
Decision Maker: Chief Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder

Date: 18th June 2024

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

Title: 0-19 Years Public Health Nursing Service Performance report

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Ward: All

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 This is an annual report on the progress made by the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service against this contract. The London Borough of Bromley has a contract in place with Bromley Healthcare CIC to provide a 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service. Executive approval was obtained on 27th November 2019 (Report No. CSD19180) to award the contract for five years from 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2025 with the option to extend the contract for a period of up to two years until 30th September 2027.
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2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 Members are asked to note this report and the progress made against contract requirements

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact:
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Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 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:
 3. Budget head/performance centre:
 4. Total current budget for this head: £4,056,000
 5. Source of funding: Public Health grant
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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: None:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable
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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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Impact on the Local Economy

1. Summary of Local Economy Implications: Not Applicable
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Impact on Health and Wellbeing

1. Summary of Health and Well Being Implications: The 0-19 Public Health Nursing service is an important universal service supporting families with children, identifying needs and providing early help where appropriate.
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (current and projected):
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Council has a contract in place with Bromley Healthcare CIC (BHC) to provide a 0 – 19 Public Health Service incorporating a number of different elements to improve the health and wellbeing of children & young people aged 0-19 and their families. The Annual Report for 2022/23 produced by BHC on this service is attached as an appendix.

Services include:

3.2 HEALTH VISITING

Health Visiting is a mandated universal service from pregnancy to age 4 years. The Health Visiting team meet with pregnant women after 28 weeks of pregnancy, assess the mother and baby 10 days after the birth, at 6 weeks after the birth, when the child is aged 1 and again when the child is aged 2-2½ years. These reviews are important in building a relationship between the Health Visiting team and the mother and in making an expert assessment of medical and social risk for that family.

This expert assessment of risk is used to identify whether support in addition to routine support is required in order to avoid poor outcomes. Additional support could be in the form of referral to health services, children's social care or other support services, or it could be provided directly by the Health Visiting team. Where safeguarding issues are identified the HV will initiate appropriate processes and, importantly, maintain contact and support to the family throughout the processes, thus providing step-down support as well as escalation. This long term support to vulnerable families is an important part of keeping children safe in Bromley.

The Health Visiting service, by avoiding delays in identification of need, are able to reduce risk and cost by addressing many needs before they escalate.

There are around 4,000 births a year in Bromley. The vast majority of these families will not require additional support and receive only the five reviews and infant immunisations (which are the responsibility of primary care).

3.3 FAMILY NURSE PARTNERSHIP

Family Nurses provide intensive support to the most vulnerable mothers using evidence-based interventions. This is a licensed programme and supports the mothers from pregnancy until their child is 2 years old, when the care of the family passes to Health Visiting services. This service is based on good evidence that intensive support to vulnerable families can have a significant impact on outcomes. By improving the attachment between the baby and the mother and supporting young mothers in their parenting role, many of the long term outcomes related to poor attachment can be reduced or avoided. These adverse outcomes include behaviour and mental health problems in the child and poor education outcomes. Vulnerable and first time young mothers often struggle significantly in their role as a parent. Almost sixty per cent of mothers involved in serious case reviews were under 21 when they had their first child. Bromley's current FNP caseload illustrates that vulnerable first time mothers have increasingly complex needs.

Where involvement of Children's Social Care is necessary it is possible for cases to be escalated and de-escalated in a safe and timely manner due to the level of intervention FNP provides. For example, in the last quarter three infants were stepped down from Children In Need (CIN) and Child Protection Plan (CP) and nine infants/unborn were put on CIN. CIN plans

are multiagency plans put in place for a child who needs extra support for his/her safety, health and/or development. CP plans are put in place when a child may be at risk of significant harm.

In line with Bromley's commitment, set out in Transforming Bromley Roadmap, to help Bromley children and young people at the earliest point of need, FNP functions both as an early intervention and as a prevention programme. Within the current caseload, eleven of the mothers were previously Children Looked After, 97% of FNP babies and toddlers are up to date with their immunisations and 100% of them have completed Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) developmental reviews.

Bromley currently has three Family Nurses (FNs) who provide support to up to 75 vulnerable mothers, including young mothers who are care leavers or known to Children's Social Care.

