

## REPORT OF THE CABINET

---

The Cabinet met on 27 April 2010. Attendances:-

Councillor Jones (Chairman)  
Councillors Bentley, Elkin, Glazier Lock, Maynard, Reid and Mrs Stroude

### **1. Adult Social Care and Financial Assessment Processes**

1.1 At the September 2009 meeting of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee members were informed that there was an emerging theme in the complaints received by Adult Social Care in relation to a lack of alignment between the agreement to provide a social care service and the financial assessment process. The Committee decided to investigate this matter further and set up a scrutiny review board to carry out this work.

1.2 The aim of the review was to identify any necessary system and process improvements needed within the current social care and financial assessment processes to ensure that there is better alignment between the two in the future. The review considered a number of finance related aspects of the assessment process, including the timeliness of financial assessments, the devolution of funding responsibility to officers and staffing capacity to undertake financial assessments.

1.3 This is a complex area of Adult Social Care's business which, if not working properly, can cause distress and anxiety for some service users. Furthermore, with the development of the Putting People First agenda better alignment between these two processes will be critical to ensure that service users are clear about the level of their personal contribution.

1.4 In terms of activity levels in respect of social care assessments and financial assessments, from April 2009 to February 2010 Adult Social Care completed 7126 social care assessments and during 2009/2010 undertook 10482 financial assessments of new clients and 8208 reassessments. The volume of assessments required and the demands on Adult Social Care resources to undertake assessments in a timely, efficient and user friendly manner is a constant pressure. Any improvements in the processes and/ or user experience will therefore directly impact on a significant number of people who access Adult Social Care services.

1.5 As a result of the review, the Review Board wished to highlight particular examples of good practice within Adult Social Care, including:

- The effectiveness and professionalism of Social Care Direct and the excellent service it provided to the general public and other professionals
- The accreditation by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) of all financial assessment staff to provide advice to service users on welfare benefits. When an officer initially visits a service user they carry out a full review of all their finances and, where necessary, can apply for unclaimed benefits on behalf of the service user. This provides those people on low fixed incomes with additional financial support. It was noted that joint work with the DWP in this area had resulted in £14 million in unclaimed benefits being awarded during 2008/09
- Since September 2008 changes have been made to ensure decisions on funding of support have been made more quickly, including the provision of care to people being discharged from hospital. This ensures people requiring our help receive services earlier and has reduced delayed transfers of care from hospital.

1.6 The scrutiny review provides a welcome opportunity to further improve Adult Social Care services. The action plan provides an opportunity to build upon, and expand on existing developments and is a key document in the improvement process.

1.7 In welcoming the findings of the Scrutiny Committee, the Cabinet has considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care (as set out in Appendix 1 to this document, circulated separately to all members) on the specific recommendations and endorsed it as its response to the recommendations.

1.8 The Cabinet, in welcoming the report, **recommends** the County Council to –

- ☆ approve the response of the Director of Adult Social Care on the implementation of the recommendations in the Scrutiny Committee's report.

## **2 Integrated Plan for Health, Social Care and Wellbeing**

2.1 National policy drivers and the demographic profile of East Sussex have reinforced the need for local statutory organisations to review the ways in which services are planned and delivered. Service users have made it clear that they want services tailored to their particular needs, a choice of what these services are and where they are located.

2.2 In 2009 a proposal was made to formalise an ongoing commitment to closer integrated working, across a range of agreed priority areas in which

there is potential to improve quality, sharpen the focus on service users' needs and deliver necessary efficiencies. The Cabinet has approved the Integrated Plan, including the delivery plan, which is a result of those discussions. The Integrated Plan and delivery plan, have previously been circulated to all members.

2.3 The Plan sets out the national and local policies which drive our strategic thinking and planning – and against which our performance will be judged - our ambitions across a range of agreed priorities and the actions necessary to turn those ambitions into reality. Throughout each piece of work will run three threads. Firstly, that everyone has a right to live a life free from fear of harm, secondly, that our plans and services will always value the rich diversity of our population and will strive to promote equality of access and opportunity for all, and thirdly, that we will spend the public's money wisely.

