

INTERNAL AUDIT FINAL REPORT

EDUCATION, CARE AND HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW OF THE TROUBLED FAMILIES CLAIM
FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2018 TO 31 MARCH 2019**

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Cc Janet Bailey, Interim Director of Children's Services (final report only)
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Prepared by: Principal Auditor

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INTRODUCTION

1. This report sets out the results of our audit testing of a sample of individual claims for the claim period between 1 October 2018 and 31 March 2019.
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 progress criteria, enabling a claim to be made.
3. The Financial Framework for the Troubled Families Programme issued in January 2018 by the Department for Communities and Local Government (now the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) sets out the 'Principles for Internal Audit'. Following these principles, we selected a sample of 10% of claims submitted for the six month period ending 31 March 2019. This was to ensure continuity of testing from the previous claim period.

METHODOLOGY

4. There were 426 individual claims closed between 1 October 2018 and 31 March 2019. This represented a significant increase in individual claims from previous years. It resulted from analysis of CareFirst by the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub Team Manager and the Bromley Children Project Intelligence and Operations Co-Ordinator to identify Children's Social Care cases recorded on CareFirst within the past two years and which had been finalised and met the necessary employment or significant and sustained criteria. Therefore, our 10% sample for checking consisted of 43 claims. 10 of the claims examined were where a client had gained employment, enabling a claim to be made. The other 33 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 10 employment claims met the relevant criteria for a claim to be made and the 33 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 426 individual claims submitted between the period 1 October 2018 and 31 March 2019 was £340,800. As a result of our testing there are no significant findings and there are no recommendations arising from this review.
7. Finally, we would like to thank all the staff contacted during this review for their help and co-operation.