

Children's Services Committee

Item No.

Report title:	Risk Management
Date of meeting:	16 October 2018
Responsible Chief Officer:	Sara Tough, Executive Director of Children's Services
Strategic impact One of the Children's Services Committee's roles is to consider the management of Children's Services risks. Assurance on the effectiveness of risk management and the Children's departmental risk register helps the Committee undertake some of its key responsibilities. Risk Management contributes to achieving departmental objectives, and is a key part of the performance management framework.	

Executive summary

This report provides the Committee with the Children's departmental risk register, as at October 2018, following the latest review conducted in September 2018. The reporting of risk is aligned with, and complements, the performance and financial reporting to the Committee.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to consider:

- a) **The corporate and departmental risks reported on the Children's Services departmental risk register, in the risk register report (Appendix A);**
- b) **whether the recommended mitigating actions identified in Appendix A for the risks presented are appropriate, or whether risk management improvement actions are required (as per Appendix B);**
- c) **The background information on risk management (Appendix C).**

1. Proposal

- 1.1 The recommendations for Members to consider are set out above.

2. Evidence

- 2.1. The Children's Services Committee risk data detailed in this report reflects those key business risks that are managed by the Children's Services Leadership Team, and Senior Management Teams of the services that report to the Committee including Early Help, Social Work, Education, and Performance and Challenge. Key business risks materialising could potentially result in a service failing to achieve one or more of its key objectives and/or suffer a financial loss or reputational damage. The Children's Services departmental risk register is regularly reviewed and updated in accordance with the Council's Risk Management Policy and Procedures.
- 2.2. The latest progress against the risks on the Children's Services departmental

risk register can be viewed in the context of the full risks at **Appendix A**. In summary:

- For **RM014a - The increasing demand for SEND assessments coupled with the amount spent on home to school transport at significant variance to predicted best estimates**, A Member/Officer deep dive within Children's Services took place in August 2018 to further explore the element of current strategic planning within the context of a commitment in principle to build 4 new special schools and 170 more specialist resource base places to increase special school capacity, reduce travel time and associated travel costs.
- For **RM14157 - Lack of Corporate capacity and capability reduces the ability of Children's Services to improve**, the data flowing from the new system is still somewhat limited in terms of reporting the reporting capability. The Intelligence & Analytics team are working to resolve this, with Children's Services closely monitoring progression with resolution.
- For **RM14148 - Over reliance on agency social workers**, there is a detailed action plan to reduce the reliance on agency workers, and if successful this will be within tolerance by July 2019, when we will only be using agency workers to cover maternity/paternity and sickness.
- For **RM13906 - Looked After Children overspends**, the plans to prevent the need to accommodate children and when accommodated to return them home when it is safe to do so are becoming established. We expect to see a decrease in numbers as these plans begin to have impact.

2.3. To assist Members with considering whether the recommended actions identified in this report are appropriate, or whether another course of action is required, a list of such possible actions, suggested prompts and challenges are presented for information in **Appendix B**.

2.4. A note of the criteria used to determine which risks sit at which level can be located at **Appendix C** of this report.

3. Financial Implications

3.1. The financial implications for the risks identified in this risk report relate to SEND transport spend and increasing demand for EHCP's, the increase in children becoming looked after and the cost of agency social workers versus the cost of a permanent children's social work workforce. These financial implications continue to be addressed and are noted within the risks.

4. Issues, risks and innovation

4.1. We are currently undertaking an exercise to identify and formally document any further service level risks not already recorded within the different services of the department. Going forward, these will be managed on service level risk registers.

5. Background

5.1. Background information regarding risk scoring, can be found in **Appendix C**.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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