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DATE: 3 June 2024

To: Members of the
**CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillor Kira Gabbert (Chairman)

Councillor Jonathan Andrews (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Graeme Casey, Josh Coldspring-White, Sophie Dunbar, Robert Evans,
Hannah Gray, Alexa Michael, Ryan Thomson and Rebecca Wiffen

Church Representatives with Voting Rights
Reverend Roger Bristow and Vacant

Parent Governor Members with Voting Rights
Shamilah Martin, Vacant and Vacant

Non-Voting Co-opted Members

Rosie White, Non-School Representative (Early Years)

Alice Kirby, Bromley Youth Council (Part 1 Only)

Tommy Velvick, Bromley Youth Council (Part 1 Only)

A meeting of the Children, Education and Families Policy Development and Scrutiny
Committee will be held at Bromley Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH
on **TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2024 AT 7.00 PM**

TASNIM SHAWKAT

Director of Corporate Services & Governance

**Paper copies of this agenda will not be provided at the meeting. Copies can
be printed off at <http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/>. Any member of the public
requiring a paper copy of the agenda may request one in advance of the
meeting by contacting the Clerk to the Committee, giving 24 hours notice
before the meeting.**

**Items marked for information only will not be debated unless a member of the
Committee requests a discussion be held, in which case please inform the
Clerk 24 hours in advance indicating the aspects of the information item you
wish to discuss**

A G E N D A

PART 1 (PUBLIC) AGENDA

Note for Members: Members are reminded that Officer contact details are shown on each report and Members are welcome to raise questions in advance of the meeting.

STANDARD ITEMS

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

2 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS (Pages 5 - 8)

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, members of the public may submit one question each on matters relating to the work of the Committee. Questions must have been received in writing 10 working days before the date of the meeting - by **5.00pm on Tuesday 28 May 2024.**

Questions seeking clarification of the details of a report on the agenda may be accepted within two working days of the normal publication date of the agenda – by **5.00pm on Wednesday 5 June 2024.**

a QUESTIONS FOR THE CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

b QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE

5 MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 MARCH 2024 (Pages 9 - 22)

6 MATTERS OUTSTANDING AND FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 23 - 28)

HOLDING THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER TO ACCOUNT

7 PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE

a CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO PLAN - 2023/24 Q4 UPDATE AND 2024/25 REFRESHED PLAN (Pages 29 - 90)

8 PRE DECISION SCRUTINY OF DECISIONS FOR THE CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

a PROVISIONAL OUTTURN REPORT 2023/24 (Pages 91 - 110)

- b **EDUCATION PLANNED MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2024/25** (Pages 111 - 116)
- c **EARLY INTERVENTION AND FAMILY SUPPORT ANNUAL UPDATE**
(Pages 117 - 144)

HOLDING THE EXECUTIVE TO ACCOUNT

9 PRE DECISION SCRUTINY OF EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- a **CONTINUATION OF JOINT FUNDING CHILDRENS COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES WITH THE SOUTH EAST LONDON INTEGRATED CARE BOARD**
(Pages 145 - 152)

10 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER ITEMS

- a **CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES RISK REGISTER - 2023/24 Q4 UPDATE** (Pages 153 - 160)
- b **PERFORMANCE REPORTING - CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY DATASET PART 1 (PUBLIC) REPORT** (Pages 161 - 168)
- c **CONTRACTS REGISTER PART 1 (PUBLIC) REPORT** (Pages 169 - 178)
- d **DEEP DIVE: FIRST DESTINATIONS OF 16- AND 18-YEAR-OLD SCHOOL LEAVERS, INCLUDING YOUNG PEOPLE EDUCATED AT HOME** (Pages 179 - 192)

PART 2 (CLOSED) AGENDA

11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006, AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

The Chairman to move that the Press and public be excluded during consideration of the items of business listed below as it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the Press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

Items of Business	Schedule 12A Description
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12 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER ITEMS PART 2 (EXEMPT)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a PERFORMANCE REPORTING - CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY DATASET PART 2 (EXEMPT) REPORT
(Pages 193 - 200) b CONTRACTS REGISTER PART 2 (EXEMPT) REPORT (Pages 201 - 208) | <p>Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)</p> <p>Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)</p> |
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Report No.
CSD24061

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 11 June 2024

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Contact Officer: Kerry Nicholls, Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 020 8461 7840 E-mail: kerry.nicholls@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Director of Corporate Services and Governance

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 Members are asked to confirm Co-opted Membership appointments to the Children, Education and Families PDS Committee for 2024/25.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 That the following Parent Governor Representative appointments be made to the Children, Education and Families PDS Committee for 2024/25 with voting rights:

- Ms Shamilah Martin, Special Schools Representative

- 2.2 That the following Church Representative appointments be made to the Children, Education and Families PDS Committee for 2024/25 with voting rights:

- Reverend Roger Bristow, Church of England Representative

- 2.3 That the following Co-opted Membership appointments be made to the Children, Education and Families PDS Committee for 2024/25 without voting rights:

- Alice Kirby, Bromley Youth Council Representative (Part 1 only)
- Tommy Velvick, Bromley Youth Council Representative (Part 1 only)
- Ms Rosie White, Early Years Representative

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

Summary of Impact: Any Co-opted Members appointed to the PDS Committee will give due consideration to the impact of the work of the Committee on vulnerable children and young people.

Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable:
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority:
(1) For children and young People to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable: There is a marginal cost attached to printing agendas and posting to co-opted Members.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £402k
 5. Source of funding: Revenue Budget
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 6 fte
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement: The Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001 require the election of a minimum of two and a maximum of five Parent Governors to any Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee. DfEE Circular 19/99 contains a specific direction of the Secretary of State under section 499 of the Education Act 1996 requiring local authorities in England to appoint representatives of the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church to their Committees dealing with education.
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: This report does not involve an Executive decision.
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: N/A
-

Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: N/A
-

Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: N/A
-

Impact on the Local Economy

1. Summary of Local Economy Implications: N/A
-

Impact on Health and Wellbeing

1. Summary of Health and Wellbeing Implications: N/A
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (current and projected): N/A
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
-

3. COMMENTARY

Co-opted Membership for 2024/25

- 3.1 Under the terms of DfES Circular 19/99 both the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church are entitled to representation on any Committee which exists to oversee and scrutinise the Executive's education decisions. Rev. Roger Bristow will represent the Church of England Rochester Diocesan Board of Education. There is currently a vacancy for the representative for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark Commission for Schools and Colleges.
- 3.2 Under the terms of the Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001, the Council must provide for the election of a minimum of two and a maximum of five Parent Governors to any Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Ms Shamilah Martin has been confirmed as the Parent Governor Representative for Special Schools. There are currently vacancies for the Parent Governor Representatives for Primary and Secondary Schools and further rounds of elections are undertaken on a regular basis to seek nominations.
- 3.3 The Committee has previously agreed to make additional Co-opted Membership appointments in the areas of Early Years (one Co-opted membership) and the Bromley Youth Council (two Co-opted memberships – Part 1 only) without voting rights. Ms Rosie White has been confirmed as the Early Years Representative and Alice Kirby and Tommy Velvick, existing Bromley Youth Council Representatives, have both been nominated to serve a further term.

Role of Co-opted Members

- 3.5 Co-opted Members bring their own area of interest and expertise to the work of a PDS Committee. Co-opted Members often represent the interests of key groups within a Portfolio and co-option to a committee can ensure that their views are taken into account on issues. They broaden the spectrum of involvement in the PDS process and make the intrusion of party politics into scrutiny proceedings more difficult.

Non-Applicable Headings:	Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children, Transformation/Policy/Financial/Personnel/Legal Procurement/Property/Carbon Reduction/Social Value Implications, Impact on the Local Economy/Health and Wellbeing and Customer, Ward Councillor Views
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Not Applicable

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CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 20 March 2024

Present:

Councillor Kira Gabbert (Chairman)
Councillor Jonathan Andrews (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Josh Coldspring-White, Sophie Dunbar,
Robert Evans, Alexa Michael, Chris Price and
Rebecca Wiffen

Shamilah Martin
Alice Kirby and Tommy Velvick

Also Present:

Councillor Kate Lymer, Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and
Families
Councillor Graeme Casey (observing)

55 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hannah Gray and Councillor Ryan Thomson and Councillor Josh Coldspring-White and Councillor Chris Price attended as their respective substitutes. Apologies for absence were also received from Councillor Colin Hitchins, Reverend Roger Bristow and Rosie White.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Alexa Michael.

56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Robert Evans declared that he was a Board Member of the Impact Multi-Academy Trust, which included Hawes Down Primary School.

Councillor Chris Price declared that he was on the Local Advisory Council of Midfield Primary School and a Governor of Riverside School.

Shamilah Martin declared that she was a Parent Governor of Glebe School.

57 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING

One question for oral reply was received at the meeting. A copy of this question, together with the Portfolio Holder's response, can be viewed as Appendix A to these minutes.

20 March 2024

58 MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 FEBRUARY 2024

In considering Minute 48a: CEF Portfolio Draft Budget 2024/25, a Member requested an update on the number of children and young people benefitting from travel training and this would be provided to the Committee following the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2024 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

**59 MATTERS OUTSTANDING AND FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
Report CSD24043**

The report set out progress against outstanding actions from previous meetings and the forward work programme of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

60 PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families provided an update to the Committee on her activities.

As Lead Member for Children, Education and Families, the Portfolio Holder continued to represent the Local Authority in a range of settings both locally and regionally. The Portfolio Holder had recently visited Hollybank Children's Short Break Service that had maintained its 'Good' rating following an Ofsted review in November 2023 and Members were encouraged to arrange their own visits to the service. Other activities included attending the annual Celebration of Achievement for Children Looked After and Care Leavers and accommodating a meeting of the 1st Hayes Rangers Group in the Council Chamber where the Mayoress had spoken about her experiences as a previous Mayor of Bromley and as a senior officer in the Metropolitan Police.

The Portfolio Holder introduced an additional briefing paper setting out a proposed new approach to the future delivery of Speech and Language services that would be considered at the meeting of the Council's Executive on 27 March 2024. The briefing paper asked the Council's Executive to approve £470k Dedicated Schools Grant funding to strengthen early identification and intervention for Speech and Language services in key local schools. This one-year pilot scheme was part of a wider transformation agenda that aimed to reduce escalation of need through early intervention, and it was anticipated that the impact of the new service would start to emerge within 6-9 months. A Member asked how this would affect other support options such as Pupil Resource Agreements and the Director of Children, Education and Families explained that the new approach would be delivered alongside the existing graduated support offer. A Member

welcomed the proposal as an invest-to-save measure but expressed concern around use of the Dedicated Schools Grant that was already in significant deficit. The Director of Children, Education and Families confirmed that the new approach would be robustly monitored and that this kind of service transformation would be critical to both service delivery and recovering the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit moving forward.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

**A CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO PLAN -
2023/24 Q3 UPDATE
Report CEF23073**

The report presented the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan Quarter 3 update for the 2023/24 financial year.

In response to a question from a Member, the Director of Education was pleased to report that 98.8% and 94% of children had secured a preference for their primary and secondary places respectively which was at or above regional and national comparators. A very small number of families did not secure a preference, and this was due to several factors including proximity or selecting only one preference. The Local Authority always met its sufficiency duty with regard to school places and where a family did not secure a preference, they would be allocated a place at another school with the vast majority of Bromley schools rated as 'Good' or above. A Member observed that 390 children were electively home educated in the Borough and the Director of Education explained that families had the right to determine if they wished to home educate their children. In such cases, the Local Authority met with families to ensure they understood the requirement for their child to receive a satisfactory education as well as to provide resources and guidance. Annual home monitoring visits were undertaken which increased in frequency if any concerns were identified and as a last resort, the Local Authority could utilise the School Attendance process to require a child who was not in receipt of a satisfactory education to be placed on a school roll.

A Member queried work underway to reduce the waits for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services with 155 total waits reported as of December 2023. The Director of Children Education and Families clarified that long waiting times for a particular treatment did not necessarily mean that service users were not receiving other interventions and treatments and all assessed service users were allocated a support worker. Another Member was pleased to note the eating disorders early intervention pilot was progressing well. The Member observed that the second element to the pilot was the delivery of the 'Me and My Body' and 'Happy Being Me' programmes to promote positive self-esteem/image in 3 Primary and 3 Secondary Schools and requested that an update be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

20 March 2024

RESOLVED: That progress on actions associated with the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan be noted.

61 PRE DECISION SCRUTINY OF DECISIONS FOR THE CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

The Committee considered the following Part 1 (Public) reports where the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Holder was recommended to take a decision:

**A BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24
Report CEF23076**

The report presented the budget monitoring position for the 2023/24 financial year which showed a projected overspend of £7,721,000 forecast on the controllable budget based on activity to 31 December 2023.

The Head of Children, Education and Families Finance outlined a number of factors contributing to the overspend including the demand for and costs of Children's Social Care placements and SEN Transport and additional staffing for Children's Social Care. The Director of Children Education and Families outlined work being undertaken to recruit permanent Children's Social Care staff including a planned overseas recruitment round and an increase in the number of training placements for Social Work students. Five agency staff had applied to become permanent staff following the 'Outstanding' Ofsted judgement and it was anticipated that more agency staff would seek to become permanent in the coming months. In February 2024, the Government had published its new vision to transform Children's Social Care, 'Stable Homes, Built on Love', which included the possibility of differently qualified staff taking caseloads and this would be explored moving forward.

The Chairman asked about future options for more cost-effective children's residential placements and was advised that the Government had indicated that a match-funding opportunity would be available for local authorities to build children's homes in partnership with other organisations. In the meantime, the Local Authority was actively seeking ways to deliver its own residential placements including a recent tender process to secure six block beds for which submissions were being evaluated. A Co-opted Member queried whether funding for children with special educational needs and disabilities was combined with that for young people requiring high placement costs for other reasons such as those at risk of child sexual or criminal exploitation. The Head of Children, Education and Families Finance explained that weekly panel meetings were held to consider individual high needs placements and this included how the education, social care and health costs of each placement would be attributed. Another Member asked about SEN Transport and was advised that two travel trainers were now in place to support young people in moving towards independence and that families were also being offered personal transport budgets in place of traditional SEN

Transport where appropriate which provided a more flexible transport offer that was lower cost for the Local Authority.

RESOLVED: That the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:

- 1) **Note the latest projected overspend of £7,721,000 forecast on the controllable budget based on information as at 31 December 2023; and,**
- 2) **Recommend the Council's Executive agree the release of funds from the Central Contingency as set out in Section 5 of Report CEF23076.**

**B CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING - QUARTER 3 2023/24
Report FSD24017**

The report presented the capital monitoring position for Quarter 3 of the 2023/24 financial year and the revised capital programme for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28.

The Chairman asked about £300k rephased to the 2024/25 financial year for the capital maintenance in schools programme and was advised that this was related to the rephasing of some capital schemes.

RESOLVED: That the Portfolio Holder be recommended to note the current position in respect of capital expenditure and receipts following Quarter 3 of the 2023/24 financial year and the revised capital programme for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28 agreed by the Council's Executive on 7 February 2024.

**C EXTENSION OF EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGY SUPPORT
CONTRACT
Report CEF23081**

The report requested that an available six-month extension for the provision of Education Psychology support be agreed. The existing contract for the delivery of this service was due to end on 17 April 2024 and the six-month extension period would allow time for an options appraisal to be undertaken to determine the longer-term requirements and procurement options for this service.

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Principal Educational Psychologist advised that there were 13.1 full time equivalent Educational Psychologist posts within the service with nine qualified Educational Psychologists currently employed. The Local Authority did not employ Education Psychology Assistants as these staff were unable to provide Education Health and Care advice which was the major pressure in the service. A Member asked why recruitment in this area was so challenging for local authorities and the Principal Educational Psychologist explained that

agencies offered more flexible working via an attractive day rate of pay as well as virtual roles, whilst Local Authority staff were required to conduct in-person visits. The Member suggested that the Local Authority review how agencies operated in considering its own future service model and the Principal Educational Psychologist confirmed that all options would be considered.

RESOLVED: That the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:

- 1) Agree the available six-month extension to the Education Psychology contract with Sanctuary Personnel Limited at an estimated value of £170k for the period 18 April to 30 September 2024; and,**
- 2) Note the intent to set out a further Gateway report for decision on the longer-term arrangements for Education Psychology provision as set out in Paragraphs 3.10 and 3.11 to Report CEF23081.**

62 PRE DECISION SCRUTINY OF EXECUTIVE REPORTS

The Committee considered the following report on the Part 1 (Public) agenda for the meeting of the Council's Executive on 27 March 2024:

A BASIC NEED UPDATE REPORT Report CEF23077

The report provided an update on funding and the capital schemes included within the Council's Basic Need Programme.

The Head of Sufficiency advised that since publication of the report, the Local Authority had been notified that a bid to SALIX for a £500k Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme grant for the Former Marjorie McClure School had been successful and would enable the replacement of the existing boilers at the site with low carbon air source heat pumps.

RESOLVED: That the Council's Executive be recommended to:

- 1) Agree the updated Basic Need Programme as set out in Appendix 3 to Report CEF23077, subject to Full Council approval;**
- 2) Agree that new projects at Bromley Beacon Academy (Orpington), Hawes Down Primary School, The Glebe, the former Marjorie McClure school site, and Midfield Primary School be added to the Basic Need Programme as detailed in the scheme appraisals in Appendix 1 to Report CEF23077;**
- 3) Agree that schemes to deliver additional primary places at Scotts Park Primary School and St Marys Cray Primary be removed from the Basic Need Programme as these schemes have been on hold**

for several years and there is currently no projected need for additional places at either of these schools;

- 4) Agree the allocation of an additional £177,726 of additional S106 allocations to projects within the Basic Need Capital Programme as outlined in Appendix 2 to Report CEF23077;**
- 5) Note that a further High Needs Capital Provision allocation for 2024/25 for which an estimation of value has been included within Report CEF23077; and,**
- 6) Note that schemes within the Basic Need Programme will be delivered in line with the previously agreed procurement strategy. Awards of contract for schemes within the programme will be delivered in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and, in some instances, grant will be allocated to schools for school-led delivery.**

63 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER ITEMS

A BROMLEY YOUTH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT Report CEF23079

The Committee heard a presentation from Alice Kirby and Tommy Velvick, Bromley Youth Council Representatives on the work of the Bromley Youth Council. This included the delivery of the 2023/24 Youth Council Manifesto Campaign Objectives of Drug Awareness and Youth Mental Health: Managing Stress and Anxiety, as well as other activities such as a tour of the Borough's youth clubs, the Inspired Youth Conference and participation in the British Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament.

In considering the Campaign Objective around Drug Awareness, a Member was concerned to note that some young people felt apprehensive about calling the Emergency Services in relation to drugs issues. Tommy Velvick was pleased to advise that the Bromley Youth Council had directly addressed this concern in its well-received short stop motion video by encouraging children and young people to report drug selling to Trading Standards or the Police. Another Member asked about the Youth Mental Health Campaign Objective and Alice Kirby explained that Bromley Youth Council had hosted a highly successful event for children's mental health week in the Glades Shopping Centre including a programme of activities for children and young people. Youth Councillors and other young people in Bromley had also worked to produce a mental health magazine with content ranging from articles to investigative journalism, quizzes and artwork. Whilst primarily a digital magazine, a limited number of paper copies were being printed for Bromley schools and youth clubs and the QR code would be provided to Members when available for transmission across their networks.

20 March 2024

The Chairman led the Committee in thanking Tommy Velvick and Alice Kirby for their excellent presentation and commended the Bromley Youth Council for its work during 2023/24.

RESOLVED: That progress made towards delivering the actions identified in the Bromley Youth Council 2023/24 Campaigns Work Plan be noted.

B BROMLEY VIRTUAL SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23: 'A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH TO TEACHING VULNERABLE CHILDREN INCLUDING THOSE IN OUR CARE' Report CEF23080

The report presented the annual update on the performance of the Virtual School for children in care and children previously in care, currently adopted or cared for under a Special Guardianship Order.

The Chairman asked the Virtual Head Teacher to share three highlights of the year. The Virtual Head Teacher outlined work undertaken to bring together children's services and schools to promote the education of children with a social worker and children in kinship care arrangements that had delivered improved outcomes for children facing additional barriers in education. Other highlights of the year included the recognition of the work of the Virtual School in the report of the 'Outstanding' Ofsted judgement and the expansion of the Virtual School's highly respected training offer to local, regional and national groups of professionals.

RESOLVED: That progress made towards delivering the actions identified in the Corporate Parenting Strategy be noted.

C EDUCATION OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN IN BROMLEY SCHOOLS 2022/23 Report CEF23078

The report summarised the education outcomes for children in Bromley schools for the 2022/23 academic year, including comparisons with national and regional data where available.

The Vice-Chairman welcomed many areas in which Bromley was outperforming the national average but queried the trajectory of performance in the percentage of pupils receiving a good level of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage and the Attainment 8 score of Key Stage 4 pupils, although performance for both indicators remained above the national average. The Head of Educational Effectiveness explained the significant impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on education outcomes across a number of areas. Work was ongoing to support Bromley schools to maintain and improve performance across affected areas and this including the provision of rigorous school improvement resources and targeted support,

including language skills at the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.

In response to a question from a Member, the Head of Educational Effectiveness explained that the criteria for defining a child or young person as disadvantaged was based on several factors including whether a child received pupil premium (which was based on their eligibility for benefit-based free school meals) and whether they were looked after or formerly looked after children. A comprehensive inclusion dashboard was being developed to add further context to existing data around disadvantaged pupils and a Member suggested that best practice be sought from local authorities that had successfully narrowed the disadvantage gap. Whilst the vast majority of Bromley schools were academies for which the Local Authority had limited oversight, a highly regarded programme of workshops was offered to schools including sessions with national leading experts and school leaders who had successfully narrowed the attainment gap. The Chairman was also concerned to note the gender gap in the Early Years and Key Stage 1 stages and further details would be provided to the Committee following the meeting.

Another Member asked about the destinations of Bromley school leavers, including those that were identified as being 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET). The Director of Education advised that the Local Authority did not hold information on the destinations of Bromley school leavers but that the Bromley Youth Support Programme undertook a range of work with young people identified as being NEET including supporting them to engage with Information, Advice and Guidance services and other opportunities.

RESOLVED: That the education outcomes for children in Bromley schools for the 2022/23 academic year be noted.

**D CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES RISK REGISTER -
2023/24 Q3 UPDATE
Report CEF23075**

The report set out the Children, Education and Families Risk Register update for Quarter 3 of the 2023/24 financial year.

RESOLVED: That the current Children, Education and Families Risk Register and the existing controls in place in mitigate the risks be noted.

**E PERFORMANCE REPORTING - CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY
DATASET PART 1 (PUBLIC) REPORT
Report CEF23074A**

The report presented a regular update on the performance of services for children across a suite of performance measures.

The Vice-Chairman queried the Amber rating in performance for the number of Education, Health and Care Plans issued within the statutory 20-week

timescale. The Head of Service Strategy and Performance (Children and Education) advised that high levels of demand had resulted in a dip in performance at the end of the 2023 calendar year but that there was improved performance for the 2024 calendar year to date with 67% and 100% of EHC Plans issued within statutory timescales for January and February 2024 respectively. In response to a question from the Chairman regarding an increase in average caseloads in Children's Social Care at the end of the 2023 calendar year, the Assistant Director: Children's Social Care explained that referrals tended to increase in the run-up to school holiday periods as schools raised concerns about children that would be out of their care and children and young people disclosed issues to trusted parties.

RESOLVED: That the December 2023 outturn of key performance indicators and associated management commentary be noted.

**F CONTRACT REGISTER PART 1 (PUBLIC) REPORT
Report CEF23083A**

The report set out the Contract Register for the Children, Education and Families Portfolio.

The Commissioning Support Officer advised that this report was based on data as at 15 January 2024 and that as of the current date, there were no contracts flagged as a concern.

RESOLVED: That Members' comments on the Contracts Register as at 15 January 2024 be noted.

**64 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION)
(VARIATION) ORDER 2006, AND THE FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT 2000**

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the items of business listed below as it was likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

**The following summaries
refer to matters involving exempt information**

**65 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN, EDUCATION &
FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 FEBRUARY
2024**

The Part 2 (Exempt) minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2024 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**66 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER ITEMS PART 2
(EXEMPT)**

**A PERFORMANCE REPORTING - CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY
DATASET PART 2 (EXEMPT) REPORT**

The report set out Part 2 (Exempt) aspects of performance reporting against the Children's Scrutiny Dataset.

B CONTRACT REGISTER PART 2 (EXEMPT) REPORT

The report set out Part 2 (Exempt) aspects of the Contract Register for the Children, Education and Families Portfolio.

The Meeting ended at 9.04 pm

Chairman

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**CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE
20 MARCH 2024**

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

1. From Debra Rose, Local Resident

Following the LGSCO ruling in 2022, Bromley agreed, "Within three months of my final decision the Council will review its alternative provision policy / procedure to ensure it promptly secures alternative provision for children who don't have access to full-time education at school." Which specific changes did Bromley make?

Reply:

The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman decision required the Council to review its policy and procedures in relation to accessing its alternative provision. Officers carried out a review of the Council's policy and found this to be suitable and appropriate. Some internal procedures were revised in relation to the officer decision functions designed to improve the speed of the ARP procurement process. The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman wrote to the Council on 31 October 2022 confirming that the remedial actions were satisfactorily completed.

Supplementary Question:

So how is it that in two subsequent rulings with exactly the same stock ruling on failure to provide statutory alternative provision, one that was given on 5 October 2023 and the other one was given on 14 November 2023 with exactly the same issues towards Bromley's lack of provision of alternative provision?

Reply:

Officers always seek to work in partnership with families to put in place suitable alternative provision where a child is unable to attend school. The Council has sought to review its arrangements for putting alternative provision in place including an Education Otherwise than at School (EOTAS) package and access to alternative resources and provisions but this remains an area of challenge. The Local Authority is aware of all Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman rulings and has taken all required actions.

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Report No.
CSD24072

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: CHILDREN EDUCATION AND FAMILIES POLICY
DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 11 June 2024

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: MATTERS OUTSTANDING AND FORWARD WORK
PROGRAMME

Contact Officer: Kerry Nicholls, Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 020 8461 7840 E-mail: Kerry.Nicholls@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Director of Corporate Services and Governance

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for decision/report and options

1.1 This report deals with the Committee's business management including:

- Monitoring progress against actions arising from previous meetings; and
- Developing the Committee's Forward Work Programme.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 **That the Committee:**

1. **Reviews progress on matters arising from previous meetings;**
2. **Reviews the Committee's Forward Work Programme, indicating any changes or particular issues that it wishes to scrutinise for the year ahead; and,**
3. **Reconstitutes and agrees the membership of the School Place Planning Working Group for the 2024/25 municipal year, including the appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.**

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: None
-

Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority (delete as appropriate): Not Applicable
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £402k
 5. Source of funding: Revenue Budget
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 6
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: Non-Executive reports are not subject to call-in
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
-

Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: Not Applicable
-

Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: Not Applicable
-

Impact on the Local Economy

1. Summary of Local Economy Implications: Not Applicable
-

Impact on Health and Wellbeing

1. Summary of Health and Wellbeing Implications: Not Applicable
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (current and projected): This report is intended primarily for the benefit of Committee Members.
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

3. COMMENTARY

Matters Outstanding from Previous Meetings

- 3.1. **Appendix 1** provides a progress update on requests made by the Committee at previous meetings. This list is checked after each meeting so that any outstanding issues can be addressed at an early stage and timely progress made.

Work Programme

- 3.2 Each PDS Committee determines its own work programme, balancing the roles of (i) pre-decision scrutiny and holding the Executive to account, (ii) policy development and review and (iii) external scrutiny. ERC PDS Committee has the additional role of providing a lead on scrutiny issues and co-ordinating PDS work.
- 3.3 PDS Committees need to prioritise their key issues. The work programme also needs to allow room for items that arise through the year, including Member requests, call-ins and referrals from other Committees. Committees need to ensure that their workloads are realistic and balanced, allowing sufficient time for important issues to be properly scrutinised. Members also need to consider the most appropriate means to pursue each issue – the current overview and scrutiny arrangements offer a variety of approaches, whether through a report to a meeting, a time-limited working group review, a presentation, a select committee style meeting focused on a single key issue, or another method.
- 3.4 The Committee may wish to consider establishing Task and Finish Groups for specific focused policy development work.
- 3.5 **Appendix 2** sets out the Education, Children and Families PDS Committee Work Programme for 2023/24. The Committee is invited to comment on the proposed schedule and suggest any changes it considers appropriate. Additional reports will be added to the Forward Work Programme as items arise.

School Place Planning Working Group

- 3.1 The Committee is also recommended to reconstitute the School Place Planning Working Group for the 2023/24 municipal year and appoint Members to serve on the Working Group as well as appoint the Chairman and Vice-Chairman from the serving Members. The purpose of the School Places Working Group is to meet annually to review the need for school places in order to advise the Council how it can best meet its statutory duties under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996. The Working Group reviews information about the need for school places in Bromley and the draft school places plan and makes recommendations to the Children, Education and Families PDS Committee about future commissioning arrangements for school places.

Non-Applicable Headings:	Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children, Transformation/Policy/Financial/Personnel/Legal/Procurement/Property/Carbon Reduction/Social Value Implications, Impact on the Local Economy/Health and Wellbeing/Customer Impact, Ward Councillor Views
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Minutes of previous meetings

MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minute Number/ Title/ Date	Action/PDS Request	Update	Action by	Expected Completion Date
58: Minutes of the Previous Meeting (20 March 2024)	Further details of the number of children and young people benefitting from travel training to be provided to the Committee.	This information was provided.	Clerk	Completed.
60A: CEF Portfolio Plan Update (20 March 2024)	An update on the delivery of the eating disorders early intervention pilot, including the 'me and my body' and the 'happy being me' programmes to be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.	Added to work programme as a 'To be scheduled' item. Further information was also provided to the Committee following the meeting.	Senior Commissioning Manager for Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing	Completed.
63a: Bromley Youth Council Annual Report (20 March 2024)	The QR code for the BYC Mental Health Magazine to be provided to the Committee for transmission across their networks.	To be provided when available.	Youth Support Programme Manager	Summer 2024
63c: Education Outcomes for Bromley Schools (20 March 2024)	Further details on the gender gap in the Early Years and Key Stage 1 stages to be provided to the Committee.	This information was provided.	Head of Educational Effectiveness	Completed.

CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

Children, Education & Families PDS Committee		September 2024
Item		Status
Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan Update		Holding PH to Account
Budget Monitoring 2024/25		PH Decision
Capital Programme Monitoring 2024/25 Q1		PH Decision
School Place Planning Report		PH Decision
Award of Contract for Capital Works at the former Marjorie McClure school site.		PH Decision
Award of Contract at Red Hill Primary School Report		Exec Decision
Gateway 0 - Commissioning Strategy for Transport Services Prior to Proceeding to Procurement (Joint Item with ACH)		Exec Decision
Performance Management 2024/25 (Part 1 and Part 2)		PDS Item
Adoption Update Annual Report		PDS Item
Private Fostering Annual Report		PDS Item
Corporate Parenting Annual Report		PDS Item
Risk Register		PDS Item
Spending on Primary, Secondary and Special Schools 2022/23	Annual Report	PDS Item
0-25 Service Update (Joint Item with ACH)	Annual Report	PDS Item
Deep Dive: Elective Home Education Policies and Procedures		PDS Item
Children, Education & Families PDS Committee		November 2024
Item		Status
Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan Update		Holding PH to Account
Budget Monitoring 2024/25		PH Decision
Capital Programme Monitoring 2024/25 Q2		PH Decision
Performance Management 2024/25 (Part 1 and Part 2)		PDS Item
Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2022/23	Annual Report	PDS Item
Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report	Annual Report	PDS Item
Local Authority Designated Officer Annual Report	Annual Report	PDS Item
Youth Justice Service Annual Update	Annual Report	PDS Item
Annual CEF Compliments & Complaints Report	Annual Report	PDS Item
Risk Register		PDS Item
Contracts Register and Database (Parts 1 and 2)		PDS Item
Deep Dive: To be Confirmed		PDS Item

Children, Education & Families PDS Committee		February 2025
Item		Status
Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan Update		Holding PH to Account
2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant	Annual Report	PH Decision
Performance Management 2024/25 (Part 1 and Part 2)		PDS Item
Risk Register		PDS Item
CEF Draft Portfolio Budget 2025/26	Annual Report	PDS Item
Contracts Register and Database (Parts 1 and 2)		PDS Item
Deep Dive: To be Confirmed		PDS Item
Children, Education & Families PDS Committee		March 2025
Item		Status
Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan Update		Holding PH to Account
Budget Monitoring		PH Decision
Capital Programme Monitoring 2024/25 Q3		PH Decision
Basic Need Capital Programme Update		Exec Decision
Virtual School Annual Report	Annual Report	PDS Item
Performance Management 2024/25 (Part 1 and Part 2)		PDS Item
Education Outcomes	Annual Report	PDS Item
Bromley Youth Council End of Year Report	Annual Report	PDS Item
Risk Register		PDS Item
Contracts Register and Database (Parts 1 and 2)		PDS Item
Deep Dive: To be Confirmed		PDS Item
Children, Education & Families PDS Committee		To be programmed
Item		Status
Eating Disorders Early Intervention Pilot Update		PDS Item

Report No.
CEF23091

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES POLICY
DEVELOPMENT AND SCUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 11 June 2024

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO PLAN –
2023/24 Q4 UPDATE AND 2024/25 REFRESHED PLAN

Contact Officers: Clare O'Reilly, Head of Service: Children's Social Care and Education -
Strategy, Performance and Corporate Transformation Division

Chief Officer: Richard Baldwin, Director of Children's Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report presents the Children, Education and Families Policy, Development and Scrutiny Committee with a Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan 2023-24 Quarter 4 update - Appendix 1
- 1.2 Appendix 2 also presents a draft 2024-25 Porfolio Plan for comment.
-

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note progress on the actions associated with the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan – Appendix 2.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact:
-

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Excellent Council Safe Bromley Healthy Bromley
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Education, Children and Families Portfolio
 4. Total current budget for this head: £
 5. Source of funding:
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional):
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: No Executive decision.
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications:
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All vulnerable children and young people within Bromley
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan focuses on delivering the longer-term strategic priorities for children and families in Bromley and has been refreshed in line with the Council's Transformation Programme and the Corporate Strategy, Making Bromley Even Better.
- 3.2 The Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan focusses on five priority outcomes:
- Safeguarding
 - Affordable, Decent and Secure Homes
 - Life chances, resilience and wellbeing
 - Supporting and challenging effective multi-agency working
 - Ensuring efficiency and effectiveness
- 3.2 Within each priority are a number of statements which are underpinned by actions and measures of success within the work of Children's Services and other departments which impact on children and families.
- 3.3 Progress is noted in the Quarter 4 update in Appendix 2 against the actions and measures of success within the Portfolio Plan.
- 3.4 A draft 2024/25 plan is presented to Members for comment.

4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

- 4.1 Examination of performance by elected members holding scrutiny roles is part of a broader performance management framework which supports improvement of services delivered to children, including those vulnerable to poorer outcomes.

5. TRANSFORMATION/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The monitoring of key performance measures is part of the performance management framework developed to ensure that there is strong leadership and management oversight of children's services in Bromley.

6. CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 6.1 A Children's Performance Management Framework agreed in 2018 and updated in 2020, stipulates that the Children's PDS Committee should receive a regular updates ton the Portfolio Holder Plan in respect of children's services. Reports should enable Members to '*ask challenging questions about areas of underperformance and make recommendations accordingly to the Executive*'.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Financial/Personnel/Legal/Procurement/Property/Carbon Reduction and Social Value Implications and Ward Councillor Views
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Portfolio Holder Plan 2023/24

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Priority 1 Safeguarding

Our Ambitions:

The priority aligns to the following *Building a Better Bromley* ambitions:

- For children to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
- For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence, and making choices.

Strategic links:

This priority has links with the following strategic plans:

- ✓ The Roadmap to Excellence
- ✓ Looked After Children Strategy
- ✓ Care Leavers Strategy
- ✓ SEND Strategy
- ✓ Children and Young People's Plan

What are we going to do?

