
Decision Maker:	Children, Education and Families Policy, Development and Scrutiny Committee		
Date:	10 March 2021		
Decision Type:	Non-Urgent	Non-Executive	Non-Key
Title:	Performance Reporting – Children’s Scrutiny Dataset		
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Ward:	All		

1. Reason for report

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 December 2020.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. The Committee note and comment on the December 2020 outturns 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 Performance and Budget 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 Data within this part 1 report may have 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 information for these indicators for this reason is presented in the Part 2 report.
- 3.6 **MANAGEMENT COMMENTARY ON EXCEPTION – Index indicators performing below expectation.**

As at the end of December 2020, the following Children's Scrutiny Dataset key performance indicators were performing below expectation.

Please refer to the Part two report for management commentary on indicators 22 and 23 as per the data suppression outlined in the paragraph above.

3.6.1 Indicator 26: % of Care leavers who are in Education, Training or Employment (ETE) (RED)

This cohort for this indicator is those care leavers who have had their 19th, 20th or 21st birthday in the year to date, and their Education, Training or Employment (ETE) status as at their birthday. The target for this indicator is set between 47% and 52%. As at the end of December 2020, 38% of the cohort were in education, training or employment, remaining in line with the previous quarter. The cohort does include young people not receiving services from Bromley Leaving Care Team and also those young people not able to participate in education, training or employment due to illness or pregnancy.

Of the 250 17-25 year olds receiving a service from Bromley's Leaving Care Team, 123 are Not in Education, Training or Employment (NETE), including 30 young people unable to participate due to illness or pregnancy. As the impact of the pandemic continues to be felt, many young people have lost jobs in retail/ hospitality during this time. The continued increase in Bromley NETE was anticipated as youth unemployment nationally continues to increase. As part of the response for our young people, the newly launched ETE strategy aims to provide opportunities to mitigate against this where possible and to ensure all young people receive support to identify and maintain a pathway to ETE that reflects their skills and talents.

The ETE worker in the Leaving Care Teams continues to work with young people who become NETE, referring to the revamped ETE panel to identify courses, work experience, training, apprenticeships that could be appropriate. The panel is supported by Targeted Youth Support service, the Virtual School, Active Involvement team, Bromley Education Business Partnership and Department for Work and Pensions who attend to offer tailored opportunities. The Panel will identify candidates for the in-house young Inspectors Scheme and Bromley apprenticeships. Through a recent external audit, good feedback was received about the outcomes at panel.

The first group work session specifically for NETE young people took place in October 2020 and out of 6 attending, 5 now have destinations for ETE. The group involved specific life coaching goal setting and confidence building. The aim is to run this twice a year. The service is also working on a bid with DWP to obtain funding for a further ETE worker and continues to work in conjunction with I-Aspire and other providers like Maximus, to offer specific work coaching and 1-1 progression coaching.

3.6.2 Indicator 29: Average Caseloads (Children's Social Care) (AMBER)

As at the end of December 2020, the average caseload across the children's social care division per qualified social worker stood at 18. As previously reported, alongside the continued increased volumes to social care, the pandemic continues to impact on services. Caseloads are monitored on a weekly basis.

3.6.3 Indicator 35: % of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) issued within statutory 20 week timescale (excluding exception cases) (AMBER)

This measure is reported on a calendar year and the full year to December 2020 shows that 62% of new EHCPs (excluding exception cases) have been completed within the 20-week timescale. The performance is an improvement on 2019 (54%) and given the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, this is a significant achievement and is acknowledged as such. The EHC Needs Assessment Team have continued to improve performance throughout the year and in the last quarter, 74% of plans issued were within

timescale. Whilst we await the national and London figures for 2020, by way of context the figures for 2019 were national, 60% and London, 58%.

Throughout the lockdown period demand for EHC Needs Assessments has remained consistently high. During the period 1st January to 31st December 2020, 575 needs assessment requests were considered by the Multi-Agency Needs Assessment Panel and 502 (87%) needs assessments have been agreed.

In line with DfE Guidance and easements to Section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014, EHC Needs Assessments continued throughout very challenging working conditions for partners and it was not until June 2020 that delays in timeliness in plans due to Covid-19 delays started to emerge. This was very closely monitored, and partners endeavoured to meet statutory timescales, but a higher number of exceptions were recorded in 2020 compared with 2019. The most frequently recorded exceptions were requests from families to delay finalising plans as visits to schools had not been possible, requests for additional time to consider draft plans with children largely being 'home-schooled' and delays in advice being provided from partners.

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&MId=6166&Ver=4 Children's Performance Management Framework (January 2018) http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=593&MId=6069&Ver=4

Appendix One: Children's Scrutiny Dataset, December 2020