

Decision Maker: CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES POLICY
DEVELOPMENT AND SCUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 14 March 2023

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

Title: CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO PLAN –
2022/23 Q3 UPDATE

Contact Officers: Naheed Chaudhry, Assistant Director Strategy, Performance and Corporate
Transformation
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Chief Officer: Richard Baldwin, Director of Children’s Services

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for report

1.1 This report presents the Children, Education and Families Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee with a Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan 2022-23 Quarter 3 update.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 Members are asked to note progress on the actions associated with the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan (Appendix 1, note key highlights in this report).

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Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: To provide the Scrutiny Committee with a regular update on the performance of services for children.
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Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: The monitoring of the Portfolio Holder Plan is part of the performance management framework developed to ensure that there is strong leadership and management oversight of children's services in Bromley.
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority:
 - (1) For children and young People to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
 - (5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): Not Applicable
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: No Executive Decision.
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
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Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: Not Applicable
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Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: Not Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (current and projected): Not Applicable
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan focuses on delivering the longer-term strategic priorities for children and families in Bromley and has been refreshed in line with the Council's Transformation Programme and the Corporate Strategy, Making Bromley Even Better.
- 3.2 The Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan focusses on five priority outcomes:
- Safeguarding
 - Affordable, Decent and Secure Homes
 - Life chances, resilience and wellbeing
 - Supporting and challenging effective multi-agency working
 - Ensuring efficiency and effectiveness
- 3.3 Within each priority are a number of statements which are underpinned by actions and measures of success within the work of Children's Services and other departments which impact on children and families.
- 3.4 Full progress against the Portfolio Holder Plan as at Quarter 3 is provided in Appendix 1.
- 3.5 Upon last receiving a quarterly update to the Portfolio Holder Plan Members asked that officers provided a few key examples of change in this covering report. Below are key highlights Quarter.
- a) SEN estates review underway to identify opportunities for additional SEN places. Special Free School project ongoing led by DfE, currently at feasibility stage. **(Rob Bollen – Head of Strategic Place Planning)**
- b) Addressing the Attainment Gap events took place in July 2022 (secondary) and November 2022 (primary). Addressing the needs of pupil from Gypsy Roma and Traveller background held in November 2022, with primary and secondary participation. Family Learning Outreach pilot to support Ukrainian pupils and their parents is underway in 2 schools (1 primary and 1 secondary). Follow on activities and events for all schools during spring term currently under discussion, including follow up event/activities on addressing educational gaps in disadvantaged pupils. Head Teacher conference planned for March 2023 with education supporting input planned for narrowing educational gaps. **(Carol Arnfield – Head of Adult Education)**
- c) Safeguarding Board Training evaluation was published in annual report 2021-22. New training programme procurement for 2022-25 complete. **(Jo Gambhir/Kerry Davies – Bromley Safeguarding Children's Partnership Managers)**
- d) Review of Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy completed. New strategy renamed as Bromley Child Exploitation Strategy. In line with adopted pan-London Exploitation Strategy. Strategy completed but one appendix still in development with local pathways. **(Jo Gambhir/Kerry Davies – Bromley Safeguarding Children's Partnership Managers)**
- e) CLA Sufficiency Strategy 2022-2024 signed off by members on 17th November. The strategy was then used as part of the mock inspection with good feedback received. The action plan, in-order-to monitor progress of the strategy, is currently being drafted. **(Philip White – Children's Commissioner)**
- f) Ongoing funding for additional mental health support post directly employed in Leaving Care Team (LCT) has now been achieved for 2023/24. **(Cathy Lloyd-Williams – Head of Children Looked After & Care Leavers)**

- g) Bromley have launched a website Beehive for parents/carers which gives information advice on therapy support and guidance. We are planning wide scale direct communication from January 2023. **(Tony Parker – Assistant Director for Children & Young People’s Integrated Commissioning)**
- h) The existing User Voice Framework creates a robust approach for capturing the voice of the children and families using our services, a refreshed framework has been developed for sign off by PDS in March 2023. Regular reports are provided to the Children’s Executive Board and the Children, Education and Families Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee. **(Michael Watts – Engagement Strategy Manager)**
- i) Development of new Carers Strategy in progress – including children and young people that are young carers. The plan is to have a carers strategy for March 2023. A task and finish group is looking at ‘Young Carers’ specifically with Vicky West leading on this for Children, Education & Families. Vicky is wanting to consider whether the young carers strategy is made separate from the audit carers work – we await feedback on this decision. **(Sean Rafferty – Assistant Director of Integrated Commissioning)**
- j) The use of Virtual Reality practice tool is embedded across the different services in Children Social Care. At a social workers’ Wellbeing Conference in November 2022, the following was mentioned as practice in Bromley: Virtual reality is proving effective in helping professionals, and carers understand the impact of trauma on children. **(Vicky West – Associate Director Specialist Services)**
- k) **Ambition 1 – Point 16:** newly added point to the plan, in regards to how Bromley is supporting young people experiencing loneliness and/or are getting involved in this topic. Please see quarter 3 updates. **(Helayna Jenkins – Principal Loneliness Champion)**

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. TRANSFORMATION/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 CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 6.1 A Children’s Performance Management Framework agreed in 2018 an updated in 2020, stipulates that the Children’s PDS Committee should receive a regular updates ton the Portfolio Holder Plan in respect of children’s services. Reports should enable Members to ‘ask challenging questions about areas of underperformance and make recommendations accordingly to the Executive’.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Financial/Personnel/Legal/Procurement/Property/Carbon Reduction and Social Value Implications and Ward Councillor Views
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Portfolio Holder Plan 2022/23