ACTION	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD	UPDATES	Update Status
1. Continue to improve our children's safeguarding practice in Bromley, embedding the statutory safeguarding partnership and strengthening our focus on non-familial (contextual) safeguarding risks,	a) Carry out an annual Strategic Threat Assessment including considering issues of disproportionality, community alienation and isolation.	Strategic Threat Assessments circulated to all partners	April 2024	Independent Chair of Bromley Safeguarding Children's Partnership (BSCP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five Strategic Threat Assessments published to date. 	Completed
	b) The Safeguarding Partnership challenges partners' safeguarding practices	Challenge Log referenced in BSCP annual report; Escalations recorded in case notes; Children's Safeguarding Scrutiny Board and InterChairs Board merged in 2023	April 2024 (AP)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge Log Updated • InterChairs Partnership Board taking place every 6 months. • Multi agency audit of serious youth violence/extra familial harm completed in 2023. Learning event held. 	Completed Completed Completed

<p>including children going missing, children missing education, child sexual and criminal exploitation, and gang affiliation.</p>	<p>c) Bromley Safeguarding Partnership commission a comprehensive training programme</p>	<p>Training evaluation included in BSCP annual report</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Independent Chair of Bromley Safeguarding Children's Partnership (BSCP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training evaluation was published in annual report 2022-23. • New training programme procurement for 2022-25 complete. • Multi-agency BSCP Training Subgroup monitors quality and impact of training. 	<p>Completed</p>
	<p>d) Children and Family Act 2014 Assessments carried out promptly Protect Vulnerable adolescents, especially those vulnerable to child sexual exploitation (CSE), child criminal exploitation (CCE), modern-day slavery</p>	<p>i) Timeliness of assessments; Child seen during assessment</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director, Children's Social Care, Safeguarding & Care Planning Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High performance is still being achieved with 94% of assessments completed within timeframe and the majority of children seen (97%) during the assessment. 	<p>In Progress</p>

Priority 2 Affordable, decent, and secure homes

Our Ambitions:

The priority aligns to the following *Building a Better Bromley* ambitions:

- For children to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
- For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence, and making choices.
- For people to make their homes in Bromley and for business, enterprise and the third sector to prosper.
- To manage our resources well, individually, and collectively, providing efficient and effective services and excellent value for money for Bromley's residents.

Strategic links:

This priority has links with the following strategic plans:

- ✓ Children and Young People's Plan
- ✓ The Roadmap to Excellence
- ✓ Housing Strategy
- ✓ Homelessness Strategy
- ✓ Corporate Parenting Strategy
- ✓ Care Leavers Strategy

What are we going to do?

ACTION	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD	UPDATES	Update Status
1. Maintain a relentless focus on improving outcomes for Bromley's looked after children and care leavers. In order to meet the pledge, the Council has made to these young people, we will continue to develop our partnerships across the	a) Ensure sufficiency of good quality placements for Children Looked After and accommodation for Care Leavers	Effective sufficiency strategy implemented	April 2024 (AP)	Director Children Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLA Sufficiency Strategy 2022-2024 was signed off by members November 2022. • An associated action plan has been drafted in-order-to monitor our performance in relation to the strategy. This action plan is updated every quarter. • Bromley are also signed up to the Commissioning Alliance as a commissioning platform who offer a Quality Assurance framework and support for all providers. • Work is on-going to develop local residential provision along with investigating the possibility and potential benefits of block booking beds in the semi-independent (SI) market. 	Completed
						In Progress
						In Progress
						In Progress

<p>Council, NHS, DWP and housing providers to: increase the choice of high quality placements; improve our education offer; help young people maintain good health and wellbeing; and increase housing and employment opportunities.</p>	<p>b) Improve education, employment and training outcomes.</p>	<p>Successful Delivery of Care Leavers EET Strategy</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director Children's Social Care, Safeguarding & Care Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New ETE improvement board to engage with strategic partners and local businesses and create an employability skills fair in July 2024 in partnership with London South-East Colleges to show case local industries and match young people with work experience, shadowing and apprenticeship roles. • Seek going support for GLA funding enabled us to commission Drive Forward careers specialist mentoring for care experienced people which began in January 2024. • Ongoing support for care leaver apprenticeship role in Active Involvement team which we successfully recruited to in October 2023. 	<p>In Progress</p>
			<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>			<p>In Progress</p>
			<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>			<p>In Progress</p>
	<p>c) Ensuring easy access to Bromley health services where every child has a named specialist nurse, has their health plan regularly reviewed and has regular health-related checks and immunisations</p>	<p>Good performance in regard to annual health checks, immunisation and dental checks.</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director Children's Social Care, Safeguarding & Care Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good performance in regard to annual health checks, immunisation and dental checks. • Continued ICB funding for a Mental Health practitioner role within Leaving Care Team (LCT) to provide assertive outreach and clinical support to care experienced young adults. 	<p>In Progress</p>
			<p>May 2024</p>			<p>In Progress</p>
			<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>			<p>In Progress</p>
	<p>Embed THRIVE (mental health) provision to ensure access is available for all children in need, and carers in need of support.</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Asistant Director Specialist Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The THRIVE Team provides therapeutic intervention and support to any child or young person (and carers) known to Bromley Children's Services who, for whatever reason do not live with their birth parents. This includes adopted children, children looked-after and children cared for by special guardians or connected persons. 	<p>In Progress</p>	

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service has a dedicated worker who works in conjunction with CAHMS to provide therapeutic services to children looked after. • Therapeutic sessions are also undertaken with the children and their carers'. The work includes therapeutic life journey, which supports young people and the carers to consolidate the experiences of the child's emotional care journey. • The work undertaken by THRIVE with children and their carers, prevents placement breakdown and enable children and their care-givers to develop positive strategies to help regulate emotions, pre-empt dysregulated behaviours and develop pro-social responses to manage difficult feelings. 	Completed
						In Progress
	d) Further develop the local offer for care leavers	Care leavers will receive improved assessment, support, and services and each will have their own advisor; local offer reviewed regularly	August 2024	Assistant Director Children's Social Care, Safeguarding & Care Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed transition process for young people aged 16 and 17 being introduced to their Young Persons Advisor (YPA) to promote joint working and support smooth transition to Leaving Care Services. • Varied programme of group work throughout the year to support young parents, young people transitioning to their own tenancy, young people preparing to move to a YPA, young people who are NETE. • Creative summer programme successfully delivered in partnership with charitable partners to offer opportunities within film, photography, and music. • Roll out of free prescriptions and Transport for London (TFL) discounts to care leavers in conjunction with strategic partners. 	In Progress
						In Progress
						In Progress
						In Progress

Priority 3 Life chances, resilience, and wellbeing

Our Ambitions:

The priority aligns to the following *Building a Better Bromley* ambitions:

- For children to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
- For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence, and making choices.
- To manage our resources well, individually, and collectively, providing efficient and effective services and excellent value for money for Bromley's residents.

Strategic links:

This priority has links with the following strategic plans:

- ✓ Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- ✓ Children and Young People's Plan
- ✓ Childcare Sufficiency: Annual Report
- ✓ School Place Planning Strategy
- ✓ Adult Education Community Learning Strategy
- ✓ Education Outcomes for Children in Bromley Schools: Annual Report

What are we going to do?

ACTION	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD	UPDATES	Update Status
1. Support the local childcare and early education market to maintain high standards and a good level of choice for parents, promoting inclusion and school readiness as well as monitoring those children who are educated at home.	a)	Promote educational inclusion for all. Continue to provide high quality and timely information through a range of sources to support families.	April 2024 (AP)	Director Education	• Early years directory published annually and updated weekly.	In Progress
					• Bromley Education Matters continues to be updated regularly and is accessible to schools, colleges and early years settings.	In Progress
					• School Circular is issued fortnightly.	In Progress

	<p>b) Work with local early years settings and childminders to increase the number of Early Years places provided for vulnerable children and those with SEN.</p>	<p>Capacity to enable 30 hours of funded childcare; Take-up of funded 2yr old places; % Childminders / Early Years Settings rated good or outstanding; Take up of Disability Access Fund.</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Director Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 31 March 2024, there were 422 (74%) of eligible children accessing 2-year-old funded places (National benchmark 72%). 98.35% of early years settings in Bromley that have been inspected are rated as Good or Outstanding (National benchmark 96%). As of 31 March 2024 DAF funding has been paid out for a total of 53 children in early years settings during the 2023/24 academic year. <p>Training summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One 'Leaders and Managers' Forum One Childminder Quality Forum One Story telling session <p>Participation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 Settings 35 Practitioners 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p>
	<p>c) Promote school readiness through the provision of training, targeted at Bromley early years providers, that contribute to the promotion of school readiness in pre-school children.</p>	<p>Number of training courses that have taken place.</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>		<p>Training summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One 'Leaders and Managers' Forum One Childminder Quality Forum One Story telling session 	<p>In Progress</p>
	<p>d) Work with parents choosing to electively home educate their child to fulfil their legal obligations to provide a satisfactory education. Further embed monitoring arrangements.</p>	<p>Number of settings represented, and practitioners participated.</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>		<p>Participation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 Settings 35 Practitioners 	<p>In Progress</p>
		<p>Contact and monitoring arrangements for electively home educated children</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 480 children electively home educated. Education transformation restructure has created new dedicated Access to Education officer posts, which will include EHE duties within the revised Education Welfare Service. 	<p>In Progress</p>

2. Build on the success of Bromley's excellent schools, academies and further education offer. We consistently deliver a high 'first choice' school preference for our children and we will continue to ensure a sufficiency of school places in high quality provision, enabling high quality local choice for parents and young people.	a) Enable all children to access good educational outcomes through increasing places at Good and Outstanding schools	% of schools/places in Good or Outstanding provision	Sept 2024 (AP)	Director Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 97% of Bromley Schools are good or outstanding with 98% of pupils attending schools judged good or outstanding. 	In Progress
	b) Sufficient school places to sustain percentage of pupils offered one of their first three preferences	% of children in receipt of first and second choice school places.	April 2024 (AP)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 68.83% of secondary school children in receipt of first preference school and 94.98% in receipt of a preference school. 88.33% of primary school children in receipt of first preference school and 99.07% in receipt of a preference school. 	In Progress
	c) Sufficient local provision for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)	SEN Free School delivered	April 2024 (AP)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEN estates review underway to identify opportunities for additional SEN places. Scheme to create new 30 place Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) at Oaklands Primary School underway. Special Free School project ongoing led by DfE, currently at feasibility stage. 	In Progress
3. Work with our partners across the education sector to improve outcomes for all children and young people across the range of academic abilities – this includes enabling children who learnt from home during the pandemic to catch up.	a) Ensure that there is a strong and coherent offer of support to Bromley Schools focussed on local priorities including closing the attainment gap for disadvantaged children	Clearly articulated offer for schools closely aligned to key priority of improved outcomes for disadvantaged children through Closing the Gap Workshops	April 2024 (AP)	Director Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer in place and circulated to schools. Addressing the Attainment Gap events. 	Completed
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing the needs of pupils from Gypsy Roma and Traveller backgrounds at primary and secondary school events. 	In Progress
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of the successful Family Learning Outreach pilot supporting Ukrainian pupils and their parents in schools. 	Completed
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working in partnership with 3 maintained primary schools and the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) on a pilot project focussed on metacognition and narrowing the attainment gap for vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils. 	In Progress

<p>4. Embed our mental health and wellbeing model across the multi-agency children's workforce to further improve the identification of additional needs in children, to improve assessment of need and risk, and to improve access to targeted and specialist services.</p>	<p>a) Place prevention and early intervention at the heart of the mental health and wellbeing offer for children and young people.</p>	<p>Build on the success of the mental health support team (MHST) pilot in Bromley schools, with a long-term solution that helps ensure the resilience of Bromley schools to manage mental health challenges, in partnership with other mental health and wellbeing services.</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Senior Commissioning Manager – C&YP's Mental Health & Wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bromley was awarded a third Mental Health Support Team (MHST) in 2023/24. These teams will now cover 75% of schools with other schools receiving a tailored school responder offer. Work continues to take place between the Director of Education, commissioners, and Bromley Y to review the total MHST offer and the future delivery model. 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>In Progress</p>
	<p>b) Ensure staff supporting families are trained in mental health first aid and are provided with training and advice on CYP mental health and wellbeing support</p>	<p>Ongoing training programme by Bromley Y and Oxleas CAMHS.</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing training programme and consultations have been provided and monitored through normal CYP Mental Health and Wellbeing contracting processes. 	<p>Completed</p>
	<p>c) Embed and develop our new THRIVE inhouse therapeutic provision. This team provides a psychological support service to our foster carers, special guardians, and adopters.</p>	<p>The number of referrals into THRIVE and feedback.</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director Specialist Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At end of year 2023-2024, THRIVE received 75 referrals for children looked after, subject to adoption orders and those subject to Special Guardianship Orders. In addition, the service received further 24 referrals from a mixture of carers and children including foster carers, special guardians and children who are privately fostered. 	<p>In Progress</p>

<p>5. Provide venues where young people can mix in a safe environment, learn, explore and develop skills and where, if required, early intervention can be identified, including vocational training and apprenticeships in line with local business needs.</p>	<p>a) Review Youth Services</p>	<p>Ensure appropriate youth services offer is operational</p>	<p>April 2024</p>	<p>Assistant Director Specialist Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The youth service review continues, and we are now relooking at the service in light of the statutory positive activity duties in the newly issued guidance in September 2023 for “Statutory guidance for local authorities on services to improve young people’s well-being.” • This work is being undertaken in collaboration with the transformation agenda and the operational property review. • The service continues to deliver positive activities across its hubs and mobile team offering a safe environment and personal social education. 	<p>In Progress</p>
	<p>b) Provide careers advice and offer work experience and apprenticeships to young people together with support in education, training, and employment</p>	<p>Retain good NEET performance for post 16</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing group work offer for young people needing pre-employability skills and confidence raising. • NEET performance for care leavers is now directly monitored by the Care Leaving team. The youth support programme team offer support to the CLA/LCT NEET panel meetings and via informal support between workers. • The service has the statutory responsibility for tracking and supporting young people who are NEET or at risk of being NEET and we continue to ensure all young people have an offer of individual or small group support for information, advice and guidance and employability support. This service is ongoing. 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>In Progress</p>	

<p>6. Information about how Bromley is supporting young people experiencing loneliness and/or getting involved in this topic.</p>	<p>a) Loneliness Champion to continue to build local partnership working and make stronger links with care leavers</p>	<p>Children and young people becoming less lonely and isolated; improving their mental health and linking older generations with younger generations together within local communities</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Director Children Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the Children and Family Assessments, loneliness and social isolation are identified, and families are sign-posted to appropriate services. • The Principal Loneliness Champion (PLC) has a resident spot on the Agenda at the Schools Mental Health and Wellbeing leads networking event which occurs each term during the academic year. • The Bromley Children's Project continue to support efforts to connect people via the Children and Family centres during various celebration days and awareness weeks i.e., religious festivals and Month of Community (June 2024). • The PLC continues to deliver the Tackling Loneliness Workshop to front line professionals supporting childing and young adults who may be experiencing loneliness within Bromley. Dedicated sessions with teachers and Health visitors are scheduled for late 2024. • A Tackling Loneliness SharePoint page was created for all staff at the LBB which will help the signpost services within their role. • Bromley Childrens Project is taking part in a survey to capture, specifically how the Children and Family centres are helping to bring people together within the community and its impact around loneliness and isolation. This is a multi-agency study and results will be shared when the results are gathered in spring 2024. • To celebrate Childrens's mental health awareness week 2024, the Principal Loneliness champion engaged with over 1,200 students across 4 primary schools in bromley, delivering dedicated assemblies on loneliness. 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>Completed</p>
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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support primary and secondary pupils, a childrens leaflet was created and sent to Headteachers directly and school Mental Health Wellbeing Leads. This leaflet can be found on the Education matters website. • To support students learning more about loneliness, a Primary & Secondary school workbook was created to help educate, and support oneself, friends and the wider community and bringing people together. To date 127 pupils across 4 Primary & 1 secondary school have taken part in this training. To date, 5 more primary schools will be taking part in dedicated workbook session's with over 1000 pupils taking part before the end of the 2023/2024 Academic year. • The PLC continues to deliver assemblies across Bromley schools to make young people aware of what loneliness is and how to support themselves & others. • The PLC is working with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to promote the Tackling Loneliness Campaign for 16 – 24 year olds, and share best practice with various government organisations. • The PLC is working closely with London South East Colleges to create an Adolescence Loneliness Workbook for 16 – 24 year olds within further education. • The PLC is working closely with officers supporting the SEND Matters & Bromley's Local Offer programmes to support children, parents, teachers and carers. 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p>
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Priority 4 Supporting and challenging effective multi-agency working

Our Ambitions:

The priority aligns to the following *Building a Better Bromley* ambitions:

- For children to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
- For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence, and making choices.
- To manage our resources well, individually, and collectively, providing efficient and effective services and excellent value for money for Bromley's residents.

Strategic links:

This priority has links with the following strategic plans:

- ✓ SEND Strategy
- ✓ Youth Justice Strategy
- ✓ Reforms Improvement Plan
- ✓ Corporate Parenting Strategy
- ✓ Children and Young People's Plan

What are we going to do?

ACTION	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD	UPDATES	Update Status
1. Encourage take up of our multi-agency early help services.	a) Enable parents to access information, advice, and support	Families report that they are able to find the information that they need at the right time.	April 2024 (AP)	Assistant Director Specialist Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIFS social media platforms actively promote services for families with at least 3 posts per week. • Multi-Agency Partnership Events 'MAPE' sessions paused in Spring 2023 when the new front door model was introduced to prevent confusion during the roll out of Phase1 of the Children and Families Hub (*C&FH). The C&FH is moving into Phase 2 with the introduction of a Portal in Spring 2024 and the MAPE will be revised to run after the Portal has gone live, giving a single message regarding access options. • Sessions targeting specific cohorts of professionals; Health, Education and Early Years Education run termly, and attendance is excellent with sell-out dates. 	Completed
		Provide training to partners to effectively signpost families to EIFS. Attendance at Multi Agency Partnership Events (MAPE) which promote early help.	April 2024 (AP)			Completed

<p>2. Build on the progress we have made in improving services for children who have Special Educational Needs (SEND), continuing to build on working partnerships with parents, carers, agencies and SEND Governance Board.</p>	<p>a) Implement our SEND vision and priorities. Improved multi-disciplinary and cross agency support (health, education and social care) for young people</p>	<p>Targets for completion of Education Health Care Plan's (EHCPs) within 20 weeks are met</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Director of Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EHCP timeliness is reported on a calendar year basis. The monthly performance has been as follow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jan – 38.6% timeliness - Feb – 100% timeliness within core data - Mar – 95.83% timeliness within core data - Apr – 83.3% timeliness • In terms of January data, reason as to why timeliness dropped was due to there being a focus to process as many of the legacy cases as possible. • LBB issued a disproportionately higher number of plans to achieve this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 75 plans in January - 57 plans in February - 42 plans in March - 33 plans in April • In comparison to 2023, number of reports holistically received on time has improved. There are still instances of lateness which have been attributed to either parents cancelling or not turning up to appointments which result in exceptions or where services have stated that they have been overwhelmed by the number requests at a given time. • Towards end of 2023, services identified November as being a month where far more cases were agreed. The team are currently operating at a deficit in terms of staffing due to unforeseen circumstances. • The new Bromley Funded Inclusion Plans are being rolled out, providing support for CYP, whose needs are best met with an enhanced level of support not within the statutory route. • There have been significant improvements in clearing the backlog of assessments and improving overall 20 week timeliness. 	<p>In Progress</p>
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	<p>b) Increase the effectiveness of partnership working between education settings, health, social care and other partner agencies, providing support and advice to staff, children and young people and families to support those with SEN</p>	<p>Settings understand the 'local offer' and are confident about who they need to contact in order to provide appropriate and timely support to CYP and families;</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Director of Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued and focused work delivered by SEN Advisory Teams, providing support and challenge to schools, promoting the graduated approach. Continuing to provide traded and project work through Education Provision Service, early support, promoting inclusion at pre-statutory work. Local Offer kept under review and promoted with co-production of families and professionals. 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p>
	<p>c) Improve services for children and young people with social communication difficulties including Autism</p>	<p>Waiting times measured through All-Age Autism Board and Autism Family Support Contract feedback from families</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Associate Director Childrens Commissioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bromley Council and NHS South-East London Integrated Care Board (ICB) in partnership with Bromley Healthcare and Oxleas, have been reviewing current ASD pathway linked to the South-East London ASD core offer. We are working over the next few months on future recommendations on the ASD pathway model to address waiting time pressures. We are also looking at short term improvements to address current waiting time pressures. There has been agreement for the pathway to become a single provider service and to address the immediate waiting list held by the exiting provider (Oxleas), a widely used private online provider has been commissioned to reduce the overall waiting list over the next 6 months. 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p>

<p>3. Promote the proper inclusion of young people who have SEND in local universal services, through: developing and implementing joint commissioning strategies; prioritising localise needs, including increasing more local specialist placement choice; and establishing a service structure which supports mainstream schools, settings and partnership working.</p>	<p>a) Mainstream schools and settings are able to provide for an increased level of complexity, enabling CYP who have SEND to be supported effectively within mainstream settings</p>	<p>Increased number of children and young people accessing mainstream settings in their local community</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Director of Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to provide traded and project work through Educational Psychology (EP) Service, early support, promoting inclusion at pre-statutory work. Support and challenge to settings where the Local Authority is not assured that reasonable adjustments have been made in-order-to support CYP in mainstream schools. Investment in resource for mainstream schools to promote and enable higher levels of inclusion. 	<p>In Progress</p>
	<p>b) Ensure sufficient schools places to meet rising demand for SEND places</p>	<p>Deliver new SEN Free School and Multi-Agency Centre for Excellence (MACE)</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director Childrens Commissioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DfE feasibility for SEN Free School underway. Site clearance work undertaken to enable surveys to be completed. 	<p>In Progress</p>
	<p>c) Transform the Bromley CYP Integrated Therapies (Physiotherapy, Speech & Language, and Occupational Therapy) commissioning and provision achieved through co-production</p>	<p>Commission and provide extra resource; Coproduce, redesign and strengthen a Graduated 3-tier (Universal, Targeted and Specialist) Approach; Develop a Commissioning Framework for Therapies</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director Childrens Commissioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work has taken place across Bromley Healthcare, ICB and Council on the proposed balanced model implementation for SLT. Initial proposals have been agreed and a detailed implementation plan is being worked on. This will be supported by Project Management support and an overarching governance board, plus task and finish engagement group. The model has been agreed and funded as an extended pilot, evidencing a proof of concept across a range of schools where most impact can be achieved. An implementation group will be set up to focus on KPI's and implementation as well as a wider focus on the whole service transformation 	<p>Completed</p>
						<p>Completed</p>
						<p>Completed</p>
						<p>In Progress</p>
					<p>June 2024</p>	

<p>4. Develop our offer to young adults aged 18 to 25 who have SEND, including improving transitions into adulthood and, for those with continuing needs, adult services.</p>	<p>a) Helping young people prepare for adulthood from the earliest years</p>	<p>Young people and their families being fully involved in strategic planning and service design supporting commissioners in the development of services</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Head of Service 0-25 Service Children & Young People with Disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A third worker has now been recruited within the Preparing for Adulthood Team, this will support the service supporting young people whose primary need is a physical disability. 	<p>Completed</p>
	<p>b) Providing services that are focused on how they can support young people to progress through 'preparing for adulthood' outcomes</p>	<p>Young people and their families being at the centre of individual service planning, delivery and review</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Preparing for Adulthood Working Group has been developed and includes parents and a young person to review all 4 PfA pathways. • There has also been a newly developed Strategic Statement for PfA. 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p>
	<p>c) Achieving an effective, fully engaged, strategic partnership of agencies working collaboratively with an inclusive ethos</p>	<p>Evidencing positive and improving outcomes for young people Providing a well-maintained Local Offer with up-to-date and clear information</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Performance Management Framework Report has been drafted to set standards for the service, consider how future needs are identified and setting key performance indicators to monitor the delivery of the service. • Strategic Learning Disability commissioners in adult social care also receive our targets. • Future events are to be considered to inform families of localised options. • Marjorie McClure held a transition event and the LA held a local offer event in the autumn term 2023 which supported the sharing of information on preparing for adulthood. • An initial Transitional Working Group has been held and a further meeting planned for March 2024. • The group will aim to move forward on future Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) events and developing information and operational practices on the 4 PfA pathways. 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>In Progress</p>

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Integrated Transition Register has been developed, which will support future commissioning of services. 	In Progress
<p>5. Work collaboratively across the Council, schools, health and voluntary sector services to improve the identification of, and support to, children and young people who are young carers</p>	<p>a) Enable young carers to access information, online, advice, support and access to services</p>	<p>Delivery of an effective young carers' strategy and action plan</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director Integrated Commissioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Carers Plan, including support to young carers has been agreed between London Borough of Bromley and the Integrated Care Board (ICB). The Plan includes the local offer and actions in support of improving the offer to young carers. 	Completed
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Carers Charter to be led by Bromley Well will invite other Bromley agencies to take part in a broader Bromley support offer to Carers. 	In Progress
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Carers Plan was signed off at the Children's, Education & Families PDS in September 2023. 	Completed
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LBB will be consulting the charter and asking partners to put in place action plans over the summer 2024/25 – this will be actioned in new Portfolio Holder Plan Q1 2024/25. 	In Progress

<p>6. Work to improve the emotional wellbeing and mental health of young people in Bromley, providing support earlier in schools and other settings, and improving access to, and waiting times for, more specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). We will focus resources on improving our response to: young people with eating disorders; perpetrators and victims of sexually harmful behaviour; and young people in youth offending services (YOS).</p>	<p>a) Transform the Bromley CYP Mental Health and Wellbeing Single Point of Access (SPA) in order to deliver improved services, shorter waiting times and integrated delivery across CAMHS and Bromley Y</p>	<p>Supporting higher number of children and young people coming into services with multi-faceted and complex challenges and waiting times being reduced</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Senior Commissioning Manager – CYP's Mental Health & Wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The iSPA had a soft launch at the beginning of April and will have an initial informal review at 3 months and a more formal review at 6 months to reflect on progress towards desired outcomes. A more formal launch of the service will be planned for later in the year to enable a bedding in period. 	<p>Completed</p> <p>In Progress</p>
	<p>b) Reduce the number of referrals of children and young people into A&E due to their mental ill health in Bromley, but instead provide an embedded partnership system of early intervention and support</p>	<p>Joint work across Oxleas CAMHS, Bromley Y, South East London Integrated Care Board, Bromley Council, schools and other partners to consider the outcomes of a refreshed analysis of Bromley A&E/crisis cases for children and young people with mental health challenges.</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A refresh of the A&E deep dive exercise has been carried out to begin to provide trend analysis (note some changes in data parameters). A working group has been established to review the findings and develop a cross-organisational action plan that seeks to promote early intervention and prevention. Implementation of key actions arising from the action plan. 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>In Progress</p>

	<p>c) Establish an eating disorders early intervention pilot in Bromley, linked to the Single Point of Access (SPA) and Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) in schools</p>	<p>An innovative early intervention/prevention pilot between the NHS/voluntary sector to support children and young people who have disordered eating challenges to receive support, advice and clinical input where required</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Senior Commissioning Manager – CYP's Mental Health & Wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initial one year pilot period for this project has been completed. • An evaluation report has been produced by Bromley Y, reviewing impact, looking at lessons learned and considerations for future delivery. • The project has resulted in increased skills and confidence amongst professionals in identifying and supporting disordered eating and eating disorders; improved referrals to Maudsley Centre for Child and Adolescent Eating Disorders (MCCAEDS) so that there is a higher acceptance rate; correspondingly reduced the number of inappropriate referrals. The two workshops have been delivered in primary and secondary schools within the borough and have been well received. 	<p>Completed</p>
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<p>7. Deliver our Youth Justice strategy by working holistically and collaboratively to deliver our 'child first, offender second' principle – aiming to reduce the numbers of children and young people offending or at risk of offending, including developing the YOS work with younger offenders and our partnership approach to addressing harmful gang activity and violent crime. We will continue to engage offenders and victims in developing our restorative justice approaches.</p>	<p>a) Provide multi-agency support to those at risk of entering the youth justice system or who have been convicted.</p>	<p>Reducing the numbers of children entering the youth justice system</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director Specialist Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LBB rate of first-time entrants has reduced annually by 33% and is 45% lower than the average for London. • LBB rate is also 42% below the national average and 33% lower than statistical neighbours. • LBB has the lowest rate compared with the 6 surrounding boroughs. (Bexley, Croydon, Southwark, Lewisham, Lambeth, Greenwich). • LBB has the 3rd lowest FTE rate in London and are ranked 11th out of the 154 YJS in the country. • The YJS has adopted a Child First approach in how we work and treat children. Delivered against our Youth Justice Strategy. 	<p>In Progress</p>
	<p>b) Address disproportionality</p>	<p>YOS disproportionality action plan delivered.</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director Specialist Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YJS and partners have made every effort to understand and respond to disproportionality, particularly relating to boys from a BME background. This has been through recognising the significant difference in the proportion of BME boys charged to court rather than given the opportunity of a pre-court disposal, when compared to other ethnicities. • Youth Justice Service (YJS) has continued to strengthen and enhance preventative work with children and young people, including the implementation of Engage and Turnaround projects. • The increased focus on the preventative support offer continues to support the positive trend achieved in reducing numbers of first-time entrants into the YJS. 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p>

	<p>c) Provide multi-agency support to CYP with SEND at risk of entering the youth justice system or who have been convicted</p>	<p>Multi-agency meetings held monthly to share intelligence, agree solutions to provide wrap-around support for the young person, to achieve the best outcome</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director Specialist Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission Youth Ink peer to peer mentoring network work with CYPs offering additional support and mentoring, which includes contributing to interventions delivered by the YJS by seeking the views of the children who access this service. • We have a new refreshed Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 that sets out our work for the next year including addressing our strategic priorities; how we intend to promote long term desistance; our commitment to understanding and effecting change in behaviour through the support and resources we have available. • Assurance reports presented quarterly to the Youth Justice Service (YJS) Executive Board. • YJS have commissioned Trauma training for all staff in YJS. • Restorative justice interventions are delivered with a high level of engagement with victims and their wishes included which has focused on information giving in indirect reparation. 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>In Progress</p>
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	<p>d) To ensure SALT support to YOS is provided through a tiered model (universal, targeted and specialist support) with clear agreed outcomes</p>	<p>Young people being referred for assessment and support</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director Specialist Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people coming into the service have an initial SALT SCREENING, assessing need, areas of development and strengths – 3-6 sessions agreed. • The collaborative approach between YJS and SEN continues to meet to support improvements for children with ECHP and young people through ETE pathways. • The YJS had monthly multi-agency meetings with SEN to ensure all SEN children open to the YJS and who require an EHCP, receive the appropriate educational support according to their needs. • There are fortnightly education and health panels for health specialists to discuss any potential referrals where children's health support is part of their YJS intervention. 	<p>Completed</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p>
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Priority 5 Ensuring Efficiency and Effectiveness

Our Ambitions:

The priority aligns to the following *Building a Better Bromley* ambitions:

- For children to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
- For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence, and making choices.
- To manage our resources well, individually, and collectively, providing efficient and effective services and excellent value for money for Bromley's residents.

Strategic links:

This priority has links with the following strategic plans:

- ✓ Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- ✓ Commissioning Strategy
- ✓ Contract Monitoring & Management in Bromley
- ✓ Performance Management Framework
- ✓ Risk Management Log

What are we going to do?

ACTION	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD	UPDATES	Update Status
1. Living within our means. We are rightly expected to work within our budgets to deliver high quality services to our residents whilst ensuring the prudent and efficient management of our finances through the operation of sound finance systems and processes.	a) Work within our budgets and maintain sound financial processes and systems	Budgetary control	April 2024 (AP)	Director Children, Education and Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly budget monitoring enables effective Member oversight. • Key areas of spend are overseen monthly by the Director with additional monthly oversight of the deliverability of Transformation Proposals and associated financial implications. 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p>

		Maintain an effective Performance Management Framework	April 2024 (AP)	Director Children Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A robust performance management framework delivers weekly, monthly and quarterly oversight. • To enable good management oversight for managers and other key stakeholders. • Members receive an annual and six-monthly reports on key areas of work. • In addition to a quarterly performance dashboard consistent of a suite of indicative set of KPIs which assure of the deliverability of services. • Demand measures provide evidence on resource pressures. 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p>
<p>2. Being opportunistic and collaborative in making bids to Government and other funding sources to increase resources available to the Partnership. Lobby the Government and Government departments strongly for increased resources when we see a need or opportunity.</p>	<p>a) Lobby the government for increased resources</p>	<p>Be opportunistic in making bids for funding sources and additional resources</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Director Children, Education and Families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's services take every opportunity to lobby for a fairer funding for services. • SEN demand pressures are regularly raised at discussions with the Regional Director's office. • We do surveys for London Councils in terms of our financial position which they use as London wide lobbying. • Peter Turner (Director of Finance) meets with government representatives to discuss funding for Bromley and London as part of his role in the Society of London Treasurers. This is ongoing and for all areas but has discussed the financial disregard, etc. • We are currently in discussion with DfE around the Deficit recovery plan. 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p>

<p>3. Recognising the importance of our workforce to the achievement of our ambitions and implementing workforce strategies which help to recruit and retain the highest quality staff for services in the borough.</p>	<p>a) Recruit and retain the highest quality staff across the whole workforce</p>	<p>Workforce Stable</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Director Children, Education and Families / Director of HR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Recruitment and Retention Board Chaired by the Director of HR continues to ensure Bromley are best placed to mobilise a stable and well-trained workforce. • Bromley has relaunched its Wake Up 2 Care programme which had previously successfully recruited over 35 carers in the last round. • We are also supporting the care homes and domiciliary care agencies with overseas recruitment. • The Council continues to support and facilitate the Proud to Care initiative. 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p>
<p>4. Maintaining our focus on commissioning and market shaping, developing integrated and joint commissioning where it makes sense to do so, and ensuring we commission intelligently with clear outcomes in mind. Ensuring our commissioned services deliver what is expected through robust and active contract management.</p>	<p>a) Commission services intelligently and integrate services where appropriate</p>	<p>Effective contract management</p> <p>Timely procurement</p> <p>Good co-production where appropriate</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director of Integrated Commissioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracts continue to be monitored robustly to ensure that services are delivered to meet expectation. • The department continues to work through inflation and cost of living related issues with providers. • The team are preparing for the upcoming Domiciliary Care tender which will include a service for children with disabilities and children that have Continuing Care needs. • The Tender to replenish the domiciliary care Patch arrangements has gone live. • The Family Drug and Alcohol Service will be extended to December 2025. • Market Engagement event held with the Transport Providers for Adults and Childrens (April 2024). 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>Completed</p>

<p>5. Continuing to exploit the benefits of digitalisation in service delivery through a new Digital Strategy, integrating systems and processes where it is feasible and practical. The Council will learn from best practice with a view to utilising technologies which provide practical improvements to our services.</p>	<p>a) Exploit the benefits of digitalisation</p>	<p>Bed in use of Liquid Logic new social care management system</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Director Children, Families and Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Microsoft Power BI dashboards are being developed to enable greater management oversight. • LBB are also embarking on the Digital and IT Strategy which will be delivered in the next 5 months and children services will be consulted for it. • A draft was put before COE and we are not editing following their feedback. We plan to deliver it within next 3 months. 	<p>In Progress</p>
		<p>Continually explore opportunities and implement, such as the use of Virtual Reality Headsets for Domestic Violence Training.</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director of Specialist Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Reality (VR) continues to be a well embedded practice tool in Bromley Children Social Care as well as within the practice of Education Partners. There are trained VR practitioners within each service area of Children Social Care and champions to lead and promote VR as a practice tool in their services. • In April 2023, 19 foster carers attended VR training on Trauma and Child Sexual exploitation and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. • In the last year 2023-2024, 29 additional practitioners have received VR training making a total of 95 certified VR practitioners across Children Social Care since April 2022. 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>

<p>6. Developing information and knowledge sharing across Partnership agencies to enhance the intelligence available to all agencies in planning and evaluating our services.</p>	<p>a) Maintain effective strategic and operational partnership</p>	<p>Including; Children's Executive, Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership, Corporate Parenting Board</p>	<p>April 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Director Children, Families and Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational and strategic partnership work is ongoing and mature. Escalations are used appropriately within agencies to enable resolutions to emerging issues. Strategic Threat Assessments shared across partnership with contemporary intelligence. 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>
	<p>b) Maintain an Effective Engagement Framework'</p>	<p>Deliver annual 'you said we did' reports as evidence</p>		<p>Director Children Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New framework and toolkit developed during 2022/23. Framework endorsed by CEF PDS on 20 June and ACH PDS on 27 June 2023. 6 monthly 'You said, we did' highlight reports are presented to the Children's Executive Board and CEF PDS. Digital "Childs Voice Hub" is enabling the Children Executive Partnership to share best practice, a toolkit and feedback findings amongst other professionals. 	<p>Completed</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p>

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Children, Education and Families

Portfolio plan for 2024 to 2025

Welcome

Message from the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families

Welcome to the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025.

