

Decision Maker: Children, Education and Families Policy, Development and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 15 June 2022

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

Title: Performance Reporting – Children’s Scrutiny Dataset

Contact Officer: Naheed Chaudhry, Assistant Director Strategy, Performance and Corporate Transformation

Chief Officer: Richard Baldwin, Director Children’s Services

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

1.1 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 March 2022.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 The Committee note and comment on the March 2022 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 – e.g., 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.**

Some data in this Part 1 public committee report has 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 for this reason is presented in the Part 2 report.

As at the end of March 2022, the following Children's Scrutiny Dataset key performance indicators were performing below expectation.

Indicator 20.2: Number of In-house foster carers recruited (Amber)

See Part Two report.

Indicator 21: Number of Children Looked After who were adopted (Amber)

See Part Two report.

Indicator 27: Average Caseloads (Amber)

Average caseloads are reported as 16 per social worker, against our 'case load promise' of 12 – 15.

Additional cases are a reflection of the additional demand pressures on the front door (higher levels of referrals), this has resulted in higher numbers of 'Children in need' and those subject of a child protection plan. March 2022 proved to be the highest number of contacts with MASH ever, with 1162 against 895 in February. Additional staffing capacity has been placed as an interim arrangement in the MASH referral and Assessment service and the Central Social Work Teams.

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 (updated January 2020)

Appendix One: Children's Scrutiny Dataset, Q4 202122