

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

**Date:** 22 November 2023

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

**Title:** CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO PLAN –  
2023/24 Q2 UPDATE

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Transformation  
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**Chief Officer:** Richard Baldwin, Director of Children’s Services

**Ward:** All Wards

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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 2023-24 Quarter 2 update.

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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 The Children, Education and Families PDS Committee is 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 Childre

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 start of financial year 2023-24 (Quarter 2) is provided in Appendix 1.
- 3.5 Please see below a few key highlights for Quarter 2:
- a) As of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, there were 361 (67%) of eligible children accessing 2-year-old funded places (National benchmark 72%). 98.8% of early years settings in Bromley that have been inspected are rated as Good or Outstanding (National benchmark 96%). **(Caren Boiling – Interim Head of Service, Early Years, School Standards and Adult Education)**
  - b) 370 children electively home educated. Education transformation restructure has created new dedicated Access to Education officer posts, which will include EHE duties within the revised Education Welfare Service. **(Jared Nehra, Director of Education)**
  - c) Work continues to take place between the Director of Education, commissioners, and Bromley Y to review the total Mental Health Support Team offer and the future delivery model. **(Johanna Dench, Senior Commissioning Manager for Children & Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing)**
  - d) 94% of assessments were completed within timeframe (YTD – August 2023) with the majority of children seen (97%) during the assessment. **(Aneesa Kaprie, Head of Service, Children & Family Hub, Referral & Assessment, Staying Together, ATLAS & EDT)**
  - e) Work is ongoing in order to develop local residential provision along with investigating the possibility and potential benefits of block booking beds in the Supported Lodgings (SL) market. **(Philip White, Children's Commissioner)**
  - f) Completion of tender for bespoke 1:1 Education Training Employment (ETE) work coaches for Not in Education Training Employment (NETE) care leavers, contract awarded and delivery date is October/November 2023. 81% of Review Health Assessments (RHAs) held in timeframe for Children Looked After and 82% of immunisations for Children Looked After are in timeframe. **(Cathy Lloyd-Williams, Head of Service, Children Looked After & Care Leavers)**

- g) A phased approach regarding transforming the Bromley Children and Young People Integrated Therapies will be undertaken to ensure appropriate resources are in place for the successful delivery of the model. The implementation will be developed during quarter 3 with the current planned for start of February-April 2024. **(Vicky Soper, Director of Children & Young People Services)**
- h) Focused work on the number of children waiting 52 weeks + has seen significant reductions, especially with the generic pathway which expects to have no children waiting 52 weeks + by October 2023 (down from over 200). Work continues to take place in regards to reducing the number of referrals of children and young people into A&E due to their mental ill health, and bring forward a full analysis of this information for consideration by partners, after which time there will need to be a cross-organisational action plan of improvements. **(Johanna Dench, Senior Commissioning Manager for Children & Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing)**
- i) The eating disorders early intervention pilot is progressing well and developing increased staff confidence to support children and promote early intervention and prevention advice and support. There are strong links with Mental Health Support Teams, with the delivery of the 'me and my body' and 'happy being me' programmes due to run after the half-term in October 2023, and the second wave in February 2024. A full evaluation of the pilot will take place to review impact, look at lessons learned and inform future commissioning decisions. **(Johanna Dench, Senior Commissioning Manager for Children & Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing)**
- j) A Tackling Loneliness [SharePoint page](#) was created for all staff at the London Borough of Bromley which will help them signpost services within their role. The Principal Loneliness Champion (PLC) is connected with Children Looked After and the permanency service, alongside Bromley Y and Bromley Youth Council, helping to connect and provide support where possible. The PLC received 120 copies of the book 'Kick It' by Rebel Girls in collaboration with Nike from The Reading Agency. These books were given out in collaboration with Bromley Football Club at the showing of the Women's World cup final 2023. Over 400 people attended this event. The remaining books were given to young carers, Bromley Youth Justice, Bromley Youth Council, Children Looked After, Bromley Children's Project, Harris Academy Orpington, Super Zones Event and free football clubs at schools. **(Helayna Jenkins – Principal Loneliness Champion)**
- k) The Family Group Conference (FGC) service was tendered in Q2 and is pending the approval of the recommended provider. **(Kelly Sylvester, Head of Service, Community Living Commissioning Programmes Team)**
- l) London Borough of Bromley are embarking on the Digital and IT Strategy which will be delivered in the next five months and Children services will be consulted for it. **(Vinit Shukle, Assistant Director & SIRO, IT Services).**

#### 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 and updated in 2023, 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'*.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Financial/Personnel/Legal/Procurement/Property/Carbon Reduction and Social Value Implications and Ward Councillor Views
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Portfolio Holder Plan 2023/24