

**TO: THE EXECUTIVE
21 OCTOBER 2014**

**SECOND ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATUTORY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND THE LEAD MEMBER FOR
CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2013/14**

Director of Children, Young People & Learning

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This second annual report provides an account of the role of the Director Children, Young People and Learning and the Lead Member for Children, Young People and Learning as identified in the Department for Education Statutory Guidance on the Roles and Responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services (DCS) and the Lead Member for Children's Services (LMCS) (DfE, 2012). A copy of the guidance is attached as annex 1.
- 1.2 The report covers a range of activity undertaken by the DCS and LMCS in fulfilling the Statutory Guidance, but does not cover all of the work they undertake.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Executive endorse the report and note the range of activity undertaken by the DCS and LMCS in fulfilling the Statutory Guidance.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Children Act 2004 requires every upper tier local authority to appoint a Director of Children's Services and designate a Lead Member for Children's Services.
- 3.2 The DCS and LMCS are appointed for the purpose of discharging the education and children's social services functions of the local authority. The aim is that between them the DCS and LMCS provide a clear and unambiguous line of local accountability.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 This report provides information on a range of activity undertaken within the Department for Children, Young People and Learning during the last year. Whilst it does not cover every area of activity, it does provide an overview of the role of the DCS and the LMCS in terms of some of their key statutory functions. The report shows there is a clear link in terms of accountability between the DCS, LMCS and the Chief Executive and Leader, it shows the response and activity around safeguarding which remains a high priority for all concerned; and it shows the ongoing and effective partnership links that exist between the local authority and key partners. There is a clear recognition that our work in the Department cannot be achieved in isolation and the way in which we engage with, support and encourage

partners is crucial to the ongoing successful delivery of improved outcomes for our children and young people.

- 5.2 The priority outcomes for the Children, Young People and Learning Department are identified in the attached action plan which supports the delivery of key actions within the Council linked to the delivery of key actions across the Council and with partners. They are the Children and Young People's Plan priorities, the Children and Young People's Plan can be found at:
<http://www.bracknellforest.gov.uk/bracknellforestchildrenandyoungpeoplespartnership>

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The legal issues are contained within the body of the report and the Statutory Guidance referred to therein.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise from this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Not applicable.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 Not applicable.

Background papers

Appendix 1 – Department for Education: Statutory guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services (April 2013).

Contact for further information

Dr Janette Karklins, Director, Children, Young People & Learning
01344 354183
Janette.karklins@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

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2013/14**

This second annual report provides an account of the role of the Director Children, Young People and Learning and the Lead Member for Children, Young People and Learning as identified in the Department for Education Statutory Guidance on the Roles and Responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services (DfE, 2012). A copy of the guidance is attached as annex 1.

The report covers a range of activity undertaken by the Director Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services in fulfilling the Statutory Guidance, but does not cover all of the work they undertake.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Statutory Guidance was originally published in 2005, reviewed in 2009 and again in 2012. This report reflects the most recent guidance of 2012.
- 1.2 The Statutory Guidance was published under sections 18(7) (Director Children's Services) and 19(2) (Lead Member for Children's Services) of the Children Act 2004. This means that local authorities must have regard to it and, if they decide to depart from it, they will need to have clear reasons for doing so.
- 1.3 The Children Act 2004 requires every upper tier local authority to appoint a Director of Children's Services (DCS) and designate a Lead Member for Children's Services (LMCS).
- 1.4 The DCS and LMCS are appointed for the purpose of discharging the education and children's social services functions of the local authority. The aim is that between them the DCS and LMCS provide a clear and unambiguous line of local accountability.
- 1.5 The DCS has professional responsibility for children's services, including operational matters; the LMCS has political responsibility for children's services. Together with the Chief Executive and the Leader the DCS and LMCS have a key leadership role both within the local authority and working with other local agencies to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- 1.6 The DCS is Dr Janette Karklins; the LMCS is Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard.

2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DCS AND LMCS

Clear lines of accountability

- 2.1 It is important to note that the DCS and the LMCS work closely with the Chief Executive in playing a key leadership role both within the local authority and in working with partner agencies to improve outcomes for children and young people. The DCS meets regularly for one to one discussions with the Chief Executive and receives an annual appraisal which sets out the key objectives for the DCS to achieve in support of the Council's Medium Term Objectives. Many of these objectives are reflected in the CYP&L Annual Service Plan for the Department.
- 2.2 The LMCS and the DCS attend quarterly safeguarding meetings with the Chief Executive, and Chief Officer Children's Social Care. The Independent Chair of the LSCB joins these meetings every six months in order to provide an update on the effectiveness of the LSCB. The Leader of the Council attends this meeting at least once annually. These meetings ensure that there is effective communication and exchange of information which identifies progress made and any areas for action or further development, with a particular focus on child protection and safeguarding.
- 2.3 The Department for Children, Young People and Learning provides education and children's social care under a single officer and a single member providing a strategic and professional framework within which the safety and the educational, social and emotional needs of children and young people are considered together. The roles provide a clear and unambiguous line of political and professional accountability for children's well being.
- 2.4 Within Bracknell Forest the local authority has recognised and supported the breadth and importance of children's services functions, with the discrete roles and responsibilities of the DCS and the LMCS remaining protected.

