

Decision Maker: **Education Children and Families Budget and Performance Sub-Committee**

Date: **10 April 2019**

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

Title: **Performance Reporting – Children’s Scrutiny Dataset**

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Chief Officer: Gillian Palmer, Interim Executive Director Education, Health and Care

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

1. To provide the Sub-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 January 2019.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. The Sub-Committee note and comment on the January 2019 outturn of key performance indicators and associated management commentary.

Corporate Policy

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

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
 3. Budget head/performance centre: N/A
 4. Total current budget for this head: N/A
 5. Source of funding:
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Staff

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

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance
 2. Call-in: Not 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? No
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 In January 2018, the Sub-Committee received a draft of a new performance management framework document in respect of children's services. This document described the roles and responsibilities of elected members and officers in managing the performance of the council's services for children and families. The specific responsibilities of the Education, Children and Families Select Committee and its Budget and Performance Sub-Committee were identified as *'receiving reports on performance, asking challenging questions about areas of underperformance, and making recommendations accordingly to the Executive'*.
- 3.2 The accompanying report recommended that Sub-Committee should, on behalf of the Select Committee, receive a regular update on a suite of performance measures in respect of children's services. This would be over and above more detailed reports on specific areas of practice – eg Corporate Parenting reports; annual School Standards reports – already received by the Sub-Committee. The suite would be selected from the much wider set of data collected and reported both internally and externally in respect of children's services and would act as a regular 'health check' on key areas of service delivery to enable scrutiny and enquiry from elected members.
- 3.3 The Sub-Committee agreed a proposed suite of indicators in March 2018 and agreed to receive four performance reports a year. Where appropriate, 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. It was agreed that the quarterly reports would provide management commentary against those indicators that were performing below expectation. Directors would also report on any other indicators not in the index, by exception, should they have particular concerns or if they wished to report particularly good performance.
- 3.4 Directors have provided number and percentage outturns in order to allow the Scrutiny Committee to gain a sense of scale and relativity. It was agreed that the suite of indicators would be reviewed annually and changed only on a periodic basis. 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.

3.5 **MANAGEMENT COMMENTARY ON EXCEPTION – Index indicators performing below expectation.**

As at the end of January 2019, the following Children's Scrutiny Dataset key performance indicators were performing below expectation.

3.6 **Indicator 21: % of Children Looked After cases which were reviewed within required timescales (AMBER)**

As the end of January 2019, 93% of Looked After Children reviews were completed in a timely way; there is no national benchmark for this KPI, however our target is to maintain performance between a range of 95% to 100%. 7% of late reviews equate to 32 of 327 reviews YTD, (6 sibling groups). Incomplete reviews have resulted in the need to reschedule; some delays are attributed to staff and foster carer sickness. All late cases are reviewed by senior management in Quality Assurance to ensure safety as part of our business as usual approach. Over the last two months we have maintained 100%

3.7 Indicator 25: Stability of placements of Children Looked After - length of placement (RED)

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. As at the end of January 54% of our children (42 of 82) had been in their placement for two years or more. We have reviewed our decisions to move these children and believe that this was in the best interest of the child and inline with our improved practice journey and standards expected of our carers and providers. We are making better use of placement stability meetings, and working on improving care planning, and matching to anticipate and strengthen fragile placements.

3.8 Indicator 26: % of Care leavers (aged 19, 20, 21) who are in Education, Employment and Training (DFE definition) (RED)

As at the end of January, there were 128 care leavers, of whom 37% were known to be in education, employment or training and 39% were not in education, employment or training. A small number of care leavers do not wish to have Local Authority support and involvement

Additional staffing in the virtual school and 16+ Leaving Care team has enabled more effective tracking of young people as well as more capacity for face to face work and research into available courses and employment programmes for individuals.

The establishment of the multi-agency EET Panel has expanded the number of educational and vocational opportunities for care leavers. The EET Panel is a partnership with Job Centre Plus, Targeted Youth Support and Education Business Partnership. Currently the panel has initiated a number of new projects, including accessing apprenticeships in Whitehall, the Department of Work and Pensions, and the Social Care Innovation Funded Joint EET Project with Greenwich and Lewisham which offers coaching for up to 64 Bromley care leavers to help them sustain their employment, education and training opportunities.

An employment day was attended by 33 young people leading to a number of employment opportunities. Care Leavers have also accessed opportunities created with local housing association work programmes, the European social investment fund re-engagement courses and work related opportunity. The support offer for Bromley care leavers who wish to attend university is good and close work with the Virtual School ensures this offer can be taken up by students following the end of Key Stage 5.

In 2019 apprenticeships to care leavers will be a concentrated area to ensure that we are giving our children opportunities and support. One of our care leavers has been offered an apprenticeship at the PRU following a week's shadowing experience. We have 5 Apprenticeships 2018/19 which is in line with expectations for our cohort – however in 2019 we are more ambitious

3.9 Indicator 29: Average caseloads (AMBER)

As at the end of January, the average caseloads across the division were 16, slightly above the Bromley caseload promise of 15. The increase can be attributed to the Referral and Assessment team (RAS) where contacts increased in a set period, more recently the caseload promise associated specifically to the RAS has been adjusted to 18. This reflects the level of need whilst maintaining suitable workload levels. Caseloads are monitored weekly and there are contingencies in place should caseloads continue to rise

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. 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. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no specific personnel implications arising from this report.

9. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no specific procurement implications arising from this report.

Non-Applicable Sections:	[List non-applicable sections here]
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&MIId=6166&Ver=4 Children's Performance Management Framework (January 2018) http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=593&MIId=6069&Ver=4

Appendix One: Children's Scrutiny Dataset, January 2019