

## Children, Education & Families Directorate Risk Register

To:	CYP Committee
Meeting Date:	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
From:	Executive Director: Children, Education & Families (CEF)
Electoral division(s):	All
Key decision:	No
Forward Plan ref:	Not Applicable
Executive Summary:	An outline of the current key strategic risks across the Children, Education and Families (CEF) directorate.
Recommendation:	The Committee is recommended to note the current Directorate Risk Register.

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# 1. Creating a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire

## 1.1 Ambition 7 – Children and young people have opportunities to thrive

This report outlines the key areas of most risk within the Children, Education and Families directorate including what mitigating controls and actions are taking place to help manage these risks.

# 2. Background

2.1 It is a requirement to present a risk report to Committee twice a year. This report focuses on the strategic risks managed at a Directorate level by Children, Education and Families.

# 3. Main Issues

3.1 The Cambridgeshire County Council has a clear and approved Risk Management framework, policy and procedures which sets out the key aspects of identifying, assessing and mitigating risks for the Council. This includes:

- Risk scores are based upon their likelihood and their impact from a scale of 1-5 (5 being the highest level of concern) and multiplied to gain a risk score.
- The Council risk appetite score is set at 16, where all risks of 16 or above will be escalated for additional actions to help mitigate the risk further.
- Risk appetite is scored against five categories:
  - Legal & Regulatory
  - Financial
  - Service Provision
  - People and Transformation
  - Safeguarding

3.2 The current Children, Education and Families Directorate risk register can be found as Appendix 1. There are currently 9 risks, of these, 4 are rated red high risks and the remaining 5 are rated amber. The risk register is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure that key risks are monitored and responded too appropriately.

3.3 Since the last risk report presented in June 2023, the directorate risk register has been regularly reviewed and higher risks have been escalated accordingly for discussion and further action. The table below outlines the changes since June 2023:

<b>Risk No</b>	<b>Risk Score</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Update summary</b>
1	(16)	Unable to delivery statutory services within the financial allocation	The risk has been revised slightly and the risk score has remained the same. Additional actions have been introduced to further reduce this risk as much as possible.
2	(16)	Financial risks of non-delivery of the DfE Safety Valve Agreement for Cambridgeshire	Since June, this is a new risk which sets out the safety valve conditions and the mitigation controls in place.
3	(16)	Failure to meet statutory duty to provide sufficient education provision across Cambridgeshire within early years, schools & post 16 access to provision	This risk has been revised slightly and remains high due to the insufficiency of education provision in specific geographical areas and/or within age cohorts.
4	(16)	Services are unable to manage caseloads sufficiently within children, education and families due to the lack of appropriate workforce skills and capacity	Redevised risk to capture workforce capacity and resources. This risk has remained steady following an increase in permanent staff recruitment and retention and lowering agency usage, although recognise that caseloads in some teams remain too high.
5	(15)	Failure of the Council's arrangements to safeguard vulnerable children and young people	Risk score has reduced due to varying factors including the leadership team is now established and various changes to practice has been implemented to help make improvements.
6	(15)	Unable to meet the appropriate accommodation (placement) provision required for children and young people, particularly those with high and complex needs.	This risk has been redevised to capture the current lack of placement provision currently available. The risk has slightly increased recently and there are mitigating plans in place to further build in longer-term placement capacity and work with providers.
7	(15)	Inability to delivery within the financial allocation due to demand and cost pressures on education and social care transport	This risk has remained steady since last June 2023 and additional mitigating controls have been considered
8	(15)	Lack of capacity and threshold within the wider partner system is insufficient to protect children	Since June, this is a new risk to capture the demand and capacity on the wider partner system.
9	(12)	Organisational change within Children, Education and Families impacts on service delivery	Risk has reduced slightly to reflect the new leadership team is now established and the increase in recruitment of a permanent workforce. Although, recognise that additional changes and improvements are still occurring across the Directorate.

## 4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 This report sets out the current risks within the CEF Directorate and Committee are recommended to note the risk register.

## 6. Significant Implications

### 6.1 Finance Implications

- The risks sets out in Appendix 1 considers these implications as set out in the Council's risk management procedures

### 6.2 Legal Implications

- The risks sets out in Appendix 1 considers these implications as set out in the Council's risk management procedures

### 6.3 Risk Implications

- Please refer to Risk Register in Appendix 1

### 6.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

- There are no significant implications

### 6.5 Climate Change and Environment Implications (Key decisions only)

- There are no significant implications

## 7. Source Documents

- 7.1 None