Leadership and Partnership

- 2.5 The LMCS is an experienced Councillor with a detailed knowledge and understanding of the issues for children's services. The LMCS has good knowledge about adoption and fostering through his work on panels, and his work as a regular member of Peer Review teams and through national events which gives a broad perspective on many current and emerging issues. The LMCS regularly brings back learning from these events to feed into local discussion and ongoing developments.
- 2.6 The LMCS is a member of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board, and is a participant / observer of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. He is also involved in a range of other areas of activity in the Department, including being a member of the School Pupil Places Planning Group, which has the responsibility for steering accurate pupil forecasting and school places planning. He also sits on the Children's Centre Management Board, and Chairs the Adult Learning Board providing appropriate support challenge and accountability.
- 2.7 The LMCS also meets with the DCS on a monthly basis, attends the Departmental Management Team on a regular basis, and is in frequent contact with the DCS and Senior Officers via a range of meetings across the Council. Executive Member decisions are made each month.
- 2.8 The DCS leads a team of Chief Officers in the delivery of a wide range of key functions across the Department and with partners. The DCS is the Chair of the South East Children's Improvement Board and leads by example in undertaking Peer Review and Peer Challenge in other authorities and enabling professional

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development of Bracknell Forest staff to participate in these Peer Reviews and Challenges. A key achievement of the DCS during the year has been to secure the continuation of a mechanism to focus on improvement in Children's Services as funding from the Government was cut. The DCS worked with others in the South East Region to develop a subscription process for local authorities wishing to continue to progress the improvement programme. As a result a number of key strands of improvement work continue which include regional benchmarking, peer review and peer challenge, management and leadership development programmes and a range of small discreet projects.

- 2.9 During 2013 Bracknell Forest hosted a Peer Challenge on Children's Centres which focused on early intervention and the interface between Children's Centres and partner agencies. In September 2013 the DCS invited the Local Government Association to come into the Department and undertake a Safeguarding Practice Diagnostic which enabled us to look at our strengths and areas for development in relation to children and young people who receive support from Children's Social Care and partners. As a result of these two pieces of work we have been able to gain a good insight into some of our strengths and areas for development and an action plan on both sets of activity ensures the recommendations are being monitored and implemented in practice.
- 2.10 The DCS has continued to chair the Children and Young People's Partnership and has overseen the ongoing review of progress against the plan, and the development of the new Children and Young People's Plan for 2014 – 2017. This plan sets a number of key outcome priorities for the Department and partners to achieve and will continue to be monitored through the CYP Partnership in the coming year. The priorities for improvement are important because they focus on those things which are felt can be achieved by working in partnership with others.
- 2.11 The Statutory Health and Wellbeing Board came into force in April 2013. The DCS and LMCS are both members and regularly raise issues relating to children's health and wellbeing needs. Examples of issues raised include; ensuring links to the Children and Young People's Plan, the Children and Families Bill in relation to changes in SEN, Annual Safeguarding Children Board report, Section 11 safeguarding roles and responsibilities. More recently there has been significant discussion about CAMHS and emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people which has led to some joint work between partners to focus on improved integration of health and emotional wellbeing services across all four tiers of need. It is expected that this will lead to improved services for children and young people in relation to mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- 2.12 The LMCS has contributed to a process of review of Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action during the year following the departure of the Chief Executive from the organisation. New management arrangements have been established and the work of the Voluntary and Community and Faith Sector remains a very important part of the infrastructure for supporting children and young people in their communities. The Department continues to commission a range of support and services from the Sector including Homestart Bracknell Forest and Margaret Wells Furby Children's Resource Centre (run by NCH Action for Children).
- 2.13 The Department contributed to a recent review of the Council's Equality Scheme and the outcome was that the peer team were unanimous in concluding that Bracknell Forest Council (BFC) could be re-accredited at the 'achieving' level of the Equality Framework for Local Government.