This Portfolio Plan will contribute to the delivery of our long-term vision as presented in our corporate strategy, **Making Bromley Even Better**; available from www.bromely.gov.uk/corporatestrategy.

Our department leads on the delivery of the first of five ambitions, for.

'For children and young people to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home'.

Our priorities included

- ✓ Targeted early intervention and good universal service
- ✓ Safeguarding children and adolescents
- ✓ Being the best corporate parents
- ✓ Challenging disproportionality
- ✓ Engaging with children, young people and families

Clearly many if not all of our activity involves working closely with or through partners agencies, we will continue to develop and maintain these key relationships to enable effective service delivery. By implementing this plan, I truly believe that we can enable our children and young people to achieve, thrive and reach their full potential.

Achieving this ambition in a changing regulatory, financial and physical environment remains a challenge and should not be underestimated. Members will monitor the delivery of this Portfolio Plan through our Children, Education and Families Policy, Development and Scrutiny Committee, as part of the Children's Services Performance Framework.

We remain ambitious for our children and will continue to engage with them effectively, co-producing where possible. Our Bromley Relationship Social Work Model promotes 'doing with' rather than 'doing to' approach, we pride ourselves on the relationships we build with our families in order to support and assist positive change.

Cllr Kate Lymer

Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families

About this Portfolio Plan

This Portfolio Plan will contribute to the delivery of our long-term vision as presented in our corporate strategy, **Making Bromley Even Better**; available from www.bromley.gov.uk/corporatestrategy

Our vision

We want Bromley to be...

a fantastic place to live and work, where everyone can lead healthy, safe and independent lives

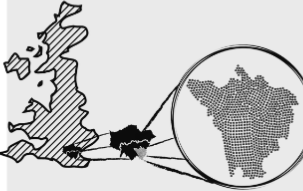
Our plan will be delivered jointly by the Council and partner agencies. We firmly believe that strong partnerships formed the foundation of our previous plan 'Building a Better Bromley'.

Together we have five new ambitions:

- 1** For children and young people to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
- 2** For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence and making choices.
- 3** For people to make their homes in Bromley and for business, enterprise and the third sector to prosper.
- 4** For residents to live responsibly and prosper in a safe, clean and green environment great for today and a sustainable future.
- 5** To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.

Making Bromley Even Better 2021 to 2031
Our corporate plan on a page

Get to know Bromley




We are located in **south east London**, we are the **largest London borough**.

We cover **59 square miles**.

We have more than **330,000 people** living here - in an estimated **141,000 households**.

We have a **vibrant rural and urban mix** - with **51%** of our space being **green belt land** and we have **eleven distinct town centres**.

We have relatively **low levels of deprivation** - we are the 4th least deprived of the 33 London boroughs.



Our children thrive and flourish secure into adult

We support our residents with **good universal services** for everyone:

- 99% of early years settings are 'Good' or better
- 90% of schools are 'Good' or better
- 91% of GPs are 'good' or better

We have **high life expectancy** which exceeds national figures:

- 81 for males and 85 for females
- 7 year gap in some parts

Our adults enjoy fulfilling and successful lives

We have a well **qualified and skilled working age** population:

- 50% have qualifications beyond A-Levels
- 3% have no qualifications

We have a high proportion of our **working age adults in employment**:

- 78% of adults are in employment
- 2% claiming out of work benefits
- average household income is just £43,000+

Our families, businesses and communities thrive

We a mixture of **quality homes**:

- 12% increase in number of households
- mixed tenure - 72% home ownership and 14% social housing

We support our **businesses and town centres**:

- 15,000+ individual enterprises
- four Business Improvement Districts (BID)
- investment in public realm works

Our borough is safe, clean and sustainable for the future

We care for and protect our **environment**:

- 50% of domestic waste is recycled
- becoming a direct 'net zero carbon' Council

We have lots of **green and historic spaces**:

- 45 conservation areas
- 1,000+ locally and 800 statutory listed buildings
- 7,000 hectares of green spaces
- 129 open spaces

We support our **residents with additional needs** well:

- 100,000+ visits to our Children and Families Centres
- 3,000 children have Education, Health and Care Plans
- 3,400 referrals to children's social care
- 9,000 requests for adult social care and support
- 2,000 adults receive care in their home
- 1,500 adults live in care homes

We have a strong and innovative **early help and intervention offer**:

- mix of holistic statutory, private and voluntary services
- single points of access

We support our **vulnerable residents** well through our:

- strengths-based approach
- relationship model
- Continuums of Need

We have a range of **quality homes** available:

- 1,500+ families are in temporary accommodation
- 1,000 affordable homes to be built

We encourage our children and adults to live **healthy and safe lives**:

- obesity levels and smoking rates are lower than national averages
- proportion of residents with mental health problems has increased

Making it even better

Our vision

A fantastic place to live and work, where everyone can lead healthy, safe and independent lives

Our ambitions

For children and young people to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home

For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence and making choices

For people to make their homes in Bromley and for business, enterprise and the third sector to prosper

For residents to live responsibly and prosper in a safe, clean and green environment great for today and a sustainable future

To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents

Action plan

Ambition 1

For children and young people to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home

Portfolio links

This priority has links with the following portfolio plans:

- Children, Education and Families

Strategic links:

This priority has links with the following strategic plans:

- Children and Young People's Plan

What are we going to do?

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025

MAKING BROMLEY EVEN BETTER	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD	
<p>1. Support the local childcare and early education market to maintain high standards and a good level of choice for parents, promoting inclusion and school readiness as well as monitoring those children who are educated at home.</p>	<p>a) Promote educational inclusion for all. Continue to provide high quality and timely information through a range of sources to support families.</p>	<p>Early Years directory published annually and updated monthly; Bromley Education Matters updated monthly and accessible to schools and families. (https://bromleyeducationmatters.uk)</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Director Education</p>	
	<p>b) Work with local early years settings and childminders to increase the number of Early Years places provided for vulnerable children and those with SEN.</p>	<p>Capacity to enable 30 hours of funded childcare; Eligible 2-year-olds (vulnerable and of working parents) taking up to 15hrs of childcare. Take up of Disability Access Fund.</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>		<p>Sept 2024</p>
	<p>c) Promote school readiness through the provision of training, targeted at Bromley early years providers, that contribute to the promotion of school readiness in pre-school children.</p>	<p>Number of training courses that have taken place.</p> <p>Number of settings represented, and practitioners participated.</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>		
	<p>d) Work with parents choosing to electively home educate their child to fulfil their legal obligations to provide a satisfactory education. Further embed monitoring arrangements.</p>	<p>Contact and monitoring arrangements for electively home educated children.</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>		

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025

MAKING BROMLEY EVEN BETTER	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD
<p>2. Build on the success of Bromley’s excellent schools, academies and further education offer. We consistently deliver a high ‘first choice’ school preference for our children and we will continue to ensure a sufficiency of school places in high quality provision, enabling high quality local choice for parents and young people.</p>	<p>a) Enable all children to access good educational outcomes through increasing places at Good and Outstanding schools.</p>	<p>% of schools/ places in Good or Outstanding provision</p>	<p>Sept 2024 (AP)</p>	<p>Director Education</p>
	<p>b) Sufficient school places to sustain percentage of pupils offered one of their first three preferences.</p>	<p>% of children in receipt of first and second choice school places.</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	
	<p>c) Sufficient local provision for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).</p>	<p>SEN Free School delivered</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025

MAKING BROMLEY EVEN BETTER	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD
<p>3. Work with our partners across the education sector to improve outcomes for all children and young people across the range of academic and narrowing attainment and progress gaps for vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils.</p>	<p>a) Ensure that there is a strong and coherent offer of support to Bromley Schools focussed on local priorities including closing the attainment gap for disadvantaged children.</p>	<p>Clearly articulated offer for schools closely aligned to key priority of improved outcomes for disadvantaged children through Closing the Gap Workshops</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Director Education</p>

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025

MAKING BROMLEY EVEN BETTER	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD
<p>4. Embed our mental health and wellbeing model across the multi-agency children’s workforce to further improve the identification of additional needs in children, to improve assessment of need and risk, and to improve access to targeted and specialist services.</p>	<p>a) Place prevention and early intervention at the heart of the mental health and wellbeing offer for children and young people.</p>	<p>Build on the success of the mental health support team (MHST) pilot in Bromley schools, with a long-term solution that helps ensure the resilience of Bromley schools to manage mental health challenges, in partnership with other mental health and wellbeing services.</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Senior Commissioning Manager – C&YP’s Mental Health & Wellbeing</p>
	<p>b) Ensure staff supporting families are trained in mental health first aid and are provided with training and advice on CYP mental health and wellbeing support.</p>	<p>Ongoing training programme by Bromley Y and Oxleas CAMHS.</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	
	<p>c) Embed and develop our new THRIVE inhouse therapeutic provision. This team provides a psychological support service to our foster carers, special guardians, and adopters.</p>	<p>The number of referrals into THRIVE and feedback.</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director Specialist Services</p>

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025

MAKING BROMLEY EVEN BETTER	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD
<p>5. Encourage take up of our multi-agency early help services.</p>	<p>a) Enable parents to access information, advice, and support.</p> <p>b) Continue to provide high quality and timely information through a range of sources to support families. Information is available through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early years directory • SENDMatters newsletters, • Early Intervention and Family Support (EIFS) Social Media platforms • EIFS Parenting Hub website • IASS website 	<p>Families report that they are able to find the information that they need at the right time.</p> <p>Provide training to partners to effectively signpost families to EIFS. Attendance at Multi Agency Partnership Events (MAPE) which promote early help.</p> <p>Early support is joined up across health and education to reduce duplication.</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p> <p>April 2025 (AP)</p> <p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director Specialist Services</p>

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025

MAKING BROMLEY EVEN BETTER	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD
<p>6. Continue to improve our children’s safeguarding practice in Bromley, embedding the statutory safeguarding partnership and strengthening our focus on non-familial (contextual) safeguarding risks, including children going missing, children missing education, child sexual and criminal exploitation, and gang affiliation.</p>	<p>a) Carry out an annual Strategic Threat Assessment including considering issues of disproportionality, community alienation and isolation.</p> <p>b) The Safeguarding Partnership challenges partners’ safeguarding practices.</p> <p>c) Bromley Safeguarding Partnership commission a comprehensive training programme.</p> <p>d) Children and Family Act 2014 Assessments carried out promptly Protect Vulnerable adolescents, especially those vulnerable to child sexual exploitation (CSE), child criminal exploitation (CCE), modern-day slavery.</p>	<p>Strategic Threat Assessments circulated to all partners</p> <p>Challenge Log referenced in BSCP annual report; Escalations recorded in case notes; Children’s Safeguarding Scrutiny Board and InterChairs Board merged in 2023</p> <p>Training evaluation included in BSCP annual report</p> <p>i) Timeliness of assessments; Child seen during assessment.</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p> <p>April 2025 (AP)</p> <p>April 2025 (AP)</p> <p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Independent Chair of Bromley Safeguarding Children’s Partnership (BSCP)</p> <p>Assistant Director, Children’s Social Care, Safeguarding & Care Planning Services</p>

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025

MAKING BROMLEY EVEN BETTER	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD
<p>7. Maintain a relentless focus on improving outcomes for Bromley’s looked after children and care leavers. In-order to meet the pledge, the Council has made to these young people, we will continue to develop our partnerships across the Council, NHS, DWP and housing providers to: increase the choice of high-quality placements; improve our education offer; help young people maintain good health and wellbeing; and increase housing and employment opportunities.</p>	<p>a) Ensure sufficiency of good quality placements for Children Looked After and accommodation for Care Leavers.</p>	<p>Effective sufficiency strategy</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Director Children’s Education and Families</p>
	<p>b) Improve education, employment and training outcomes.</p>	<p>Successful Delivery of Care Leavers EET Strategy</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director, Children’s Social Care, Safeguarding & Care Planning Services</p>
	<p>c) Ensuring easy access to Bromley health services where every child has a named specialist nurse, has their health plan regularly reviewed and has regular health-related checks and immunisations.</p>	<p>Good performance in regard to annual health checks, immunisation and dental checks.</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director Specialist Services</p>
	<p>d) Further develop the local offer for care leavers.</p>	<p>Care leavers will receive improved assessment, support, and services and each will have their own advisor; local offer reviewed regularly.</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p> <p>August 2024</p>	<p>Assistant Director Specialist Services</p> <p>Assistant Director, Children’s Social Care, Safeguarding & Care Planning Services</p>

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025

MAKING BROMLEY EVEN BETTER	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD
<p>8. Build on the progress we have made in improving services for children who have Special Educational Needs (SEND), continuing to build on working partnerships with parents, carers, agencies and SEND Governance Board</p>	<p>a) Implement our SEND vision and priorities. Improved multi-disciplinary and cross agency support (health, education and social care) for young people</p>	<p>Targets for completion of Education Health Care Plan's (EHCPs) within 20 weeks are met</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Director Education</p>
	<p>b) Increase the effectiveness of partnership working between education settings, health, social care and other partner agencies, providing support and advice to staff, children and young people and families to support those with SEN</p>	<p>Settings understand the 'local offer' and are confident about who they need to contact in order to provide appropriate and timely support to CYP and families</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Director of Education</p>
	<p>c) Improve services for children and young people with social communication difficulties including Autism</p>	<p>Waiting times measured through All-Age Autism Board and Autism Family Support Contract feedback from families</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Associate Director of Childrens Commissioning</p>

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025

<p>9. Promote the proper inclusion of young people who have SEND in local universal services, through: developing and implementing joint commissioning strategies; prioritising localise needs, including increasing more local specialist placement choice; and establishing a service structure which supports mainstream schools, settings and partnership working</p>	<p>a) Mainstream schools and settings are able to provide for an increased level of complexity, enabling children & young people (CYP) who have SEND to be supported effectively within mainstream settings.</p>	<p>Increased number of children and young people accessing mainstream settings in their local community</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Director Education</p>
	<p>b) Ensure sufficient schools places to meet rising demand for SEND places.</p>	<p>Deliver new SEN Free School and Multi-Agency Centre for Excellence (MACE)</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Director of Education</p>
	<p>c) Transform the Bromley CYP Integrated Therapies (Physiotherapy, Speech & Language, and Occupational Therapy) commissioning and provision achieved through co-production.</p>	<p>Commission and provide extra resource; Coproduce, redesign and strengthen a Graduated 3-tier (Universal, Targeted and Specialist) Approach; Develop a Commissioning Framework for Therapies</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Associate Director of Childrens Commissioning</p>

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025

<p>10. Develop our offer to young adults aged 18 to 25 who have SEND, including improving transitions into adulthood and, for those with continuing needs, adult services.</p>	<p>a) Helping young people prepare for adulthood from the earliest years</p>	<p>Young people and their families being fully involved in strategic planning and service design supporting commissioners in the development of services</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Head of Service, 0-25 Service, Children and Young People with Disabilities</p>
	<p>b) Providing services that are focused on how they can support young people to progress through 'preparing for adulthood' outcomes</p>	<p>Young people and their families being at the centre of individual service planning, delivery and review.</p> <p>Evidencing positive and improving outcomes for young people.</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p> <p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	
	<p>c) Achieving an effective, fully engaged, strategic partnership of agencies working collaboratively with an inclusive ethos</p>	<p>Providing a well-maintained Local Offer with up-to-date and clear information</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025

MAKING BROMLEY EVEN BETTER	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD
<p>11. Work collaboratively across the Council, schools, health and voluntary sector services to improve the identification of, and support to, children and young people who are young carers</p>	<p>a) Enable young carers to access information, online, advice, support, and access to services</p>	<p>Delivery of an effective young carers' strategy, support and action plan</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director Integrated Commissioning</p>

MAKING BROMLEY EVEN BETTER	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD
<p>12. Work to improve the emotional wellbeing and mental health of young people in Bromley, providing support earlier in schools and other settings, and improving access to, and waiting times for, more specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). We will focus resources on improving our response to: young people with eating disorders; perpetrators and victims of sexually harmful behaviour; and young people in youth offending services (YOS).</p>	<p>a) Transform the Bromley CYP Mental Health and Wellbeing Single Point of Access (SPA) in order to deliver improved services, shorter waiting times and integrated delivery across CAMHS and Bromley Y.</p> <p>b) Reduce the number of referrals of children and young people into A&E due to their mental ill health in Bromley, but instead provide an embedded partnership system of early intervention and support.</p> <p>c) Establish an eating disorders early intervention pilot in Bromley, linked to the Single Point of Access (SPA) and Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) in schools.</p>	<p>Supporting higher number of children and young people coming into services with multi-faceted and complex challenges and waiting times being reduced</p> <p>Joint work across Oxleas CAMHS, Bromley Y, South East London Integrated Care Board, Bromley Council, schools and other partners to consider the outcomes of a refreshed analysis of Bromley A&E/crisis cases for children and young people with mental health challenges.</p> <p>An innovative early intervention/prevention pilot between the NHS/voluntary sector to support children and young people who have disordered eating challenges to receive support, advice and clinical input where required</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p> <p>April 2025 (AP)</p> <p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Senior Commissioning Manager – Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing</p>

MAKING BROMLEY EVEN BETTER	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD
<p>13. Deliver our Youth Justice strategy by working holistically and collaboratively to deliver our ‘child first, offender second’ principle – aiming to reduce the numbers of children and young people offending or at risk of offending, including developing the YOS work with younger offenders and our partnership approach to addressing harmful gang activity and violent crime. We will continue to engage offenders and victims in developing our restorative justice approaches.</p>	<p>a) Provide multi-agency support to those at risk of entering the youth justice system or who have been convicted.</p> <p>b) Address disproportionality</p> <p>c) Provide multi-agency support to CYP with SEND at risk of entering the youth justice system or who have been convicted.</p> <p>d) To ensure Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) support to Youth Offending Service (YOS) is provided through a tiered model (universal, targeted and specialist support) with clear agreed outcomes.</p>	<p>Reducing the numbers of children entering the youth justice system.</p> <p>YOS disproportionality action plan delivered.</p> <p>Multi-agency meetings held monthly to share intelligence, agree solutions to provide wrap-around support for the young person, to achieve the best outcome.</p> <p>Young people being referred for assessment and support.</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p> <p>April 2025 (AP)</p> <p>April 2025 (AP)</p> <p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director Specialist Services</p>

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025

MAKING BROMLEY EVEN BETTER	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD
<p>14. Provide venues where young people can mix in a safe environment, learn, explore and develop skills and where, if required, early intervention can be identified, including vocational training and apprenticeships in line with local business needs.</p>	<p>a) Review Youth Services in line with statutory requirements.</p> <p>b) Identify young people post 16 in school years 12 and 13 who are Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) and young people in school year 11 who are likely to be NEET and provide careers advice, work experience and apprenticeships to young people together with support in education, training, and employment.</p>	<p>Ensure appropriate youth services offer is operational and all young people aged 13 to 19 years (and up to 25 years for those with special educational needs and disability (SEND)) have the opportunity to access youth work activities which are for the improvement of their wellbeing and promote their personal and social development.</p> <p>Retain good NEET performance for post 16 Reduction in young people whose destinations are "Not Known".</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p> <p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director Specialist Services</p>

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025

<p>15. Information about how Bromley is supporting young people experiencing loneliness and/or getting involved in this topic.</p>	<p>a) Loneliness Champion to continue to build local partnership working and make stronger links with care leavers.</p>	<p>Children and young people becoming less lonely and isolated; improving their mental health and linking older generations with younger generations together within local communities.</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Director Children, Education and Families</p>
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Ambition 5

To manage our resources well, providing value for money, efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.

Portfolio links

This priority has links with the following portfolio plans:

- Children, Education and Families

Strategic links:

This priority has links with the following strategic plans:

- Performance Management Framework
- Quality Assurance Framework
- Bromley Relationship Social Work Model
- User Voice and Engagement Framework

What are we going to do?

MAKING BROMLEY EVEN BETTER	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD
<p>1. Living within our means. We are rightly expected to work within our budgets to deliver high quality services to our residents whilst ensuring the prudent and efficient management of our finances through the operation of sound finance systems and processes.</p>	<p>a) Work within our budgets and maintain sound financial processes and systems</p>	Budgetary control	April 2025 (AP)	<p>Director Children, Education and Families</p>
		Maintain an effective Performance and Quality Assurance Management oversight	April 2025 (AP)	

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025

MAKING BROMLEY EVEN BETTER	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD
<p>2. Being opportunistic and collaborative in making bids to Government and other funding sources to increase resources available to the Partnership. Lobby the Government and Government departments strongly for increased resources when we see a need or opportunity.</p>	<p>a) Lobby the government for increased resources</p>	<p>Be opportunistic in making bids for funding sources and additional resources</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Director Children, Education and Families</p>

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025

MAKING BROMLEY EVEN BETTER	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD
<p>3. Recognising the importance of our workforce to the achievement of our ambitions and implementing workforce strategies which help to recruit and retain the highest quality staff for services in the borough.</p>	<p>a) Recruit and retain the highest quality staff across the whole workforce.</p>	<p>Workforce Stable</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Director Children, Education and Families / Director of HR</p>

MAKING BROMLEY EVEN BETTER	DETAIL	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	TARGET DATE	LEAD
<p>4. Maintaining our focus on commissioning and market shaping, developing integrated and joint commissioning where it makes sense to do so, and ensuring we commission intelligently with clear outcomes in mind. Ensuring our commissioned services deliver what is expected through robust and active contract management.</p>	<p>a) Commission services intelligently and integrate services where appropriate</p>	<p>Effective contract management</p> <p>Timely procurement</p> <p>Good co-production where appropriate</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director of Integrated Commissioning</p>

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025

<p>5. Continuing to exploit the benefits of digitalisation in service delivery through a new Digital Strategy, integrating systems and processes where it is feasible and practical. The Council will learn from best practice with a view to utilising technologies which provide practical improvements to our services.</p>	<p>a) Exploit the benefits of digitalisation</p>	<p>Bed in use of Liquid Logic new social care management system</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Director Children, Families and Education</p>
		<p>Continually explore opportunities and implement, such as the use of Virtual Reality Headsets for Domestic Violence Training.</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Assistant Director of Specialist Services</p>

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan for 2024 to 2025

<p>6. Developing information and knowledge sharing across Partnership agencies to enhance the intelligence available to all agencies in planning and evaluating our services.</p>	<p>a) Maintain effective strategic and operational partnership</p> <p>b) Maintain and Effective 'Engagement Framework'</p>	<p>Including; Children's Executive Board Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership Corporate Parenting Board</p> <p>Deliver annual 'you said we did' reports as evidence</p>	<p>April 2025 (AP)</p> <p>April 2025 (AP)</p>	<p>Director Children, Families and Education</p>
<p>7. Continuation of Joint Funding Childrens Community Health Service with Bromley Healthcare</p>	<p>a) Ensure continuity of services for children and young people</p> <p>b) Continued integration of services between health, education, and social care</p> <p>c) Support best value to public funds on delivery of children and young peoples services</p>	<p>Meeting the needs of children and young people accessing jointly funded services</p>	<p>December 2024</p>	<p>Associate Director of Childrens Commissioning</p>

Our ambitions framework

OUR VISION

A fantastic place to live and work, where everyone can lead healthy, safe and independent lives

OUR AMBITIONS

For children and young people to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home

For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence and making choices

For people to make their homes in Bromley and for business, enterprise and the third sector to prosper

For residents to live responsibly and prosper in a safe, clean and green environment great for today and a sustainable future

To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents

WHAT WE WILL DO

A good start to life

- Focus our primary healthcare on promoting protective factors
- Promote and enhance multi-agency early help services
- Embed our wellbeing model

Growing older positively

- Improve health outcomes for adults and older people with a focus on prevention
- Embed our 'strengths based approach' in adult social care
- Integrate our health and care services

A home for everyone

- Meet the housing needs of our residents
- Support those who are at risk of becoming homeless
- Provide longer-term housing options to reduce the use of temporary accommodation

A safe and protected community

- Adopt 'systems thinking' to problem solve and reduce crime and disorder
- Protect communities from nuisance behaviour, rogue traders, poor food hygiene and the risk of fire
- Protect the local environment through effective and responsible enforcement

Living within our means

- Work within our budgets and maintain sound financial processes and systems
- Lobby the government for increased resources when we see a need
- Effectively manage the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates

Learning and living well

- Maintain high educational standards and enable parents to have choice
- Promote educational inclusion for all
- Improve life outcomes for children in care and care leavers, those who have special educational needs, and young carers

Living independently

- Improve life outcomes for those have a learning disability or mental health, and those who are informal carers
- Help older people age well and independently
- Explore and implement innovation in seeking to improve outcomes for service users

A home for businesses

- Encourage economic growth and regeneration across the borough
- Improve the public realm, especially in town centres and business investment districts
- Develop our town centres to provide focal points for communities

A clean and green environment

- Collectively sustain a clean, green and tidy environment
- Increase levels of recycling and minimise levels of waste
- Promote more sustainable forms of transport and enhance the travel offer

Transforming our services

- Recruit and retain the highest quality staff across the whole workforce
- Exploit the benefits of digitalisation
- Make the best use of our resources, including the public estate and our people

Healthy and safe lives

- Improve support for those with poorer health outcomes
- Maintain our safeguarding practice
- Focus on reducing the number of young people in the youth justice system

Living well

- Promote and enhance multi-agency early help services
- Maintain and develop our education and skills offer
- Maintain our safeguarding practice

A community for all

- Maintain our collective investment in leisure facilities and cultural assets
- Maintain our high quality library service
- Support the enhancement of the third sector and increase volunteering

A carbon neutral environment

- Tackle carbon levels in the borough by becoming a net zero carbon Council
- Encourage residents and businesses to reduce their carbon-emissions
- Improve air quality

Collaborating and innovating together

- Be opportunistic in making bids for funding sources and additional resources
- Commission services intelligently and integrate services where it makes sense to do so
- Explore and implement innovation in service delivery and design

Report No.
CEF23087

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES

Date: For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Children, Education and Families Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on 11 June 2024

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: PROVISIONAL OUTTURN REPORT 2023/24

Contact Officer: David Bradshaw, Head of Finance, Children, Education and Families
Tel: 020 8313 4807 E-mail: David.Bradshaw@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Director, Children, Education and Families

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for report

1.1 This report provides the provisional outturn position for 2023/24.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 The Children, Education and Families Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee are invited to:

- (i) Note that the latest projected overspend of £6,907,000 on controllable expenditure at the end of 2023/24 and consider any issues arising from it: and,
- (ii) Note that the Executive on the 22nd May 2024 have been asked to agree the net carry forwards as detailed in Appendix 2;

2.2 The Portfolio Holder is asked to:

- (i) Endorse the 2023/24 provisional outturn position for the Children, Education and Families Portfolio.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable
 2. BBB Priority: Health and Integration
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: CEF Portfolio
 4. Total current budget for this head: £69.7m
 5. Source of funding: CEF approved budget
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 1,250 Full time equivalent
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement
 2. Call-in: Applicable
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): The 2022/23 budget reflects the financial impact of the Council's strategies, service plans etc. which impact on all of the Council's customers (including council tax payers) and users of the services
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 This report provides the provisional outturn position for the Children, Education and Families Portfolio, which is broken down in detail in Appendix 1, along with explanatory notes. This position is provisional and is subject to change following the meeting of the Executive.
- 3.2 The provisional outturn for the “controllable” element of the Children, Education and Families Committee budget in 2023/24 is an overspend of £6,907k compared to the last reported figure of an overspend of £7,721k which was based on activity at the end of December 2023.
- 3.3 Senior officers meet on a regular basis to scrutinise and challenge the expenditure position and formulate management action to address any issues.
- 3.4 There has been an increase in costs and activity in Childrens Social Care (CSC) which has impacted on the position throughout the year.
- 3.5 A challenging target for the budgeted number of children looked after was set at 321 at the start of the financial year (excluding UASC). At the beginning of April the figure was 329 and although the figure went as low as 318 the figure has risen back to 333 as at March 2024, which will have a significant impact on the budget position. The CLA per 10,000 figures for Bromley continue to be lower than statistical neighbours.
- 3.6 Because of these pressures placements are overspending by £6.2m. The profile is different than budgeted with more children needing to be placed in higher cost residential placements than expected and more in IFA’s leading to an overspend. The trend is likely to see this continue as children are presenting with greater complexity of needs than in previous years although the overall levels of Children Looked After (CLA) appears to be levelling off.
- 3.7 There have been particularly high placement costs, with new placements reaching levels of £13k to £15k a week. It is of concern that these levels of cost are increasingly becoming the norm for placements of children with any degree of complexity. The profile is different than budgeted with a more children in residential than expected and more in IFA’s leading to an overspend. The trend is seeing this likely to continue as children are presenting with higher end needs than in previous years although the levels of Children Looked After (CLA) appears to be levelling off. There is also increasing pressures in Direct Payments and Domiciliary Care in Children with Disabilities. Officers are looking at further actions that can be taken to mitigate against this.
- 3.8 The other main area of risk is staffing. Additional staffing costs are in the region of £2m. This is due to the need to maintain a number of agency staff because of market pressures across the recruitment sector. These levels of interims/agency staff mean that we have needed to maintain, high staffing costs and continuing temporary staffing beyond budgeted term. The department are looking at this and trying to reduce costs where possible. Following the conclusion of the Ofsted inspection we have already written to all agency staff inviting staff to convert to permanent posts. This has resulted in a number of expressions of interest which are currently being followed up. We have also taken the decision to not renew a number of agency contracts in order to reduce costs for agency posts. These staff left the organisation on March 31st.
- 3.9 The budget was set on the basis of 90% permanency across all staff in CSC in 2023/24. Levels are currently around 81% permanent staff, including the ‘in the pipeline’ appointments. There is an allowance for agency staff within the budget, but this will result in a significant overspend if this continues to be lower than expected. As mentioned above there are staff in pipeline, but this figure will also depend on the level of those leaving the organisation. Like many other professions, recruitment into these roles is becoming increasingly challenging.

3.10 The Education Revenue Support Grant /Core (RSG) element of the Portfolio is overspent by £669k. There continues to be pressures in SEN Transport. The demands are manifesting themselves through the following:-

- a) The number of children requiring transport has increased by circa 11% in 2023/24.
- b) Unavailability of drivers has resulted in more expensive providers having to be used from the call off framework.

3.11 The number of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP's) also have an effect across the Education Portfolio terms of services required in SEN, Inclusion and Education Psychology. This is reflected in the overall Education RSG position.

FINAL POSITION

3.12 The £6,907k overspend is summarised in the table below. All of the pressures and savings are further detailed and broken down in Appendix 1B.

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>£'000</u>
Adult Education	40
Schools, Early Years Commissioning and QA	-269
SEN and Inclusion	-397
Strategic Place Planning	-95
Workforce Development and Governor Services	30
Access and Inclusion	1,328
Other Strategic Functions	-63
Central Schools Budgets	95
Bromley Youth Support	-153
Early Intervention and Family Support	73
CLA and Care leavers	251
Fostering, Adoption and Resources	1,387
0-25 Childrens Service (Disability Service)	1,704
Referral and Assessment	886
Safeguarding and Care Planning East	1,052
Safeguarding and Care Planning West	962
Safeguarding and Quality Improvement	76
	<u><u>6,907</u></u>

DSG GRANT POSITION

3.13 An element of the Education Budget is classed as Schools' Budget and is funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Grant conditions require that any over or under spend should be carried forward to the next financial year.

3.14 The DSG overspend in year is £3,516k. This will be added to the carried forward deficit of £12,706k carried forward from 2022/23. This gives us an estimated DSG reserve deficit of £16,222k at the end of the financial year. Officers continue to deliver the recovery plan previously agreed with the DfE as part of their work across the country with Local Authorities with DSG deficit positions and this plan will be considered in due course. The recovery plan is regularly reviewed and updated. It should be noted that the DSG can fluctuate due to pupils requiring additional services or being placed in expensive placements.

- 3.15 Although additional grant was given by DfE including additional Supplementary grant, demand continues to outstrip funding. Bromley was one of the last authorities in London to fall into a deficit position regarding its DSG. The overspends are in the main in the high needs block area and are related to the cost of placements in all types of education settings.
- 3.16 The unsustainability of the SEN system is a national issue as acknowledged in the DfE's SEND Review. The DfE published its SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan in March 2023, however the proposals are not anticipated to provide any quantifiable impact on SEND pressures within the next two years. Nevertheless, officers are seeking to further reduce costs, within the tight constraints of the legal framework. Officers are working with DfE and are in discussion with them regarding recovery plans and actions that can be taken to reduce the deficit position.
- 3.17 EHCP's are still increasing but at a lower rate. A focus on earlier intervention and clarification of local decision making has reduced the number of requests for assessment by 10% and number of agreed assessments by 14% between 2022 and 2023 calendar years. This has been reflected in the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the position is close to what was expected.
- 3.18 The current number of EHCP's as at the end of March 2024 is 4,182, up 508 from 3,674 at the end of March 2023, an increase of around 13.8%, partially accounted for by a backlog in professional advice which has now been addressed.
- 3.19 Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Section 151 Officer to report on the robustness of the budget calculations and adequacy of reserves. The 151 Officer within that commentary is now required to consider the Councils DSG deficit position, despite the statutory override being in place.

The statutory override effectively means that any DSG deficits are not included in the Councils main revenue budgets. However, funding will ultimately need to be identified

In effect the Council has to still set aside resources to meet the DSG deficit and where no ongoing funding is identified such funding will need to come from the Councils reserves. On that basis the budget monitoring report identifies a deficit of £3,516k which has to ultimately be funded from the Councils reserve.

Although DSG is effectively ring fenced the ongoing increase through funding by reserves (general and earmarked) creates a financially unsustainable position in the medium to longer term.

The External Auditor as part of the annual accounts, are required to comment on the Councils Value for money arrangements and will be required to consider any DSG deficit and the impact on the Councils finances

In terms of presentation of the DSG deficit of £12,706k up to 31/3/2023 and the estimated in year sum of £3,516k in 2023/24, there will need to be adequate funding from the Councils reserves unless alternative savings can be found. The use of reserves have been assumed in this report, although the specific reserves to use have not been identified at this stage.

3.20 A summary of the main variations is provided in the table below, and further details and variations can be found in Appendix 1B.

	Variations
	£'000
Special Education Needs	4,092
Early Years	-1,136
Hearing Service	30
Education Welfare	44
Academy conversion	38
Other Small Balances	448
Total	<u><u>3,516</u></u>

CONTINGENCY DRAWDOWN

Supporting Families, Investing in Practice Grant - £473k Dr & Cr

3.21 This grant is to fund the development of an ongoing programme to support families who have multi-faceted problems including involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour with children not in education, training or employment. This support is delivered through a number of work streams cross cutting across council departments and agencies. As the grant is only confirmed for one year only it is held in contingency. The Portfolio Holder has previously agreed the release of the carry forward amount of £475k in September. Therefore, this will give a total in year budget of £948k which will enable the service to provide the function as described.

CARRY FORWARDS

3.22 On the 22nd May 2024 the Executive were asked to approve a number of carry forward requests relating to either unspent grant income, or delays in expenditure where cost pressures will follow through into 2024/25. Appendix 2 provides a detailed breakdown of all of the carry forward requests. As you will see from Appendix 2 the carry forwards included in section 1 will have repayment implications if not approved, those in section 2 relate to grants which will not have to be repaid if not agreed but will impact on service delivery in 2023/24. Section 3 are carry forward requests with no grant attached. Future reports to the Portfolio Holder will be required to approve their release.

FULL YEAR EFFECT GOING INTO 2023/24

3.23 Appendix 3 provides a breakdown of any full year implications arising from the final 2023/24 outturn. Overall there are £10,509k of full year effect pressures in 2024/25. These are in the Children's Social Care and Education areas. As part of the budget setting process the majority of these full year effects have been dealt with and additional funding has been added to the budgets for 2024/25. There are still some management actions that have been assumed to be taken that have not delivered in 2023/24. Officers will continue to explore options to mitigate these additional costs. If these are not addressed in 2024/25 then there will be an additional pressure on the budget.

	<u>£'000</u>
SEN Transport	2,015
Residential/Fostering/Adoption placements	4,545
0-25 Childrens service (CWD)	1,528
Referral and Assessment	-105
Leaving Care	2,526
	<u>10,509</u>

3.24 Appendix 4 provides a detailed reconciliation of the original 2023/24 budget to the latest approved 2023/24 budget. Given the significant financial savings that the Council will need to make over the next four years, it is important that all future cost pressures are contained and that savings are identified early to mitigate these pressures.

DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS SERVICES COMMENTS

3.25 The Children, Education and Families Portfolio has a projected overspend of £6,907k for the year.

The Education Division (core funding) has a projected overspend of £669k.

