



INTERNAL AUDIT FINAL REPORT

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW OF THE SUPPORTING FAMILIES CLAIM FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2021 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

Issued to: Rachel Dunley, Head of Service Early Intervention and Family Support
Kokui Binns, Intelligence & Operations Lead
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Cc Janet Bailey, Director of Children's Services
David Dare, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care
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Head of Audit and Assurance

Prepared by: Trainee Auditor

Reviewed by: Principal Auditor

Date of Issue: 6 October 2021

Audit ref: PEO/03/2021

INTRODUCTION

1. This report sets out the results of our audit testing of a sample of individual claims for the claim period between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021.
2. We have agreed with the Early Intervention 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 previously named Troubled Families Programme (now renamed as the Supporting Families Programme) issued in January 2018 by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (now called the 'Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities') sets out the 'Principles for Internal Audit'. Following these principles, we selected a sample of 10% of claims submitted for the six-month period ended 30 September 2021. This was to ensure continuity of testing from the previous claim period.

METHODOLOGY

4. There were 143 individual claims closed between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021 and our sample for checking consisted of 15 claims. The claims in our sample were where the Early Intervention 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.

AUDIT OPINION
The evidence seen by Internal Audit demonstrates that the grant claim conditions have been met

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

5. Our review of these claims found that 14 out of 15 claims in our sample met the relevant criteria for a claim to be made. For the remaining claim, in our opinion the indication from the practitioner that 'significant progress' had been met was misleading. The Intelligence and Operations Lead agreed with us, removed the claim from the list and replaced it with another claim which had been closed and set aside to be claimed for in the next reporting period. She is addressing this

issue for future claims by adding an option to the form to make it clear where a case has been referred to specialist services instead. We will confirm that this has been done when we audit a sample of claims in the next claim window in March 2022.

6. We also checked to confirm that the families in our sample had not been claimed for previously. No such instances were identified. We verified that the total amount claimed for payment by results for the 143 individual claims submitted between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021 was £114,400. As a result of our testing there are no recommendations arising from this review.
7. Finally, we would like to thank everyone contacted during this review for their help and co-operation.