Safeguarding

- 2.14 Clear and effective arrangements are in place to protect children and young people from harm (including those attending independent schools). The LSCB arrangements are strong and effective with full engagement of all partners. The LMCS is also a participant observer on the LSCB. The DCS is a Board member and contributes actively to the ongoing work of the Board.
- 2.15 The DCS meets on a regular basis with the Independent Chair of the LSCB ensuring there is accountability for the role of the Chair and that the DCS maintains a clear oversight of the work of the LSCB.
- 2.16 The LSCB Annual Report provides an account of the work of the LSCB during 2013 / 14. The Annual Report has been presented to a wide audience including the Corporate Management Team, Council's Executive, Council Overview and Scrutiny and the Health and Wellbeing Board. The impact of sharing the report is that it secures a good understanding across the Council and partners of safeguarding roles and responsibilities and ensures any key messages are clearly and widely disseminated.
- 2.17 During 2013 the DCS commissioned the LGA to come into the Department to undertake a Safeguarding Practice Diagnostic. This process enabled the Department to look at areas of strength and areas for further development and to identify an action plan for further development and improvement. This continues to be monitored by the Department Management Team.
- 2.18 The SLAC Inspection in 2011 identified audit as an area for development, we have secured funding for a QA Officer role to further develop and improve our work on audit. The recent Safeguarding Practice Diagnostic from the LGA included an audit validation component which commented positively on the role and on the Quality Assurance Strategy that has been developed.
- 2.19 The DCS undertakes regular random audits of case files in order to maintain an overview of cases, and provides feedback to the Chief Officer Children's Social Care. The Chief Officer and DCS hold regular case file discussions with social workers which enables the workers to share their cases, discuss any issues with the DCS, and receive feedback. The DCS also attends Duty and Assessment Team Meetings 5 to 6 times each year.
- 2.20 In order to respond to the Eileen Munro Review of Child Protection and consequent recommendations Bracknell Forest introduced the Single Assessment in May 2013. A review of implementation has enabled changes to be made, tools have been utilised in the completion of the assessment such as the Three Houses Tool and monitoring of the quality of assessments through supervision provides management oversight of the quality of assessments. Training was provided for all Social Workers on the implementation of the Single Assessment. In addition to the Single Assessment, the role of Principal Social Worker was also developed as a way of effecting change and improvement in Social Work practice.
- 2.21 As identified in paragraph 5.2 above there is regular liaison between the DCS, LMCS and the Chief Executive, Independent Chair and the Leader with regards to ongoing safeguarding monitoring and management.
- 2.22 The new on line system for the checking of DBS (Disclosure and Barring Scheme) which replaced the old CRB checks is working well and the majority of checks are being returned quickly which helps in the recruitment process. All relevant staff working in the CYP&L Department have a new DBS undertaken every three years.

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- 2.23 There has been a considerable amount of work undertaken in the year to ensure readiness for the new legislation contained within the Family Justice Review and the Children and Families Bill. The timeliness of care proceedings has reduced and there has been a significant focus on adoption, in Bracknell Forest the adoption figure has increased by over 100% in the last year.
- 2.24 The DCS facilitated a review of the Section 11 Self Assessments undertaken by each Department in the Council and good progress has been made in achieving the identified action plans. Future activity on self assessment will be further built into the LSCB processes to ensure improved governance and accountability of safeguarding. A range of additional activity has strengthened the understanding of safeguarding for senior leaders which includes a briefing paper on safeguarding roles and responsibilities for senior leaders, including the Chief Executive, Director and Chief Officers, a safeguarding awareness session delivered to senior managers and to relevant staff across the Council, a wider distribution of the safeguarding cue card for all staff and volunteers.
- 2.25 The LSCB Conference in 2013 provided a focus on neglect and its impact on children and young people. Frank Fields MP, opened the conference talking about poverty and early intervention, and the remainder of the day focused on neglect looking at national research, and a variety of local work and projects. This enabled a significant number of professionals from a range of agencies to develop a greater understanding of neglect and consider ways in which to address it in practice.
- 2.26 At the LSCB Conference a theatre group delivered a powerful drama presentation titled Chelsea's Choice, providing a powerful insight into the issues of Child Sexual Exploitation. This has been rolled out to schools across the borough as part of the work to identify, and address CSE awareness for young people as part of the overall CSE strategy. The impact of this has been to raise awareness of practitioners on the way in which young people can be vulnerable to exploitation; and for those young people who have seen the drama it has helped their own awareness and understanding of the issues and impact of exploitation.
- 2.27 The LADO role is made clear in the Safer Workforce Training, and a safeguarding cue card details the role as part of the Section 11 toolkit. The LADO role is well embedded, and sits with the Conference and Review Team Manager. This role is managed outside of Children's Social Care and reports to the Head of Performance Management and Governance allowing independence from decision making within Children's Social Care. Some additional capacity has now been built into the LADO role, with the development of a Deputy LADO function attached to the Independent Child Protection Chair role.
- 2.28 The LADO provides an annual report to the LSCB, and also attends regional LADO meetings in order to build improved networks and liaison and develop more consistent approaches across areas of working.
- 2.29 The DCS meets on a six monthly basis with the Manager of the Conference and Review Team and the Head of Performance Management and Governance to ensure an overview of the IRO role and function within the Department. The IRO Annual Report is considered by the Department Management Team, and was fully discussed and signed off by the LMCS. The IRO report is then presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel, Local Safeguarding Children Board and Overview and Scrutiny for Children, Young People and Learning. This provides accountability for the IRO role and ensures that relevant partners and stakeholders are informed regarding ongoing practice and developments for monitoring outcomes for looked after children.
- 2.30 The Annual Complaints, Concerns and Compliments Report is presented to the Department Management Team which provides an overview of the role of the