2.4 This Plan is the overarching document which identifies the absolute 'must do's' for achieving closer integration across a range of agreed areas, embracing and complementing the plans which exist within the council and partner organisations. It highlights areas where work is needed to achieve closer integration, and sets out the delivery plan for achieving these aims over the next five years. The Plan does not replace our formal plans; it will act as the vehicle to take forward and assure delivery of those aspects of joint working which have greatest impact on the quality of life for people in East Sussex. The Plan describes the national and local policy context within which it will operate, and aligns each work area with its corresponding policy steer from the Council Plan 2009/10 and the PCTs' Strategic Commissioning Plan and Annual Operating Framework 2010/11.

2.5 Work areas prioritised as having potential for closer integrated working are set out in Section 6 of the Plan, with aims and expected outcomes and the means by which these will be monitored and achieved. The topics are:

- Workforce
- Services for children and young people
- Transition from childhood to adulthood
- Integrating health and social care community services for adults
- Provision of equipment in the community to help adults live safely
- Services for adults with dementia, and their carers
- End of life care for adults
- Addressing health inequalities
- Promoting health and wellbeing
- Housing and housing support
- Joint procurement of services
- Integration of management support and 'back office' functions – Adults and Chief Executive's Department services
- Integration of commissioning functions and resources for adults services
- Joint access to information and advice

2.6 The Plan represents an ambitious vision backed by a significant investment of targeted resources, at a time when funding is falling in real terms. This vision, together with a pragmatic understanding of the challenges ahead, puts East Sussex in a strong position to grow and develop, in partnership, over the next five years. The Integrated Plan represents an opportunity for local organisations to achieve efficiency and quality gains through closer integrated working, whilst maintaining a clear focus on the needs of the people of East Sussex. At a time of financial uncertainty, the potential gains and new initiatives emerging will help our organisations to better meet the challenges ahead.

### **3 Educational Achievement**

3.1 The educational achievements of young people in East Sussex are generally in line with or better than national trends for National Indicators. This was particularly so for outcomes at the end of compulsory schooling (Key Stage 4).

3.2 GCSE results for 5+A\*-C including English & Mathematics (NI 75) were above the national average for the first time and the rate of improvement was twice the national rate of improvement. No secondary school was below floor target (30% achieving GCSE 5+A\*-C including English & Mathematics).

3.3 Outcomes for the end of primary schooling (Key Stage 2) declined slightly; performance in Mathematics was weak. Outcomes for Early Years Foundation Stage were strong. Outcomes for 16 - 19 have yet to be validated by the Department for Children, Schools and Families but are on track for meeting Level 2 at 19 targets but the pace of improvement is not as strong for Level 3 at 19. Outcomes for vulnerable groups generally improved but the gaps in East Sussex for children entitled to free school meals have increased and are wider than those nationally. Improvement strategies are in place in all phases with priorities for improving mathematics in primary schools and for narrowing the gaps for vulnerable groups of young people in all phases.

3.4 Outlined below is a summary of performance at Foundation Stage and Key Stages 1 -5. Greater detail is contained in Appendices 1 – 7 of the report to the Cabinet which have previously been circulated to all members.

#### Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS 0 – 5 years)

3.5 Achievement of at least 78 points across the EYFS (NI 72) declined by 1% to 55%, compared to a national rise of 1%. Outcomes, however, remain higher than the national average (52%). East Sussex is ranked 4th of 11 of its statistical neighbours. Appendix 2 of the report to the Cabinet provides more detail.

3.6 The attainment gap between the average of the lowest 20% and the median performance of the whole cohort (NI 92) narrowed by 1% to 31%, compared to the national 2% decrease. The gap in East Sussex is narrower

than the national gap of 34%. Statistical neighbour data is not yet available. More information is set out in Appendix 1 of the report to the Cabinet.

Key Stage 1 (5 – 7 years) (See Appendix 3 of the report to the Cabinet)

3.7 The percentage of pupils achieving Level 2+ in reading increased by 0.5% to 84%, reflecting the national trend. Outcomes are in line with the national figure (84%). East Sussex is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> of 11 of its statistical neighbours.

3.8 The percentage of pupils achieving Level 2+ in writing increased by 1% to 79%, in line with the national increase of 1%. Outcomes are lower than the national figure (81%). East Sussex is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> of 11 of its statistical neighbours.