3.26 SEN Transport continues to be a risk area. There are a number of causal factors affecting the position on transport:

- An increase in number and complexity of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities over the past five years. The national increase in EHCPs is widely acknowledged as unsustainable and the rate of increase is accelerating across the country. In Bromley, the rate of increase had reached 17% in 2021/22. We have taken significant steps to reduce the rate of increase in EHCPs, including the introduction of new guidance on Ordinarily Available Provision and the expectations of support before statutory assessment is considered. This multi-agency approach has helped to reduce the rate of increase to 10% (January 2022-January 2023). Furthermore, we have put in place additional measures over the past 12 months to support families and provide alternative services at an earlier stage. Nevertheless, we continue to see the impact of increasing numbers of EHCPs, leading to c120 additional children or young people requiring transport in the financial year 2023/24. This pressure is exacerbated by the shortage of local specialist provision leading to high numbers of placements to out of Borough and independent non-maintained providers, which increases transport costs.
- The complexity of children and young people's needs continues to be at a higher level than prior to the Covid pandemic. These high levels of demand have continued for the past 3 years. A number of these cases have acute social, emotional and mental health needs, which require specialist provision which is typically costly independent provision outside of Bromley. Transport is often required and although officers seek to minimise costs, transport is often statutorily required to meet children's needs.
- There are continued transport provider pressures linked to the cost of fuel and wages. The reduced availability of drivers has resulted in more expensive providers having to be used from the call off framework.
- Significant management action has been taken to reduce the costs of SEN Transport. Following agreement by Members within 2022/23, the implementation of these measures has led to cost reductions as per the savings targets in the MTFs.

- 3.27 There is a current projected in year overspend in Education (DSG funding) of £3,516k in year. This will be added to the £12,706k carried forward in the reserves from 2022/23. This gives us an estimated DSG reserve of £16,222k at the end of the financial year.
- 3.28 The in-year deficit position for 2023/24 was lower than forecast, reflecting effective management action taken, with the support of Finance officers. In June we will meet again with representatives from the DfE to review our management of the DSG over-spend. At all previous meetings, DfE officials confirmed that they were satisfied with the steps that we continue to take and are content to meet with Bromley on an annual basis. DfE officials were asked whether their experience directly monitoring 20-30 other LAs through Safety Valve and Delivering Better Value highlighted any additional mitigations for Bromley to consider, but none were put forward.
- 3.29 The impact of additional legal duties from the SEND Reforms, has led to unsustainable financial pressures on High Needs costs within the DSG. The increase in Government funding is not sufficient to meet the increased costs. We are aware that Bromley was one of the last London Boroughs to incur a deficit in the DSG, with some local authorities having incurred deficits well in excess of £30m. The SEND legal framework is heavily weighted in favour of parental preference, which is often for costly independent day and residential provision. We continue to assess all cases carefully and with a view to carefully balancing the education needs of young people and ensuring the best value for money from specialist education placements. Where it is appropriate to do so we continue to defend our decisions at Tribunal.
- 3.30 The demand management mitigations referenced earlier in this report are anticipated to have a sustained impact on the further growth in costs of provision for children and young people with an EHCP. We have sought to commission additional local specialist provision, including a new special free school, with successive delays encountered for this DfE-led capital scheme. The needs and tribunal challenges are such that we have no choice but to continue placing children in more costly provision to ensure we are not in default of our legal statutory duties.
- 3.31 A review of High Needs Funding Bands is nearing conclusion, with oversight from the SEND Governance Board and CEF PDS. Recommendations will be made how the funding bands can be simplified and to identify where any savings can be made. We continue to work on increases to local specialist provision, including the special free school and increases in Additionally Resourced Provisions, which are specialist classes within mainstream schools.

In Children's Social Care the projected overspend is £6,238k.

- 3.32 The ongoing pressures that relate to emotional and mental health concerns for young people, combined with the impact of inflation and cost of living pressures continues, especially in respect of contacts into our MASH. These continue to remain consistently around 1,100 -1,200 contacts per month with little sign of a reduction. This compares to around 600 in April 2020 and it is the increasing complexity of need from the families and children that have an added dimension.
- 3.33 Although much reduced from the previous year, the financial pressures across CSC continue to be primarily driven by placement costs for young people and by the cost of agency staff.
- 3.34 Nationally, the cost of residential placements increased by 18.78% in 2022/23 (ADCS 2023) as demand continues to be greater than the number of placements available, particularly for children with complex or specialist requirements. The two key factors driving increasing costs of placements to keep children safe, are the mental health of children and the criminal exploitation of children.
- 3.35 Although our recruitment of permanent staff has increased and we now have fewer agency staff than in the past two years, our spend on agency staff still contributes to the pressures on the CSC staffing budget. As previously outlined to PDS, we are currently exploring options for the

Council to set-up its own Children's home and/or agree the block booking of beds at a competitive rate in order to more actively influence costs and sufficiency.

3.36 There also continues to be a high level of demand for support particularly in Children with Disabilities (CWD) which has meant a rise in demand for our short break provision. In response we have sought to increase the number of nights available for the number of families requiring this. Whilst these continued pressures have meant an increase in our looked after population in CWD despite the innovative and expensive care packages put in to support with health provision short breaks. The resilience for some families is now being significantly tested following two years of Covid challenges. This is primarily seen in families for children with profound and complex health and challenging sometimes aggressive behaviour.

3.37 The risks in the Children, Education & Families Portfolio are:-

- Recruitment and retention of permanent staff/ ability to recruit skilled staff for the posts vacant and competitive salaries being paid at this time.
- Limited supply and increasing costs of residential placements – including the specialist placements for very complex young people. The cost of placements that a Deprivation of Liberty Order (DOLS) is required are increasingly high . The judiciary still have delays with families being retained in residential placements beyond the assessment.
- Continued complexity of children (SEND).
- Shortage of local school places (particularly for Specialist schools).
- Increasing High Needs Block expenditure not matched by a commensurate increase in Government Grant.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Resources Portfolio Plan includes the aim of effective monitoring and control of expenditure within budget and includes the target that each service department will spend within its own budget.
- 4.2 The “Building a Better Bromley” objective of being an Excellent Council refers to the Council’s intention to ensure good strategic financial management and robust discipline to deliver within our budgets.
- 4.3 The four year financial forecast report highlights the financial pressures facing the Council. It remains imperative that strict budgetary control continues to be exercised in 2024/25 to minimise the risk of compounding financial pressures in future years.
- 4.4 Chief Officers and Departmental Heads of Finance are continuing to place emphasis on the need for strict compliance with the Council’s budgetary control and monitoring arrangements.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The financial implications are in the body of the report. A detailed breakdown of the projected outturn by service area in shown in appendix 1(a) with explanatory notes in appendix 1(b). Appendix 2 outlines the requested carry forwards to 2024/25. Appendix 3 shows the latest full year effects and Appendix 4 gives the analysis of the latest approved budget.
- 5.2 Overall the current overspend position stands at £6,907k (£10,509k overspend full year effect). The full year effect will need to be addressed in 2024/25 in due course.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Legal/Personnel/Customer Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	2023/24 Budget Monitoring files in CEF Finance Section

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Budget Monitoring Summary

2022/23 Actuals	Service Areas	2023/24 Original Budget £'000	2023/24 Latest Approved £'000	2023/24 Projected Outturn £'000	Variation £'000	Notes	Variation Last Reported £'000	Full Year Effect £'000
	CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO							
	Education Division - Core funding							
Cr 347	Adult Education Centres	Cr 430	Cr 344	Cr 304	40	1	20	0
576	Schools and Early Years Commissioning & QA	739	977	708	Cr 269	2	Cr 69	0
2,771	SEN and Inclusion	2,525	3,604	3,207	Cr 397	3	Cr 240	0
100	Strategic Place Planning	56	139	44	Cr 95	4	0	0
17	Workforce Development & Governor Services	Cr 22	Cr 2	28	30	5	0	0
7,516	Access & Inclusion	8,134	8,975	10,303	1,328	6	1,684	2,015
196	Other Strategic Functions	459	242	179	Cr 63	7	Cr 215	0
Cr 40	Central School Costs	Cr 60	Cr 60	35	95	8	0	0
10,789		11,401	13,531	14,200	669		1,180	2,015
	Children's Social Care							
1,911	Bromley Youth Support Programme	1,798	1,841	1,688	Cr 153	9	62	0
1,260	Early Intervention and Family Support	1,545	1,520	1,593	73	10	Cr 46	0
10,034	CLA and Care Leavers	11,485	12,352	12,603	251	11	831	2,526
22,122	Fostering, Adoption and Resources	23,880	24,380	25,767	1,387	12	1,794	4,545
5,184	0-25 Children Service (Disability Services)	3,714	4,313	6,017	1,704	13	1,427	1,528
5,073	Referral and Assessment Service	4,765	5,280	6,166	886	14	463	Cr 105
4,582	Safeguarding and Care Planning East	4,181	4,181	5,233	1,052	15	901	0
2,998	Safeguarding and Care Planning West	2,493	2,134	3,096	962	16	774	0
Cr 2,489	Safeguarding and Quality Improvement	Cr 6,255	Cr 6,427	Cr 6,351	76	17	335	0
50,675		47,606	49,574	55,812	6,238		6,541	8,494
61,464	TOTAL CONTROLLABLE FOR CEF CORE FUNDING	59,007	63,105	70,012	6,907		7,721	10,509
129	Total Non-Controllable	1,424	464	464	0		0	0
11,182	Total Excluded Recharges	7,208	6,165	6,165	0		0	0
72,775	TOTAL CEF PORTFOLIO CORE FUNDING	67,639	69,734	76,641	6,907		7,721	10,509
	Education Division - DSG Funding							
21,691	Schools and Early Years Commissioning & QA	21,512	22,404	20,963	Cr 1,441	18	Cr 535	0
39,401	SEN and Inclusion	40,787	40,003	43,542	3,539	19	4,501	0
3,272	Access & Inclusion	3,635	3,376	2,970	Cr 406	20	Cr 143	0
22	Strategic Place Planning	94	11	Cr 5	Cr 16	21	0	0
6	Workforce Development & Governor Services	20	0	0	0		0	0
130	Other Strategic Functions	481	348	219	Cr 129	22	Cr 1	0
Cr 97,312	Schools Budgets	Cr 103,139	Cr 104,474	Cr 100,682	3,792	23	0	0
17,840	Special Schools and Alternative Provision	18,983	19,723	18,760	Cr 963	24	0	0
7,847	Primary Schools	10,075	10,023	8,634	Cr 1,389	25	35	0
4,005	Secondary Schools	3,798	3,798	4,327	529	26	0	0
0	Charge to Reserves	0	0	Cr 3,516	Cr 3,516	27	Cr 3,857	0
Cr 3,098		Cr 3,754	Cr 4,788	Cr 4,788	0		0	0
Cr 3,098	TOTAL CONTROLLABLE FOR CEF - DSG FUNDING	Cr 3,754	Cr 4,788	Cr 4,788	0		0	0
11	Total Non-Controllable	81	14	14	0		0	0
3,087	Total Excluded Recharges	3,673	4,774	4,774	0		0	0
0	TOTAL CEF PORTFOLIO - DSG FUNDING	0	0	0	0		0	0
	TOTAL CEF PORTFOLIO	67,639	69,734	76,641	6,907		7,721	10,509

REASONS FOR VARIATIONS**1. Adult Education Centres - Dr £40k**

This area has overspent by £40k and this is due to an shortfall of fees income of £191k. This is being offset by an underspend on staffing of £22k and £129k on running costs.

2. Schools and Early Years Commissioning & QA - Cr £269k

The in-house nursery is currently expected to overspend by £7k, and this is down to an under collection of income of £98k being offset by an underspend on staffing of £77k and running costs of £14k.

Across the rest of the service there is a £276k underspend relating to staffing (£155k) running costs (£55k) and additional income of (£66k).

3. SEN and Inclusion - Cr £397k

The staffing in this area is currently forecasting an underspend by £142k - this is due to a number of posts that are currently or have been vacant during the year. There is also an underspend of £344k on running costs that is then offset by a shortfall in income of £150k.

The Education Psychologists currently have a number of vacant posts in their team. This is causing the statutory service they are required to provide to be underspent by £300k and the Trading Service they offer to the Schools to be overspent by £239k. This is a net underspend of £61k.

4. Strategic Place Planning Cr £95k

This area has underspent by £95k and this is due to underspends on staffing of £64k and £31k on running costs.

5. Workforce Development and Governors Services - Dr £30k

This area has overspent by £30k and this is due to a shortfall of fees income of £22k, along with overspends on both staffing (£2k) and running costs (£6k).

6. Access & Inclusions - Dr £1,328k

The overspend in this area is due to the costs of SEN Transport that has overspent by £1,394k due to the increasing number of children qualifying for this service, and the under collection of income of £125k. This is then offset by underspends on staffing of £56k and other running costs of £135k.

7. Other Strategic Functions - Cr £63k

This area has underspent by £63k. This is due to underspends on staffing (£39k) and running costs of (£110k). This is then being offset by an under collection of income of £86k.

8. Central School Costs Dr £95k

This area has overspent by £95k due to an under collection of income (£51k) and overspends on running costs (£44k).

Children's Social Care - Dr £6,238k

The current budget variation for the Children's Social Care Division is projected to be an overspend of £6,238k, this is an decrease of £303k from the quarter three position. Additional funding has been identified of £1,370k during the year due to above inflationary increases in prices across the board in CSC. This has been applied but pressures/demands still remain.

9. Bromley Youth Support Programme - Cr £153k

The BYSP has underspent by £153k this year. The service is currently looking at transformational savings that have not yet been realised and this is the main cause behind the overspend on running costs of £125k. This is being offset by an underspend on staffing costs of £131k and an over collection on income of £147k.

10. Early Intervention and Family Support - Dr £73k

The service has overspent on staffing by £441k, that is then being offset but underspends on running costs of £42k and additional income of £326k.

11. CLA and Care Leavers - Dr £251k

The budget for placements in this area have overspent by £357k this year. This amount is analysed by placement type below.

- Staying Put - Dr £52k (Dr 435k)

- Direct Accommodation - Dr £821k (£Dr 1,118k)

- Placement Support Leaving Care - Cr £516k (Cr £661k)

This leave an underspend of £106k across the rest of the area, and this is made up of a £226k overspend on staffing and £523k on running costs that is then being offset by additional income of £855k.

12. Fostering, Adoption and Resources - Dr £1,387k

The budget for children's placements is currently projected to overspend by £808k this year. This amount is analysed by placement type below.

- Community Home's / Community Home's with Education - Dr £2,672k (Dr £3,169k)
- Boarding Schools - Cr £208k (Cr £184k)
- Secure Placement - Cr £209k (Cr £250k)
- Remand Placement - Cr £506 (Cr £0k)
- Fostering services (IFA's) - Dr £213k (Dr £105k)
- Fostering services (In-house, including SGO's and Kinship) - Cr £548k (Cr £833k)
- Adoption placements - Cr £197k (Cr £200k)
- Outreach Services - Cr £89k (Dr £109k)
- Transport Costs - Dr £23k (Cr £154k)
- Dom Care - Cr £343k (Cr £63k)

Additionally there is an extra £155k worth of grant income - most of which relates to the cost of the placements. This is then being offset by overspends in staffing of £689k and running cost of £45k.

13. 0-25 Children Service - Dr £1,704k

The main area of overspend was the use of Direct Payments (£296k) and Dom Care (£709k) to support our clients. There is also a overspend in staffing of £136k and running costs of £94k and an under collection of income of £469k.

14. Referral and Assessment Service Dr £886k

The main variances in this area relate to an overspend on staffing of £809k, with additional pressure on running costs of £135k. This was then offset by a £58k underspend related to No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) clients.

15. Safeguarding and Care Planning East Dr £1,052k

The budget is overspent by £1,052k, and is due to staffing overspends of £544k and £57k on running costs. Additionally there is an overspend of £451k related to various costs related to supporting our clients.

16. Safeguarding and Care Planning West Dr £962k

The variances in this area relates to an overspend on staffing of £942k and £20k on running costs.

17. Safeguarding and Quality Improvement Dr £76k

The overspend of £76k in this area mainly relates to a shortfall in fees income of £187k that were then offset by underspends on staffing of £44k, (and this includes the costs of recruiting and retaining social workers across the whole of Children's Social Care), and £67k relating to general running costs.

Schools Budgets (no impact on General Fund)

Expenditure on Schools is funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) provided by the Department for Education (DfE). DSG is ring fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget. Any overspend or underspend must be carried forward to the following years Schools Budget.

The DSG overspent by £3,516k in 2023/24. This will be added to the £12,706k carried forward in the reserves from 2022/23. This gives a DSG deficit reserve at the end of 2023/24 of £16,222k at the end of the financial year.

18. Schools and Early Years Commissioning & QA Cr £1,441k

There was an underspend on the costs of child care payments for 2, 3 and 4 year olds of £1,136k at the end of the year. This includes the costs related to the Early Years Supplementary Grant.

Additionally there are underspends of £46k on staffing, £255k on running costs and £4k additional income collected.

19. SEN and Inclusion Dr £3,539k

SEN placements has overspent by a total of £3,983k. The overspend is being caused by the Maintained Day (£1,194k), Independent Day (£815k), Alternative Programmes (£1,685k), Maintained Boarding School (£205k), Direct Payment (£252k), and Matrix funding (£1,140k). This is then slightly offset by an underspend on Independent Boarding Schools (£418k) and other various underspends (£890k).

In addition to the placement costs, there are underspends on staffing across a number of units of £17k, on running costs of £425k, and £2k extra income collected.

20. Access & Inclusion Cr £406k

The £406k underspend in this area is due to an overspend of £186k on running costs and an under collection of income of £21k. These are being offset by staffing underspends of £613k.

21. Strategic Place Planning Cr £16k

This area has underspent by £16k on running costs due the year.

22. Other Strategic Functions Cr £129k

The year end position for this area is an underspend of £129k. This is made up of an underspend on running costs of £221k that is then offset by an overspend of £92k on staffing.

23. Schools Budgets Dr £3,792k

This area has overspent by £3,792k mainly due to the amount charged to the DSG Reserve now being shown separating. This has caused a running cost overspend of £4,123k that is being offset by additional income of £331k during the year.

24. Special Schools and Alternative Provision Cr £963k

This area has an underspend variance due to additional grant income (£402k) and an underspend on running costs (£561k) that is mainly down to lower number of payments to academies for top up funding than budgeted.

25. Primary Schools Cr £1,389k

The cost pressure in this area relates to the deficit in one of schools when it converted to academy and joined a trust (£38k). This area has an underspend variance due to payments to schools (including academies) being less than that budgeted for (£3,035k) and this was offset by lower than expect grant income by £1,608k. The lower than expect grant income is a contributory factor to the lower than expected payments.

26. Secondary Schools Dr 529k

This area has an underspend variance due to additional grant income (£365k) that is then offset by an overspend on running costs (£894k) that will include the additional grant we have received.

27. Charge to Reserves Cr £3,516k

This is the amount that has been transferred to the DSG Reserve at year end. This offsets some of the overspend in the Schools Budget area.

Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Section 151 Officer to report on the robustness of the budget calculations and adequacy of reserves. The 151 Officer within that commentary is now required to consider the Councils DSG deficit position, despite the statutory override being in place.

The statutory override effectively means that any DSG deficits are not included in the Councils main revenue budgets. However funding will ultimately need to be identified

In effect the Council has to still set aside resources to meet the DSG deficit and where no ongoing funding is identified such funding will need to come from the Councils reserves. On that basis the budget monitoring report identifies a deficit of £3,516k which has to ultimately be funded from the Councils reserve.

Although DSG is effectively ring fenced the ongoing increase through funding by reserves (general and earmarked) creates a financially unsustainable position in the medium to longer term

The External Auditor as part of the annual accounts, are required to comment on the Councils Value for money arrangements and will be required to consider any DSG deficit and the impact on the Councils finances

In terms of presentation of the DSG deficit of £12,706k up to 31/3/2023 and the estimated in year sum of £3,516k in 2023/24, there will need to be adequate funding from the Councils reserves unless alternative savings can be found. The use of reserves have been assumed in this report, although the specific reserves to use have not been identified at this stage.

Waiver of Financial Regulations

The Council's Contract Procedure Rules state that where the value of a contract exceeds £50k and is to be exempt from the normal requirement to obtain competitive quotations the Chief Officer has to obtain the agreement of the Director of Corporate Services, the Director of Finance and the Director of Commissioning and (where over £100,000) approval of the Portfolio Holder and report use of this exemption to Audit Sub-Committee bi-annually. Since the last report to the Executive, there has been in Children's Social Care 10 waivers agreed for placements of between £50 and £100k, 1 between £100k and £150k, 1 between £150k and £200k, and 18 for a value of over £200k.

Virements Approved to date under Director's Delegated Powers

Details of virements actioned by Chief Officers under delegated authority under the Financial Regulations "Scheme of Virement" will be included in financial monitoring reports to the Portfolio Holder. Since the last report to Executive, there have been no virements processed.

Carry Forwards from 2023/24 to 2024/25**MEMBERS' APPROVAL REQUIRED****Grants with Explicit Right of Repayment****CHILDREN EDUCATION & FAMILIES PORTFOLIO**

1	COVID Recovery This is an academic year grant. This allows LA's to carry forward all or part of the grant to be used in the remainder of the current academic year.	114,289
2	National Tutoring Programme This is an academic year grant. This allows LA's to carry forward all or part of the grant to be used in the remainder of the current academic year.	26,019
Total Expenditure to be Carried Forward		140,308
Total Grant Income		-140,308

Grants with no Explicit Right of Repayment**CHILDREN EDUCATION & FAMILIES PORTFOLIO**

3	Supporting Families, Investing in Practise Grant The new programme, Supporting Families; Investing in Practice, will help families work on issues together, including those impacted by domestic violence, substance misuse or addiction, in order to help create stability in the home for young people and prevent them being taken into care, where that is in their best interests. This is part of wider Government work to improve outcomes for children in need of support of a social worker, by creating home and school environments in which they can thrive.	475,170
4	Virtual School - CIN Grant Carry Forward Two years ago the LA were given new duties to promote the education to ALL children with a social worker. To recognise the significant extra work the LA were allocated an annual grant of £100k. This money is intended solely for this purpose, and the DCS has signed the memorandum of understanding that commits to this. This is mainly used to pay for staff, although there has been issues with recruitment over the last financial year.	105,000
5	GLA Adult Education Grant The £82k is needed to support staffing and IT infrastructure needs at BAEC in the financial year 2024/25. The £82k was received late in 2023/24 (January 2024) as the funds BAEC operates with cover academic year. The funding will ensure the financial sustainability to fulfil the operational staffing and IT infrastructure needs of the service	82,000
6	Delivery Support Fund The DFE awarded in the Autumn term the sum of £65,703 to support the rollout of the expanding childcare funding streams. We have so far committed £29K of this grant, to pay for a full Childcare Sufficiency assessment over the summer term. The contract for this has only just been signed and works will commence in April. It is crucial that we conduct a full childcare assessment to be able to determine the childcare needs in Bromley, which is one of our core duties as a Local Authority. To be able to spend this grant effectively, the local need will have to be understood.	65,703
7	PDP3 Payment Grant The DFE have provided a backfill grant for students from Early Years settings to undertaking training. Two payments were made this year based upon student take up. Some progress payments have been made but not all progress has been confirmed by the trainer, so some are outstanding.	9,419

8	GLA Free Schools Meal Grant The GLA UFSM allocation of £183,532 needs to be carried over to allow sufficient time to ensure remaining funds are calculated and distributed to our schools in proportion to eligibility criteria and latest data	183,532
Total Expenditure to be Carried Forward		<u>920,824</u>
Total Grant Income		<u>-920,824</u>

OTHER CARRY FORWARD REQUESTS**CHILDREN EDUCATION & FAMILIES PORTFOLIO**

9	The Youth Support Programme Mobile and Detached Team Van The Youth Support Programme Mobile and Detached Team provide a resource to engage with young people and target support within the borough where it is required. The service offers an accessible positive activities programme designed to meet the The funding is from underspends and use of grant in 2023/24 that will not be replicated in 2024/25, so the funding is requested to be carried forward to support the cost of the vehicle. The arrangements for the vehicle have been made but could not be completed before the end of the financial year	60,000
		<u>60,000</u>
Total Other		<u>60,000</u>
TOTAL CARRY FORWARD TO 2024/25		<u>60,000</u>

Description	2023/24 Latest Approved Budget £'000	Variation To 2023/24 Budget £'000	Potential Impact in 2024/25
Children's Social Care	49,574	2,263	The overall full year effect of the Children's Social Care overspend is a net £8,494k, analysed as Residential Care, Fostering and Adoption of £4,545k, Leaving Care costs of £2,526k, CWD costs of £1,528k, and referral and assessment of Cr £105k.
SEN Transport	10,324	1,394	The overall full year impact is £2,015k

Reconciliation of Latest Approved Budget

£'000

Original Budget 2023/24

67,639

Contingency:**Carry forwards:**

Deed Settlement for Hawes Down Site		
expenditure		5
income	Cr	5
Virtual School - CIN Grant Carry Forward		
expenditure		82
income	Cr	82
Homes for Ukraine DfE Grant		
expenditure		1,187
income	Cr	1,187
BAEC upgrading hardware and supporting software - GLA Grant		
expenditure		26
income	Cr	26
YOT NHS Money		
expenditure		29
income	Cr	29
COVID Recovery Grant		
expenditure		130
income	Cr	130
National Tutoring Programme		
expenditure		22
income	Cr	22
GLA Adult Ed Grant Repayment		
expenditure		16
income	Cr	16
Supporting Families; Investing in Practice Grant		
expenditure		475
income	Cr	475
Homes for Ukraine Main Grant		
expenditure		300
income	Cr	300

Other:

Transfer of Staff from LD Care Management to Children's 0-25 years' service		144
Transfer of Care Placements Team Staff to Children's Services		320
S31 Leaving Care Uplift Grant		
expenditure		68
income	Cr	68
GLA free school meal payment		
expenditure		6,036
income	Cr	6,036
UKSPF funding		
expenditure		275
income	Cr	275

Above Inflation Pressures on Children Placements	1,370
Drawdown of SEN Transport	1,000
Early Years Supplementary Grant	
expenditure	1,669
income	Cr 1,669
Extended Personal Advisor Grant	
expenditure	11
income	Cr 11
Homes for Ukraine Main Grant - Adult Education	
expenditure	80
income	Cr 80
Reducing Parental Conflict Grant	
expenditure	30
income	Cr 30
Adult Education GLA Grant Funding	
expenditure	82
income	Cr 82
Uplift to Youth Justice Board Grant	
expenditure	12
income	Cr 12
Change in DSG Early Years and High Needs Block	
expenditure - Early Years	1,077
expenditure - High Needs	258
income	Cr 1,335
Draw Down from Reserve to meet demand in EHCP's / High Needs	
Expenditure	525
Income	Cr 525
Increase in Fuel Costs	187
Increase in Fuel Costs	44
Autism Funding transferred from ACH	
expenditure	42
income	Cr 42
Youth Justice Grant Increase	
expenditure	3
income	Cr 3
DFE Delivery Support Fund	
expenditure	66
income	Cr 66
Strengthening Multi-Agency Leadership Grant	
expenditure	47
income	Cr 47
Supporting Families; Investing in Practice Grant	
expenditure	473
income	Cr 473
Memorandum Items:	
Capital Charges	-1,070
Insurance	-14
Repairs & Maintenance	69
Rent income	-12
Excluded Recharges	57

Latest Approved Budget for 2023/24

69,734

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Report No.
CEF23085

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES

Date: For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Children, Education and Families Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on 11 June 2024

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: EDUCATION PLANNED MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2024/25

Contact Officer: Robert Bollen, Head of Sufficiency, Education Sufficiency Service
Tel: 020 8313 4697 E-mail: Robert.Bollen@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Director of Education

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for decision/report and options

1.1 To agree the capital maintenance programme for 2024/25 at maintained schools.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 That the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Holder:

- Notes Bromley's allocation of £406,595 of School Condition Allocation (SCA) for 2024/25 from DfE to support the capital maintenance of community and foundation maintained schools within Bromley. This will be added to the Capital Maintenance in Schools cost centre (906726) within the Council's Capital Programme,
- Agrees expenditure of allocation of £617k capital maintenance funding as set out within section 6.2 below.
- Delegates responsibility to the Director of Education to agree changes to the programme set out at 6.2.
- Capital maintenance works will normally be procured through open procurement. The Council may also on occasion delegate funds to schools or deliver works through the Council's Corporate Property Division.
- The Council's Lot 4 consultant has been commissioned to support the Council where required in the planning and project management of education planned maintenance works.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Will benefit at least estimated 1,700 children at Bromley maintained schools.
-

Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority (delete as appropriate):
(1) For children and young People to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated Cost £617k
 2. Ongoing costs: Non-Recurring Cost
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Capital Maintenance in Schools
 4. Total current budget for this head: £14.149m
 5. Source of funding: DfE School Condition Allocation (SCA)
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): -
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: -
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement
 2. Call-in: Applicable: Executive decision.
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: There are no direct procurement implications arising from this report as it deals with the education capital programme budget. Individual contracts will be subject to future Member or officer reports subject to value.
-

Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: Riverside School is a maintained school.
-

Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: The report allocates 10% of the SCA capital grant received from the DfE to renewable improvements/technology. The Council is working to identify further funding opportunities to reduce the carbon impact of Bromley's maintained school estate.
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (current and projected): The proposals will benefit 1,760 children, their families and staff at maintained schools
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
 2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not applicable
-

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 LBB receives an annual school conditions allocation (SCA) from the Department for Education to support capital maintenance works at the remaining LBB maintained school annually from the DfE. The allocation for 2024/25 was £407K.
- 3.2 The allocation from the DfE to the Council is made on the basis of 5 remaining maintained schools of which Riverside SEND school operates out of 4 satellite sites:
- Edgebury Primary School (Foundation)
 - Marjorie McClure School (Foundation)
 - Poverest Primary School (Foundation)
 - Riverside School (Community) (site at Orpington, Beckenham, West Wickham and Phoenix Centre)
 - Southborough Primary School (Foundation)
- 3.3 The former Marjorie McClure site on Hawkwood Lane Chislehurst also forms part of the Council's maintained school estate.
- 3.4 Marjorie McClure school is due to convert to become an academy part of NEST multi academy trust from the 1 September 2024. This report does not propose to make any further capital allocation to the new premises Marjorie McClure moved into new premises during 2023.
- 3.5 The Council seeks to support decarbonisation of the maintained school estate through its delivery of the education capital maintenance programme. To meet the above target £40k is being set aside in the 2024/25 programme to support works at maintained schools which meet these objectives. It is proposed that this money allocated to install LED lights at Edgebury Primary School.
- 3.6 This year's programme focusses on boiler replacement, roof repairs and fire safety works. Budgetary allocations are set out at 6.2 below.
- 3.7 As detailed in the Basic Need Update Report considered by Members on 29 March 2024 the Council plans to allocate £1m planned maintenance funding to support the refurbishment of the former Marjorie McClure site. The allocation of this funding and award of any contract will be subject to separate report(s).
- 3.8 The heating replacement scheme at Southborough Primary School and completed during 2023/24 overspent by £69,560 mainly the increased cost of infrastructure upgrades. This sum could be contained within the 2023/24 planned maintenance allocation and has no implication on this year's budget.
- 3.9 Allocations to schools are made based on priority condition works and health and safety issues. This is informed by the schools' premises development maintenance plans, issues raised by schools and condition surveys in addition to DfE Condition Data Collection reports. Consultants appointed under Lot 4 of the Consultancy Framework are developing a programme of works.

4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

4.1 The proposals will benefit at least 1,702 children, their families, and staff at maintained schools

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The delivery of high-quality education environments is a priority within the Council's strategy Making Bromley Even Better 2021-31; 'For children and young people to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.' The allocation of capital funding to support capital maintenance to LB Bromley schools contributes to the overall capital investment in school buildings. This policy also contributes to key targets within the Children Education and Families Portfolio Plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The available budget of £617k for 2024/25 is made up of £406,595 new SCA funding for 2024/25 received from the DfE and £210k carry forward from 2023/24.

	(£'000s)
2024/25 SCA allocation	407
SCA carry forward from 2024/25	210
	617

6.2 The proposed allocations to be made for 2024/25 within the Education Planned Programme are set out below. This includes a 10% allocation for renewables, a 10% contingency and capitalisation of staffing costs involved in delivering the programme.

	(£'000s)
Riverside St Paul's Cray Boiler Rationalisation	100
Poverest Boilers (Phase 1)	100
Roofing works - various sites	100
Fire door replacements and fire safety works - various sites	137
10% Renewables - (Edgebury LEDs)	40
Consultants and other Fees	48
Contingency	48
Capitalised Staffing Costs	45
	617

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This report seeks approval from the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Holder to agree the capital maintenance programme for 2024/25 at maintained schools, specifically to;

- I. Note allocation of £406,595 of School Condition Allocation (SCA) for 2024/25 from DfE
- II. Authorise £617k based on the 5 remaining Community and Foundation schools as set out in this report.
- III. Delegate funds to schools or commission via London Borough of Bromley portal.
- IV. Authorise allocation of £617k the School Condition Allocation received for 2024/25 and carry forward funds from previous years.

7.2 The Council has a statutory duty under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to secure sufficient schools to meet demand in its area, ensuring that schools are sufficient in "number,

character and equipment'. The distribution and application of monies received from Central Government is subject to guidance and advice from the Department for Education.

- 7.3 There are no significant legal issues raised regarding the recommendations made in this report.
- 7.4 Officers will need to consult with Legal Services in respect of the further provision of the schools capital maintenance works when it becomes necessary to carry out a new procurement in regards to the schools capital maintenance work and may contact Legal Services should they require legal advice in relation to the appropriate legal documentation.

8. PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no implications on Bromley's corporate estate. 5 of the schools have foundation status and these schools hold their premises on a freehold basis. Riverside School is a Community School where the Council is landlord, but day-to-day management is delegated to the headteacher and governing body.

9. CARBON REDUCTION/SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The education planned maintenance programme sets aside 10% of the 2024/25 SCA grant for renewables at schools.

Non-Applicable Headings:	Personnel/Procurement Implications, Customer Impact, Ward Councillor Views.
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	

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Report No.
CEF23086

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: **PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES**

Date: For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Children, Education and Families PDS Committee on 11 June 2024

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: **EARLY INTERVENTION AND FAMILY SUPPORT ANNUAL UPDATE**

Contact Officer: Rachel Dunley, Head of Service Early Intervention and Family Support Services (CSC)
Tel: 020 8461 7261 E-mail: Rachel.dunley@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Richard Baldwin, Director; Children Education and Families

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the work of Early Intervention and Family Support and the services provided to families.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 The Children Education and Families PDS Committee is invited to note the content of the report.
- 2.2 The Children Education and Families Portfolio Holder is recommended to endorse the annual update.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Positive
-

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Excellent Council Safe Bromley Healthy Bromley Regeneration:
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: N/A
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable: within existing Budget
 3. Budget head/performance centre: N/A
 4. Total current budget for this head: £ N/A
 5. Source of funding: N/A
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: N/A
 2. Call-in: Applicable: Executive decision.
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: N/A
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): N/A
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Throughout this report rather than attach appendices we have used '[[CLICK HERE](#)]' to signify that there is additional information and/or examples available digitally to support the narrative.
- 3.2 Early Intervention and Family Support Services ('EIFS') sits within Children's Social Care [CLICK HERE](#). The umbrella of EIFS encompasses both statutory and non-statutory services, as well as being the lead for Bromley's Supporting Families (previously known as 'Tackling Troubled Families') work. Consequently, during the period of this report, EIFS comprised of the different services / programmes as listed below.
- Children and Family Centres
 - Bromley Children Project Family Support and Parenting Practitioner Team (FSPP Team)
 - Bromley's evidence based 'Parenting' offer
 - Children's Contact Centres
 - Information Advice and Support Service (IASS)
 - Reducing Parental Conflict Programme
 - Social Communications (ASC) Family Support Coordinator for the Borough.
- 3.3 This paper will provide a snapshot of examples of the work undertaken in the past 12 months (01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024), as it is impossible to report on all the work undertaken. All data reported will be for this timeframe unless otherwise stated in the report and referred to as 'this year'.
- 3.4 This year, with all remaining pandemic restrictions lifted, saw the return to a broader range of services commissioned through our annual procurement exercise based on feedback from families and professionals working with families. This year's procurement exercise was for services to be delivered in the coming year, 2024/5. It was robust and supported by a range of professionals drawn from Public Health, Early Years, Adult Education, Public Protection, Children's Services, and included professionals with a focus on SEND.
- 3.5 Lessons learnt from the pandemic continue to shape delivery with some online practice being sustained however, one of the key lessons was the need for in person contact and consequently we, alongside many partners, have returned to local delivery of services and support to residents. Uptake of services has increased.
- 3.6 It is also important to acknowledge that although this paper focuses on the work of the EIFS, general 'early help' services across the Borough include a large number of other teams and partners that sit outside EIFS. The contribution to early help support from organisations such as our schools, universal health providers, Bromley Y, and our Youth Services play an important role in ensuring that all our young people are able to access a full range of services. EIFS works closely with these other services and partners to offer a seamless service through the promotion of the 'Team Around the Family' model. The Team Around the Family ('TAF') model enables services to work together, prevents duplication and confusion for families and professionals alike, provides clarity through joint goals and shared minutes. Where children and young people need to move between services, TAF supports this with the Lead Professional role passing on to the most appropriate professional at that time with the family's agreement.
- 3.7 **Children and Family Centres**
- 3.7.1 Post pandemic all partners were invited to resume delivery in person to families where they live through the Children and Family Centres. Most partners have taken this offer up to varying degrees from dipping their toes in, to offering their full service. We continue to actively work with all partners to support them to bring their services to the families, some new partners, some old partners and including those who have only dipped their toes in to date.

