

INTERNAL AUDIT FINAL REPORT
EDUCATION, CARE AND HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW OF THE TROUBLED FAMILIES CLAIM
FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2017 TO 31 MARCH 2018**

Issued to: Rachel Dunley, Head of Service, Early Intervention & Family Support
Kokui Binns, Intelligence & Operations Lead
Neil Dilkes, Intelligence & Operations Co-ordinator

Cc Ade Adetosoye, Executive Director of ECHS and Deputy Chief Executive (final report only)
Janet Bailey, Director of Children's Social Care (final report only)
David Bradshaw, Head of Finance, ECHS (final report only)
Dave Hogan, Head of Audit

Prepared by: Principal Auditor

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INTRODUCTION

1. This note sets out the results of our audit testing of a sample of individual claims for the claim period between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018.
2. We have agreed with the Early Intervention and Family Support Team that checks on a sample of individual claims will be carried out every six months, in September and March of each financial year. These compliance checks seek to confirm that the sample of individual claims to be submitted at the end of those periods meet the employment or significant and sustained criteria, enabling a claim to be made.
3. Due to the impending external 'spot check' visit during Autumn 2017 by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), our six monthly audit testing due to take place at the end of September 2017 was deferred. Consequently, our sample of 10% of claims submitted was selected this time from a twelve month period commencing 1 April 2017 to ensure continuity from previous testing and we did not consider any of the claims submitted since 1 April 2017 which the MHCLG had reviewed during their visit.

METHODOLOGY

4. We ascertained that there were 150 individual claims closed between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018. We selected a sample of 10% i.e. 15 claims to check. Two of the claims examined were where a client had gained employment, enabling a claim to be made. The 13 other claims in our sample were where the Early Intervention and Family Support Team considered that the national and/or local criteria as set out in the London Borough of Bromley's Outcome Plan had been met and significant and sustained progress had been made, resulting in the family no longer being attached to the programme.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

5. Our review of these claims found that the two employment claims met the relevant criteria for a claim to be made and the 13 other claims showed evidence that significant and sustained progress had been made. We also confirmed that these families had not been claimed for previously under the Troubled Families programme.

6. We also confirmed that the total amount claimed for payment by results for the 150 individual claims submitted between the period 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018 was £120,000. 14 were employment claims and 136 were for significant and sustained progress made.
7. As a result of our testing there are no significant findings and there are no recommendations arising from this review.
8. We are aware of the recent correspondence between the Council and the MHCLG concerning the targets in years 4 and 5 of the programme to attach and turn around families, progress made to date and service transformation. We will continue to offer advice to the Troubled Families Team as and when we can, commensurate with our role.
9. Finally, we would like to thank all the staff contacted during this review for their help and co-operation.