3.9 The percentage of pupils achieving Level 2+ in mathematics remained static at 90% compared to a national decrease of 1%. Outcomes are higher than the national figure (89%). East Sussex is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> of 11 of its statistical neighbours.

Key Stage 2 (7 – 11 years) (See Appendices 4 and 6 of the report to the Cabinet)

3.10 The percentage of pupils achieving Level 4+ in both English and mathematics (NI 73) declined by 2% to 69% compared to a national decrease of 1%. Outcomes are lower than the national figure (72%). East Sussex is ranked 9<sup>th</sup> of 11 of its statistical neighbours.

3.11 The number of schools that were below the national target of fewer than 65% of pupils achieving Level 4 in English and mathematics (NI 076) decreased by 17 to 13. Statistical neighbour data is not yet available.

3.12 The percentage of pupils achieving Level 4+ in English declined by 1% to 79%. Outcomes are lower than the national figure (80%). East Sussex is ranked 9<sup>th</sup> of 11 of its statistical neighbours.

3.13 The percentage of pupils achieving Level 4+ in mathematics declined by 1% to 76%. Outcomes are lower than the national average figure (79%). East Sussex is ranked 9<sup>th</sup> of 11 of its statistical neighbours.

3.14 The proportion of higher attainers who reached level 5 in 2009 in East Sussex was the same as that nationally in English (28%) but 4% lower than the national result (34%) in mathematics.

3.15 The percentage of Looked After Children (LAC) achieving Level 4+ in English was 33% and 30% respectively. There were 27 children in the cohort.

3.16 The percentage of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) achieving Level 4+ in English and mathematics (NI 102a) decreased by 1% to 46%, in line with the national decrease of 1%. Outcomes are lower than the national figure (53%). The gap of 27% between FSM pupils and non-FSM pupils is wider than the national gap (22%). East Sussex is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> of 11 of its statistical neighbours.

Key Stage 4 (11 – 16 years) (See Appendices 5 and 6 of the report to the Cabinet for further information)

3.17 The percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A\*- C GCSE grades including English and mathematics (NI 75) increased by 5%, to 51%, compared to the national rise of 2%. This is the highest performance ever for East Sussex and is 1% above the national figure (50%). East Sussex is ranked 8<sup>th</sup> of 11 of its statistical neighbours.

3.18 The percentage of LAC achieving 5 or more A\*- C GCSE grades including English and mathematics (NI 101) declined by 3% to 4%. National and statistical neighbour comparison are not yet available.

3.19 The percentage of pupils eligible for FSM who achieved 5 or more A\*- C GCSE grades including English and mathematics (NI 102b) increased by 4% to 21%. compared to the national rise of 3%. Outcomes are lower than the national figure (27%). The gap between FSM and non FSM pupils has widened to 32%, greater than the national gap (27%). East Sussex is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> of 11 of its statistical neighbours.

3.20 The number of pupils achieving 5 or more A\*- C grades at GCSE or equivalent increased by 9% to 71% compared to the national rise of 5%. Outcomes are higher than the national figure (70%). This is the highest performance ever in East Sussex. East Sussex is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> of 11 of its statistical neighbours.

3.21 The number of schools where less than 30% of pupils achieved 5 or more grades at GCSE including English and mathematics (NI: 78) decreased from 4 to none. East Sussex is one of only two local authorities in England to achieve this target.

Key Stage 5 (16 – 19 years) (See Appendix 7 of the report to the Cabinet for more information)

3.22 The percentage of students achieving Level 2 (5 GCSEs at A\*- C or equivalent) by the age of 19 (NI 79) is projected to have increased by 1.2% to 74%. National data is not yet available.

3.23 The percentage of students achieving Level 3 (2.5 A Levels or equivalent) by the age of 19 (NI 80) is projected to have increased by 2% to 48%. National data is not directly comparable to East Sussex data as the

data bases are different. East Sussex is ranked 14<sup>th</sup> of 19 of local authorities in the South East.

3.24 The Cabinet has noted the summary data in relation to educational achievement in Foundation Stage and Key Stages 1 – 5 against national indicators, a commentary on outcomes and the strategies to secure improvement.

PETER JONES  
Chairman

27 April 2010