Complaints Manager and the type of complaints, concerns and compliments that are raised. The report provides an insight into the quality and practice of Children's Social Care in working with children, young people and families and informs learning and ongoing development and improvement activity. The report is also signed off by the LMCS and it is presented to the Local Safeguarding Children Board and to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Children, Young People and Learning. This ensures relevant partners and stakeholders are informed regarding ongoing practice and action taken to address complaints or concerns.

Vulnerable Children and Young People

- 2.31 The number of children and young people who met the statutory threshold for support from Children's Social Care has remained high in the year 2013/14. The numbers can vary from month to month as children move in and out of the system; however the figures at the end of March are those which are returned to the DfE in the statutory returns period.
- On 31 March 2014 the number of children who were looked after was 113, this is higher than the number at the end of March 2012 / 13 which was 103.
 - On 31 March 2014 the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan was 108, which is slightly lower than the number at the end of March 2012/13 which was 112.
 - On 31 March 2014 the number of children who were identified as a Child in Need (CiN) under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 was 554, which is marginally less than the number at the end of March 2012/13 which was 555.
- 2.32 Staff turnover for the Department for the whole year April 2013 to March 2014 was 12.72%, although the final quarter represented only 1.99% of the total turnover. There has been ongoing work to address recruitment and retention issues within Children's Social Care for qualified Social Workers and experienced Managers. This is not an issue just for Bracknell Forest; it is also a regional and national issue. The Safeguarding Practice Diagnostic was very positive in making comments about the support, training and development opportunities that social work staff have access to and this was seen as a real strength. The DCS and LMCS have actively supported ongoing initiatives to support recruitment and retention and closely monitor progress.
- 2.33 There is a strong commitment to ensuring the delivery of prevention and early intervention services in the Council, with additional resources being allocated to Children's Services. There are many elements of Early Intervention in place across the borough and we feel there has been a strong commitment to this approach which is in all layers of the organisation. The Lead Member is a strong advocate for early intervention, it is a priority in the key plans and strategies and a commitment to retain and further develop early intervention services where they are proven to be beneficial in reducing poor outcomes for children and young people.
- 2.34 The Council has developed an overarching approach to early intervention which states the commitment to ensuring that prevention and early intervention remain a high priority across the Council Departments. A Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy within the Children, Young People and Learning Department provides a framework to support and enhance the focus of all services to prevention and early intervention. This framework is in the process of being updated to align it with the new Children and Young People's Plan.
- 2.35 The Children, Young People and Learning O&S Committee meets on a quarterly basis and undertakes scrutiny of the Quarterly Services Report for the Department, in addition to receiving and discussing reports on a wide range of issues across the

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Department, examples include School Places Planning, Family Focus (Troubled Families), CAF and Early Intervention, Youth Service developments. The DCS and LMCS attend and provide information, presentations and responses to questions raised.

