

CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL
Early Help - Improving Outcomes for Children, Young People and Families – ACTION PLAN

17 March 2015

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	BY WHOM	TIME SCALE	BUDGET COST
<p>a) That the Local Authority, in consultation with partners (including schools) defines a more effective, and inclusive process for assessing school readiness - to be reported upon by the Supporting Communities Service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New model for Council delivery against school readiness agenda agreed • School Readiness Team established • New assessment process agreed with partners (inc. Health Visitors & Primary Schools) 	<p>Richard Horniman</p> <p>Gail Earl</p> <p>Gail Earl</p>	<p>Feb 2015</p> <p>Jun 2015</p> <p>Jul 2015</p>	<p>Re-alignment of existing budgets only (including Delivering Differently)</p>
<p>b) That specific outcomes pertaining to Early Help, and measured throughout 2015/16, be reported to the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing annual school readiness measure to be reported to C&L Scrutiny Panel • Data from new assessment process to be reported to C&L Scrutiny Panel once available 	<p>John Keelty</p> <p>John Keelty</p>	<p>Sep 2015</p> <p>Jan 2016</p>	<p>Re-alignment of existing budgets only (including Delivering Differently)</p>
<p>c) That the excellent work of, and approach taken by, the Stronger</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Stronger Families service to be developed around Troubled Families 	<p>Richard Horniman</p>	<p>Jun 2015</p>	<p>Re-alignment</p>

<p>Families Programme is commended and embedded within the service area, to ensure it is not wholly dependent upon fixed-term funding.</p>	<p>methodology</p>			<p>of existing budgets only</p>
<p>d) That an Overarching Information Sharing Protocol is devised that conveys agreed guidance for sharing personalised information between agencies. All partners to be asked to sign up to the protocol at the event referred to in recommendation i) – this includes the health service, the police, the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and schools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective information sharing protocol to be established and trialled 	<p>John Keelty</p>	<p>Jul 2015</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>e) With commissioning responsibility of children’s 0-5 public health services transferring to local authorities, that the Local Authority holds joint planning meetings with the health service to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully reinstate and review the process whereby children’s centres receive early notification of all local pregnancies i.e. midwives completing a form with the mother, at the booking appointment, which gives the children’s centre permission to contact the mother. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint planning meetings to be held with Public Health and existing 0-5 provider • Data sharing arrangement to be re-established • Breastfeeding initiative to be established through Community Hubs 	<p>Richard Horniman Edward Kunonga</p> <p>Gail Earl</p> <p>Gail Earl</p>	<p>Jun 2015</p> <p>Jul 2015</p> <p>Sep 2015</p>	<p>Re-alignment of existing budgets only (including Delivering Differently)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a breastfeeding initiative, like Blackpool's, to increase breastfeeding rates and promote the benefits to the baby - which go on into later life. The initiative should reach out to young mothers from disadvantaged areas, who are less likely to breastfeed. 				
<p>f) That all children's centres develop an effective outreach strategy, including measureable targets and outcomes that reflect OFSTED's framework for inspection, to draw in isolated and 'hard to reach' families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Outreach Strategy established within new operating model 	Gail Earl	Sep 2015	Re-alignment of existing budgets only (including Delivering Differently)
<p>g) That workforce development plans be further developed to ensure that everyone working with children and families, especially disadvantaged groups, receive appropriate training on language development, in addition to engaging and working with parents. The importance of language skills needs to be more actively promoted. This will ensure that every member of staff is equipped with:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Children's Workforce Development Framework to be expanded to include training around engaging with parents New Children's Workforce Development Framework to be expanded to include training around language development 	<p>Lisa Brett</p> <p>Lisa Brett</p>	<p>Jun 2015</p> <p>Jun 2015</p>	<p>Re-alignment of existing budgets only</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The knowledge and skills required to make an assessment of need. • Knowledge and understanding of children’s early language development and how to support it. 				
<p>h) That there is an increase in capacity with regards to early language and development specialists. The purpose being to enable the delivery of one-to-one intensive home-based outreach support to disadvantaged families - combining parenting skills, speech, language and communication skills, and play sessions. This outreach work will focus on the crucial importance of the early stages of child development and support will be planned and tailored to meet individual circumstances.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional early language and development activity to be built in to the School Readiness model 	Gail Earl	Sep 2015	Re-alignment of existing budgets + any external funding secured
<p>i) Alongside the partnership meetings already taking place - That the Local Authority organises an event, and the Mayor be invited to host, whereby all key partners – including schools, are invited. The purpose of the event being to specifically focus on:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help event to be held with partners 	Gail Earl	Sep 2015	Existing budgets only (including Delivering Differently)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussing how Early Help services can be improved and developed. • Signing up to the Overarching Information Sharing Protocol (see recommendation d) - The event will provide the most appropriate platform to convey that information sharing is essential to enable early intervention and preventative work, for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and families. • Discussing and agreeing new ways of working, referring to examples of local practice validated by the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes (C4EO). For example, Operation Encompass - a protocol whereby schools are informed of when a child or young person had been involved in a domestic incident, this allows for the provision of immediate early intervention support. 				
j) That the Local Authority continues to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help / Early Intervention 	Richard Horniman	Jun 2015	Re-

be committed to identifying problems early and intervening effectively in order to improve outcomes for children, young people and families.	principles to be embedded in entire service design for Supporting Communities			alignment of existing budgets only
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