

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

Date: Wednesday 20th March 2024

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 December 2023.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note and comment on the December 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 December 2023, the following Children's Scrutiny Dataset key performance indicator(s) were performing below expectation.

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 decreased during this financial year and is below target. There are several reasons for this, the cohort is relatively small at 93, 2 young people were adopted in October and 3 turned 16, removing them from the denominator. 2 new young people have now been looked after for 2.5 years and therefore are now part of the denominator, 1 is in a long term stable placement, the other has been in the same

placement for 18 months as their previous placement was deemed no longer suitable. 1 young person who was previously in a stable placement is still within the same organisation but had to move due to the provision closing down. 3 placements ended because the carer had to step down due to a change in circumstances and 2 young people had to move to a residential placement due to escalating safeguarding needs.

Social workers and case managers continue to monitor the placements of each child carefully to ensure that they remain in their best interest and alternative arrangements are made when there are breakdowns of placements, quickly and appropriately.

Indicator 24: Average Caseloads RAS – Amber

The increase in caseloads for December is in direct correlation with the increase in referrals in November. This increase is not unusual due to the upcoming school holidays. This puts extra demand on the Referral and Assessment Service, where social workers have managed higher caseloads whilst continuing to undertake detailed, timely assessments of children and families

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

Progress continues to be made on improving the timeliness of EHC Needs Assessments. The full year performance was 36% for 2023 calendar year. The average performance since September 2023 is 58%, which is higher than the latest average for England (51%).

Note on indicator 27: % of CYP (16-17 year olds) not in education, employment or training status ‘not known’ – Data Not Available

Each year the Client Caseload Information System database resets its data on the 1st September across the country. So at this point, anyone who was in school or college education the previous year becomes “not Known” on the system.

The actual months that are relevant in terms of the DfE annual judgement of NEET and Not Known young people are a three month average that covers December, January and February each year, so this data will be available at the next meeting.

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’.

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)	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)