- 2.36 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook a working group looking at the Common Assessment Framework linked to early intervention. As a result of the recommendations some changes were made to introduce an Early Intervention Hub, a multi-agency meeting to coordinate early help support around children and young people who are vulnerable. The Early Intervention Hub has received 364 referrals during the year 2013/14 and prevented at least 90 referrals to Children's Social Care by providing early help.
- 2.37 The Department applied for some additional funding from the Corporate Transformation Board to support work with vulnerable families, this allowed a project called Symbol to be developed. Symbol provides an intensive intervention service to parents with low cognitive functioning delivering measurable improvements for the children and families involved. Symbol works with a small number of families whose children have child protection plans and who are at risk of coming into care or children with child in need plans who are at risk of child protection plans. The service is providing good outcomes for children and families and is evaluated every 6 months.
- 2.38 The YOS Prevention Service provides a preventative service to those young people and their parents/carers where the young person is aged 8 – 15 years and is identified as being at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System. The children and young people referred to this service have been identified as at risk of offending behaviour by virtue of their involvement in anti-social behaviour and /or the prevalence of significant risk factors in their lives including issues within school that often result in exclusion from school.
- 2.39 The LA continues to provide a range of support for young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) including mentoring and support through the government's Youth Contract, bespoke education and training through the European Social Funding Support for NEET young people programme, as well as extended work placements, work pairing and a range of educational opportunities from foundation level learning through to apprenticeships. Our NEET unknown levels are very low, and we carefully track the EET status of young people. The Thames Valley Berkshire City Deal is commissioned by the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). Key priorities include reducing youth unemployment, generating new employment opportunities and delivering new work experience placements and apprenticeships.
- 2.40 The Corporate Parenting role is taken seriously by Elected Members. The Panel takes an active role in listening to the views of young people through the work of SiLSiP (Say it Loud Say it Proud) our Children in Care Council, who will attend the Corporate Parenting Panel to present information on their activity throughout the year. The Panel meets quarterly and receives a range of reports on activity for looked after children; this includes for example contributing to developing the Pledge for LAC, the LAC Commissioning Strategy, and receiving regular performance reports. Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel also participate in Regulation 33 Visits to the Short Term Respite Care Unit as part of their role.
- 2.41 The DCS and LMCS supported by Senior Officers meet with young people from SiLSiP on a quarterly basis to hear about their activities, and to listen to any concerns or issues they may have. This enables the DCS and LMCS to maintain an overview of the views and issues that are faced by young people who are looked after on a day to day basis.

Fair Access to Services

- 2.42 The Fair Access Panel meets on a regular basis to discuss children who may be at risk of exclusion. The Panel identifies strategies to support and address the issues, and there has been a significant reduction in permanent exclusions during 2013/14.
- 2.43 The Life Chances Team (LCT) formally brings together a number of professionals from a range of agencies working with looked after children. The LCT meets once a month to discuss progress of LAC and identify areas where additional support may be needed. The LCT has had a number of successes in supporting carers to maintain placements for challenging young people and provide prompt, practical support.
- 2.44 There is an Edge of Care Panel, chaired by the Head of Service for LAC which reviews all those cases of children on the edge of care and identifies ways to prevent them coming into the care system.
- 2.45 Effective and appropriate use of the pupil premium for LAC is an integral part of our work with LAC. Schools are supported in developing their practices and building capacity in meeting the educational needs of LAC through termly Designated Teacher forums and training events delivered by the Virtual School. Designated Teachers in schools are supported in their role to attend training sessions organised by the LA and then to cascade this to school staff. Working with looked after children is also part of the formal induction process for newly qualified and appointed members of staff where they are provided with practical strategies aimed at raising an awareness of the common challenges faced.
- 2.46 The Virtual School for Looked After children has continued to meet its core function through working collaboratively with designated teachers in schools and monitoring each child's personal education plan (PEP).
- 2.47 The provision of sufficient school places is a statutory responsibility and also a key role for the local authority. Considerable time and energy has been put into planning the expansion of school places in the Wards where they are most needed. This is to ensure that there are sufficient places and also that they are in the schools that parents want their children to attend. This has been a successful approach for example at primary 97% of children were allocated one of their preferred choices and in secondary 93% of young people got one of their preferred choices.
- 2.48 Work has continued on the implementation of the SEN reforms as a result of the Children and Families Act, and the changes will be implemented from September 2014. A Steering group has been working on key areas of the reforms during the year. One of the key changes will be the introduction of a single Education, Health and Care Plan which will be piloted in the authority during the summer of 2014.

Educational Excellence

- 2.49 The local authority has developed a document "Our Vision for Education" which identifies how the local authority works with community, parents and wider stakeholders to embed the vision and ambition for young people to reach their potential. This vision identifies ambition, values, aims for education, quality, and governance in particular highlighting the role of school governors.
- 2.50 During 2013/14 the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook a working group on Governor Services looking at a review of School Governance. This recognised the good work undertaken by the Governor Services Team and made a

range of recommendations which will spread best practice more widely and enhance overall quality of governance in our schools.

- 2.51 Results from **Early Years Foundation Stage** (EYFS) data from schools and settings show above national average attainment at age 5. The percentage of pupils at the end of the EYFS (age 5) achieving a good level of development (expected or exceeding levels in the prime areas of learning plus literacy and mathematics) was 58% (52% nationally).

Key Stage 1 (age 7) level 2 shows that results improved in reading 92% (89% in 2012) and writing 89% (86% in 2012) but fell back slightly in mathematics 91% (93% in 2012).

