

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

Date: 22 November 2023

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

Title: PERFORMANCE REPORTING – CHILDREN’S SCRUTINY DATASET PART 1 (PUBLIC) REPORT

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

Chief Officer: Richard Baldwin, Director Children’s Services

Ward: All Wards

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 September 2023.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 The Children, Education and Families PDS Committee is asked to note and comment on the September 2023 outturns of key performance indicators and associated management commentary.

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 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.
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority (delete as appropriate):
 - (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 A Children's Performance Management Framework agreed in 2018 and updated in 2023, stipulates that the Children's PDS Committee should receive a regular update on a suite of performance measures 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'*.
- 3.2 This specific 'Children's Scrutiny Dataset' is over and above more detailed reports on specific areas of practice – e.g., Corporate Parenting reports; annual Education Outcomes reports – already received by the Committee. 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.
- 3.3 The 'Children's Scrutiny Dataset' is selected from a much wider set of data collected and reported both internally and externally in respect of children's services, it acts as a regular 'health check' on key areas of service delivery to enable scrutiny and enquiry from elected members.
- 3.4 The Committee initially agreed a proposed suite of indicators in March 2018, these indicators are reviewed and updated annually. A narrative on "why this indicator is important" has been provided to ensure that scrutiny is well informed and effective.
- 3.5 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. Quarterly reports provide management commentary against those indicators that are performing below expectation. Directors have also committed to reporting on any other indicators not in the index, by exception, should they have concerns or if they wished to report particularly good performance.
- 3.6 Directors have provided number and percentage outturns in order to allow the Scrutiny Committee to gain a sense of scale and relativity.
- 3.7 **MANAGEMENT COMMENTARY ON EXCEPTION – Index indicators performing below expectation.**
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 As at the end of September 2023, the following Children's Scrutiny Dataset key performance indicators were performing below expectation.
- 3.10 Indicator 20: Stability of placements for Children looked after – Length of placement – Amber**

This indicator is based on young people who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years, are under 16 years old and have been in the same placement for at least 2 years. Long term placement stability has gradually decreased over Q2 and now below target. There are several reasons for this, the cohort is relatively small at 62 young people, 2 young people had to change to a residential placement due to escalating safeguarding needs, a

further 3 placements had to change as the carer had to step down due to a change in circumstances.

3.11 Indicator 27: % of CYP (16 - 17 year olds) education, employment or training status 'not known' – Amber

- Of the not known – 20 were yr 12 and 93 were yr 13 (113 yp was equal to the 1.6%) young people drop off the main statutory age range for reporting, and support after year 13, so whilst we continue to offer support, they are often not responding/not interested/moved away etc. so the year 13 age range becomes less of a priority for us. In our final tracking contacts we advise them they can now register for universal credit and receive DWP support.
- Staffing available to offer support was spread thinner this year as we picked up more prevention work
- Staff were prepping and delivering the Holiday and Food programme across the summer, and also taking holidays.

3.12 Indicator 31: % of Education, Health and Care plans issued within statutory 20-week timescale (excluding exception cases) - Red

Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) timeliness is reported on a calendar year basis. Performance is reported as 25% for Q3 2023, representing a significant reduction in performance against the target of 65%. In Q3 162 EHCP's were issued, which includes 25 exceptions. Monthly performance of new assessments has improved to 46% for September, reflecting the impact of increased capacity and a sustained reduction in the number of requests for assessment, following updated guidance and increased focus on earlier intervention and support.

This overall decline in annual performance has arisen due to workforce challenges and significant delays in the receipt of professional advice required to complete the statutory needs assessment process. Progress has been made on addressing the backlog of overdue professional advice.. The SEN Service has continued to pursue advice rigorously and a range of mitigating actions are in place across education and health.

Additional capacity has been embedded including additional capacity for assessments for Educational Psychology and Occupational Therapy.. The SEN Service has recently recruited successfully to fill vacancies and has undergone service restructure and transformation to ensure resources are maximised.

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 update on a suite of performance measures 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'*.
- 6.2 This specific 'Children's Scrutiny Dataset' is over and above more detailed reports on specific areas of practice – e.g., Corporate Parenting reports; annual School Standards reports – already received by the Committee. 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.

Non-Applicable Headings:	Financial/Personnel/Legal/Procurement/Property/Carbon Reduction and Social Value Implications and Ward Councillor Views
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	<p>Appendix One: Children's Scrutiny Dataset, September 2023</p> <p>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 2023)</p>