- 3.7.2 Health Appointments have remained as appointment only however, we have increased the number of hours clinics are available across the six Children & Family Centres by a further 27.5 hours per week to support Health Colleagues to see more families.
- 3.7.3 We have refurbished rooms in two Children & Family Centres this year to make them suitable for Midwifery to deliver clinics from and towards the end of this year the Midwife clinics have started to return to the Centres.
- 3.7.4 Our in-house Learn and Play sessions have run throughout the year, led by our early years qualified staff. We are seeing increasing numbers of participants, and during this reporting period 17,621 session places were filled, this is an increase of 18% compared to last year. Feedback has been very positive.
- 3.7.5 We have continued to be an issuer for Healthy Start Vitamins, despite this now being rolled out to supermarkets and available directly on-line to families. During this year have issued 144 which is an increase of 97% over last year.
- 3.7.6 Our 'Swap-Shop' offer has proved to be important to local families and following the lifting of restrictions, donations are now being accepted. Local businesses continue to send donations of new items and pre-loved cleaned items e.g., a Bromley based dry cleaners donated uncollected clothes, and a children's boutique regularly donates school uniforms and other children's clothes. In addition, this year we have partnered with the charity section of the 'Children Salon' and have received 10 large boxes of unused children's clothing and shoes which have distributed to all the Children and Family Centres for families in most need. There have been in excess of 2,500 requests for support via the Swap-Shop this year, which is a massive increase of 2074% over last year. Whilst we do not empirically know, it is probably linked to the cost-of-living crisis.
- 3.7.7 This year saw a new partnership with 'ABC Book Club', a local charity, who have donated a large number of children's books. These have been given to families and children using the centres or working with our Family Support and Parenting Practitioner team to encourage children and parents to read as part of our focus on literacy support.
- 3.7.8 We retained our Foodbank Voucher status and continue to support the Foodbanks however during the pandemic many other teams in Bromley and other partner agencies started to undertake this role too. Last year we saw a dramatic reduction in the number of families approaching the Children and Family Centres for Foodbank support, however this year there has been a small increase up from 61 to 72, an increase of 18%. Again, this might be linked to the cost-of-living crisis.
- 3.7.9 During the year we continued to work with national grant schemes such as the Household Support Fund ('HSF') and have issued 150 supermarket vouchers to families as one-off support, linked to the cost-of-living crisis.
- 3.7.10 We have also worked with other local grant schemes such as Holiday And Food Fund ('HAF') as well as local charities, e.g., Bromley Brighter Beginnings, Bromley Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum, FoodBank, Salvation Army, Citigate Church, Elmers End Free Church URC, to help distribute food hampers, gifts for children and families, school uniforms, books. During the Christmas period we supported 115 families through donations from our partner services, with hampers, gifts, books, and other items. An increase of 28% which might be linked to the cost-of-living crisis. Families were hugely grateful for the gifts and the generosity of Bromley's residents and businesses.

- 3.7.11 Our work with the Gypsy Romany and Traveller (GRT) community has continued, with the focus on developing a strong understanding of the individual and collective needs of our local GRT communities and how we can use our local knowledge creatively to develop services to meet identified needs.
- 3.7.12 One consistent challenge is that the GRT community do not choose to identify as GRT when reporting to authority. We are working with the community to change this. We are building data reporting to capture GRT statistics using addresses, but this will not capture those families living beyond own known sites. This year we saw 164 attendances by families who identified as part of this community at Children and Family Centres for activities such as Cooking with Children, Learn & Play sessions, Christmas parties, and in addition, four families reached out seeking support from our Family Support and Parenting Practitioner team.
- 3.7.13 Our dedicated GRT Outreach Team comprised of Children and Family Centre Support Officers and Family Support and Parenting Practitioners undertake monthly site visits to the Star Lane site and the Old Maidstone Road site, and these continued throughout the year come rain or shine. We realised our ambition to extend this to include the sites in the west of the borough and are now regularly visiting these communities too both Bromley run and private sites too.
- 3.7.14 The team's persistence and reliability has seen growth and change with the families in these sites. We encourage a love of reading in the younger children using the BookStart initiative we give the children books and will read to them when the weather allows, always giving something to foster the love of reading on each visit. The team will read letters and complete forms for them, we can see the families are acting on the advice they are given. The relationships are trusting and success stories have led to children accessing, staying, or getting back into education. If they can help in any way they will, children with high levels of anxiety are looking out for the team to play football an acknowledgement of the trust they have built with these communities. Some of these families now access other aspects of the EIFS service.
- 3.7.15 Outcomes for the families have been amazing through this Outreach Project.
- Children have accessed counselling services
 - Families have engaged with education, with examples of children who have returned to education, stayed in education, accessed tuition services, and some who moved into further education.
 - Families have been supported around finances.
 - Families have been supported to move off sites into bricks and mortar accommodation.
 - A family were helped to foster a child from their extended family.
 - One young person (female) has completed work experience through our service.
 - Families have accessed up to date advice around utilities and health services.
 - Families are now accessing a wide range of activities and courses available through EIFS and the Children and Family Centres
 - Families have been supported on a one-to-one basis around a range of issues.
 - We have liaised with housing services on their behalf around housing applications and site maintenance.
- 3.7.16 We believe this consistent and proactive approach to engage families from this community has resulted in more of the families choosing to declare their Gypsy, Romany, and Traveller heritage, and more importantly, seeking support when needed in relation to parenting, behaviour strategies, school placements, SEND support, and other life issues.
- 3.7.17 Feedback received from a family in this community for the support received was:

“She [Family Support and Parenting Practitioner] was more than helpful, she is like a person you can lean on. Me and my kids are from the traveling community and we don’t normally let people in. She is just so good, kind, and helpful. I am so thankful she is supporting us.”

- 3.7.18 Our Children and Family Centre staff and Family Support and Parenting Practitioners have been regularly visiting the TLK hostel in St Marys Cray since June 2023. This hostel houses Asylum seekers and Refugees who are waiting for decisions on their right to remain in the UK. These families have very little and we have been able to help out with books and activity packs for the children. Some of the families have young babies and we have been able to support with baby equipment, supplied some new school uniform clothing, and some items of warm clothing for the adults. In addition to this, we have provided family support using translation services as required.
- 3.7.19 The Children and Family Centres are recognised as the first port of call for families seeking support in relation to information, advice, and signposting for services focused on children with Autism / ASD and other social communication challenges. The Social Communication (inc Autism) Needs Targeted Services Coordinator (previously known as Autistic Spectrum Conditions ASC Coordinator) is embedded within EIFS. This role has been positively received by families and professionals (see 3.14 below).
- 3.7.20 Work with our colleagues in the SEN Advisory Team continues, and targeted play sessions for children with SEN including Social Communication difficulties continue to run from the Children and Family Centres. This year we have supported EYSAT/SEN Advisory teams to also run parent support meetings at all of the Children & Family Centres.
- 3.7.21 Our Social Media presence has grown from strength to strength. We have used our social media platforms to re-post information, advice and guidance from Public Health, specific support services such as Bromley and Croydon Women’s Aid for Domestic Abuse support and increased our video /play activity library. We have also used our social media platform to promote literacy and this year regularly posted books on ‘kindness’ for pre-schoolers which was very well received by families.
- 3.7.22 In addition to this, we used these platforms to promote and demonstrate the local authority’s commitment to all our residents e.g., Black History Month, Disability Awareness Week, International Women’s Day, Safety Awareness for under Fives, we posted daily in Facebook and Instagram information and advice, to support, educate, and inspire.
- 3.7.23 Data shows our growth to be substantial:
- we have in excess of 3,181 Facebook followers (this is up 492 (18% increase) in the last 12 months), and more than 24,900 page visits. [CLICK HERE](#)
 - we have in excess of 3,254 Instagram followers [CLICK HERE](#) (this is up by 1,079 (50% increase) in the last 12 months), and more than 13,700 profile visits.
 - we have published in excess of 1373 posts on Facebook and Instagram (over 456 in this reporting period).
 - our YouTube Channel [CLICK HERE](#) following has grown significantly - having 306 subscribers, and 41 videos, with 71,833 views (an increase of 69,487 views). The 3 most popular videos are:
 - Abilities in me – Speech Delay (in excess of 20,000 views)
 - Abilities in me – ADHD (in excess of 16,000 views)

- The Hungry Caterpillar (in excess of 11,000 views)

3.7.24 Developing the Children and Family Centres as accessible venues for families where they can access multiple services locally where they live is an important element of our service ethos. During this period, we have supported colleagues from a range of services both within the council and partner agencies to return to face-to-face service delivery in the community through Children and Family Centres. Some of those we have worked with are:

- Children's Social Care
 - Children Looked After Team; activities including NEET including holiday and out of hours sessions into the evening
 - Children with Disabilities Team – hosting the 'PACT' course termly
 - Safeguarding Teams; undertaking Parenting Capacity Assessments
 - Newly Qualified Social Workers Group; a safe space for weekly group Supervision sessions
 - Social workers and our own staff; a safe space for face-to-face meetings with families whilst enabling eyes-on the children
 - Special Guardianship & Foster Carer Groups
- Public Health
 - Our strong connection to Public Health has seen us supporting immunisation pop ups for children & adults and planned children's vaccination drives for COVID, MMR, Flu, BCG, and Polio,
 - We have supported drop-in information sessions for families on immunisations
 - We have developed targeted Learn and Play sessions to promote the importance of childhood immunisations and resourced play outfits, books, etc., (see 3.7.36 below)
 - We have hosted Blood Pressure monitoring week at all the Children and Family Centres during September and invited the community into have their blood pressure taken by purchasing equipment to support residents to take and report their own blood pressure throughout the year.
- Birth Registrations, who this year have expressed a desire to expand their offer out of the Children and Family Centres for the coming year.
- Mental Health Support
 - Oxleas Perinatal Mental Health Team delivering support to new mums, including a baby massage, weaning and maternal journal courses.
 - Thrive, Bromley's Therapeutic Service for Children Looked After delivering 1:1 support to Children.
 - Bromley Y counsellors delivering 1:1 counselling for young people
- Partners delivering activities for children with ASD
- EYSAT/SEN Advisory Teams – delivering support for parents and sessions with young children and their parents.
- Change Grow Live's Hidden Harm Worker; by appointment only – appointments with young people
- Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid – termly domestic abuse support sessions for women and young people

- Victims Support – hosting their 1:1 family sessions
- Metropolitan police – hosting their Community Impact Days
- Public Protection and Enforcement – hosting their whole service Learning Event
- Bromley Health Care specialist Speech & Language service – hosting their termly Talk Stars sessions and their summer holiday group.
- Short Breaks Scheme through Family Links via the Children’s Strategic Integrated Commissioner

3.7.25 Our Children and Family Centres are used by the Metropolitan Police for their Community Impact Days. To date they have used Castlecombe Children and Family Centre in Mottingham on a number of occasions and pulled together over 100 professionals. We are currently working with them to expand our support for their mini-impact days.

3.7.26 Further improvements to outside play spaces and our sensory rooms to improve the experience for children with SEN and allow children who do not have access to a safe outside at home develop their motor & imagination skills.

3.7.27 To ensure consistency and clarity, and so that residents can access sites that they recognise as Bromley’s Children and Family Centres and therefore deem to be safe, we have updated, refreshed, and simplified our signage to mirror our social media presence [\[CLICK HERE\]](#). This has had added benefits, with staff reporting pride for the spaces we create and maintain for families and has boosted staff morale. All feedback from families has been positive.

3.7.28 The Children and Family Centre took on the spaces previously used by the local authority’s nursery provision in Blenheim Children and Family Centre, and we have refurbished this into our ‘creche’ creating a set up suitable for children & babies of all abilities & needs. This freed up the space we had previously used as a creche. This space is now a new multi-purpose training room used for the delivery of courses and events for families, training for staff, and ‘Family Time’ contact.

3.7.29 Our Children and Family Centre Support Officers continue to offer targeted ‘Light Touch’ support for families who need help as a lower level of need. Their ‘Assessment’ tool is now embedded and is providing better identification of issues at an earlier point in time for the family and families’ feedback remains positive.

3.7.30 Some examples of the feedback from parents being supported via Light Touch caseloads held by the Children and Family Centre Support Officer (CFCSO) or just accessing the Children and Family Centres for activities:

“I came to register my newborn baby name and vaccinations. I would like to share my experience and official support provided by Ms K [Children and Family Centre Support Worker]... Ms K was so kind and supportive in terms of helping the public very genuinely especially during critical circumstances to the needy people. I like to convey my heartfelt gratitude to Ms K for her excellent service”

“I just wanted to send in a little note to say thank you for all of the support that you provide to me and others as new Mums. I have attended the baby.me.fit (has been essential for helping with my well-being and getting back on track fitness and weight wise), infant feeding sessions (so grateful for the guidance that meant my baby could eat effectively and my three year old

had a wonderful chat about the importance of teeth cleaning with a dentist whilst there too - particularly handy at the time) and a few of the other classes, all of which have been so well organised and run. I also recently visited the sensory room which was fantastic and have signed my three year old up for the sports in March which I know she will love. We are always greeted by such wonderful reception staff too - thank you, G”

“I just wanted to thank you and the amazing team at [Children and Family Centre] for all their support during this time. Without you guys I’m not sure I would be here right now. Between classes, phone calls and meetings I have felt so supported and made some incredible friends. Thank you for everything you have done, M”

- 3.7.31 Post pandemic data shows that shows families returning to the centres to access the services they need, in their communities in ever increasing numbers.
- 3.7.32 Registration data – this data shows new registrations only. Once you register, you are registered for life or until you ask us to remove your records. If someone has another child, that child needs to be registered but the existing registered family members do not. Therefore, each added registration is a unique person. Data shows in 2019/20 there were in excess of 9,650 new registrations across the six Children and Family Centres, but due to COVID this dropped to just 1,819 in 2020/21. Current data shows this has dramatically increased during 2023/24 to 10,238 new registrations, up from 8735 last year, an increase of 17%, and higher than our pre-COVID annual registration record.
- 3.7.33 Footfall data – this data shows visits to the Children and Family Centres. One person visiting 10 times is 10 visits = 10 footfall by 1 unique service user, whereas 10 people each visiting once is 10 visits = 10 footfalls but by 10 unique service users. Data shows in 2019/20 there were in excess of 98,000 visits across the six Children and Family Centres by over 24,500 service users. Due to COVID this dropped to just 6,668 visits by 3,355 unique service users in 2020/21. Data shows this has dramatically increased during 2023/24 to 67,301 visits up from 52,055 last year (an increase of 29%) by 21,690 unique service users up from 16,088 last year (an increase of 35%) . Whilst we are not yet at pre-COVID levels, we have seen families returning in vast numbers, which clearly shows that families appreciate the service, support, and range of activities on offer, and want to access services locally and in person. Verbal feedback from families often mentions the impact of loneliness on their mental health and the value they place on knowing that there is somewhere they can go to when they need to.
- 3.7.34 Our extensive Capital Works programme has now been completed bar a few snagging issues. This has supported the service to widen the offer of support for families and improve accessibility to our premises. The newly updated spaces are already being thoroughly used by families, and by partners to reach more of their service users. Existing service users with a range of additional needs, e.g., wheelchair using, sight and/or hearing impaired, and neurodiverse service users were involved in the process of testing accessibility, and appropriate Personal Emergency Evaluation Plans developed with them.
- 3.7.35 Over the past year, the service’s Early Years Creche Team has developed a range of new Learn and Play sessions, covering core elements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, and used these sessions to promote other important topics such as inclusion of different needs under the SEND umbrella within mainstream provision. In addition to this, the Learning Journeys for our children in the creches have move online and away from paper. This makes them easier to store, share and keep updated as the children are not with us as regularly and frequently as they would be in a nursery or pre-school setting. Feedback from parents is positive and often for these sessions posted in social media.

“My baby boy and I love the Children and Family Centre! We feel very welcome and my boy enjoys every session there, especially Music and Movement with the amazing staff. I’m so glad I discovered the centre. The staff us always friendly and helpful, and the schedule is exciting... today we celebrated ‘Book Day’ and had dressing up and singing too. Can’t wait for the next session. Ax”

- 3.7.36 Our Early Years Creche Team have also used the Learn and Play sessions to promote core messaging for the Local Authority, an example being the promotion of immunisations information and signposting through imaginative play (dressing up), storytelling “Drew’s Fab Jab”, and craft activities. This allows parents to become better informed, and children to explore and learn about how a ‘jab’ can help. This is a new project only started since January 2024, and we continue to develop this and monitor feedback from families. We are trying to find a way to evidence impact but currently do not have the data to evidence this.
- 3.7.37 We continue to seek new and innovative ways to obtain feedback from the families using our services in a sustainable and affordable way, that does not rely on longer term, high cost, externally hosted digital solutions. This year we have introduced a feedback token system [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) for anyone accessing an activity in the Children and Family Centres. This has proved to be a big hit with families and professional alike. A different question is posed each week, and the ‘voting’ recorded. Imagine a token voting system like you might find in a large supermarket... We have made this as accessible as possible due to the need for both adults and children to vote, and as a lot of our service users face other barriers such as learning needs, language, time, confidence; this model has been thoroughly embraced.
- 3.7.38 We have worked with many partners throughout the year, and wish to highlight the breadth of agencies, and note with thanks, their support and contribution to early help [\[CLICK HERE\]](#).

3.8 Family Support and Parenting Practitioner Team

- 3.8.1 Family Support services have continued to support families just below the threshold for statutory interventions. This work is shaped by the Supporting Families agenda (nee Trouble Families). Practitioners are required to work with the entire family, to complete a holistic family assessment, to identify challenges and areas of need, working to a plan and goals, to ‘turn the family around’ in order to drawn down the ‘payment by results’ funding stream.
- 3.8.2 Data shows that this year we received 922 referrals for family support. This was a slight increase compared to last year’s 909 referrals. Our highest ever number of referrals for support for our Family Support and Parenting Practitioner Team was in 2019/20 at 977. This data shows a consistent referral rate of 900+ families per year, which includes families who have been referred into the service in the past for support as well as families new to the service. Repeat cycles of support are tracked and reported (see 3.8.8).
- 3.8.3 Data shows that the highest number of referrals into the service are families stepped down from Children’s Social Care. Normally we would expect Schools and Health to be close in number to the step-down rate but there has been a notable reduction in referrals from both schools and other partners which we are exploring. Last year the referral share was 41% stepped down from CSC, and 21% from Education partners, whereas this year the split is 65% step-downs from CSC, and only 14% from Education partners. Are there now new barriers preventing referrals being made, and if so, what are they and how can we remove these? This piece of exploratory work is underway as early intervention’s focus is about preventing escalation to statutory services, although there is a role for preventing repeat statutory intervention too.

- 3.8.4 We actively seek feedback from families both during and at multiple points after the support has ended. The families continue to be very open and share with us their feedback on the support they have received. This is some of the feedback received in the last 12 months from parents supported by Family Support and Parenting Practitioners:

“Thank you, ZZ, [Family Support and Parenting Practitioner] so much for all your help and support you gave me so much more than you know. You was a genuine and kind person to talk to and not once did I ever feel judged and I was more honest and frank with you than I ever imagined I would be. You gave me access to help I didn't realise was out there for me during a time I needed it most. I can only imagine how stressful and hard your job can be and I hope that knowing you genuinely really make a difference to peoples lives helps make it a little easier for you. I wish you and your family all the best in life and your children should know that their mum is a superhero. Thank you again”

“I really like BCP and think that they do a really great job, it's a different perspective to [ANOther agency]'s support for children with Special Needs - everything you [EIFS] do is wonderful and respectful of families and parents. It's a different ethos - and BCP has got it right - seeing people/children as individuals and working 'together' for the best results – YY [Family Support and Parenting Practitioner] has been marvellous and really supportive.”

“I was given XX [Family Support and Parenting Practitioner] after reaching out for help for myself a while back, and never in all my life, have i felt the need to really go out my way to gain your email, to express how thankful i am to XX. i cant express enough how amazing XX has been to me, she has fully changed my aspect and view on life in so many ways, don't get me wrong i have to heal still an help myself an i have along way to go but XX really has made me see life goes on in a positive way, and that i can do things, ... XX has also been there to listen to me, always replying to my msgs, asking if I'm okay, checking in on me, posting leaflets in my door at every opportunity, ..., she's attended meetings with me, sent housing emails, been a shoulder to cry on. I feel so sad that our time has come to an end but i remind myself she's not my friend she's just been an amazing human being that has given her experience and knowledge to me as a full professional, I've expressed to XX im upset i wont have her on the phone often as its come to an end and she has gone above and beyond to reassure me the Children and Family Centre is always there to help. I'm gona miss her. She is a massive credit to your team anyone who has XX in their life is lucky.”

- 3.8.5 The work of the Family Support and Parenting Practitioner Team is the core work used for the Supporting Families Grant (previously known as Tackling Troubled Families Grant). The measures are pre-determined by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and the grant is 'payment by results'. Outcomes are measured over a period of time to evidence sustained change, making this a robust and challenging grant to achieve. Internal Audit are required to verify all claims to ensure that the outcomes claimed for are appropriate and evidenced.
- 3.8.6 Throughout the entire Supporting Families Grant programme, Bromley has achieved all the targets set by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, in respect of both 'attaching' families and 'turning families around'. This has continued, and we have achieved all targets for 2023/4. This has resulted in Bromley being able to draw down the full grant allocation for the year 2023/4.
- 3.8.7 Targets for Bromley have increased year-on-year rising from 271 last year to 438 this year, and further rising in the coming year to 542 families. If there has been a two-year gap in support, and a family represents under different criteria, it is possible to re-claim for successful turnaround. Bromley has had very few families that fit these criteria.

- 3.8.8 We track the number of families we support, and the number of times those families come back to us for more support. Our tracking runs from 01 April 2012 to the current day. This provides us with data over the past 12 years and demonstrates the effectiveness of the work we are doing with families. This data shows we have worked with in excess of 5,250 families and supported in excess of 7,304 cycles of support. Of these 7,304 cycles of support our impact has been very positive with over 91.5% of families receiving no more than 2 cycles - in fact, 73.2% (3,844) families have only received one cycle of support in the 12 years we have been tracking. Our ambition is for our Family Support and Parenting Practitioner team and the wider services offered through EIFS, to support parents and to help the parents and their children and wider families to build skills, self-efficacy, and resilience rather than dependency on services. [\[CLICK HERE\]](#)
- 3.8.9 In addition to this, our embedded Employment Advisors, who are loaned to us full time by the Department for Work and Pensions from the Job Centre Plus Team in Bromley have continued to work alongside the team and support the families with employment and skills opportunities as well as benefit checks to ensure that the local authority is not having to provide for where there is existing funding available via central Government.
- 3.8.10 Measuring what might have happened but has not happened due to the support we provide is a challenge. This is a challenge faced by early help services across the UK and beyond. As a service we continue to look for measures that can help narrate the story, both the challenges and successes. We use the cycles of support (see above) as one measure, but this is not the whole story. Repeat cycles of support should not be seen as a negative. It is important to remember that seeking support from universal and targeted services, such as EIFS, is a positive and cheaper outcome compared to not seeking support and requiring longer term and more costly statutory interventions.
- 3.8.11 In light of the challenge of measuring what has not happened, we have looked for other tools to help us focus our approach and to identify distance travelled. One of the areas we are exploring is Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) [\[CLICK HERE\]](#). We are running a project, looking at the presence of ACEs in families' lives balanced against their access to, and use of, resilience factors. With ACEs we explore historic experience of the parent and current lived experience of the child. For resilience factors we note those currently in place and record those gained through our support. Research shows that those with higher number of ACEs are more likely to have mental health and physical health challenges, and need further cycles of support but where there are resilience factors in place, this can reduce the impact of trauma and increase the likelihood of our support resulting in significant and sustained change.
- 3.8.12 The Service has embedded ACEs into practice, developed Champions to promote the use of ACEs and continue the data analysis over time.
- 3.8.13 The Service was invited to present our work on ACEs at a national Children and Young People Now Evaluation Conference this year. Feedback was very positive. This work continues, and CYP Now have invited us back to update when our project finishes.

3.9 Parenting Offer

- 3.9.1 One of the key developments during COVID was the introduction of our Parenting Hotline. This service remains operational, Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm, with answerphone for calls outside this window. The service is used by parents and we have taken the decision to keep this option for parents to access ad-hoc advice and support as it has proved to be a better use of staff time than hosting a weekly 'drop-in' at each Children and Family Centre, and it extends the service for our residents from a weekly drop-in to a daily accessible helpline.

- 3.9.2 This year we revised our standalone parenting seminars [\[CLICK HERE\]](#), in line with new research. We have consolidated the offer and reduced the range from 18 to 8 different online parenting and standalone seminars. We now have 3 in our Neurodiversity focus series and a further 5 in our Let's Talk series. Previous topics have been amalgamated where appropriate to reduce costs of delivery, and to meet the needs of families in a more timely and less demanding fashion e.g., covering three related topics in one session.
- 3.9.3 We are demand led and run the courses request by parents in each locality in line with our needs-led approach.
- 3.9.4 We have expanded our short-courses [\[CLICK HERE\]](#), and now offer 3 'short-course' options. These require a little more commitment from a parent as they span 4 and 5 weeks, and cover our most popular parenting programmes; the New Forest Parenting Programme online ('NFPP') for parents of children with /likely to have ADHD, and New at Parenting online ('NAP') for new parents, and a new face-to-face programme, the Power of Parenting ('POP'), which has been developed to support parents on a Child in Need or Child Protection Plan for neglect and replaces 'Caring for your Child'. Feedback from parents on POP has been very positive with many choosing to attend additional parenting courses and bringing their friends along too.
- 3.9.5 With a revised model of parenting delivery and the merging of different courses, the data is no longer comparable to previous years in terms of courses run and attendance data, whether online or in person. What we can see however is a preference by parents to attend the various parenting courses in person, and not online. Parents tell us that this is because of the additional benefits of building supportive networks with parents who like themselves, are struggling and looking for support, often forming their own on-going support network.
- 3.9.6 This year under the new parenting offer we have delivered 49 online parenting seminars, 4 online NFPP short courses (3 of which were in the evening), 2 online NAP short courses and 1 POP course. There were 308 online seminar attendees.
- 3.9.7 This year in addition to the online seminars and online courses above, we ran a further 47 face-to-face parenting courses [\[CLICK HERE\]](#), out of the Children and Family Centres, including 2 on a Saturday, and covering 12 different courses. Courses vary in length from 4 weeks to 13 weeks. Data shows that the 47 face-to-face courses had 446 attendees and the 7 online courses had 104 attendees, totalling 550 parenting course attendees this year.
- 3.9.8 All our Family Support and Parenting Practitioner staff are trained in our core programmes and supported to achieve formal accreditation by the relevant overseeing / licensing bodies post training. This model ensures consistent messaging for families as the same methods, strategies and evidence base is used in 1-2-1 family support too. It also allows us to respond immediately to changing needs, new developments, and any practice changes.
- 3.9.9 All the courses we offer have been updated with links into ACEs and Reducing Parental Conflict, alongside current published research, and updates from the courses' licensing bodies.
- 3.9.10 This is some of the feedback received in the last 12 months from parents attending parenting courses with Bromley Children Project at the Children and Family Centres in response to the question 'this course has helped me to...':
- *Reflect on the all positive things I do already, and I've learnt so much more to help me parent*
 - *Recognise and find support – there is so much out there!*
 - *Why my kids need quality time with me, and planning it in*

- *Understanding about my kids own emotions and reactions*
- *It brought us together, we now communicate with each other, we are kinder, more positive and now work together at home doing our chores!*

3.10 Children's Contact Centres

- 3.10.1 Recruitment of staff during the past year has continued to be a challenge but we have been successful in the most part. The ambition remains to enhance the service provided to our children by extending the operating hours, improving the premises, and identifying quiet times where there is the opportunity to sell unused space and officer time to generate income to offset the cost of providing this statutory service. We have achieved a staff level that supports opening 7 days a week and families are choosing to have their family time at the weekends as predicted.
- 3.10.2 This year we delivered 2,233 contact sessions with 6,892 attendees. These will not be unique attendees because during proceedings the court often order regular and frequent contact 'Family Time' sometimes multiple occasions in one week, dependant on the circumstances. This is an increase on last year's attendees of 11%.
- 3.10.3 Working alongside colleagues in Children Looked After and Children Leaving Care, we have adopted changes in language moving from 'contact' to 'family time' in all our literature and reporting.
- 3.10.4 The service has moved forward with the development of a Flipbook resource [CLICK HERE](#) to support new staff who have less exposure to other team members and council colleagues due to their working days being at the weekend. This has received positive feedback from those staff. A similar booklet [CLICK HERE](#) has been developed for families to help them navigate the contact service.
- 3.10.5 The service has developed management reports to improve data quality due to the need to use agency staff in emergencies to prevent a 'family time' session being cancelled. An example is the report to capture incomplete observation reports. This has provided the team with a tool that can pick up gaps and ensure they are corrected in real time.
- 3.10.6 The service has revised and shared with colleagues across Children's Services a range of policies and procedures, designed for clarity and to support the smooth delivery of family time. An example is the policy for Terminating and/or re-arranging family time sessions.
- 3.10.7 In order to provide reassurance of quality, the service has created and is using new audit sheets, undertaking staff observations, and this coming year will introduce a revised Observation and Summary form as one of the audit findings.
- 3.10.8 To ensure that family time can be as effective and productive as possible the service has reviewed, and where necessary, restocked resources for families, taking into account feedback from families.
- 3.10.9 The service has faced challenges with our premises in Orpington at the Saxon Centre, and adapted quickly to delivering from our other venues, primarily Blenheim Children and Family Centre. This has reduced capacity to sell space and we have seen a reduction in income from £17,500 to £13,845 as a result.
- 3.10.10 Feedback from both families and professionals using the service has been positive.

"I am an Independent Social Worker working across the country and as such routinely visit contact centres as part of my assessment work. I just wanted to take some time to express my views regarding the high standard of service being offered at the [Children's Contact Centres]. I have visited on three occasions in the last couple of weeks. I have been impressed with the resources available to the families – the centre is extremely clean and having self-contained spaces makes for a much more enjoyable experience. The welcome I have received from all of the staff at the [centre] has been greatly appreciated and I have observed the same friendly approach being offered to everyone using the centre. I am sure this is a big part of the relaxed atmosphere the centre has. I am aware that managing contact is not an easy job and I do not believe we give enough credit to the teams providing this extremely valuable service. The sessions I have been involved with have not been easy, albeit for different reasons but the level of professionalism has been evident (achieving the difficult balance between ensuring the child's safety whilst also respecting the parent). It is, in my experience, rare to come across a team and a venue that 'ticks all the boxes' but [Bromley's] Children's Contact Centres definitely do!"

3.11 Information Advice and Support Service

- 3.11.1 Business as usual has continued and the IASS team have continued to support families in their meetings with professionals and at SENDIST Tribunals. This has been both virtually and in person. The Team has successfully recruited to vacancies and is now fully staffed.
- 3.11.2 Our data shows This year up from 314 to 747, increase of 138%.
- 3.11.3 Our team of Independent Volunteer Supporters (IVS) have continued to give up their time, energy, and expertise to support our families. The service and the families are extremely grateful to the IVS Team. Feedback from families has reflected the positive impact of their support.

"I would like to say thank you so much to [IVS] for being there today, I felt supported knowing that she was present to give input on points I was unsure of, and that she was able to support me in expressing my views in a clear way. The meeting was a success because it was in [my child's] best interest and provisions that were previously suggested but wasn't done at the school, are now promised to be put in place for him. And thank you for arranging everything."

"I just wanted to extend my thanks to you [IVS] for all the support given to us both last week and today. I honestly couldn't have asked for anything more. Having an advocate with me today really helped my anxiety and allowed me to express how I felt without letting my emotions overwhelm me, I knew I had backup. Being able to speak things through afterwards and to discuss next steps has given me a clearer view on how we can help support [my child]. Please do accept my gratitude and my thanks."

"Thank you once again for all your help and support in making this happen. He would not be getting this experience if it was not for your help and support in this matter."

- 3.11.4 The team have a public-facing website www.bromleyiass.org.uk [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) which has been live for 2 years and is recognised as a beacon of best practice by the Council for Disabled Children, and the National Information Advice and Support Services Network. Work continues to develop the website further, as our residents and professionals have told us how valuable and useful it has been.
- 3.11.5 Data reporting from the Website shows
- 48,977 pages viewed in 2023 versus 42,416 in 2022.
 - 30,214 visits to website in 2023.
- access via

- 58% directly via web-site address
 - 27% by other including LBB and Ed Matters websites
 - 14% by search engine
 - 1% social networks
- top five pages in order of most frequently viewed
- Contact details for Information Advice and Support Service
 - Advice 10-16
 - Advice 16-25
 - Advice Early Years
 - Refusing to go to school

3.11.6 This year we have focused on recruitment. The staff team comprises of three staff and one manager, plus our IVS team. The year started with two vacancies both of which have been successfully recruited to. In addition, we have increased our IVS Team and completed their training. One of the two new IVS have started and another is in the pipeline. We have ambitions to recruit additional IVS into the team this coming year.

3.11.7 The Service has looked for ways to reach families other than the standard telephone and email route, introducing 'Coffee Mornings and Afternoons' running across all six Children and Family Centres each term. These have been piloted at different times, and based on parental feedback will continue to run but in the morning slots only as afternoons proved more difficult for families due to school collection times.

3.11.8 We have linked Information Advice and Support Service into the Social Communications (inc Autism) Needs Targeted Support Coordinator and have piloted joint 'coffee mornings' [CLICK HERE](#) which families reported worked extremely well for them.

3.11.9 We have developed a Flipbook for new and existing staff [CLICK HERE](#) to support with practice, add clarity about expectations and service delivery. This has proved a hit with our IVS team who found this very accessible. Based on the success of the Flipbook model, we are developing this for parents and another for Children and Young People as this places SEND information, advice and support in their pockets.

3.11.10 The Information Advice and Support Service will, from June 2024, report formally into the SEND Governance Board through the Head of Service for EIFS. These reports will detail more of the service's achievements, challenges, and data.

3.11.11 We receive a lot of feedback from parents and carers in writing and in person.

"IASS has been instrumental in getting my daughter an EHCP, which in turn has enabled her to access school again after 2 years of Elective Home Education. I contacted IASS initially when I was having difficulties with the school, then again when my daughter started Elective Home Education. At each point the service provided me with the advice I needed. My daughter is now one of only 4 children placed in the XX Secondary Sch (Speech & Language unit). IASS has helped get her [daughter] back into school with the information provided, and without the EHCP in place things would look very different. I've told her you [Information Advice and Support Service officer] has been very important in her life."

"Thank you for your email, after speaking with you I arranged a meeting with the school Senco, I put all my worries and concerns on the table and I must say things have very much improved. And we are both working closely together, so thank you for your help it went a very long way. Thanks again"

“Once again I would like to thank you [Information Advice and Support Service officer] for your time the other day and for also sending me the information you did. I'm pleased to say that the meeting went well and I do feel like the whole process and policies have been clearly explained to me and my views were listened to and I did feel a lot better after it... . I do believe that myself and the school can now work and engage well to provide the best possible outcome. I am so very grateful for your advice and support and if any more issues arise..., I will most definitely be back in contact with your organisation. It was lovely talking with you and thank you for validating me and my worries...”