Key Stage 1 level 2B+ shows that results improved in reading 82% (78% in 2012), and remained the same in writing 69% and mathematics 80%.

Key Stage 1 level 3 shows that results improved in reading 33% (29% in 2012) and mathematics 25% (23% in 2012) and fell slightly in writing 14% (15% in 2012).

Key Stage 2 (age 11) level 4+ shows that attainment for all pupils in reading for 2013 is 88% which is the same as 2012. Writing is 87% in 2013 which is an improvement from the 2012 figure of 83%; mathematics is 85% in 2013 which is an improvement from 84% in 2012. A combined score for reading, writing and mathematics is 78% in 2013, which is an improvement from 74% in 2012. Grammar, punctuation and spelling is a new indicator in 2013 and the score is 74% which is in line with the regional and national average.

Key Stage 2 level 5+ also shows an improvement in attainment from 2012 in writing (29% in 2013, 27% in 2012) and mathematics (41% in 2013 and 39% in 2012). Reading remains in line with last year (48%) and is above the national averages for 2013. Results in writing are slightly below the regional and national average.

Key Stage 4 results show that the proportion of young people obtaining 5 or more GCSE grades A* - C including English and mathematics increased to 63.4 % (61.4% in 2012). The proportion of young people achieving the other main measure of attainment at Key Stage 4 (5 or more GCSE grades A* - C) has remained at over 90%.

- 2.52 Inspections of schools by Ofsted remain ongoing. During the period of 2013/14 there were 17 Inspections of Schools 13 primary, 3 secondary and 1 Special School. In the primary section 4 schools were graded as good, 1 was outstanding, 7 were graded as requires improvement and 1 was inadequate. In the secondary section 2 schools were graded as good and 1 as requires improvement. 1 special school was graded as inadequate.
- 2.53 The DCS holds termly meetings for all Headteachers to ensure that there is effective communication and liaison between the LA and schools on key policy and practice issues.

3 SUMMARY

- 3.1 This report has provided information on a range of activity undertaken within the Department for Children, Young People and Learning during the last year. Whilst it does not cover every area of activity, it does provide an overview of the role of the DCS and the LMCS in terms of some of their key statutory functions. The report shows there is a clear link in terms of accountability between the DCS, LMCS and

the Chief Executive and Leader, it shows the response and activity around safeguarding which remains a high priority for all concerned; and it shows the ongoing and effective partnership links that exist between the local authority and key partners. There is a clear recognition that our work in the Department cannot be achieved in isolation and the way in which we engage with, support and encourage partners is crucial to the ongoing successful delivery of improved outcomes for our children and young people.

3.2 The priority outcomes for the Children, Young People and Learning Department are identified in the attached action plan which supports the delivery of key actions within the Council linked to the delivery of key actions across the Council and with partners. They are the Children and Young People's Plan priorities and we look forward to reporting our progress against these outcomes in a year's time.

3.3 The Children and Young People's Plan can be found at:
<http://www.bracknellforest.gov.uk/bracknellforestchildrenandyoungpeoplespartnership>

Dr Janette Karklins – Director Children, Young People and Learning
Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard – Lead Member Children, Young People and Learning

June 2014

DELIVERING THE PRIORITY OUTCOMES 2014 – 2017

Outcome Priority 1 Raise levels of attainment and pupil progress across all phases of learning for all pupils		
	Action	Lead Agency
1.1	Education Vision and Values known across all schools and partners who work with and support schools.	Bracknell Forest Council –Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement
1.2	Continue to work with early years providers to close the attainment gap.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
1.3	Provide sufficient school places to meet the changing patterns and demand.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
1.4 a	Increase the number of schools in the borough rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted.	Bracknell Forest Council - Children, Young People and Learning - Learning and Achievement Headteachers School Governors
1.4 b	Continued focus on improving attainment for all pupils.	
1.4 c	Strengthen leadership across all schools and partnerships.	
1.4d	Focus on assessment and tracking of pupils and use data to target support more effectively for vulnerable groups.	
1.5	Support children and young people with special educational needs and implement SEN reforms arising from the Children and Families Bill.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning - Learning and Achievement

