social workers and managers maintain a strong focus on ensuring that children in care experience permanence at the earliest opportunity. The average time between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family is **better than the England average, by more than two weeks.**

**97%** of early year's providers, **93%** of the city's schools and **100%** of our maintained secondary schools, are rated as **'good'** or **'outstanding'** by Ofsted.

**Attainment at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 continues to be above the national average,** as are education outcomes for early years children with special educational needs.



# Listening and acting on feedback and giving thanks

We have seen the numbers of complaints about us decrease by 29% in the past year and we still continue to receive a high number of compliments.

**“The social worker was amazing. Brilliant! Loved her! She connected with my daughter very quickly and the relationship she built was amazing. She couldn’t have done anything better, she was so good.”**

**“Personally I couldn’t manage without Tudor House, the staff and the placement, and I am extremely grateful. I can fully relax when B is there I can confidently hand my precious son over to the wonderful staff.”**

**“The special educational needs team played a huge role in getting our son into the school of his choice and where we feel that he will have a chance to fulfil his potential.**

**It has made such a difference for us to have a contact person who has been prompt in responding to our queries. We have really experienced you to be on ‘G’s team’ – advocating for his needs in the face of considerable challenges.”**

**‘I’d like to say a big thank you to all our staff for going the extra mile.**

**‘Every day I meet and work with colleagues who are caring and supportive.**

**‘People who have great ideas and share them.**

**‘Staff who help people do more than they think they’re capable of doing.**

**‘Above all I see colleagues who are doing their best and trying to be part of the solution.**

**‘Your work is vital, is noticed and is appreciated.’”**

**Pinaki Ghoshal**

Executive Director of Families, Children & Learning



# Key decisions made this year by our children, young people and skills committee

## Ensuring that the most vulnerable and disadvantaged receive support and to ensure gaps are closed

- Endorsed the hidden children strategy to better identify, track and improve outcomes for children and young people for whom full-time education is a protective factor
- Supported the re-organisation of special educational needs provision in the city, including the creation of specialist centres within two local schools to provide support to children with autism
- Agreed a programme of work to support people with disabilities into suitable employment within council services

## Improving our services

- Supported the development of a city-wide strategy to tackle violence, vulnerability and exploitation
- Supported plans to extend mental and emotional support for young people
- Endorsed growing the Independent visiting service to provide a strong befriending scheme for children in care and care leavers

## Supporting young people

- Approved the youth justice strategy to support the prevention and reduction of youth offending
- Endorsed plans to provide additional out-of-school respite provision for disabled children and young people
- Agreed increased investment in the community and voluntary sector to deliver youth work



# Our future plans – from good to great!

## Based on feedback from Ofsted and from our staff engagement consultations, our future plans to move us from being good to being great include:

- Ensuring all children we work with consistently receive a high quality service that builds on strengths in families and improves outcomes
- Providing children in care with consistently high quality, well supported placements
- Helping more families receive community and wider family support at the earliest opportunity
- Making sure we listen to the opinions of the people we work with, and where appropriate act on their suggestions for improving services
- Enabling more adult service users with learning disabilities to live more independently
- Reviewing all our residential units, care homes and day activities provision to improve choice, control and experiences for the people who use them
- Improving education outcomes for disadvantaged and SEN pupils, and creating more post-16 opportunities
- Improving school attendance
- Improving transition arrangements for children moving into adult-orientated services, including young people with learning disabilities

## Whole-family working

- We know that helping families as early as possible can stop problems getting worse and can enable them to lead happier, healthier lives.
- We will continue to work with the whole family and promote the whole-family working strategy - <http://brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Whole-family-working-strategy.pdf>

## Partnership working

- We will continue to work with Sussex Police and the NHS to establish our new safeguarding children partnership arrangements (formerly the Local Safeguarding Children Board).
- We will continue work to develop greater integration with the council's health and adult social care team and the Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group
- We will also continue to work with the city's Education Partnership to address the disadvantage gap, recruitment, retention and celebration of education staff, and to improve attendance and exclusion rates for young people.

# Find out more

- Brighton & Hove City Council
- Brighton & Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board
- Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Adults Board

## Related plans

- Brighton & Hove City Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019
- Brighton & Hove: The Connected City

For further information about the work of our families, children and learning directorate please contact [FCLComms@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:FCLComms@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

## You can also follow us online at:



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