



Report to Audit and Governance Committee

Date: 27 January 2021

Title: Risk Management Group Update

Author and/or contact officer: Maggie Gibb (Head of Business Assurance (& Chief Internal Auditor))

Ward(s) affected: N/A

Recommendations: Members are recommended to **note** the report.

Reason for decision: N/A

Executive summary

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the Risk Management Group (RMG) meeting held on 7 December 2020.
- 1.2 The Council's Risk Management Framework and the Terms of Reference for the Risk Management Group were both approved by the Audit and Governance Committee in July 2020.

Content of report

- 1.3 The Corporate Director, Development Manager and Head of Finance for Children's Services attended the meeting to present the key risks which had been escalated to the Children's Services Senior Leadership Team in line with the Risk Escalation Framework.
- 1.4 The key risk themes in Children's Social Care were as follows:
 - **Ofsted Inspection / Improvement Plan:** Implement our improvement plan to improve outcomes for children and families whilst improving the Ofsted judgement.
 - **Recruitment & Retention:** Attract, retain, and develop competent and confident staff in business critical roles to ensure children receive the support they need and improve their outcomes.

- **Growth & Demand:** Manage the number of children and families requiring social care involvement to maintain manageable caseloads for social workers enabling them to effectively safeguard children.
- **Budget:** Take actions reduce the overspend in Children's Social Care at the required pace to control and contain spend to avoid additional pressure being placed on the service.

1.5 The key risk themes in Education were as follows:

- **Budget:** Take actions reduce the overspend in Education at the required pace to control and contain spend to avoid additional pressure being placed on the service.
- **Home to School Transport:** Implement the agreed changes to our Home to School Transport Offer to alleviate budgetary pressures, whilst supporting the objectives of the SEND reforms and empowering children and young people.
- **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Service:** Provide a SEND service in compliance with the objectives of the SEND reforms introduced in 2014 to improve outcomes for children.
- **SEND Placements:** Manage down demand for out of county SEND placements to alleviate budgetary pressure on the Dedicated Schools Grant and support young people to remain within their local community and close to their families providing them a good support network as they enter adulthood.

1.6 The Strategic and Covid-19 Risks Registers were presented, and it was noted that the risk information was largely similar to that presented to the previous RMG, with the exception of the addition of an EU Transition risk. All risks had been reviewed and updated by the relevant Corporate Director.

1.7 As reported to the previous RMG, the most significant risks relate to contracts/market failure, external financial pressures and safeguarding.

1.8 A further discussion was held regarding the risk "gap" (the difference between the current score and the target score), and the need to have robust actions in place to close the gap.

Other options considered

1.9 N/A

Legal and financial implications

1.10 None.

Corporate implications

1.11 None.



Consultation and communication

1.12 None.

Next steps and review

Next update to Audit and Governance Committee in March 2021

Background papers