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1.6 a	Effective use pupil premium to support disadvantaged pupils in schools.	Headteachers
1.6 b	Monitor attainment of pupils in receipt of pupil premium.	Bracknell Forest Council - Children, Young People and Learning - Learning and Achievement
1.7	Continued focus on behaviour support and positive reduction in exclusions in secondary schools.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning - Learning and Achievement
1.8	Continue to ensure access to life long learning opportunities for residents in the borough.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning - Learning and Achievement Bracknell and Wokingham College
1.9	Ensure workforce is equipped with skills to support this outcome.	All agencies working with children, young people and families.
Outcome Priority 2		
Improve physical and emotional health and wellbeing from conception to birth and throughout life		
	Action	Lead Agency
2.1	Complete a review of children’s services health commissioning arrangements.	Bracknell Forest Council – Adult Social Care, Health and Housing - Public Health
2.2	Review commissioning of sexual health services.	Bracknell Forest Council – Adult Social Care, Health and Housing - Public Health
2.3 a	Continue to commission services for young people in relation to alcohol and substance misuse.	Bracknell Forest Council – Adult Social Care, Health and Housing - Drug and Alcohol Action Team
2.3 b	Continue to provide targeted information and support to young people in schools and	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young

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	other settings in relation to alcohol and substance misuse.	People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention Headteachers
2.4 a	Continued focus on child weight management and increasing the number of children who are a healthy weight.	Bracknell Forest Council – Adult Social Care, Health and Housing - Public Health
2.4 b	Provide opportunities for children and young people to take regular exercise, in and out of school hours.	Bracknell Forest Council – Environment, Culture and Communities - Leisure Services Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning - Learning and Achievement, in partnership with schools.
2.5 a	Sustain low levels of teenage pregnancies, and increase awareness by young people of the risks involved.	Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust – Sexual Health Services
2.5 b	Continue to provide targeted information and support to young people in schools and other settings in relation to teenage pregnancy and sexual health issues.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning - Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention Bracknell Forest Council - Adult Social Care, Health and Housing - Public Health.
2.6 a	Recommission tier 3 CAMHS services	Bracknell Forest - Clinical Commissioning Group / NHS England
2.6 b	Further development of services for children and young people with emotional health and wellbeing issues including CAMHS Tiers 1 – 4.	Central Southern Commissioning Support Unit Bracknell Forest Health and Wellbeing Board

Unrestricted

2.6 c	Continue to provide targeted information and support to young people in schools and other settings in relation to emotional health and wellbeing issues.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning - Learning and Achievement/Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention Bracknell Forest Council – Adult Social Care, Health and Housing - Public Health Headteachers
2.7	Develop and implement a specialist nurse role to provide targeted outreach support to vulnerable women.	Bracknell Forest Council – Adult Social Care, Health and Housing - Public Health Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Children’s Social Care
2.8	Raise awareness of the importance of vaccinations and make it easier for parents and children to access them.	Bracknell Forest Council – Adult Social Care, Health and Housing - Public Health Bracknell Forest Council – Strategy Resources and Early Intervention – School Admissions Team
2.9	Ensure workforce is equipped with skills to support this outcome	All agencies working with children, young people and families.
Outcome Priority 3 Safeguard and Protect Children and Young People		
	Activity	Lead Agency
3.1	Continued focus on reducing the number of children and young people who are supported by Children’s Social Care.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Children’s Social Care

Unrestricted

<p>3.2 a</p>	<p>To launch the Guide to Neglect and promote through CAF and Safeguarding Training.</p>	<p>Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention</p>
<p>3.2 b</p>	<p>To continue to deliver the Symbol programme supporting parents where neglect may be an issue.</p>	<p>Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Children’s Social Care</p>
<p>3.3</p>	<p>Work with partners to reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people.</p>	<p>Bracknell Forest Community Safety Partnership: Thames Valley Police Domestic Abuse Forum Multi-agency DASC Project</p>
<p>3.4 a</p>	<p>Address the ongoing issues and concerns identified by young people in relation to bullying in all forms, including cyber-bullying and identity based bullying.</p>	<p>Bracknell Forest Council –Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement</p>
<p>3.4 b</p>	<p>Review Anti-bullying Strategy</p>	<p>Headteachers Community Safety Partnership - E-Safety Group</p>
<p>3.5</p>	<p>Further development of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and early intervention hub as a key strand of the Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy.</p>	<p>Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention</p>
<p>3.6</p>	<p>Implement the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy, and monitor outcomes for those affected.</p>	<p>Local Safeguarding Board – CSE Group.</p>

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3.7	Continue to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding for all partners working with children, young people and families.	Local Safeguarding Children Board
3.8	Ensure workforce is equipped with skills to support this outcome.	Local Safeguarding Children Board and all agencies working with children, young people and families.
Outcome Priority 4 Improve outcomes for all children and young people, especially the more vulnerable		
	Action	Lead agency
4.1	Ensure children and young people who have behavioural difficulties are supported to remain in an appropriate educational setting	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement.
4.2 a	Provide additional / targeted support to children and young people who have English as a second language.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement.
4.2 b	Provide additional / targeted support to children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds (e.g. on free school meals)	
4.3 a	Monitor health and education outcomes for children looked after and provide additional support where necessary.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement
4.3 b	Monitor outcomes for care leavers and provide additional support where necessary	Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust – LAC Nurse.
4.4	Continue to support young people who are NEET into appropriate education, training or employment and support those at risk of becoming NEET.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement. Adviza (formerly Connexions)