3.12 Domestic Abuse - CODA

- 3.12.1 Domestic Abuse remains prevalent in cases supported by EIFS and statutory Children's Social Care, and interventions are needed to support children impacted by it. Consequently, in EIFS we continue to devote time and staffing to the delivery of 'CODA' Children Overcoming Domestic Abuse. This is a course of 10 child focused support sessions for children who have witnessed DA against their primary female carer. It is an evidence based licenced programme overseen by the charitable organisation 'AVA' (Against Violence and Abuse).
- 3.12.2 EIFS has been delivering the CODA programme for over 7 years. Schools work in partnership to enable the children to attend these sessions, whilst their mothers attend a parallel session.
- 3.12.3 Parents have told us that this programme is making a real difference to their lives and the lives of their children. Here are some examples of the type of feedback received from those attending the courses which ran during 2023/24 (children in these cohorts were aged 7-12). Feedback to the question 'How has it (this course) made you feel differently from when you started?

Parent after completing the course

- *My eldest is more open than previously and has started to comment on her dad in a more negative light rather than defending him all the time – it's like she can see now that bad behaviour is bad.*
- *My youngest has become more vocal in telling me how her dad's behaviour makes her angry and her views on her dad. She never said nothing until now. I did know she felt like that. She is now talking to me.*
- *Since attending the group my child's behaviour has improved at home and in school.*
- *The boys have worked through a lot of their issues and we are able to articulate their experience and feelings really well. It has also improved the dynamic between the boys.*

Children after completing the course

Tell us what you have enjoyed about the programme?

- *Everything! It was helpful.*
- *It was good to talk to someone I didn't know about everything*
- *I enjoyed the problem solving session.*

3.13 Reducing Parental Conflict Programme

- 3.13.1 We continued to be grant funded by the Department for Work and Pensions to deliver against the Reducing Parental Conflict 'RPC' programme. Our goal is to intervene earlier, to help people identify that their relationship is not healthy, that the conflict they expose one another to, could develop into domestic abuse, can harm their own mental wellbeing, and impact the long-term wellbeing of their children. The end of the road does not have to be a domestic abuse relationship, and conversely, domestic abuse happens without going through a 'safe enough' parental conflict stage.

- 3.13.2 This was the third year of funding. In previous years we developed an awareness training for professionals to better understand the sign and symptoms, enlisted 'champions', developed a Forum for discussion and learning, developed and produced a toolkit and strategies for those who work with families to help the families alter their pathway which is given to colleagues and partners who complete the Awareness Raising Training, and have housed this within a dedicated websites both within London Borough of Bromley's website [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) and separately in the Bromley Parenting Hub website [\[CLICK HERE\]](#).
- 3.13.3 This year we have continued to deliver the RPC Awareness Training. We have now trained in excess of 350 professionals from within the local authority and across our partners and others working with Bromley's families.
- 3.13.4 Feedback from professionals attending the RPC awareness training was positive. Here is a selection of the feedback and the agency it came from:
- *"It gave me a great broad understanding of how to help both parents and children affected by parental conflict". Social worker*
 - *"It helped me to understand how to start the conversation about parental conflict and how to use the tools". Safeguarding Lead, primary school*
 - *"I'm more confident in how to approach parents and spot signs of PC". Family Support Worker*
 - *"It is going to help me support families and share the impact on children". Wellbeing practitioner*
 - *"Clear information and I can use it to signpost parents". Social Prescribing Link Worker*
 - *"Training was very engaging and full of useful resources ". Housing Officer*
 - *"So many engaging activities, useful information, and very powerful videos that I can use with families". SEND worker*
 - *"Clear structure and very practical information, I have a better understanding on the differences between DA and PC". Refugee caseworker*
 - *"So many amazing resources that there are out there and so easy to access" School teacher.*
- 3.13.5 During this year we have added to our offer by designing and developing a short 3-week course to deliver the Reducing Parental Conflict message in an accessible format directly to parents through the Children and Family Centres existing parenting support offer. The pilot was a success and the programme is now part of our core parenting offer.
- 3.13.6 Parents attending this training told us:
- What did you like most about the RPC workshops:*
- *Perspectives of the course advisors/teachers*
 - *Inclusive, understanding, others input, reflection, sharing ideas, group was not too big*
 - *The teachers*
 - *Activities and videos*
- Most important thing or strategy you learnt at the RPC workshops:*
- *'I' statements*
 - *How even low-level conflicts affect negatively on my child*
 - *The impact on the children. Everyone needs to know this.*
- After attending the RPC workshops is there anything you plan to do differently:*
- *Listen more to my husband and children. Use the 'I' statements*
 - *Stop and think before I react in a conflicting situation.*
 - *Stop, think, stay positive*
- What is the most important thing you have learnt at the 3 RPC workshops:*

- *How much our conflict impacted on our kids.*
- *I now know my children are aware and upset and I could have stopped that. I wish I'd known this before.*
- *How to reflect and keep everyone in safe environment*

- 3.13.7 We have expanded the available literature for families and professionals by creating a 'Reducing Parental Conflict Information for Families' booklet [\[CLICK HERE\]](#), a 'RPC Information for Professionals' booklet [\[CLICK HERE\]](#). We have distributed 805 of these to date; 265 of the booklet for professionals and 540 of the booklet for families.
- 3.13.8 We have developed a 'reading list' [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) of relevant children's books themed to help children to cope with worries, anxiety and anger, and another for separation and divorce. We produced an advice sheet for parents with a brief summary of the books, their messaging, and links to free audible internet versions too.
- 3.13.9 We have also focused on supporting both families and professionals to understand the difference between parental conflict and domestic abuse. We have created a 'Distinguishing harmful Parental Conflict and Domestic Abuse screening tool' [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) which has been distributed and promoted by our RPC Champions.
- 3.13.10 We have focused on early intervention and key trigger points in the lives of families with the aim to support families, prevent escalation and sustain healthy families. One of the most stressful times is the arrival of a baby when family dynamics change. We have developed a 'How to prepare your relationship for BABY' leaflet [\[CLICK HERE\]](#), printed 4,500 and these are now being distributed with birth registration packs by Bromley's Birth Registrars.
- 3.13.11 We have partnered with two external providers to bring online courses for parents to Bromley: The Race Equality Foundation for all relationships and Spurgeon's for Separated Parents. Both are available for free via the Bromley Parenting Hub website [\[CLICK HERE\]](#)
- 3.13.12 We have also partnered with Coram to deliver therapeutic sessions for the whole family on reducing parental conflict, called "Family Harmony". The first cohort has started with five families and is on-going. We also have plans for a further 3 cohorts which will involve another 15 families.
- 3.13.13 We developed, designed, and delivered 'train the trainer' training for all Family Support & Parenting Practitioners and Team Managers (over 30 staff) across the EIFS service so that the 3-week course for parents could be added to the core parenting offer and sustained beyond the life of the grant funding.
- 3.13.14 We have continued to update and refresh our website www.bromleyparentinghub.info which is free to access for families and professionals, sharing the tools and strategies, and encouraging families to look at their own lives and challenge themselves to change – with support.
- 3.14 **Social Communications (inc. Autism) Needs Targeted Support Coordinator for the Borough**
- 3.14.1 The Social Communications (inc Autism) Needs targeted Support Coordinator role was developed as part of Bromley's All Age Autism strategy and also reflects the growth in requests for support from families with a child who has social communication challenges. The post funded through the SEND Department in Education but hosted with EIFS and located in the Children and Family Centres. The role supports not only families, but professionals too

through the provision of advice, guidance, and challenge, as well as being the gateways to specialist support from MENCAP. We have worked collaboratively to ensure the Children and Family Centres are centres of excellence for Autism and Social Communication.

- 3.14.2 The service has updated the information for families on the London Borough of Bromley website to ensure that appropriate information is easy to find [\[CLICK HERE\]](#). This page now provides a link to the Enquiry Form [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) as well as a helpful Flipbook for families to navigate the support offer in Bromley [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) .
- 3.14.3 During 2023/24, demand has exceeded expectations with the number of families who have reached out to this service. This was challenging as we ran with the post vacant for six months, but one of the EIFS Team Managers picked this work up and successfully supported in excess of 540 enquiries, up from 300 last year (an increase of 80%).
- 3.14.4 We have provided access for parents via on-line coffee morning which have recently transitioned to in person at the Children and Family Centres. The response has been good, and feedback supports this.
- 3.14.5 The service introduced new processes to streamline and improve data quality for 2024-25. The purpose of the role has been to support the 'graduated' approach and encourage families to access support from universal and targeted services, [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) and only refer onto specialist support those families who really need that level of support. Of the 540 interactions, only 43 resulted in Mencap referrals, which is an 8% conversion rate and better than forecast. This has enabled Bromley's specialist provider, MENCAP, to work with the families that need their expertise, and prevent them becoming overwhelmed by referrals. It has also built families self-efficacy and promoted the excellent work undertaken in universal and targeted services.
- 3.14.6 We have now successfully recruited to the post and the new staff member is in post and completing their training.
- 3.14.7 The EIFS Service has updated the information on the LBB website, and created links to other services which are pertinent to families seeking information and support for their children with either traits of, or a diagnosis of, a social communication need.
- 3.14.8 This year on 28 June 2024, we held a SEND event focused on Social Communication (inc. Autism) Needs and called this a "ONE STOP COFFEE SHOP (SCN&ASC)" at Blenheim Children and Family centre. The event brought together 15 different services that successfully reached out to over 60 families [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) . The collaborative working on the day gave the unique opportunity for these families to meet the services face to face. Families reported that this event saved them 2 weeks' worth of phone calls trying to speak to services by phone. Services reported being able to see families face-to-face and the opportunity to network was hugely valuable. Families were able to meet services previously not known to them and to access support.
- 3.14.9 As part of this event, and to coincide with our wider social media campaign to celebrate all things SEND, we worked with families to create a video which was played with permission during this event and at the 'SENDSATIONAL' Event in October. The video contained work by children and young people with various differences and special educational needs. We did not have permission to share across wider social media. This has since been edited and the element without consent to share widely on social media has been removed [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) .
- 3.14.10 The timing of the One Shop Coffee Morning event was planned to coincide with the approaching summer break when children are transitioning onto their next part of the

educational journey. This will be repeated in 2024/5, but we will invite additional services suggested by families. Some of the services that attended included Bromley Y, CASPA, Bromley Mencap, Children Disability Team, Early Years team, Information Advice and Support Service, Rebecca Osborne Bromley SEND Health Visiting lead, Local Offer, Zap Kids Club, Living Word Christian Fellowship International, Bromley Children Project, Bromley SEND team, Bromley parent carers forum, ISAT.

3.14.11 The EIFS Service has used the workflow this year to help shape and streamline processes, to enhance our communication and publicity, and created a pathway document [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) which visually explains the 'graduated approach' to support. To improve accessibility, we have created an online enquiry form, repeated coffee mornings. The Team Manager leading on this work has also developed, for the coming year, bespoke accessible SEND focused and appropriate Learn and Play sessions in the six Children and Family Centres

3.14.12 Some of the feedback received this year

- "I've found XX [Social Communication inc. Autism Needs Targeted Support Coordinator] really helpful. She was brilliant when I spoke with her, simply the best! She helped us massively through our struggles, we now see a light at the end of the tunnel after years of struggle"
- "Hi XX [Social Communication inc. Autism Needs Targeted Support Coordinator] I just wanted to say how great it was talking to you and the comprehensive email you've written really means a lot, and shows how much you care, thanks! AA [daughter] did incredibly well and has adjusted well on the weekend too (which was something I was worried about, that she would think she was going to school). Thanks for all the amazing info, I will work my way through it. Just to mention one point, was that school have confirmed there's an inhouse SLT that comes weekly to offer students whatever is in their EHCP 😊. It will be lovely to stay in touch and be able to reach out if there's anything else. Thanks again and you've been so helpful"

3.15 General developments

3.15.1 EIFS sits within Children's Services and was part of the recent OFSTED Inspection of Bromley Local Authority Children's Service (ILACs) in November of this year. The report findings were exceptional with Bromley being judged as Outstanding in all categories. Ofsted said of EIFS, *"Impressive family help services intervene at the right time to improve children's circumstances. Experienced and skilful early help practitioners confidently assess need and empower families to improve their relationships and lives. Excellent early help services are carefully targeted to help families with a wide range of needs. Parental consent and the thresholds for intervention are well understood by practitioners and partners. Help is offered at the least intrusive level."*

3.15.2 Since 2016, EIFS has been approached by other local authorities for support and guidance on their improvement journeys and is currently working with London Borough of Lambeth's Early Help services.

3.15.3 EIFS takes the responsibility of early intervention and prevention seriously and to this end take time, energy, and resources to produce a range of 'newsletters' which we regularly publish to help promote best, and new emerging, practice and guidance on a range of topics. These are shared with families and with other professionals to share on with families they are supporting. Examples are our Safety Newsletter [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) which covers accident prevention and core

Public Health messages, our Reducing Parental Conflict Newsletter [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) sharing snippets of our offer and focusing on strategies to help, our CODA Newsletter [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) promoting the course content and families experiences of the course to encourage attendance. There are others.

- 3.15.4 Partnership working remains a core value for the Service and a good example of this during the year has been our work with Change Grow Live (CGL), who are commissioned by Public Health as the borough's Drugs and Alcohol intervention. We are joint working in every sense, offering co location in our offices as well as dedicating one of our Team Managers as a SPOC who bases themselves in CGL's offices every month, and a tangible outcome this year has been the creation of an online co-hosted and co-delivered 'What's drugs got to do with it' seminar for parents and professionals. This will be piloted in the coming year.
- 3.15.5 The Service has also reviewed how we reach out to the public who do not yet know of the wide range of services we offer. We have enhanced our social media profile as described above, linked to other partners' social media channels [\[CLICK HERE\]](#), and attended many places in person to promote services including churches, shops, cafes, as well as organised events with partners. To enhance our visual presence, we have developed a range of easy to transport pull-up promotional banners [\[CLICK HERE\]](#). These are being used every day in the Children and Family Centres [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) and whenever we are invited to attend an event.
- 3.15.6 As a service we recognise the importance of our staff without whom we would not have managed to deliver the services detailed in this paper. We have seen staff achieve promotions within and beyond the Service, some have stepped out for a period to have babies or to be seconded to support other teams, and several have retired after long service with Bromley. We have welcomed a number of new staff into the Team during the past year who have already become valuable team members.
- 3.15.7 Recognising the need to keep our staff, the face of Bromley, relevant and supported, we have continued with our Whole Service Training days. Over 100 of the team successfully participated both Training Days in April and October 2023. We ran multiple sessions which included self-care for staff as well as practice workshops by working with partners across the council and other key partner agencies who supported this by delivering sessions in addition to our in-house led sessions; some examples being PREVENT Counter Terrorism, Lemn Sissay's TED Talk on "A Child of the State" and Team Building. A newsletter [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) outlining the day and feedback has been circulated.
- 3.15.8 Other training events have been held outside of the Whole Service Training Days, covering Positive People Skills, and Systemic Practice. Our Positive People Skills training mirrored the Positive Parenting Skills course we deliver to parents. This is because Positive Parenting Skills is an evidence based good course that explains what parents need to have in place as a foundation for good parenting. The course is also based on good life skills that can be applied to all aspects of everyday life – including work. The service is here to support vulnerable children and parents in Bromley, and this foundation to parenting is good for all across the wider EIFS service, so they can apply the learning to their practice, no matter what their role. To date 60+ of the team have been trained and more is planned to encompass all our staff.
- 3.15.9 We have continued to deliver general awareness raising information sessions to support colleagues and partners to understand the EIFS offer of support for families in the shape of our EIFS Info Sessions, and sessions targeting Social Care, Education, Health and Pre-school/Nursery settings. The ambition is to ensure all families who need support know where to access this, and those professionals working with them are signposted on the offer too and can signpost when families are unaware. The aim being to get the right support to the family at the earliest opportunity, local to where they live, in order to promote any necessary change in their

lives to improve the children's and parents' lived experience and outcomes. These sessions are monthly on-line and bookable via Eventbrite.

- 3.15.10 In addition to the EIFS Info sessions, we have delivered bespoke awareness raising training to partners. Some examples from this year being, Bromley Y, Change Grow Live, ICB Social Prescribers, Children and Families Hub, Referral and Assessment, CSC Quality Improvement's Reviewing Officers, Public Protection and Enforcement Dept.
- 3.15.11 EIFS places a high priority on supporting work placements. Since 2015 the service has supported in the following ways:-
- Working with the Education Business Partnership, the service hosts on average 12 to 15 school students work-placements each year for 1-2 weeks.
 - Working with Mencap and Bromley College, the service has hosted a supported intern for an academic year hosted exclusively at our central offices at Bromley Central Library. Currently there are two supported interns at the library who have been with the service since September 2023. However, in the last two months we have extended this opportunity to two additional supported interns based at Blenheim CFC. Also at Blenheim, we are also working with the supported Horticultural team to design and carry out the work to significantly improve the creche garden.
 - Our work with Mencap and Bromley College have plans to continue to expand further.
- 3.15.12 Feedback from Sally Bateman, the Supported Internships Manager at MENCAP is positive: *"Bromley Mencap have been working with BCP for 2 academic years. During this time, we have seen students flourish in their placements, not only learning key skills in the workplace but life skills essential to their development as young adults. We have been working on both sites and BCP have given opportunities that would not be possible in other organisations for students with complex needs. In addition to their hospitality, we are now delivering a horticulture project, which will transform one of their outdoor spaces into a usable area for the creche. An amazing partnership formed and hopefully continued, I cannot thank you enough for your support and commitment to the needs of our students."*
- 3.15.13 Added to this, feedback from one of the young people who is on a long-term placement and currently in his second year with us, collected by his 'Supporter',... *'H' has really benefited from his time working with the Bromley Children Project. He enjoys the various tasks that he has been assigned, which involve tasks such as paper shredding, collating documents into folders, laminating and putting documents into envelopes. He is made to feel welcome by members of staff at the Project and his Mencap job coach ensures that he understands everything that is required of him. It is good for 'H' to work within a supported environment but also with an understanding of how to fit in within a team and follow office practices. He enjoys his time there and we are grateful that he has had this opportunity.*
- 3.15.14 Our promotion work using Flipbooks has been so well received by parents and professionals that we have enhance this further and added to our range of Flipbooks.
- 3.15.15 We have also worked closely with Bromley's Education Safeguarding Officer and co-delivered both safeguarding and EIFS awareness sessions to Schools, both bespoke individual school basis and to groups e.g., the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Forum.
- 3.15.16 As we approach yet more challenging financial times, the value of intervening as early as possible, before the issues evolve in serious challenges and difficult problems, and the cost of resolving escalates, the EIFS service has continued to ensure a presence in a broad range of meetings. Some of these are because of the number of buildings the service is responsible for and other in relation to how we can offer support to families before crisis hits, and once in

crisis. Meeting attendances including the Youth Justice Service's Out of Court Disposal Panel, the Missing Education and Gang Affiliation Panel, Missing and at Risk of Child Exploitation Panel, SEND Governance Board, CSC Section18, CSC Resources Panel, Counter Terrorism Channel Panel, Domestic Abuse Strategic Board, Corporate Equality Diversity and Inclusion Board, Corporate Health and Safety Board, Departmental Health and Safety Group (Chair), Health and Wellbeing Board, Corporate Lone Working Group, Under Five's Holistic Support Panel, 0-19 (Health) Steering Group, Supporting Families Regional Meeting (Chair), London Early Help Network mtg, DLUHC Data Managers' (Chair), Regional IASS Network meeting, Engagement SEND, Bromley Gypsy Romany Traveller Working Party, South East London Inter-agency Gypsy Romany Traveller Meeting, London Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment Grp.

- 3.15.17 This has demonstrated the importance of, and cross cutting nature of early help in the broadest sense, and the Service is supporting the development of an Early Help Strategic Board, to be the governance pathway for multi-agency multi-disciplinary partner approach to delivering the Early Help Strategy (November 2022 PDS Schedule (CEF 22066)), reporting into the Bromley Safeguarding Children's Partnership. The ambition is to hold the inaugural meeting this coming year, before the schools break for Summer 2024.
- 3.15.18 The Single Point of Contact 'SPOC' model developed during COVID for our colleagues in Children's Social Care, schools across Bromley's educational landscape, and partner agencies such as Change Grow Live, Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid, continues to offer support to colleagues in the moment. This model continues to promote communication, bespoke training, improved referrals, and better case management.
- 3.15.19 To support those staff within our Service who line manage staff themselves, we have developed a Managers' Flipbook [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) which is near to completion, to help navigate the numerous H.R. processes and procedures.
- 3.15.20 Working in partnership with Bromley HealthCare and the Early Years SEN Advisory Support Service we have develop the Under 5's Holistic Support Panel. This is in its infancy but has already identified families earlier than would have happened, who are now receiving support from the most appropriate partner(s).
- 3.15.21 The Service has been working with the Birth Registrations Service for several years now and this year has redesigned the Certificate Folder [\[CLICK HERE\]](#) that is given to all new parents registering the birth of their child. The folder now promotes services and support for families.
- 3.15.22 The Service has been working closely with the Operational Property Review team supporting discussions, site visits, and planning for the implementation of the works programme across our 8 sites.
- 3.15.23 The importance of reviewing the quality of the work that we do cannot be underestimated. We have managed to develop in house an Assurance of Quality and Improvement Team 'AQAI'. This is a part time post filled by two staff on flexible retirement plans. Despite the small resource, the output has been considerable. The audits have cover practice and core themes, and there has been practice improvement, paperwork has been updated, processes revised and streamlined saving staff time and improving record keeping. A newsletter is published to share learning across the whole of EIFS services [\[CLICK HERE\]](#). With such a variety of services within EIFS, this approach has enabled improvements to be cross cutting and reinforced the importance of data quality for staff.

3.16 Update on our ambitions for 2023/4

- 3.16.1 Last year we set challenges for the Service to focus on. Were we have progressed these, an update is provided below.
- 3.16.2 Children and Family Centres
- (a) We have introduced the online registration service.
 - (b) We have expanded our outreach to the Gypsy Romany and Traveller Communities in Bromley to encompass the sites across the south and west of the borough.
- 3.16.3 Family Support and Parenting Practitioner
- (a) We have developed the Service's use of and reporting of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and resilience factors. We have developed and streamlined our database recording and embedded ACEs as an additional measurement tool that supports evidence of sustained change to validate the Supporting Families grant draw-down.
 - (b) We have drawn down the full Supporting Families grant for this year.
- 3.16.4 Parenting offer
- (a) We have developed the Reducing Parental Conflict courses for parents and these have run and received excellent feedback.
 - (b) We have reviewed all the existing programmes, refreshing the content to reflect the latest research and any new findings as approved by the licensors of each individual programme
- 3.16.5 Children's Contact Centres
- (a) Our focus this year was to achieve our National Association of Child Contact Centres 'NACCC' Accreditation. Due to staffing challenges and premises issues this was not possible.
- 3.16.6 Information Advice and Support Service
- (a) We have reviewed and updated the Information Advice and Support Service Website.
 - (b) We have successfully recruited and trained additional Independent Volunteer Supporters (IVS) in the Team.
- 3.16.7 Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC)
- (a) We have successfully recruited to the RPC Coordinator who joined the team in Spring 2023.
 - (b) We have increased the strategic awareness of the RPC agenda.
 - (c) We have developed a range of practical tools for parents and professionals alike.
 - (d) We have designed and developed, as well as obtained other exiting learning materials for families.
 - (e) We have brought into Bromley a therapeutic intervention led by Coram for families.
- 3.16.8 Social Communications (ASC) Family Support Coordinator for the Borough:
- (a) We have developed and streamlined the referral pathway to make the process easier for parents with an online portal system.
 - (b) We have delivered on the 'graduated approach' and achieved a lower reliance on specialist support and an increase in families accessing support from universal and targeted services.

3.17 Future Focus

- 3.17.1 The services continue to look for opportunities to enhance service delivery, despite capacity challenges. The following highlights just one or two of our focused pieces of work for each of the service areas within EIFS for the coming year.
- 3.17.2 Children and Family Centres

- (a) Promote the recently published Commissioned Activities and Services Directory for 2024/25 [\[CLICK HERE\]](#)
 - (b) Develop new outreach plans to target parents of newborns.
 - (c) Explore with our 0-19 provider the viability of pursuing the UNICEF Baby Friendly accreditation.
- 3.17.3 Family Support and Parenting Practitioner
- (a) To develop our reporting and explore referral data to target agencies not referring families for support.
 - (b) To develop a new Multi Agency Partnership Event (MAPE) to enable partners to successfully navigate the support available and the Children and Families Hub Front Door.
- 3.17.4 Parenting Offer
- (a) To continue to ensure all new Family Support and Parenting Practitioners are trained in the suite of our evidence based parenting courses
 - (b) To develop a seminar to increase parental awareness and understanding of drugs and other substances that their children may experience with and to know appropriate strategies and support pathways.
- 3.17.5 Children's Contact Centres
- (a) Following the challenges with the Orpington Children's Contact Centre, to identify suitable places to deliver 'Family Time' that can be developed into high quality child friendly family time spaces.
 - (b) To develop a suite of reports to support practice delivery and drive service improvement.
- 3.17.6 Information Advice and Support Service –
- (a) To recruit additional Independent Volunteer Supporters.
 - (b) To develop information and advice in formats designed to target young people.
- 3.17.7 Reducing Parental Conflict
- (a) The development and delivery of a campaign designed and developed to raise awareness across a 6-week period on social media.
 - (b) The development and delivery of a suite of 6 micro sessions designed to run over lunch periods for professionals to access. 1 hour only with a specific theme.
- 3.17.8 Social Communication (inc. Autism) Needs Targeted Support Coordinator
- (a) To develop the data capture and reporting to evidence the impact of the service.
 - (b) To identify opportunities and partners with whom to publicise the service and support available to families.
- 3.17.9 General
- (a) To continue to look for opportunities to work with new partners to broaden the offer to families under our one stop shop model
 - (b) To continue to look for cost savings on resources that need to be purchased consumables for the sites
 - (c) To reduce our reliance on paper and digitalise supporting staff to prepare for the move to Churchill Court and a new hot-desk model of working.
 - (d) To make better use of the local authority's publicity options including the JCDecaux digital boards and working more closely with Bromley's Libraries.

4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

- 4.1 Our most vulnerable families and their children have continued to be supported by EIFS services throughout the past 12 months.

4.2 There is always more that we can do, and the wider EIFS will continue to look for and exploit available opportunities to expand the reach and range of support that can be offered. EIFS have continued with the 'needs-led' approach, driven by what our families are telling us they need to ensure our resources are best placed and not wasted.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 All of the work outlined in this paper has been achieved within the existing budget and staffing allocations, or through successful bids such as Capital Bid for the development of some of our sites and grant bids to external funders e.g., DWP for the Reducing Parental Conflict programme.

5.2 There is has been no additional cost to the local authority.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 All of the work outlined in this paper has been achieved within the existing establishment.

Non-Applicable Sections:	POLICY IMPLICATIONS LEGAL IMPLICATIONS PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	NONE

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Report No.
CEF23093

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: EXECUTIVE

Date: For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Children, Education and Families Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 11 June 2024

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Key

Title: CONTINUATION OF JOINT FUNDING CHILDRENS COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES WITH THE SOUTH EAST LONDON INTEGRATED CARE BOARD

Contact Officer: Anthony Harris, Associate Director for Children and Young People's Commissioning, South East London Integrated Care Board
Tel: 0208 313 3039 E-mail: Anthony.Harris@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Richard Baldwin, Director Children's Services

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for decision/report and options

- 1.1 A significant proportion of the community health services in Bromley are provided under contract by Bromley Health Care (BHC). The current contract term is reaching expiry (30th November 2024) and the South-East London Integrated Care Board (SELICB) has decided on a future course of action and intentions for Bromley community health services. These intentions are as follows:
- 1.2 **Project 1:** Award BHC a new contract for two years with some changes as required to meet the needs of the population and wider system.
- 1.3 **Project 2:** Recommission community health services with a procurement exercise. This will provide an opportunity to design and enact changes that will address the future needs for Bromley residents including greater integration with acute services, the formation of neighbourhood services and enabling services to better meet the health and wellbeing needs of the Bromley population. Since these are significant changes there is a clear rationale to invite the market to tender with an open procurement.
- 1.4 Through these contracting arrangements LBB jointly funds and commissions a range of therapies and other support services to children and young people. This report seeks a decision over the Council's participation in the new two-year contract (Project 1) with Bromley Healthcare
-

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 The Children, Education and Families PDS is asked to note and comment on the contents of the report.

2.2 The Council's Executive is recommended to:

- 1) Agree the approval of the joint funding and commissioning of services set out in this paper for the duration of the two-year direct award of the community health contract; and,**
- 2) Subject to the funding agreement, include these funds and services within the S.75 agreement between the Council and the South-East London Integrated Care Board (SELICB.)**

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: The proposals concern the commissioning and funding of therapy and other supports to vulnerable children and young people
-

Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority (*delete as appropriate*):
 - (1) For children and young people to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
 - (5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: £1.423M of previously agreed fund:
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost Non-Recurring Cost Not Applicable: Further Details
 3. Budget head/performance centre:
 4. Total current budget for this head: £
 5. Source of funding:
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (*current and additional*): N/a
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: £1.423M of previously agreed funds
 2. Call-in: Applicable: Executive Decision.
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: No direct procurement implications as SELICB are the lead contracting authority for the proposed arrangements
-

Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: N/A
-

Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: N/A
-

Impact on the Local Economy

2. Summary of Local Economy Implications: N/A
-

Impact on Health and Wellbeing

1. Summary of Health and Wellbeing Implications: Services under consideration are therapy and other health supports to vulnerable children and young people
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (*current and projected*):
-

Ward Councillor Views

3. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
4. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

Commissioning Community Health Services to Children and Young people

- 3.1 SELICB and the Council have a longstanding and formal agreement for the joint funding and commissioning of services supporting children and young people within the current Bromley community health contract. A key enabler to joint funding and commissioning is the Section 75 Health and Social Care Act 2006 agreement (S.75 agreement) between SELICB and the Council, allowing SELICB to commission services on behalf of the local authority.
- 3.2 The current community health contract includes a range of jointly funded and commissioned services between SELICB and the Council. Most of these services sit within the S.75, however there is a growing number of jointly funded and commissioned services that sit outside of the formal agreement, and therefore cause fragmentation of processes and result in inefficient governance arrangements for both the SELICB and the Council.
- 3.3 The two-year direct award provides an opportunity to draw together all jointly funded and commissioned children and young people's services currently delivered by Bromley Healthcare and then to formalise those future arrangements by extending the use of the existing S.75 agreement between SELICB and LBB

Options Appraisal

- 3.4 This paper sets out two options for consideration,
- 3.5 **Option 1:** LBB approve the two-year funding of service areas set out in this paper, continuing the joint funding and commissioning of children and young people services in the community health contract.
- 3.6 There are significant benefits to option 1, which include benefitting from the robust governance of both the S.75 and the ongoing monitoring of the two-year community health contract. This option also streamlines a range of commissioning activity, which overtime has become fragmented, creating a disproportionate draw on SELICB and LBB time and resources.
- 3.7 **Option 2:** LBB do not agree the joint funding/commissioning services set out in this paper for inclusion in the community health contract. This option would result in LBB holding responsibility for a significant amount of additional commissioning of service provision, including but not exclusively for services that enable it to meet statutory responsibilities for CYP.
- 3.8 Option 2 would create uncertainty for SELICB, LBB and BHC as the provider of the community health contract. This option would also risk continuity of service provision for children and young people and families in Bromley.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Due to the proposed investment of the jointly funded services being over £1m, a decision is required by the Council's Executive.
- 4.2 Whilst the total investment exceeds the £1m threshold requiring approval from the Executive, the majority of services cited in this paper already have agreed Council funding allocated to them through pre-existing budget decisions. With one exception, the request is for the continuation of the joint arrangements into the new community health contract.
- 4.3 The investment for the two-year contract from the Council is best illustrated by understanding the following two areas:

- I. The value of each jointly funded and commissioned service intended for inclusion in the new community health contract, and the specific LBB investment in each service; and
- II. The identified LBB budget for each service.

4.4 *Table 1* breaks down the investment from the Council for each service jointly funded and commissioned activity along with the annual value of the entire service.

4.5 *Table 1* does not include an additional investment from the Council to support the transformation of Speech and Language Therapy services of £470,000. This additional investment was approved by the Executive in March 2024 as part of budget setting for 2024-2025. The delivery will be integrated and sit parallel to the community health contract.

Table 1, Jointly funded services, proposed for inclusion in the BHC community health contract 2024-2026

Service	Service Value P/A	LBB Contribution P/A
Hollybanks (short breaks)	£1,517,040	£468,000
Speech and Language Therapy	£2,089,832	£147,000
Child Death Overview Panel	£65,009	£21,000
OT EHCNA (assessments)	£160,000	£80,000

4.6 The proposed annual investment from the Council into the jointly funded services of the community health contract is £716,000. The full investment for the two-year direct award is £1,432,000. There is sufficient budget within the service to contain these costs.

Table 2, Annual and cumulative investment

Period	Investment
Year 1 (24/25)	£716,000
Year 2 (25/26)	£716,000
Total Investment	£1,432,000

5. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This paper primarily concerns funding arrangements for jointly commissioned services by the London Borough of Bromley and the South East London Integrated Care Board (SELICB). For the relevant contract, for which a new two year contract award is proposed, SELICB are the lead contracting authority.

5.2 As SELICB are intended to be the contracting authority, there are no direct procurement implications for LBB. However, relevant Bromley officers should ensure, as far as reasonable, that SELICB conduct a compliant procurement.

5.3 The proposed contract is subject to the new NHS Provider Selection Regime procurement regulations, introduced in January 2024. The Provider Selection Regime allows for contract award via the Direct Award C process – direct award to an incumbent provider where the existing contract is due to end and a new contract is required, where the service is not changing considerably, and the contracting authority is of the view that the existing provider is satisfying the existing contract and will likely satisfy the proposed contract a sufficient standard. This is the likely compliant procurement route to be used by the contracting authority.

5.4 Governance arrangements for Section 75 have previously been agreed by Executive. Delegated authority to the Chief Executive has been granted to renew the S75 agreement as required and to add or amend the S75 as required subject to consultation with the Leader and relevant Portfolio. However, new agreements proposed to be added to the S75 require formal

Portfolio Holder and Executive decision at the usual thresholds (£500k and £1m respectively). This paper seeks formal Executive decision due to the value of proposed agreements to be added to the S75.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Members are recommended to approve the joint funding and commissioning of services set out in this paper for the duration of a two-year direct award of the community health contract to the Bromley Health Centre and, subject to the funding agreement, to include these funds and services within the S.75 agreement between the Council and the South-East London Integrated Care Board (SELICB).
- 6.2 These services are healthcare services which are now regulated by the Provider Selection Regime which came into force on 1st January 2024. As is identified in the Procurement Implications above, the direct award of contract to Bromley Health Care can be made by way of the Direct Award Process C under that Regime. It is noted the procurement is carried out by SELICB as the contracting authority but as the procurement will be on behalf of the section 75 partnership between the Council and SELICB then the Council must be satisfied the procurement accords with the new Regime.
- 6.3 Should the Executive agree to the recommendations contained within this report then any appropriate variations/contract change notices will need to be made to the over-arching section 75 Agreement.
- 6.4 This report comes before the Executive to approve due to the value of the funds proposed to be used being in excess of one million pounds.

7. IMPACT ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- 7.1 The services to be commissioned through the two-year community health contract are each targeted at the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

Non-Applicable Headings:	Transformation and Policy/Personnel/Legal/Property/Carbon Reduction and Social Value Implications; Impact on the Local Economy; Customer Impact; Ward Councillor Views
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Health and Social Care Act 2006

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Report No.
CEF23088

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES POLICY
DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 11 June 2024

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES RISK REGISTER –
2023/24 Q4 UPDATE

Contact Officer: Clare O'Reilly, Head of Service: Children's Social Care and Education -
Strategy, Performance and Corporate Transformation Division

Chief Officer: Richard Baldwin, Director of Children Social Care

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 Risk Management is the identification, analysis and overall control of those risks which can impact on the Council's ability to deliver its priorities and objectives. This report enables the Members to scrutinise risks and the actions taken to control them in line with Audit Sub-Committee recommendations.
-

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 Members are asked to note:

- The current Children, Education and Families Risk Register and the existing controls in place to mitigate the risks.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact:
-

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council Safe Bromley Supporting Independence Healthy Bromley
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre:
 4. Total current budget for this head: £
 5. Source of funding:
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional):
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement Non-Statutory - Government Guidance None:
Further Details
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: No Executive decision.
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications:
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected):
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

Background

- 3.1 Risk Management is the identification, analysis and overall control of those risks which can impact on the Council's ability to deliver its priorities and objectives. The Children, Education and Families Risk Register feeds into the Corporate Risk Register, via the Corporate Risk Management Group, and comprises the high-level departmental risks which are underpinned by more detailed registers contained within the divisional business plans.
- 3.2 Audit Sub-Committee agreed that the Corporate and Departmental Risk Registers would be reviewed at their meetings twice a year and then subsequently scrutinised by the relevant PDS Committee. Internal processes require that the departmental risk registers be updated and agreed by the departmental Senior Leadership Team (SLT) on a quarterly basis and be reviewed by the Corporate Risk Management Group.
- 3.3 The Children, Education and Families Risk Register is attached as Appendix 1. The risks included in the Risk Register are outlined below.

