

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC REPORT

Report to:	AUDIT COMMITTEE
Report of:	Director of Education & Skills
Date of Meeting:	28 January 2020
Subject:	Early Years Health and Wellbeing Contract
Wards Affected:	All
Purpose of Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) To provide an update on the Early Years Health and Wellbeing (EYHWB) Services contract.b) To review progress against the actions from the Final Audit Report: 0232/014
Recommendation	To note the contents of the report.

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1.0 Compliance Issues

1.1 Are Decisions consistent with relevant Council Policies, Plans or Strategies:

The EYHWB service helps to achieve the Council objective 'Birmingham is an aspirational place to grow up in'.

1.2 Relevant Ward and other Members /Officers etc. consulted on this matter:

The Chairman of the Committee and Cabinet Member have been consulted.

1.3 Relevant legal powers, personnel, equalities and other relevant implications (if any):

In line with the law, provided by the Childcare Act 2006 and summarised in the Department for Education guidance 'Sure Start Children's Centres Statutory Guidance April 2013. Local authorities are required to:

- "improve outcomes for young children and their families;
- focus, in particular, on families in greatest need of support;
- reduce inequalities in child development, school readiness, parenting aspirations, self-esteem, parenting skills, child and family health and life chances".

The local authorities (public health functions and entry to premises by local healthwatch representatives) and local authority (public health, health and wellbeing boards and health scrutiny) (amendment) regulations 2015.

This instrument amends Part 2 of the Act, Regulations 2013 (S.I. 2013/351) to require provision of five health and development assessment and reviews as set out in the Department's Healthy Child Programme1 (HCP) to be offered to pregnant mothers and children between the ages of 0 – 5.

- The Healthy Child Programme (HCP) Pregnancy and the first five years of life (DH Oct 2009) set out the key priorities for both commissioners and providers in the delivery of a universal preventive service at the same time as focusing on vulnerable babies, children and families;
- The Health Visitor Implementation Plan 2011-15 "A Call to Action" (Department of Health (DH) Feb 2011) clearly articulated that the delivery of the HCP would be led, at a local level, by Health Visitors with increasing emphasis on partnership working and the

integration of services where appropriate with the intention of bringing together Sure Start Children's Centre staff, GP's, Midwives, a range of community nurses and other relevant services dependent on local needs. At the same time the health visiting service will provide or be the gatekeeper to other services that families may need.

1.4 Will decision(s) be carried out within existing finances and resources?

Yes

1.5 Main Risk Management and Equality Impact Assessment Issues (if any):

The EYHWB contract risk is monitored by Audit Committee in line with its consideration of the Corporate Risk Register and the Education & Skills directorate commissioning team through the EYHWB Risk Register Appendix 1.

2. Relevant background/chronology of key events

- 2.1 Audit Committee received a report on 26 March 2019, Appendix 2, which reviewed the risks and mitigations for the EYHWB contract, as outlined by Birmingham Audit in their EYHWB Final Audit Report: 0232/014 Appendix 3. The report provided an update on actions taken by the Education and Skills Directorate to stabilise the contract and to strengthen the existing services.

3.0 Improvement activity

- 3.1 Considerable work has been undertaken by the Education and Skills Directorate commissioning team to strengthen the contract management functions and in response to the issues raised in the audit report. This is summarised in Appendix 4.
- 3.2 Key strands of improvement activity include:
- a) A strengthened performance framework that reflects the current requirements around services for under-fives;
 - b) A strengthened approach to property utilised as part of the contract; and
 - c) A revised service specification that more clearly sets out the service delivery expectations and standards.

- 3.3 The 18 property hub sites are currently operating under license. Draft leases are with Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BCHCT) legal team for their final review prior to signing.
- 3.4 BCHCT are providing monthly performance reports against all the mandated contractual performance targets. In line with the strengthened contractual performance framework, a plan has been agreed with BCHCT to increase the performance and quality assurance reporting into the Council. This will take place from January 2020.
- 3.5 Agreement was made at the Birmingham City Council September 2019 Cabinet (ref. 005639/2018) for the employment of 103 Council staff to be transferred to BCHCT on 01 January 2020. 94 staff transferred on the 01 January 2020 to BCHCT (9 staff had left employment of the Council). These Council employees have been on secondment to BCHCT's sub-contractors since January 2018.
- 3.6 Birmingham City Council has 35 Department for Education (DfE) capital funded Children's Centre buildings that are not part of the current delivery arrangements for the EYHWB contract. The Council is undertaking a review of this estate to determine the best option for the future use of these buildings. This will be shared and agreed with the DfE in January 2020.
- 3.7 There is much strengthened governance and oversight of the contract. A monthly contract review meeting is held with BCHCT to monitor contract compliance and performance standards as part of the overall contract governance arrangements. The contract review arrangements also oversee performance submissions and considers any contractual matters relating to service delivery.
- 3.8 The Public Health Commissioning Board, chaired by the Director of Public Health, receives a quarterly update report on the EYHWB contract performance and monitors the impact of the contract from a financial and strategic outcomes perspective, ensuring that the contract is in line with public health priorities.
- 3.9 An EYHWB Public Health Outcomes Improvement Board has been also established. This Outcomes Board brings together the Council, BCHCT, Birmingham Forward Steps providers and Public Health England to focus on practical steps that need to be taken across the agencies and partners in the city to improve health and well-being outcomes for children aged 0-5 years.
 - a. The Council has worked with BCHCT to develop a 'Single Improvement Plan' Appendix 5 to support the improvement of the current EYHWB contract performance.

- b. The Councils EYHWP contract manager has undertaken joint visits to children's centre hubs in conjunction with BCHCT representatives. This has provided an opportunity to review the impact of services, meet staff and talk to parents. Further visits are planned to all hub sites to continue this approach and to support an increase in both performance and the quality of services.

4.0 Next steps

- 4.1 Finalise and sign off the EYHWP contract variation by 31 March 2020.
- 4.2 Complete and sign off property leases for the 18 hub sites by 31 March 2020.
- 4.3 Determine the building status for the children's centres no longer in use and identify any risks or costs prior to liaising with the DfE.
- 4.4 Increase the level of performance reporting by BCHCT, against the new performance framework from February 2020.
- 4.5 Implement and monitor the actions from the 'Single Improvement Plan' to support the EYHWP contract improvement journey.

5.0 Appendices

- 1. EYHWP - Risk Register dated 7 January 2020
- 2. Audit Committee report dated 26 March 2019
- 3. Final Audit Report: 0232/014
- 4. EYHWP Audit Report - Summary of improvement actions dated 7 January 2020
- 5. EYHWP - Single Improvement Plan - January 2020