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4.5	Work with partners to identify and support young carers through improved assessment and joint working arrangements and Recommission support services.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
4.6	Provide targeted support to young people at risk of offending.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Children’s Social Care
4.7	Continue to deliver support to children and young people with learning difficulties through the Aiming High programme.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Children’s Social Care
4.8	Provide targeted support to young people through youth service settings.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
4.9	Ensure workforce is equipped with skills to support children and young people from vulnerable groups	All agencies working with children, young people and families
Outcome Priority 5 Strengthen families through effective multi-agency coordination and support.		
	Action	Lead Agency
5.1	Provide targeted outreach support for families where there is a child under five through the Children’s Centres.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
5.2	Continued delivery of the Family Focus Programme and the extension of funding from the DfE to undertake more preventative work with families.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention

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5.3	Review family and parenting support services in the borough and implement any findings / recommendations from the review	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement/Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
5.4	Continue to deliver a range of Parenting Support Programmes from universal through to specialist support.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
5.5	Increase the number of families accessing Family Group Conference.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Children’s Social Care
5.6	Continue to support and develop the Family support Adviser role within schools.	Headteachers
5.7	Continued delivery of the Family Nurse Partnership service.	Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
5.8	Ensure workforce is equipped with skills to support children and young people from vulnerable groups	All agencies working with children, young people and families
<p>Outcome Priority 6 Reduce the impact of poverty on children and young people.</p>		
	Action	Lead Agency
6.1	Fully implement the Credit Union and monitor impact.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention Bracknell Forest Homes
6.2	Roll out of the two year old funding for disadvantaged pupils. Monitor impact of additional funding on outcomes.	Bracknell Forest Council Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention

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6.3	Continued focus on uptake of free school meals for those eligible.	Schools Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
6.4	Implementation of free school meals for Key Stage One pupils.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention Schools
6.5	Monitor the impact of the Pupil Premium on outcomes for pupils.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement
6.6	Provision of learning opportunities for adults	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement
6.7	Ensure workforce is equipped with skills to support children and young people from vulnerable groups	All agencies working with children, young people and families

Unrestricted

OUTCOME MEASURES

The activity of all those working with children, young people and families is measured using a range of indicators and reported nationally. A **selection** of these indicators is listed below, and will be monitored by the Children and Young People's Partnership. Progress against these will be reported in the first annual review of the Plan in 2015.

1	Number of children on protection plans on 31 March
2	Number of looked after children on 31 March
3	Number of children receiving Section 17 Support on 31 March
4	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placement
5	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement
6	Care leavers in suitable accommodation
6	Care leavers in employment, education or training
7	Number of families turned around through Family Focus Project
9	Number of CAF/ Family CAFs undertaken
10	Number of referrals to Early Intervention Hub
11	Schools judged good or better by Ofsted
12	Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest
13	Percentage of children who achieve or exceed levels of attainment at the

	end of Foundation Stage as measured by the EYFSP in all of the Early Learning Goals for communication and language, physical development, personal social and emotional development, literacy and mathematics.
14	Achievement of pupils at all Key stages
15	Percentage of children looked after achieving 5 A(star) – C GCSEs at Key Stage 4 (including English and maths)
16	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stages 2.
17	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stages 4.
18	Rate of permanent exclusions from school
19	The Special Educational Needs (SEN)/non-SEN gap - achieving Key Stage 2 English and Maths threshold
20	The Special Educational Needs (SEN)/non-SEN gap - achieving 5 A*-C GCSE inc English and Maths
21	Key Stage 2 attainment for Black and minority ethnic groups
22	Key Stage 4 attainment for Black and minority ethnic groups
23	Key Stage 2 attainment for black and minority ethnic groups containing more than 30 pupils who achieve level 4 in writing
24	Key Stage 2 attainment for black and minority ethnic groups containing more

	than 30 pupils who achieve level 4 in maths
25	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders
26	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)
27	Participation of 17 year-olds in education or training
28	Under 18 Conception per 1,000 females aged 15 – 17
29	% Children classified as overweight 4 – 5 year olds % Children classified as overweight 10 – 11 year olds
30	% Children classified as obese 4 – 5 year olds % Children classified as obese 10 – 11 year olds

N.B: Indicators may be subject to change during the year