

Decision Maker: CARE SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 12 March 2013

Decision Type: Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2013 UPDATE

Contact Officer: Kay Weiss, Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Social Care
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Chief Officer: Executive Director of Education & Care Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 Since 2010 work to improve services within the Children's Safeguarding and Social Care Division of the Education and Care Services Department (formerly as part of Children and Young People Services) has been formulated into of an annual performance improvement plan. This is effectively the annual business plan for the division. It brings together the range of actions across the division that are desired to achieve the best possible outcomes for vulnerable children and shows how the service strives for continuous improvement.
- 1.2 This report is to update elected members on progress against the objectives outlined in the Children's Social Care Performance Improvement Plan 2012/13.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

Members are asked to review the Children's Social Care Performance Improvement Plan and ask for further clarification or information and offer comments.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
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Financial

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

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

1. Legal Requirement: Children Act 1989 and the Education and Inspections Act 2006.:
 2. Call-in: Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected):
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Ward Councillor Views

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

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Since 2010 work to improve services in the Children's Safeguarding and Social Care Division of the Education and Care Services Department (formerly as part of Children and Young People Services) has been formulated into an annual performance improvement plan. This is the annual business plan for the division and has served to bring together in one place the various work streams within the Division structured in such a way as to set out objectives, desired outcomes, timescales and milestones, ownership and periodically updated progress.
- 3.2 The attached performance improvement plan covers the period from September 2012 to August 2013.
- 3.3 During 2011/12 a number of inspections took place across the service which validated an improving picture.
- The inspection of the Contact and Referral Service in April 2011 acknowledged the improvements that had been made in that service, found no priority areas for action and commented on the highly effective leadership
 - Three Children's Centres were inspected throughout the year and all were deemed good with outstanding features
 - The Fostering Service was inspected in May 2011 and was found to be good, with the service achieving good in each category of inspection
 - The Youth Offending Team was inspected in November 2011 and was given the highest possible grade 'minimum improvement'
 - A thematic inspection of safeguarding disabled children took place in Feb 2012 and good feedback was received.
- 3.4 In July 2012 Bromley Children's Social Care was only the second authority in the county to undergo the new Ofsted inspection framework for the protection of children. The new framework takes account of the Munro review of Child Protection and a significant number of cases were examined in depth following the journey of the child through the process of interventions from early help through to step down following a child having been the subject of a child protection plan. Following the inspection Bromley was deemed as adequate and providing a safe and secure child protection service. Inspectors were clear that Bromley meets requirements and has compliance in all areas of child protection practice. The vast majority of local authorities inspected under this framework have been judged adequate or unsatisfactory. No more than six local authorities at the time of drafting had received a better outcome than the London Borough of Bromley.
- 3.5 However, the challenge for Bromley Children's Social Care is to move forward and build a quality service. The very useful feedback from inspectors has helped to shape some of this improvement plan together with other priorities particularly in relation to Looked After Children.
- 3.6 The current improvement plan is divided into five broad outcome areas with 56 actions to drive forward improvement in:
- Strategic vision and leadership
 - Building a quality service
 - Assuring quality
 - Listening to children, young people and their families and
 - Improving outcomes for Looked After Children

3.7 Progress on the 56 actions in the improvement plan is summarised in the table below:

	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>Significant progress</i>	<i>Limited progress/ risk</i>
Strategic Vision and Leadership	10	2	7	1
Building a Quality Service	14	6 ½	6 ½	1
Assuring Quality	9	9		
Listening to Children	7	2	3	2
Improving Outcomes for LAC	16	2	12	2
TOTAL	56	21 ½	28 ½	6

3.8 Progress has been achieved in the areas of quality assurance and significant progress is being made in improving outcomes for Looked After Children. Two areas of risk have been identified. One is the development of better working with the Metropolitan Police around child protection strategy meetings. Resourcing issues within the Metropolitan Police have impacted negatively on taking this forward and this is an issue that has been referred to Bromley Safeguarding Children Board. The other area of risk is the introduction of family files and this is delayed due to the timescales of producing the software by OLM, Bromley's Integrated Children's System provider.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Improving outcomes for vulnerable children sits within the Building a Better Bromley framework.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Improvements identified within the improvement plan are met from within existing budgets.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The duty to safeguard and protect children and the legal procedures and orders available to ensure protection are contained in the Children Act 1989 external inspections are carried out by Ofsted pursuant to Section 136 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel implications.
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	