Risk Ref	Risk Description
1	Failure to deliver Children's Services Financial Strategy
2	Failure to deliver effective Children's services
3	Recruitment and Retention
4	Business Interruption / Emergency Planning
5	School Place Planning
6	SEND Transport
7	SEND Reforms
8	Youth Offending
9	Out of Borough Placements (Children and Young People)
10	Speech and Language Therapy
11	School Attendance

- 3.4 The updates around the control of all risks and actions taken to mitigate them are detailed in the register.

4 IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

- 4.1 The controls already in place and the further actions outlined in the Risk Register mitigate the adverse impacts on vulnerable children.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no policy implications arising directly from this report. Any policy implications arising from the existing controls and the further action required to mitigate against the risks are reported to the Sub-Committee separately.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Any financial implications arising from the existing controls and the further action required to mitigate against the risks are reported to the Sub-Committee separately.

7 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personnel implications arising directly from this report. Any personal implications arising from the existing controls and further action to mitigate against the risks are reported to the Sub-Committee separately.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. Any legal implications arising from the existing controls and further action to mitigate against the risks are reported to the Sub-Committee separately.

9 PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no procurement implications arising directly from this report. Any procurement implications arising from the existing controls and further action to mitigate against the risks are reported to the Sub-Committee separately.

Non-Applicable Sections:	[List non-applicable sections here]
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	[Title of document and date]

Children, Education and Families Risk Register

2023/24

REF	DIVISION	RISK TITLE & DESCRIPTION (a line break - press shift & return - must be entered after the risk title)	RISK CAUSE & EFFECT	RISK CATEGORY	GROSS RISK RATING (See next tab for guidance)					CURRENT RISK RATING (See next tab for guidance)					RISK OWNER
					LIKE LIHO	OD	IMPA	CT	RISK RATI NG	LIKE LIHO	OD	IMPA	CT	RISK RATI NG	
1	Children's Services	Failure to deliver Children's Services Financial Strategy	<p>Cause(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continual reduction in Central Government funding - Demographic changes - Increased demand for services - Demand led statutory services (c. 80% of operations) which can be difficult to predict - Increasing cost volatility due to rise of complex, high cost families or placements requiring services. - Specific cost factors impacting transport services <p>Effect(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lower than anticipated levels of financial resource - Failure to achieve a balanced budget - Failure to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of use of resources leading to a Qualified Independent Auditors' Report - Objectives of the service not met - Reputation is impacted - Wider goals of the Council are not achieved 	Financial	5	5	25	4	5	20	Director, Children's Services (Richard Baldwin)				
2	Children's Services	Failure to deliver effective Children's services The Council is unable to deliver an effective children's service to fulfil its statutory obligations in safeguarding and protect those at risk of significant harm or death, sexual exploitation or missing from care	<p>Cause(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local authority response to Bromley Safeguarding Children's Partnership following Wood Review. <p>Effect(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact on life chances and outcomes for children 	Legal, Reputational	3	5	15	3	3	9	Director, Children's Services (Richard Baldwin)				
3	Children's Services	Recruitment and Retention Failure to recruit and retain key skilled staff with suitable experience/qualifications	<p>Cause(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Failure to compete with other organisations to recruit the highest quality candidates to build an agile workforce - Small pool of experienced children's Social Workers and other qualified roles (Nursery Practitioners, Supervised Contact Workers) <p>Effect(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Failure to identify and meet service user needs - Provision of service to ineligible clients - Provision of service prior to/without appropriate authorisation - Lack of skill set results in an inability to deliver effective children's services to fulfil statutory safeguarding obligations, impacting on life chances and outcomes 	Personnel	5	4	20	3	4	12	Director, Children's Services (Richard Baldwin) Director, Human Resources (Charles Obazuaye)				
4	Children's Services	Emergency Response (ER) / Business Continuity (BC) ER - Failure to provide to respond effectively to an emergency incident internally or externally BC - Lack of up-to-date, tested and exercised BC arrangements for Children's Social Care	<p>Cause(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ER - Ineffective emergency response arrangements in place to respond to an incident. BC - Lack of suitable BC plans at service and Corporate level <p>Effect(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ER - Impact upon financial and reputational matters BC - Failure to deliver statutory services 	Personnel, Reputational	3	4	12	3	3	9	Director, Children's Services (Richard Baldwin)				

Children, Education and Families Risk Register

2023/24

REF	DIVISION	RISK TITLE & DESCRIPTION (a line break - press shift & return - must be entered after the risk title)	RISK CAUSE & EFFECT	RISK CATEGORY	GROSS RISK RATING (See next tab for guidance)					CURRENT RISK RATING (See next tab for guidance)					FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	RISK OWNER
					LIKE LIHO	OD	IMPA	CT	RISK RATING	LIKE LIHO	OD	IMPA	CT	RISK RATING		
5	Education	School Place Planning Failure to meet the statutory requirement to ensure sufficient school places to meet the needs of the population in the area	Cause(s): - Failure to secure sufficient Primary and Secondary school places in the area - Failure to secure sufficient educational placements for children with disabilities and special educational needs - Failure to secure sufficient alternative provision Effect(s): - Disruption to the education of children and impact on their life chances	Political, Legal, Professional	3	4	12			4	3	12			- Following request from Harris Federation the DfE have removed the secondary free school scheme from its free school programme. Council has £3m capital contingency to assist in addressing a shortage in secondary places. - Redwood Academy Special Free School. Further delays have arisen in the DfE-led project that is currently at feasibility and permanent accommodation projected to open in early 2028. Officers are working with the DfE and Rivermead MAT to open the school in temporary accommodation at the earliest opportunity. The earliest date for opening is September 2025 but this is subject to the DfE having achieved planning consent for the permanent works.	Director, Education (Jared Nehra)
6	Education	SEND Transport Planning Failure to provide appropriate home to school transport assistance for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities	Cause(s): - Fluctuating demand year on year - Rising numbers of children meeting criteria for transport provision and associated increase in costs - Cost pressures from market place and rising fuel prices Effect(s): - Disruption to education - Impact on life chances and outcomes for children and young people	Legal Financial	5	3	15			3	4	12			SEND transport review undertaken. Proposed initiatives have passed through PDS Committee and Executive. Once complete and following consultation, revised transport policies will seek to be adopted which will create greater opportunities and flexibilities in the transport offer including opportunities for Independent travel training, and access to personal transport budgets. Significant work has been undertaken to optimise the routes into schools to ensure vehicles operate at greater capacity and vehicle numbers reduced as a result. The tendering exercise based on the optimised routes has been successfully delivered reducing the numbers of vehicles operating and reducing the average daily costs of routes. Numbers continue to come through (as they will throughout the year) and these introduce new challenges. At this point in the year there is limited spare capacity which in turn demands a premium price. Formal consultation has been completed and final approval decision taken. Full implementation now underway.	Director, Education (Jared Nehra)
7	Education	SEND Reforms Failure to meet expectation of SEND reforms	Cause(s): - Ineffective and inaccurate identification of SEND - Failure of schools to make reasonable adjustments to meet needs of individual children and young people - Failure to provide appropriate and effective support for children with identified needs and their schools - Pattern of provision which does not meet the needs of the local population resulting in placements in independent schools Effect(s): - Costs associated with the Legal process - Escalating cost of provision - Impact on education and life chances of children and young people	Financial Legal Professional	4	4	16			3	3	9			Revised SEND Strategic Vision and Priorities has been agreed by SEND Governance Board, with a greater focus on driving outcomes and ensuring the sustainability of High Needs funding Transformation work is ongoing, linked closely with the DSG deficit recovery management plan Bromley Teaching Schools leading SEN training collaborative to support school improvement. - Annual review project reviewed and re-established and broadened with multi-agency task and finish group - Quality Assurance and Improvement Framework revised and changes currently being embedded - Special Free School approved and in pre-opening status - Increase resource for Educational Psychology agreed, challenge with shortage of EP nationally – blended model of delivery developed - PRA approach revised - SEND / AP green paper published - partnership response and consideration of existing activities aligned with direction of travel - HNF Banding Review programme in train to develop equitable funding system, with a focus on sustainability	Director, Education (Jared Nehra)
8	Children's Social Care	Youth Offending Failure to deliver effective youth offending services to protect children and young people and reduce their vulnerability	Cause(s): - Increase in youth offending Effect(s): - Impact on life chances and outcomes for children - Failure to protect the public and actual or potential victims (assessment of risk to others and planning to manage the risk and protect the public)	Professional Reputational	3	4	12			2	4	8			Ongoing preparedness for Youth Justice Service inspection, self evaluation established. Continued focus on early intervention and disproportionality work. Update 26/1/24: 2023 to 2024 training schedule to ensure staff continue to develop their practice, to improve outcomes and to reduce risk and safeguarding of children in the YJS Mock inspection scheduled to measure progress and readiness for HMIP inspection Ongoing development around Trauma informed practice and reflective practice sessions scheduled as part of the ongoing training of YJS staff Continued focus on early intervention and disproportionality work.	Director, Children's Services (Richard Baldwin)
9	Children's Social Care	Out of Borough Placements (Children and Young People) Inability to reduce reliance on out of borough placements Financial implications	Cause(s): - Failure to provide/commission sufficient local placements for children with disabilities and children in care Effect(s): - Cost implications of out of borough placements (Cross refer Budget risk) - Impact for children's welfare and development	Professional Financial	3	3	9			3	3	9			CLA Sufficiency Strategy, annual updated and agreed at PDS In-house foster care recruitment stretch target remains in place, additional funding agreed to enable recruitment strategy . Successful ongoing engagement with local residential providers discussing, quality and commissioning, strengthening relationship and joint working. Visits undertaken by commissioning, CSC and Central Placements Team to ensure a joint and integrated approach Compliance Officer in place to ensure quality, safety and effectiveness of placement and experience for our CLA New Horizons project established to enable step down placements to foster care Review of Commissioning alliance allowing for greater access to local placements, review of alternative block arrangements	Director, Children's Services (Richard Baldwin)

Children, Education and Families Risk Register

2023/24

REF	DIVISION	RISK TITLE & DESCRIPTION (a line break - press shift & return - must be entered after the risk title)	RISK CAUSE & EFFECT	RISK CATEGORY	GROSS RISK RATING (See next tab for guidance)				EXISTING CONTROLS IN PLACE TO MITIGATE THE RISK	CURRENT RISK RATING (See next tab for guidance)				FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	RISK OWNER
					LIKE LIHO	OD	IMPA CT	RISK RATI NG		LIKE LIHO	OD	IMPA CT	RISK RATI NG		
10	Education	Speech and Language Therapy Failure to provide appropriate SaLT services to children and young people	Cause(s): - Current service provision not meeting needs of children and young people in a timely way Effect(s): - Failure to meet the need of children and young people including those with SEND and other vulnerabilities	Legal Reputational Professional	4	3	12	- Multi-agency review of SaLT provision - Work with core provider (BHC) regarding SLT provision capacity undertaken given current levels of demand and pressures/demand on the system - Engagement Working Groups undertaken with children, young people, parents and schools & settings in February and March 2022 to coproduce this strengthened SLT offer.	4	3	12	Occupational Therapy - urgent actions being taken to identify support for EHCP Needs Assessments professional advice - sourcing urgent specialist - BHC has employed an experienced Therapies Project Manager to deliver on the organisation's Therapy offer and plan. Project Manager has been working on a plan for SLT (and OT and Physio) to restructure the service offer in a way that mirrors and reflects the borough's wider piece of transformation work to strengthen the Graduated Approach - meaning earlier support, signposting and multi-agency collaborative working to better enable a more appropriate and proportionate offer in line with the specific and individual needs of CYP in the borough -Publication of the B-hive website is the first step in establishing a whole system approach to supporting SaLT needs, led by Integrated Commissioning	Director of Education (Jared Nehra)		
11	Education	School Attendance Ensuring return of children to school	Cause(s): - Children not returning to school following Covid-19 lockdown - Increased EHE declarations - Lack of real time data from schools Effect(s): - Children may not be in receipt of satisfactory education	Legal Reputational	3	4	12	- EWOs support schools with improving attendance - EHE officers monitor and follow up on new EHE cases & CSC involvement checked - Mental health and wellbeing initiatives being prioritised	2	4	8	Monitoring of EHE and non-attendance is ongoing Work closely with schools through their Single Points of Contact (SPOC) Mental Health and Wellbeing Toolkit embedded in schools. Attendance and Inclusion Taskforce has introduction of 'Studybugs' a specialist data provider to capture and report on live data from schools. Most schools are now signed up. This will inform targeted support and assistance from the Education Welfare Service. Attendance of vulnerable groups remain a key priority, with the new data analysis functionality enabling greater targeting of resource. The Service plans to publish Local Inclusion Dashboards by September 2023.	Director of Education (Jared Nehra)		

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Report No.
CEF23089A

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE – PUBLIC

Decision Maker: CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES POLICY, DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 11 June 2024

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: PERFORMANCE REPORTING – CHILDREN’S SCRUTINY DATASET PART 1 (PUBLIC) REPORT

Contact Officer: Naheed Chaudhry, Assistant Director Strategy, Performance and Corporate Transformation

Chief Officer: Richard Baldwin, Director Children’s Services

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with a regular update on the performance of services for children. The performance index provided in appendix one is as at the end of March 2024.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 The Committee note and comment on the March 2024 outturns of key performance indicators and associated management commentary.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: To provide the Scrutiny Committee with a regular update on the performance of services for children.
-

Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: The monitoring of key performance measures is part of the performance management framework developed to ensure that there is strong leadership and management oversight of children's services in Bromley.
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority (delete as appropriate):
 - (1) For children and young People to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
 - (5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): Not Applicable
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable; No Executive decision.
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
-

Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: Not Applicable
-

Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: Not Applicable
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (current and projected): Not Applicable
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 A Children's Performance Management Framework agreed in 2018 and updated in 2023, stipulates that the Children's PDS Committee should receive a regular update on a suite of performance measures in respect of children's services. Reports should enable Members to *'ask challenging questions about areas of underperformance and make recommendations accordingly to the Executive'*.
- 3.2 This specific 'Children's Scrutiny Dataset' is over and above more detailed reports on specific areas of practice – e.g., Corporate Parenting reports; annual Education Outcomes reports – already received by the Committee. It is worth noting that the committee will also be in receipt of the regular Finance, Contracts Register and Risk Register updates, these will provide some reassurance under the broader performance management framework.
- 3.3 The 'Children's Scrutiny Dataset' is selected from a much wider set of data collected and reported both internally and externally in respect of children's services, it acts as a regular 'health check' on key areas of service delivery to enable scrutiny and enquiry from elected members.
- 3.4 The Committee initially agreed a proposed suite of indicators in March 2018, these indicators are reviewed and updated annually. A narrative on "why this indicator is important" has been provided to ensure that scrutiny is well informed and effective.
- 3.5 Directors have attributed either a target or a range of acceptable performance/outturns alongside trend and benchmarking data, these allow Members to be alerted to issues where they need further exploration only. Quarterly reports provide management commentary against those indicators that are performing below expectation. Directors have also committed to reporting on any other indicators not in the index, by exception, should they have concerns or if they wished to report particularly good performance.
- 3.6 Directors have provided number and percentage outturns in order to allow the Scrutiny Committee to gain a sense of scale and relativity.
- 3.7 **MANAGEMENT COMMENTARY ON EXCEPTION – Index indicators performing below expectation.**
- 3.8 Some data in this Part 1 public committee report has been suppressed in order to minimise the risk of sensitive personal information being identified and to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation. The publication of data should not result in the identification of a person when it is reviewed with other publicly available data or when combined with information provided through FOI requests. Performance for this reason is presented in the Part 2 report.
- 3.9 As at the end of March 2024, the following Children's Scrutiny Dataset key performance indicator(s) were performing below expectation.

4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

- 4.1 Examination of performance by elected members holding scrutiny roles is part of a broader performance management framework which supports improvement of services delivered to children, including those vulnerable to poorer outcomes.

5. TRANSFORMATION/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The monitoring of key performance measures is part of the performance management framework developed to ensure that there is strong leadership and management oversight of children's services in Bromley.

6. CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 6.1 A Children's Performance Management Framework agreed in 2018 and updated in 2023, stipulates that the Children's PDS Committee should receive a regular update on a suite of performance measures in respect of children's services. Reports should enable Members to '*ask challenging questions about areas of underperformance and make recommendations accordingly to the Executive*'.
- 6.2 This specific 'Children's Scrutiny Dataset' is over and above more detailed reports on specific areas of practice – e.g., Corporate Parenting reports; annual School Standards reports – already received by the Committee. It is worth noting that the committee will also be in receipt of the regular Finance, Contracts Register and Risk Register updates, these will provide some reassurance under the broader performance management framework.

Non-Applicable Headings:	Financial/Personnel/Legal/Procurement/Property/Carbon Reduction and Social Value Implications; Ward Councillor Views.
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Children's Scrutiny Dataset, agreement of regular performance monitoring (March 2018) http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=593&MId=6166&Ver=4 Children's Performance Management Framework (updated January 2023)

Children, Education and Families Scrutiny - Performance Index 2023/24

No.	Performance Indicators	Why is this important?	Polarity	Target or Range of acceptable performance	Benchmarking and trend																	Year to Date	Notes						
					Bromley 2022/23	Bromley 2021/22	Bromley 2020/21	England 2021/22	London 2021/22	RAG rating	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24			Mar-24					
Early Help																													
1	Total Footfall Children & Family Centres	Data provides an indication of early identified support and help provided.	n/a	95000	52059	28,613	6,668	Local Measure	Local Measure	GREEN	3742	9122	15316	20338	24649	30779	36694	43526	46837	53685	60652	67301	67301						
2	Children supported by the Bromley Children's Project (Children referred)		n/a	1700	1063	1,755	1,869	Local Measure	Local Measure	GREEN	106	161	186	169	105	92	105	95	121	99	131	167	1638						
3	% outcome of School Ofsted inspections good or outstanding (overall effectiveness)	Schools are subject to regulation and inspection from Ofsted. Our ambition is that LB Bromley schools are at least good or better. This measure, to be considered alongside e.g. Key Stage results, progress measures, attendance and exclusion data.	High	95-90%	96%	97%	97%	89%	93%	GREEN			96%			97%			98%			97%	97%	School year is academic year not financial year					
4	Number of Primary permanent exclusions (Bromley schools) (Number YTD Academic year)	Permanent exclusion can severely disrupt a pupil's education and social networks. It can be extremely challenging to find alternative school/alternative education for pupils excluded in the secondary phase because of the nature of the factors leading to the exclusion. However, the LA has mechanisms in place to both minimise time out of education and to identify alternative provision for pupils who are permanently excluded.	Low	0	0	1	0 (rate:0.00)	Rate: 0.01	Rate: 0.00	GREEN	Data suppressed, see part 2 report																		School year is academic year not financial year
5	Number of Secondary permanent exclusions (Bromley schools) (Number YTD Academic year)		Low	22-40 (rate of 0.10-0.16)	33	Provisional (47)	17 (rate:0.07)	Rate: 0.1	Rate: 0.09	GREEN	3	1	16	3		3	2	7	10	4	2	10	37	School year is academic year not financial year					
Safeguarding and Child Protection																													
6	Number of 'Referrals' to Children's Social Care	Measure of demand for CSC services and an identification of the effectiveness of early help, as well as if thresholds are understood by partners.	n/a	Not a target measure	4513	4032	3,827	640,430	107,900	This is not a target measure	268	412	525	408	263	396	423	527	335	293	266	384	4500						
7	% of statutory Assessments authorised within 45 days (Year to Date)	Assessments are undertaken in order to identify whether or not statutory thresholds for children's social care have been met and statutory services are required. There is a 45 day statutory timescale for completion - this is a measure of efficiency and effective management oversight. It is also a reflective of manageable caseloads.	High	95 - 83%	93%	96%	85%	82%	85%	GREEN	98%	96%	93%	94%	94%	85%	91%	97%	93%	94%	94%	94%	94%						
8	Number of Children in Need (Statutory threshold Section 17)	This is not a performance measure but indicates prevalence of need for intensive social care intervention. Also volume of intensive casework and social worker capacity required to fulfil statutory duties.	n/a	Not a target measure	920	890	615	104,940	17,860	This is not a target measure	895	849	850	832	860	873	846	847	889	938	973	936	936	including DCT					
9	Number of children subject of a Child Protection Plan		n/a	Not a target measure	315	345	283	50,780	7,580	This is not a target measure	315	282	288	300	337	344	351	363	345	342	328	306	306						
10	% of Children subject of a Child Protection Plan with an allocated Social Worker	It is a statutory requirement that all Child Protection Plan casework is allocated to qualified social workers. This is a proxy for high quality interventions undertaken by qualified practitioners who are subject to national professional standards	High	100%	100%	100%	100%	Local Measure	Local Measure	GREEN	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%						
11	% of reviews completed within timescale for Children with Child Protection Plans	There is a national framework of expectations around interventions with children requiring safeguarding. This measure is a proxy for appropriate management/IRO (Independent Reviewing Officer) oversight of complex casework and decisive social work planning.	High	100 - 95%	86%	90%	100%	88%	92%	GREEN	100%	97%	100%	99%	99%	97%	97%	98%	86%	94%	98%	98%	98%						
12	% of Children that became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for the second or subsequent time (year to date)	If a second child protection plan is required for similar reasons, this could indicate potential lack of impact of earlier Child protection interventions. It can often demonstrate multiple risks/challenges faced by children and families. It prompts enquiry into whether or not other statutory interventions should be/should have been considered. Was the child removed from the plan too early? Was practice too optimistic?	Low	25 - 15%	23%	20%	14%	23% (2021/22)	18% (2021/22)	GREEN	15%	19%	12%	17%	23%	23%	23%	22%	21%	21%	21%	20%	20%						
12b	% of Children that became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for the second or subsequent time within 2 years of their previous plan (year to date)		Low	Not a target measure	9%	9%		Local Measure	Local Measure	This is not a target measure	0%	5%	2%	11%	15%	14%	14%	13%	13%	13%	13%	12%	12%						
13	Average number of weeks taken to complete Care proceedings against a national target of 26 weeks (CAFCASS definition)	It is imperative to avoid 'drift' in making permanency plans for CLA. Time taken to undertake care proceedings is a proxy for decisive casework and can be looked at alongside timeliness of achieving adoptions. The measure can be affected by issues beyond professional control e.g. court delays.	Low	26 weeks	45	44	49	41 (2021/22)	32 (2021/22)		49	42	41	47	62	52	41	59	36	36	21	50	45	Awaiting publication					

No.	Performance Indicators	Why is this important?	Polarity	Target or Range of acceptable performance	Benchmarking and trend																Year to Date	Notes				
					Bromley 2022/23	Bromley 2021/22	Bromley 2020/21	England 2021/22	London 2021/22	RAG rating	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24			Feb-24	Mar-24		
Children Looked After and Care Leavers																										
14	Children Looked After rate per 10,000	This is a prevalence measure to be looked at alongside others including CIN/CP rates and should also be, broadly, in line with London and statistical neighbours.	n/a	Not a target measure	47	45	45	71	51	This is not a target measure			46			45					48	48				
15	Number of Children Looked After	Actual numbers of looked after children should be considered alongside demand pressures on social work capacity and placements/budgets required to fulfil statutory responsibilities.	n/a	Not a target measure	343	328	341	83,840	9,710	This is not a target measure	336	340	351	347	353	345	338	351	350	353	353	351	351			
16	% of Children Looked After with an allocated Social Worker	It is a statutory requirement that all CLA casework is allocated to qualified social workers. This is a proxy for high quality interventions undertaken by qualified practitioners who are subject to national professional standards.	High	100%	100%	100%	100%	Local Measure	Local Measure	GREEN	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%				
17	% of Children Looked After cases which were reviewed within required timescales	There are statutory requirements for reviewing the care plans for CLA within set timescales. This measure is a proxy for appropriate management/IRO (Independent Reviewing Officer) oversight of complex casework and decisive social work planning.	High	100- 90%	94%	95%	93%	Not available	Not available	GREEN	100%	96%	95%	94%	91%	92%	96%	91%	96%	88%	100%	98%				
18a	Number of in-house foster households recruited (YTD)	We have set ambitious targets for increasing the number and range of in-house foster carers. Although placements with foster carers are, almost invariably, the first option to be considered for CLA, a shortage of 'in house' carers i.e. recruited and approved by Bromley, can result in placements being commissioned from independent sector providers. Recruitment processes can take 5 to 7 months. Agency foster carers are often profit making organisations, carers are often not local and carers are not supported or managed by Bromley services. Also, placements are typically significantly more expensive thus adding to pressure on placement budgets. Our aim is to reduce dependency on IFA placements. This indicator should be reviewed with the numbers of children in care at any given point, the profile of these children and their likely needs and our progress in recruiting in-house foster carers.	High	15	6	11	10	Local Measure	Local Measure	GREEN	Data suppressed, see part 2 report															
18b	Number of in house fostering households in the assessment process (Stage 1 & Stage 2)	Agency foster carers are often profit making organisations, carers are often not local and carers are not supported or managed by Bromley services. Also, placements are typically significantly more expensive thus adding to pressure on placement budgets. Our aim is to reduce dependency on IFA placements. This indicator should be reviewed with the numbers of children in care at any given point, the profile of these children and their likely needs and our progress in recruiting in-house foster carers.	High	Not a target measure	Not a target measure	Not a target measure	Not a target measure	Local Measure	Local Measure	This is not a target measure	Data suppressed, see part 2 report															
18c	Number of in house fostering households currently approved and in the assessment process	Agency foster carers are often profit making organisations, carers are often not local and carers are not supported or managed by Bromley services. Also, placements are typically significantly more expensive thus adding to pressure on placement budgets. Our aim is to reduce dependency on IFA placements. This indicator should be reviewed with the numbers of children in care at any given point, the profile of these children and their likely needs and our progress in recruiting in-house foster carers.	High	Not a target measure	Not a target measure	Not a target measure	Not a target measure	Local Measure	Local Measure	This is not a target measure	Data suppressed, see part 2 report															
19	Stability of placements of Children Looked After - number of placements (3 placements or more in the year)	There are two key measures for placement stability – Placement stability is a foundation stone for improving outcomes for CLA as it enables consistent relationships between young people and their carers; consistent school placements; a settled context in which young people can develop social networks etc. While some placement moves are 'positive' – e.g. move to a permanent home; move to withdraw a young person from a risky environment, others occur due to e.g. breakdown of relationships/behaviour issues etc. and should be minimised.	Low	12-0%	12%	11%	11%	10%	10%	GREEN	9%	9%	8%	8%	8%	9%	8%	8%	8%	7%	6%	7%	7%			
20	Stability of placements of Children Looked After - length of placement	There are two key measures for placement stability –The length of placement indicator refers to children under the age of 16 who have been in care for 2 and half years or more and have been in their current placement for 2 years or more. Placement stability is a foundation stone for improving outcomes for CLA as it enables consistent relationships between young people and their carers; consistent school placements; a settled context in which young people can develop social networks etc. While some placement moves are 'positive' – e.g. move to a permanent home; move to withdraw a young person from a risky environment, others occur due to e.g. breakdown of relationships/behaviour issues etc. and should be minimised.	High	70% (In line with national or above)	79%	73%	69%	69%	69%	GREEN	77%	77%	70%	70%	69%	65%	65%	66%	67%	67%	68%	70%	70%			
21	Number of Children Looked After who achieved permanency after an Adoption Order or Special Guardianship Order was granted	The key aim for looked after children who cannot return to their families of origin is to find alternative permanent families. Numbers of adoptions and special guardianship arrangements are, therefore, closely monitored by managers. More recently, there has been a big push in supporting family members (or adults known to the child) in achieving special guardianship for our children rather than adoption, hence the drop in adoption numbers, as previously the same children would have left care under this arrangement. It is therefore vital to look at this data across, to show the number of children achieving permanency in total.	High	14	22	21	43	Local Measure	Local Measure	GREEN	Data suppressed, see part 2 report															
22	% of Care leavers who are EET (aged 19, 20, 21) (DFE definition)	This indicator provides a guide to the effectiveness of Corporate Parenting in improving life chances for children in care.	High	52-47%	55%	51%	42%	56%	60%	GREEN	N/A	33%	42%	56%	57%	60%	68%	57%	67%	56%	57%	56%	56%			
23	% of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation (aged 19, 20, 21)	This indicator provides a guide to the effectiveness of Corporate Parenting in ensure Care Leavers have an appropriate and safe place to live.	High	84-76%	89%	94%	86%	88%	88%	GREEN	N/A	83%	92%	89%	93%	95%	100%	96%	98%	99%	98%	99%	99%			
Children's Social Care Caseload Promise: Average caseloads																										
24	Average Caseloads RAS	Following the 2016 Ofsted inspection Bromley committed to maintaining safe caseload levels. This is a measure of manageability of Social worker workloads.	n/a	12 - 18	21	17.3	18.1	Local Measure	Local Measure	GREEN	16	17	19	17	14	14	16	18	19	13	10	14				
25	Average Caseloads Safeguarding and Care Planning	Following the 2016 Ofsted inspection Bromley committed to maintaining safe caseload levels. This is a measure of manageability of Social worker workloads.	n/a	12 - 15	18	17.1	19.6	Local Measure	Local Measure	GREEN	17	15	16	16	16	15	17	16	14	14	14	14				

Children and Young People with complex needs																								
26	% of CYP (16 - 17 year olds) not in education, employment or training (NEET)	Non-participation in education, employment or training beyond age 16 is a major predictor of long-term unemployment and low income. This indicator should be reviewed alongside the 'Not Known' outturn.	Low	1.7%-1.9%	1.1% (82/7145)	1.2% (86/7144)	1.5% (104/7042)	2.8%	1.9%	GREEN	1.2% (88/7140)	1.3% (93/7134)	1.4% (97/7135)	1.4% (101/7128)	1.5% (110/7126)		1.2% (90/7436)	1.3% (99/7441)	1.4% (103/7423)	1.3% (95/7411)	1.2% (87/7403)	1.2% (92/7404)		
27	% of CYP (16 - 17 year olds) education, employment or training status 'not known'	The EET status of young people can be difficult to ascertain e.g. once pupils leave school. The aim is to have a low number of young people whose EET status is 'not known'. This indicator should be reviewed along side the NEET outturn.	Low	0.7%-1.1%	0.4% (31/7145)	0.3% (19/7144)	0.2% (17/7042)	2.8%	2.7%		0.4% (31/7140)	0.6% (46/7134)	0.7% (53/7135)	1.1% (79/7128)	1.6% (113/7126)		DNA	DNA	0.6% (46/7423)	0.4% (27/7411)	0.2% (16/7403)	0.4% (33/7404)		
28	Number of First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17	Offending can be linked to factors such as truancy, low attainment, substance misuse, employability etc. and the challenge to the council, schools and partner agencies in a local area is to prevent young people from entering the youth justice system.	Low	Not a target measure	44	31	30	15182	3090	This is not a target measure	Data suppressed, see part 2 report													
29	Proportion of offenders that are proven to re-offending in the youth justice system	This indicator measures the re-offending of specific cohorts of young people following an initial pre-court or court disposal.	Low	42% - 35%	20%	20%	26%	42%	48%	GREEN	14%	16%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	20%	20%	20%	20%		
30	Number of children/Young People open to MEGA	This indicator provides a guide as to the awareness of CSE and gang risk.	n/a	Not a target measure	Local Measure	Local Measure	Local Measure	Local Measure	Local Measure	This is not a target measure	35	35	31	27	44	46	42	40	42	39	41	43		
The following indicators are measured on a calendar year:																								
No.	Performance Indicators	Why is this important?	Polarity	Target or Range of acceptable performance	Benchmarking and trend																Year to Date	Notes		
					Bromley 2023	Bromley 2022	Bromley 2021	England	London	RAG rating														
											Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23		
31	% of Education, Health and Care plans issued within statutory 20 week timescale (excluding exception cases)	In line with Children and Families Act 2014 Reform requirements, EHC plans replaced SEN Statements. They result from a multi-dimensional assessment of education, health and care needs.	High	75 - 65%	36%	65%	62%	51%	63%	GREEN	39%	69%	88%										59%	
32	% of Education, Health and Care plans issued within statutory 20 week timescale (including exception cases)	They specify outcomes to be achieved for a child and identify provision to meet those outcomes. There is a 20 week statutory timescale for completion, although there is a balance to be found between quality and timeliness.	High	Not a target measure	27%	37%	43%	59%	60%	This is not a target measure	29%	47%	48%										40%	

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Report No.
CEF23090A

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 11 June 2024

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: CONTRACTS REGISTER PART 1 (PUBLIC) REPORT

Contact Officer: Alex Best, Commissioning Support Officer, Adult Care & Health,
E-mail: Alex.Best2@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Richard Baldwin, Director of Children's Services

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report presents an extract from May 2024's Contracts Register of contracts with a whole life value of £50k or higher, for detailed scrutiny by PDS Committee – all PDS committees will receive a similar report each contract reporting cycle, based on data as at 22nd April 2024 and presented to ER&C PDS on 20th May 2024.
 - 1.2 A simple Part 1 report is provided every quarter as an Information item, accompanied by a Part 2 report to provide additional commentary only where a contract has been RAG rated as Red by the Corporate Procurement Team. A full report is provided twice a year (May and November) including a detailed Part 2 report which includes a commentary and RAG rating on each relevant contract to inform Members of any issues or developments. This report, and the accompanying Part 2, is a full report.
 - 1.3 The Contracts Register contained in 'Part 2' of this agenda includes a commentary on each contract to inform Members of any issues or developments. A covering report will also be included where additional commentary is required.
-

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Children, Education and Families PDS Committee:

- 1) Reviews and comments on the Contracts Register as at 22nd April 2024.
- 2) Note that in Part 2 of this agenda the Contracts Register contains additional, potentially commercially sensitive, information in its commentary.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: The appended Contracts Register covers services which may be universal or targeted. Addressing the impact of service provision on vulnerable adults and children is a matter for the relevant procurement strategies, contracts award and monitoring reports, and service delivery rather than this report.
-

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. MBEB Priority: Excellent Council:
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: - N/A
 2. Ongoing costs: - N/A
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Children, Education and Families Portfolio
 4. Total current budget for this head: - £66.662m
 5. Source of funding: - Existing relevant budget 2024/2025
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): - N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: - N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: No Executive decision.
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Improves the Council's approach to contract management
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): N/A
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

Contracts Register Background

- 3.1 The Contracts Database is fully utilised by all Contract Managers across the Council as part of their Contract Management responsibilities, which includes the updating the information recorded on the database. The Register is generated from the Contracts Database which is administered by Corporate Procurement and populated by the relevant service managers (Contract Owners) and approved by their managers (Contract Approvers).
- 3.2 As a Commissioning Council, this information is vital to facilitate a full understanding of the Council's procurement activity and the Contracts Registers is a key tool used by Contract Managers as part of their daily contract responsibilities. The Contract Registers are reviewed by the Procurement Board, Chief Officers and the Corporate Leadership Team.
- 3.3 The Contracts Register is produced four times a year ((with a full report every other quarter) for members and is a 'snapshot' at the time of each report – though the CDB itself is always 'live'. The quarterly reporting cycle is based on the Executive, Resources and Contracts PDS timetable with reports for each Portfolio prepared and distributed at the same time. There may be a timelag between the quarterly reporting cycle and the next available date of the relevant Policy, Development and Scrutiny Committee for each Portfolio. Report authors for each Portfolio have the opportunity to provide updates on any contracts through the accompanying Part 2 report.
- 3.4 Please note that three contracts were flagged as a concern during this reporting cycle. One extension is now completed with the other two extensions due to complete later this month.
- 3.5 Each PDS committee is expected to undertake detailed scrutiny of its contracts – including scrutinising suppliers – and hold the Portfolio Holder to account on service quality and procurement arrangements.

