

Children's Services Committee

Report title:	Risk Management
Date of meeting:	22 May 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 full Children's departmental risk register, as at May 2018, following the latest review conducted in April 2018. Future reports will present risks by exception. 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 full Children's Services departmental risk register (Appendix A);**
- b) **The reconciliation report (Appendix B);**
- c) **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 C);**
- d) **The background information on risk management (Appendix D).**

1. Proposal

- 1.1 The Children's Services Leadership Team (CSLT) continues to be engaged in the preparation of the Children's Services departmental level risk register.
- 1.2 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 risk register is regularly reviewed and updated in accordance with the Council's Risk Management Policy and Procedures.
- 2.2. At the September 2017 Audit Committee meeting a request was made that, in addition to the usual exception reporting, at least once per year for Members of each major Committee to have sight of all of the departmental level risks in detail. These risks are presented in **Appendix A**. A note of the criteria used to

determine which risks sit at which level can be located at Appendix D of this report.

A reconciliation of risk changes to all Children's Services corporate and departmental level risks since the January 2018 Children's Services Committee can be located in **Appendix B**.

- 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 C**.

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.

4. Issues, risks and innovation

- 4.1. Whilst there are no additional risks or issues arising from the areas already highlighted, there are a number of activities underway to address the financial implications associated to the identified risks.

5. Background

- 5.1. Background information regarding risk scoring, and definitions can be found in **Appendix D**.

Note 1:

The prospects of meeting target scores by the target dates reflect how well the risk owners consider that the mitigation tasks are controlling the risk. It is an early indication that additional resources and tasks or escalation may be required to ensure that the risk can meet the target score by the target date. The position is visually displayed for ease in the "Prospects of meeting the target score by the target date" column as follows:

- Green – the mitigation tasks are on schedule and the risk owner considers that the target score is achievable by the target date.
- Amber – one or more of the mitigation tasks are falling behind and there are some concerns that the target score may not be achievable by the target date unless the shortcomings are addressed.
- Red – significant mitigation tasks are falling behind and there are serious concerns that the target score will not be achieved by the target date and the shortcomings must be addressed and/or new tasks introduced.

Officer Contact

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

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