Contract Register Summary

- 3.6 The Council has 254 active contracts across all Portfolios as of 22nd April 2024 for the May 2024 reporting cycle as set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.7 The summary for the Children, Education and Families Portfolio is as follows:

Item	Category	September 2023	November 2023	February 2024	May 2024
Total Contracts	£50k+	39	40	43	43
Concern Flag	Concern Flag	0	0	1	3
Risk Index					
	Higher Risk	8	7	6	8
	Lower Risk	31	33	37	35
Procurement Status for Contracts approaching end date					
	Red	0	N/A	N/A	3
	Amber	1	N/A	N/A	4
	Green	13	N/A	N/A	9
	Neutral	25	N/A	N/A	27

4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS & CHILDREN

4.1 The Corporate Contracts Register covers all Council services: both those used universally by residents and those specifically directed towards vulnerable adults and children. Addressing the impact of service provision on the vulnerable is a matter for the relevant procurement strategies, contracts, and delivery of specific services rather than this summary register.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council's renewed ambition is set out in [Making Bromley Even Better 2021 - 2031](#) and the Contracts Database (and Contract Registers) help in delivering the aims (especially in delivering Ambition Five – Resources & Efficiencies). For Ambition Five, this activity specifically helps by supporting 'robust and active contract management'.

6. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Most of the Council's (£50k plus) procurement spend is now captured by the Contracts Database. The database will help in ensuring that procurement activity is undertaken in a timely manner, that Contract Procedure Rules are followed and that Members are able to scrutinise procurement activity in a regular and systematic manner.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Contracts Database and Contract Registers are not primarily financial tools – the Council has other systems and reports for this purpose such as the Budget Monitoring reports. However, the CDB and Registers do contain financial information both in terms of contract dates and values and also budgets and spend for the current year.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct personnel implications but the Contracts Database is useful in identifying those officers directly involved in managing the Council's contracts.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct legal implications but the Contracts Database does identify those contracts which have a statutory basis and also those laws which should be complied with in delivering the contracted services.

9.2 A list of the Council's active contracts may be found on Bromley.gov.uk to aid transparency (this data is updated after each ER&C PDS meeting).

Non-Applicable Sections:	None
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix 1 – Key Data (All Portfolios)• Appendix 2 - Contracts Database Background information• Appendix 3 – Contracts Database Extract PART 1

Appendix 1 Key Data (All Portfolios)

Item	Category	September 2023	November 2023	February 2024	May 2024
Contracts (>£50k TCV)	All Portfolios	235	246	238	254
Flagged as a concern	All Portfolios	2	0	1	6
Portfolio	Executive, Resources and Contracts	76	77	73	80
	Adult Care and Health	48	51	51	51
	Environment and Community Services	23	23	20	20
	Children, Education and Families	39	40	43	43
	Renewal and Recreation and Housing	40	46	42	51
	Public Protection and Enforcement	9	9	9	9
Risk Index	Higher Risk	84	74	69	75
	Lower Risk	151	172	169	179
Procurement Status for Contracts approaching end date	Red	2	N/A	N/A	6
	Amber	14	N/A	N/A	16
	Green	73	N/A	N/A	73
	Neutral	146	N/A	N/A	159

Appendix 2 - Contracts Register Key and Background Information

Contract Register Key

1.1 A key to understanding the Corporate Contracts Register is set out in the table below.

Register Category	Explanation
Risk Index	Colour-Ranking system reflecting eight automatically scored and weighted criteria providing a score (out of 100) reflecting the contract's intrinsic risk – reported as either Higher Risk or Lower Risk
Contract ID	Unique reference used in contract authorisations
Owner	Manager/commissioner with day-to-day budgetary / service provision responsibility
Approver	Contract Owner's manager, responsible for approving data quality
Contract Title	Commonly used or formal title of service / contract
Supplier	Main contractor or supplier responsible for service provision
Portfolio	Relevant Portfolio for receiving procurement strategy, contract award, contract monitoring and budget monitoring reports
Total Contract Value	The contract's value from commencement to expiry of formally approved period (excludes any extensions yet to be formally approved)
Original Annual Value	Value of the contract its first year (which may be difference from the annual value in subsequent years, due to start-up costs etc.)
Procurement Status (twice a year)	For all contracts automatically ranked by the Database as approaching their end date, a manual RAG rating is assigned by the Assistant Director Governance & Contracts to reflect the status of the contract. The RAG ratings are as follows: Red – there are potential issues with the contract or the timescales are tight and it requires close monitoring. Amber – appropriate procurement action is either in progress or should be commencing shortly. Green – appropriate procurement action has been successfully taken or there is still sufficient time to commence and complete a procurement action.
Start & End Dates	Approved contract start date and end date (excluding any extension which has yet to be authorised)
Months duration	Contract term in months
Commentary	Contract Owners provide a comment –where contracts approach their end date. Corporate Procurement may add an additional comment for Members' consideration <i>The Commentary only appears in the 'Part 2' Contracts Register</i>
Capital	Most of the Council's contracts are revenue-funded. Capital-funded contracts are separately identified (and listed at the foot of the Contracts Register) because different reporting / accounting rules apply

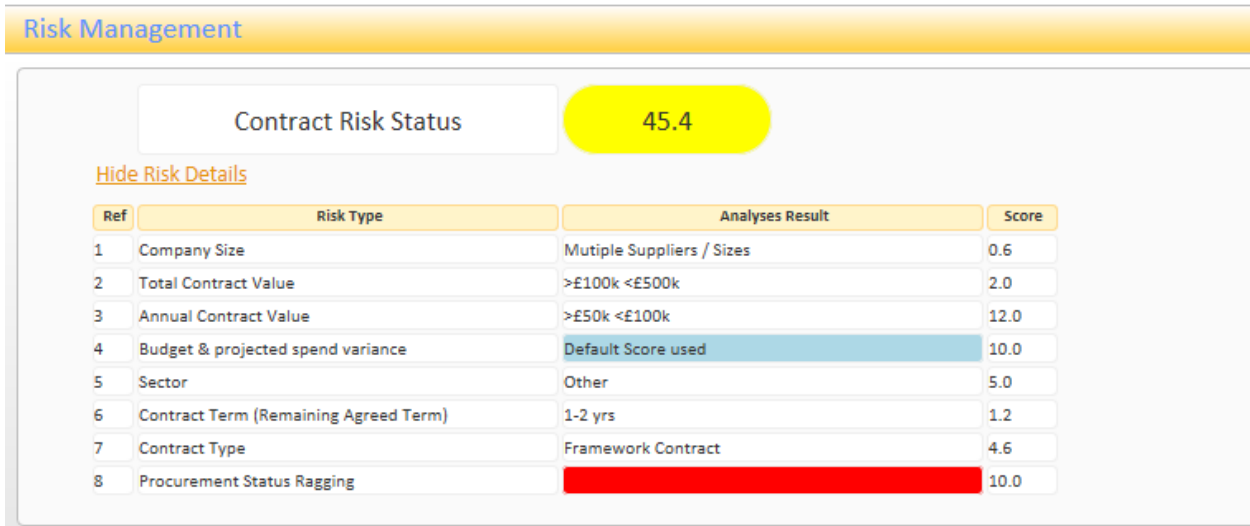
Contract Register Order

1.2 The Contracts Register is ordered by Contract Value. Capital contracts appear at the foot of the Register and 'contracts of concern' (to Corporate Procurement) are flagged at the top.

Risk Index

1.3 The Risk Index is designed to focus attention on contracts presenting the most significant risks to the Council. Risk needs to be controlled to an acceptable level (our risk appetite) rather than entirely eliminated and so the issue is how best to assess and mitigate contract risk. Contract risk is assessed (in the CDB) according to eight separate factors and scored and weighted to

produce a Risk Index figure (out of 100). The Risk Index is reported as either 'Higher Risk' or 'Lower Risk'.



Procurement Status

- 1.4 The Database will highlight contracts approaching their end date through a combination of the Total Contract Value and number of months to expiry . For all contracts highlighted by the Database as potentially requiring action soon, a commentary is provided on the status of the contract and a manual RAG rating is assigned.

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Contract Register Report - £50k Portfolio Filtered - Children, Education and Families

May 2024

Risk Index	Main Contract Data						Finance Data		Proc Status	Contract Terms			Attention	Capital
	Contract ID	Owner	Approver	Contract Title	Supplier Name	Portfolio	Total Value	Original Annual Value		Start Date	End Date	Months Duration		
Lower Risk	5135	Mark Smith	Richard Baldwin	Individual Short Breaks Service	Bromley Mencap	Children, Education and Families	224,998	75,000	■	01/10/2021	30/09/2024	36	RB	
Lower Risk	5091	Sonia Aulak	Jared Nehra	Family Support Services for CYP with Social and Communication Needs	Bromley Mencap	Children, Education and Families	115,500	38,500	■	01/10/2021	30/09/2024	36	RB	
Lower Risk	7418	Mark Smith	Richard Baldwin	Short Breaks Services Framework Lot 1b	Bromley Children and Family Voluntary Sector Forum	Children, Education and Families	70,058	70,058	■	24/07/2023	23/07/2024	12	RB	
Higher Risk	10470	Scott Bagshaw	Jared Nehra	Recruitment for Educational Psychologist Services	Sanctuary Personnel Limited	Children, Education and Families	656,000	486,000	■	18/04/2023	30/09/2024	17		
Lower Risk	4905	Rachel Dunley	Richard Baldwin	Cleaning Services to Children and Family Centres and Nurseries	Chequers	Children, Education and Families	464,634	83,394	■	01/08/2019	30/09/2024	62		
Lower Risk	4957	Scott Bagshaw	Jared Nehra	ICT - Capita ONE Integrated Management Information System	Capita Business Services Ltd	Children, Education and Families	450,000	90,000	■	01/04/2020	31/03/2025	60		
Lower Risk	1535	Sonia Aulak	Jared Nehra	Education - Caretaking - Griffins Offices, Lovibonds Avenue, Orpington	Lodestar Cleaning Contracts Ltd	Children, Education and Families	54,249	6,943	■	01/02/2017	30/09/2024	92		
Higher Risk	5018	Scott Bagshaw	Jared Nehra	Passenger Transport Services Framework Contracts	Multiple Suppliers	Children, Education and Families	49,000,000	7,000,000	■	19/09/2020	31/08/2025	59		
Higher Risk	5035	Kelly Sylvester	Richard Baldwin	Bromley Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Service.	Bromley Y	Children, Education and Families	4,520,000	904,000	■	01/04/2021	31/03/2026	60		
Higher Risk	4945	Vicky West	Richard Baldwin	Provision of Adoption Services	CORAM VOICE	Children, Education and Families	2,316,000	386,000	■	01/06/2019	30/05/2025	72		
Lower Risk	6328	Daniel Manns	Richard Baldwin	Holiday and Saturday Group based Short Break Service for Disabled Children and Young People	Riverside School	Children, Education and Families	672,675	219,832	■	01/04/2023	31/03/2026	36		
Lower Risk	5171	Carol Whiting	Richard Baldwin	Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC) Service	The Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	Children, Education and Families	546,000	165,000	■	01/01/2022	31/12/2025	48		
Lower Risk	4946	David Dare	Richard Baldwin	Participation in West London Alliance for Children's Care and Support Services	West London Alliance	Children, Education and Families	484,500	117,000	■	01/11/2019	30/04/2024	54		
Lower Risk	4911	Caren Boiling	Jared Nehra	Digital Solution for the Early Years Funding Process	Sentinel Partners Limited	Children, Education and Families	199,880	30,860	■	31/07/2019	01/09/2025	73		
Lower Risk	6241	Maya Vadgama	Richard Baldwin	Appropriate Adult Service	Appropriate Adults UK Limited	Children, Education and Families	175,500	58,500	■	01/04/2022	31/03/2025	36		
Lower Risk	10468	Aneesa Kaprie	Aneesa Kaprie	** Now Live ** Family Group Conference	Daybreak Family Group Conferences	Children, Education and Families	613,750	122,750		01/04/2024	31/03/2029	60		
Lower Risk	10449	David Dare	Richard Baldwin	** Now Live ** Membership of the Commissioning Alliance	Commissioning Alliance,	Children, Education and Families	399,000	99,750		01/05/2024	30/04/2028	48		
Lower Risk	179	Scott Bagshaw	Jared Nehra	Education - Co-ordination of admissions between 32 London boroughs	London Grid For Learning Trust	Children, Education and Families	268,863	14,000		01/04/2004	03/06/2026	266		
Lower Risk	10498	Wenifred Marshall	Richard Baldwin	support Services for Kinship Carers	Kinship	Children, Education and Families	238,243	47,649		25/06/2023	04/06/2028	59		
Lower Risk	5047	Cathy Lloyd williams	Richard Baldwin	Independent Visitors	CORAM VOICE	Children, Education and Families	217,000	43,000		01/03/2021	28/02/2026	60		
Lower Risk	6273	Wenifred Marshall	Richard Baldwin	Virtual Reality Training	Cornerstone Virtual Reality	Children, Education and Families	183,525	25,000		01/04/2020	31/03/2028	96		
Lower Risk	5037	Sonia Aulak	Jared Nehra	Mediation and Dispute Resolution Services	Global Mediation Ltd	Children, Education and Families	140,000	28,000		01/01/2021	31/12/2025	60		
Lower Risk	4993	Sonia Aulak	Jared Nehra	SEND Parent Participation	Your Voice in Health and Social Care	Children, Education and Families	140,000	20,000		01/06/2020	31/05/2026	72		
Lower Risk	4912	Rachel Dunley	Richard Baldwin	ICT - Management Information system for Children and Family Centres	Servelec Group plc	Children, Education and Families	101,358	12,798		01/04/2020	31/03/2027	84		
Lower Risk	10473	Sonia Aulak	Jared Nehra	Enhance EHC – Plan writing service	Enhance EHC	Children, Education and Families	100,000	50,000		01/10/2023	30/06/2025	21		
Lower Risk	10452	Cathy Lloyd williams	Richard Baldwin	Employment Support for Care Leavers	Drive Forward Foundation	Children, Education and Families	99,400	69,445		30/11/2023	31/03/2025	16		
Lower Risk	6305	Sonia Aulak	Jared Nehra	Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Portal) Electronic Statutory Case Recording System	Idox Software Ltd	Children, Education and Families	99,000	33,000		21/10/2022	20/10/2025	36		
Lower Risk	10445	Sally Kelly	Richard Baldwin	E Vouchers - Laptops for children looked after	Voucherline Ltd	Children, Education and Families	97,036	53,036		01/08/2023	31/07/2026	36		
Lower Risk	10491	Caren Boiling	Jared Nehra	** Now Live ** Digital Solution for the Early Years Funding Process	Sentinel Partners Limited	Children, Education and Families	89,070	28,820		31/07/2024	31/07/2027	36		
Lower Risk	10482	Antoinette Thorne	Charles Obazuaye	Systemic Practice Programme	COLLECTIVE SPACE LIMITED	Children, Education and Families	80,300	43,900		01/01/2024	31/03/2025	14		
Lower Risk	4987	Betty McDonald	Richard Baldwin	Youth Offending Service Management information system	CACI Ltd	Children, Education and Families	80,000	16,000		01/04/2020	31/03/2025	60		
Lower Risk	10447	Sonia Aulak	Jared Nehra	UKSPF SEND Employment Project - Bromley MenCap	Bromley Mencap	Children, Education and Families	75,000	50,000		01/10/2023	31/03/2025	18		
Lower Risk	6275	Sally Kelly	Richard Baldwin	Bromley Children Looked After (CLA) School Attendance and Attainment Data Collection	Welfare Call (LAC) Ltd	Children, Education and Families	71,712	23,904		01/09/2022	31/08/2025	36		
Lower Risk	4996	Elena Diaconescu	Jared Nehra	BAEC Wi-Fi Network and IT Infrastructure Support	Redinet LTD	Children, Education and Families	66,700	8,225		01/05/2020	30/04/2025	60		

Lower Risk	5190	Sandra Barrington-Clark	Richard Baldwin	Phoenix Centre IT Support Service	Structured Network Solutions UK Ltd	Children, Education and Families	65,650	13,130		01/02/2022	31/01/2027	60		
Lower Risk	6314	Kelly Sylvester	Richard Baldwin	Adults and Children's Procedures Online	August Equity LLP	Children, Education and Families	63,900	21,300		01/04/2023	31/03/2026	36		
Lower Risk	6313	Sally Kelly	Richard Baldwin	Dynamic Purchasing System for provision of Supply Teachers	Access UK Limited	Children, Education and Families	50,000	25,000		02/03/2023	01/03/2025	24		
Higher Risk	10477	Robert Bollen	Jared Nehra	** Now Live ** Capital Works at Oaklands Primary School	Ensigna Construction Limited	Children, Education and Families	2,859,651	2,859,651	■	22/01/2024	08/10/2024	8		Capital
Higher Risk	6281	Robert Bollen	Jared Nehra	Consultancy Services for Education Capital Projects - Lot 1	Bailey Partnership (Consultants) LLP	Children, Education and Families	1,300,000	325,000		01/08/2022	31/07/2026	48		Capital
Higher Risk	6282	Robert Bollen	Jared Nehra	Consultancy Services for Education Capital Projects - Lot 2	Bailey Partnership (Consultants) LLP	Children, Education and Families	1,200,000	300,000		01/08/2022	31/07/2026	48		Capital
Higher Risk	6284	Robert Bollen	Jared Nehra	Consultancy Services for Education Capital Projects - Lot 4	Baily Garner LLP	Children, Education and Families	1,100,000	275,000		01/08/2022	31/07/2026	48		Capital
Lower Risk	6283	Robert Bollen	Jared Nehra	Consultancy Services for Education Capital Projects - Lot 3	Pellings LLP	Children, Education and Families	1,100,000	275,000		01/08/2022	31/07/2026	48		Capital
Lower Risk	5209	Robert Bollen	Jared Nehra	Replacement of Heating System at Southborough Primary School	Pinnacle ESP Holdings Ltd	Children, Education and Families	69,750	23,250		01/03/2022	31/03/2025	37		Capital

Report No.
CEF23092

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 11 June 2024

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: DEEP DIVE: FIRST DESTINATIONS OF 16- AND 18-YEAR-OLD SCHOOL LEAVERS, INCLUDING YOUNG PEOPLE EDUCATED AT HOME

Contact Officer: Linda King, Youth Support Programme Manager
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Sally Kelly, Headteacher, Bromley Virtual School
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Chief Officer: Richard Baldwin, Director of Childrens Services:
Email: Richard.Baldwin@bromley.gov.uk

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for decision/report and options

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the first Destinations of 16- and 18-year-old school leavers, including the qualifications and first destinations of young people educated at home and the Local Authority's role in overseeing home education.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 Children, Education and Families Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment on the contents of this report.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

- 2.2 Summary of Impact: This report contains information regarding the known vulnerabilities on young people in relation to their destinations. Young people are provided support to identify future destinations by their schools, and appropriate services.
-

Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority:
 - (1) For children and young people to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
 - (5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost Non-Recurring Cost Not Applicable: Further Details
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Youth Support Programme, Access and Inclusion and Bromley Virtual School
 4. Total current budget for this head: £?
 5. Source of funding: LBB
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): Not applicable, the report covers the work of several services, and some information is not relevant to the numbers of people within a service.
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not applicable.
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: No Executive decision.
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: N/A
-

Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: N/A
-

Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: N/A
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (current and projected): N/A
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 Information for this deep dive has been provided by the Youth Support Service, Bromley Virtual School and Access to Education and Inclusion.

Context

3.2 Under Sections 10, 12 and 68 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, Local Authorities must:

- make available to young people below the age of 19 support that will encourage, enable, or assist them to participate in education, employment, or training.
- track and monitor the destination of all young people aged 17 and 18 (during their school year 12 and 13 periods), with the local authority area offering targeted support when needed to those who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), or at risk of not participating.
- lead on the September Guarantee which underpins the delivery of these duties, ensuring all young people aged 16 and 17 (during their school year 11 and 12 periods) have a suitable offer of a place in education, employment or training and report back to the Department for Education.
- Have a Client Caseload Information System (CCIS) so destination data can be recorded in the key areas set out under National Client Caseload Information System (NCCIS) statutory guidance.
- Secure suitable, sufficient education and training for young people between the ages of 16-18 in the area.

3.3 This report provides the Policy, Development and Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the available information regarding the destinations and qualifications of young people leaving School year 11 and 13.

3.4 Points to note are that:

- Information recorded on our CCIS (Client Caseload Information Database) includes data from Academies and Free Schools, College and Training Providers, however independent schools are not included in the requirement to provide information.
- Destinations of 16-year-old school leavers are collected in several ways, with collection beginning on the first Monday in September each year. Hence a snapshot of the destinations picture in September would not give us an accurate representation, as many of those destinations would not yet have been collected and entered on our database. Therefore, information being presented is from different dates. Where different dates are being used, an explanation will be provided.
- Different collection requirements by the Department for education (DfE) are measuring different things – for example some refer to young people who are resident in the borough at a certain age point, and some, to those young people who have attended a Bromley School or provision at year 11. As above, an explanation of the different groups will be provided when relevant.

Destinations of 16-year-old school leavers:

3.5 Each year an activity survey is produced which gives a cohesive picture of the destinations of young people on the 1st of November who have left a Bromley School at year 11 the previous

summer.(These young people are not all Bromley residents.) The information from the November 2023 Activity Survey shows that from a cohort of 3823 young people, 98.8% were in a positive destination:

Destination	Totals	%
Continuing in education	3664	95.8%
Full time training (<i>non-employed</i>)	9	0.2%
Apprenticeships	62	1.6%
Employment combined with accredited training	43	1.1%
Working towards participation	7	0.2%
Temporary break from learning	6	0.2%
Employment without training	2	0.1%
Not settled in a full time activity (<i>part time learning & employment</i>)	1	0.0%
Not settled in a full time activity (<i>active in the labour market</i>)	21	0.5%
Not settled in a full time activity (<i>not active in the labour market</i>)	0	0.0%
Moved out of contact	1	0.0%
No response	7	0.2%
Others	0	0.0%
Total	3823	100.0%

3.6 Most young people continued in full time education (95.8%) whilst 1.6% undertook apprenticeships and 0.2% entered full time training. 0.6% had yet to settle in a full-time activity and 0.2% had moved out of the area or were unable to have their activity ascertained at the time of the survey.

3.7 The majority (70.0%) of the young people who continued in full time education entered a school sixth form:

School sixth form	2564	70.0%
Sixth form college	100	2.7%
Further education college	986	26.9%
Other post 16 education	13	0.4%
Independent specialist provider	1	0.0%
Custodial institution	0	0.0%
Total	3664	100.0%

3.8 116 young people moved in to employment and training. The survey identifies that skilled construction occupations attracted the highest proportion (23.3%) of young people into full time employment or training provision (where the occupation area is known).

Full Time Employment & Training	Totals	%
Managerial/professional	8	6.9%
Clerical/secretarial	4	3.4%
Skilled construction	27	23.3%
Skilled engineering	1	0.9%
Electrical/electronic	0	0.0%
Metal forming trades	0	0.0%
Vehicle trades	1	0.9%
Textile/garments trades	0	0.0%
Other skilled trades	0	0.0%
Protective service occupations	0	0.0%
Catering occupations	4	3.4%
Health care occupations	1	0.9%
Childcare & related occupations	7	6.0%
Hairdressing & related occupations	14	12.1%
Other professional service occupations	25	21.6%
Sales occupations	1	0.9%
Plant/machine ops	0	0.0%
Agric/forestry/fishing occupations	5	4.3%
Labouring/unskilled industrial	0	0.0%
Mail workers	0	0.0%
Unskilled service sector	0	0.0%
Other elementary occupations	0	0.0%
Unknown occupations	18	15.5%
Total	116	100.0%

3.9 The most accurate information available for Bromley residents who have left school year 11 in the summer of 2023 is available from the February 2024 participation report. This data is the most accurate, because our tracking processes synchronise with the Department for Education (DfE) final statutory data collection deadline for the “3-month average” period, that identifies our achievement within the Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and Not Known statistics. Within this information, working from a cohort of 3776 young people, 98.7% are in education and training. (In Education and Training is a DfE formula which counts young people in full and part time Education (including Juvenile Custodial Institution but Not including Gap Year), Training and full time Employment with Accredited Training Activities.)

	Number of people	Percentage of cohort
Full time Education & Training	3623	95.9%
Apprenticeship	58	1.5%
Work Based Learning	3	0.1%
Employment with training	37	1%
Other (Training)	7	0.2%
Total In Education and Training	3728	98.7%

3.10 We can identify the characteristics of young people in this education and training group as:

*In Education & Training by Gender	Cohort	%
Male	1896	98.6%
Female	1869	98.8%
Unknown	11	100.0%

*In Education & Training by Ethnicity	Cohort	%
White	2278	98.8%
Black	344	98.0%
Asian	220	100.0%
Chinese	41	100.0%
Mixed	388	99.0%
Other	505	98.2%

*In Education & Training by Vulnerable Group	Cohort	%
Care Leaver	0	0.0%
Carer	1	0.0%
Teenage Mothers	0	0.0%
SEND (EHCP/Statement)	148	97.3%
Looked after / In care	8	75.0%
Parent not caring for own child	0	0.0%
Pregnancy	0	0.0%
Refugee / Asylum seeker	0	0.0%
Substance misuse	0	0.0%
Supervised by YoT	7	85.7%
SEN Support (No EHCP)	472	96.6%
Mental Health	0	0.0%

Information about young people's vulnerable groups is not regularly recorded, other than ECHP, SEN support, Care leaver, Looked after and supervised by Youth offending service. This information however does allow us to see the lower levels of participation of those young people being supervised by youth justice or those looked after. (Remember the looked after young people in this cohort are not necessarily Bromley's children looked after, we are looking at residents, so they may have been placed in Bromley by another Authority.

3.11 The destinations of the remaining 48 young people who were Bromley residents and left year 11 in the summer of 2023 and were not in education or training at the end of February 2024 are:

	Number of people	Percentage of cohort
Working towards education and training	12	0.32%
In employment without training	5	0.14%
Not in Education, Employment, or training and available to the labour market (NEET seeking or awaiting start date)	17	0.46%
Not in Education, Employment, or training and not available to the labour market (NEET illness, young carer, teenage parent)	11	0.3%
Not Known	3	0.08%
Total not In Education and Training	48	1.3%

A third of the young people who are NEET are ill and not available, all of this sample are young people who have anxiety and mental health concerns.

Qualifications of 16-year-old school leavers:

3.12 Information regarding the qualifications of young people who left year 11 in the summer of 2023 is available from the following site, <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/key-stage-4-performance>. The basic information has been created into the table below, this information is not tracked or recorded locally. Again, this refers to young people in year 11 within a Bromley school and not necessarily Bromley residents.

Percentage of pupils achieving grades 4 or above in English and Mathematics GCSEs	73.2%
Percentage of pupils achieving grades 5 or above in English and Mathematics GCSEs	55.2%
Percentage of pupils entering the English Baccalaureate	60.0%
Percentage of pupils entering English and Mathematics GCSEs	96.6%
Percentage of pupils entering GCSEs or equivalents	98.1%
Total number of pupils at the end of key stage 4	3,693
Total number of schools	23

Statistical Neighbours:

3.13 Below is a table which represents how Bromley performance measures against our statistical neighbours. You will notice that our performance is better than the three Authorities which are regarded as very close within the statistical neighbours benchmarking – Trafford, Hertfordshire and Bracknell Forest.

Statistical Neighbours																
Academic Age 16-17 (School Year 12 & 13)																
Statistical Neighbours Benchmarking																
		NEET & NK	Quintile	Rank	NEET	Quintile	Rank	Not Known	Quintile	Rank	Participation E&T	Quintile	Rank	NEET & NK 3 Month Average	Quintile	Rank
Bromley	Closeness	1.4%	Q1	4	1.2%	Q1	9	0.2%	Q1	18	97.4%	Q1	7	1.7%	Q1	4
Trafford	Very Close	3.7%	Q2	56	2.3%	Q2	44	1.4%	Q4	105	94.5%	Q2	43	3.9%	Q2	51
Hertfordshire	Very Close	3.8%	Q2	59	3.2%	Q3	82	0.6%	Q2	52	93.2%	Q2	59	4.0%	Q2	54
Bracknell Forest	Very Close	4.3%	Q3	75	3.0%	Q3	78	1.3%	Q4	98	91.9%	Q4	92	4.3%	Q3	63
Sutton	Close	3.2%	Q2	35	1.1%	Q1	7	2.1%	Q5	127	95.5%	Q1	22	3.5%	Q2	37
Stockport	Close	4.1%	Q3	70	3.9%	Q4	105	0.2%	Q1	14	93.1%	Q3	63	4.3%	Q3	66
Bedford	Close	3.4%	Q2	43	1.8%	Q1	26	1.6%	Q4	113	95.2%	Q1	29	3.1%	Q1	25
Oxfordshire	Close	4.9%	Q3	90	2.4%	Q2	48	2.5%	Q5	131	93.2%	Q2	60	5.1%	Q3	86
Solihull	Close	4.8%	Q3	87	4.4%	Q4	119	0.3%	Q1	28	94.0%	Q2	50	4.9%	Q3	80
Hampshire	Close	5.0%	Q4	100	3.5%	Q3	89	1.5%	Q4	108	91.3%	Q4	101	5.7%	Q4	101
Central Bedfordshire	Close	3.7%	Q2	57	3.5%	Q3	88	0.3%	Q1	23	93.0%	Q3	65	3.7%	Q2	47

Destinations of 18-year-old school leavers:

3.14 Local authorities must collect information about young people in their area in order to identify those who are not participating and to target their resources on those who need them most up to and including academic age 17 (school year 13) They are required to identify those 18-year-olds who are NEET and provide them with support, but they are not required to track all 18-year-olds or return data about this cohort. Hence we do not hold reliable destination information for the entire cohort of 18-year-old young people.

3.15 The information we hold, which has been collected, either from tracking and support of young people who are NEET, or from education provisions identifies that of the known cohort of 3543 young people, 41.18% have not had any tracking or information added since the end of the school year 11 and so their destinations are unknown.

Not Known %	41.18%
In Learning %	50.16%
NEET %	3.39%
NEET + Not Known %	44.57%

3.16 The information available for the 18-year-old leaver destinations is below, the reference to expired currency refers to the information being out of date and no new tracking of this group having taken place.

Cohort total	3543
EET Total	1964
In education, post Year 11	1611
School Sixth Form	97
Sixth Form College	16
Further Education	311
Higher Education	1108
Gap Year students	79
Employment	353
Apprenticeship	168
Full time employment with study (regulated qualification)	77
Employment without training	98
Part Time Employment	10
Training	0
Re-engagement Provision	0
NEET Group	120
Available to labour market	89
Working not for reward	1
Not yet ready for work or learning	1
Seeking employment, education, or training	87
Not available to labour market	31
Teenage parents	1
Illness	28
Pregnancy	2
Custody (young adult offender)	0
Current situation not known	1459
Current situation not known	1245
Cannot Be Contacted	3
Refused to disclose activity	1
Currency Expired – EET	210

Qualifications of 18-year-old school leavers:

- 3.17 Information regarding the qualifications of young people who left year 13 in the summer of 2023 is available from the following site, [A level and other 16 to 18 results, Academic year 2022/23 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics). The basic information has been created into the table below for A levels, this information is not tracked or recorded locally. Again, this refers to young people in year 13 within a Bromley school and not necessarily Bromley residents.

Total number of students	2,363
Number at grade A*.	360
Number at grade A.	488
Number at grade B.	707
Number at grade C.	483
Number at grade D.	212
Number at grade E.	86
Number at grade U.	27
Percent achieving grade A*	15.2%
Percent achieving grade A* - A	35.9%
Percent achieving grade A* - B	65.8%
Percent achieving grade A* - C	86.2%
Percent achieving grade A* - D	95.2%
Percent achieving grade A* - E	98.9%
Percent of students	100.0%

Children Looked After - Destinations of students from year 11 to post 16.

- 3.18 The Virtual School have education advisors that take the CLA cohort through from year 8 to year 11 to ensure they know them really well and track and monitor their progress. They ensure that they access CIAG through their school. For those we are concerned may become NEET post 16, we use our successful partners “Fresh Start in Education” and “Power 2” during the spring and summer terms and provided intensive independent careers advice and guidance support and mentoring to year 11 students making choices about post-16 progression. 100% of CLA started year 12 in September 2023 with a secure place in a sixth form, college or other EET opportunity in September 2023. This is improved from the previous year. Many of our most vulnerable young people move on to Bromley college where we have a collaborative project. Our lead advisor is also part of the Bromley college team and bases themselves there one day a week. They have access to their systems and staff and so can monitor, track and advocate for our young people.

	2020	2021	2022	2023
No of Children	49	64	34	42
Sixth form	20.4%	25.0%	14.7%	16.6%
College	32.7%	47.0%	47.0%	69.04%
Independent School	-	1.6%	-	2.38%
Sport/Football academy	-	-	3.0%	-
Training Provider	12.2%	3.1%	3.0%	-
Apprenticeship	-	-	5.9%	2.38%
Specialist SEND	8.2%	9.4%	14.7	9.52%

Hospital	-	3.1%	2.9%	-
Returned Home	-	4.7%	2.9%	-
On Remand	4.1%	-	-	-
NEET	22.5%	7.8%	8.8%	

Destinations of students from year 13 (Post 18)

3.19 The Virtual School have a lead education advisor and a full time and part time EET worker who support them throughout post 16 (year 12 and 13) as well as year 14 for those who stay on to complete Key Stage 5 courses. We continue to offer PEP meetings until they finish their Key stage 5 studies and to the end of year 13 for those who are NEET, even when they have turned 18.

3.20 We have a comprehensive package of engagement activities to encourage young people to aim for HE and apprenticeships and we support young people with interviews, CV,s etc as well as supporting them with university choices.

Destinations for post 18 young people	2021	2022	2023
No of Children	53	46	71
Continued - Sixth form	....	....	1.4%
Continued – College	28.3%	19.57%	22.5%
Independent School	....	....	....
Sport/Football academy	....	....	....
Training Provider	1.88%	2.2%%	....
Apprenticeship	3.77%	4.3%	2.8%
Specialist SEND	5.66%	4.3%	8.5%
Hospital	....	....	....
Returned Home	....	....	2.8%
On Remand	3.77%	2.2%	2.8%
NEET	28.3%	26%	29.6%
Employment	9.4%	23.9%	16.9%
NEET Parent	5.66%	4.3%	2.8%%
University	13.20%	10.87%	11.27%
NEET Medical	....	2.2%	

Elective Home Education (EHE)

3.21 Elective Home Education (EHE) is the term used by the Department for Education (DfE) to describe the education provided by parents at home, rather than providing education for their children by sending them to school. This is different to home tuition provided by a Council or education provided by a Council other than at a school. It is recognised that parents may choose home education for a variety of reasons and deliver it in a variety of ways.

- 3.22 It is the parent's duty to educate not that of the state, the state provides an education system that families can choose to avail themselves of or not and similarly families may choose to engage meaningfully with the Council in relation to their home educating or not. Officers from Bromley council are always respectful of families and their chosen approaches, and we ask about the future plans for home educated learners as they near the end of statutory school age but there is no requirement for them to provide any information in relation to onward routes beyond stating they will continue to take responsibility for their child's learning.
- 3.23 Home educated children approaching the end of statutory school age are referred to the Council's Youth Support Team and efforts are made to capture onward destinations for those learners. The nature of the situation is such that families need not inform the council of their ongoing educational plans, but thankfully because of the excellent relationship officers build with families based on trust, respect and understanding of their approach, many families do share this information which is captured in the data below.

Destinations of 16-year-old EHE Year 11 young people

- 3.24 54 young people were in the cohort of school year 11 leavers in the summer of 2023. In line with other destination data provided, we have looked at the tracked destinations of the group for February 2024. This information shows that 76% of this group have moved on to a positive destination. 7% have moved away from Bromley and so have not received further tracking activity. We have anonymised the data in the table below to ensure young people are not identifiable in such a small cohort of young people.

Destination	No of people	Percentage
Apprenticeships	6	11
Employment with Accredited Training	<	-
Self-Employment with part time study	<	-
Further Education College	22	41
School Sixth Forms (Year 12,13,14)	8	15
Training	<	-
NEET- Illness	<	-
NEET- Seeking Education, Employment or Training	<	6
NEET- Start date agreed for education and Training	<	-
Moved Away	<	7
No response to requests for information	<	7
Total	54	100
No. of people in a positive destination:	41	76

- 3.25 More than half of the cohort have returned to formal education for the school year 12 period, and the youth support programme continues to offer support to the young people who are NEET.

4 IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

- 4.1 During the past year the services have supported 1,964 young people in some capacity. Many of these young people are vulnerable and needed additional support. Some examples of positive quotes we have received from young people and parents/carers:

"I didn't look people in the eye or talk to people and now I have the confidence to do that, your support has made me think I can have the job I want if I work at it."

“Thank you, I had no qualifications and nothing to say to employers and now I am doing courses and volunteering and making a difference.”

“I messed up my exams and I didn’t think I would have another chance, thank you for helping me have a second chance, I wont mess it up this time.”

Non-Applicable Headings:	Transformation/Policy/Financial/Personnel/Legal/Procurement/Property/Carbon Reduction and Social Value Implications; Customer Impact; Ward Councillor Views
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Not applicable

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