3.4 HEALTH SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS

The Health Support to Schools (HSS) service covers two specialist nursing functions: safeguarding vulnerable groups, and strategic health support to schools to minimise the risks of children with health conditions in schools.

a) Safeguarding Nursing support

As well as providing nursing expertise to general safeguarding processes in Bromley, this service is commissioned to provide nursing support to some of the most vulnerable groups in Bromley as identified by the Needs Assessment, including Electively Home Educated children, young people in contact with the Youth Offending Team, young people in the Gypsy Traveller community, and young carers. In addition, this service is commissioned to support identification and assessment and provide appropriate support to young people who have suffered Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation (CSA/CSE).

b) Supporting pupils with medical needs in schools

The service is commissioned to provide nursing support to maintained schools and academies in Bromley in order to reduce the risks to schools of looking after pupils with medical conditions. This model of working involves each school clearly leading this work, with appropriate strategic nursing support to minimise risks to the school and the young people. Individual Health Care Plans for children with medical conditions are a key mechanism to manage this risk in schools

3.5 NATIONAL CHILD MEASUREMENT PROGRAMME

The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) is a mandated programme which measures height and weight in reception year and year 6 in all children in Bromley in maintained schools and academies. The measurements are fed into a national NCMP programme.

After piloting new ways of delivering this programme in 2016, it was combined with the Vision Screening programme in reception year (which is part of the Healthy Child Programme), in order to minimise the number of visits to primary schools. This model is preferred by schools and brings efficiencies in the administration of both programmes.

3.6 SAFEGUARDING

It is a statutory duty of the local authority to safeguard children. The Health Visitor, FNP Nurse or School Nurse brings the health perspective to form part of a full oversight of a child's needs, especially if a child has disabilities. The SEND framework does not distinguish between maintained schools and academies.

3.7 The performance of Bromley Healthcare has improved over the term of the contract and the service is working well. The provider has built good relationships with their health partners, parents and families, Council Officers, schools, Children & Family Centres and other key stakeholders. The provider has consistently met the targets for this service, the only exception to this was during the pandemic and the Provider adjusted their service to ensure that KPIs were being met as much as possible given the circumstances. The Provider has given exception reports to explain where service disruptions have occurred and were accepted by LBB Commissioners.

3.8 Service Profile / Data Analysis / Specification

3.9 The following table provides information on the KPIs achieved for the mandated services for the past two financial years and comparison to rates in England. It is proposed to continue with the current specification:

HCP Key Performance Indicator	Description of KPI	Target	Q1-Q3 2023-24 YTD	Q1-Q4 2022-23	England (22-23) %
Ante-Natal	Total number of contacts	n/a	862	1524	n/a
New Birth Visit	Percentage of babies receiving a face to face new birth visit in the home within 14 days of birth	95%	93.2%	95.1%	79.9%
6-8 weeks check	Percentage of children due a 6 – 8 week review of the end of the quarter, who received a 6 – 8 week review	90%	94.8%	96.0%	79.6%
1 year review	Percentage of children who received 1 year Health Review by 15 months old	90%	89.1%	96.4%	82.6%
2-2.5 year review	Number and percentage of children receiving 2 – 2.5 year contact	80%	83.1%	92.3%	73.6%
Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks check	Prevalence (Exclusive Breastfeeding + Mixed Feeding)	n/a	66.5%	63.7%	49.2%

3.10 Health Support to Schools (HSS)

The delivery of the School Nurse element of the contract is to 102 schools within the borough, 75 primary and 22 secondaries including 5 Pupil Referral Units. The named School Nurse attends termly School Profile Meeting to the individual schools, identifying any health needs, training and support with Individual Health Care Plans.

By the end of the Winter term of 2022, Bromley School Nursing had completed Profile Meetings for 81.3% of all primary schools, and 81.8% of all secondary schools. The remaining schools were offered Profile Meetings in the Spring term of 2023. There were a further 47 termly meetings completed in schools across the Spring term of 2023. There was a total of 21 training sessions delivered by School Nursing to school staff, capturing around 437 teaching staff.

The service work hard to engage schools and form good working relationships. The School Nursing team are working with the Communication and Engagement team to raise the profile of School Nurses across the borough and to fully engage all schools.

In terms of safeguarding, a school nurse from the HSS attended 93.4% of Initial Case Conferences (211 out of 226). Where a school nurse is unable to attend a report is provided.

Across 2022-23 in the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), 4,578 children in Reception (92.7% coverage), and 4,864 children in year 6 (93.5% coverage) were measured.

A total of 6,175 reception year children had their vision screen in 2022-23 (92.9% coverage). Any child who is unable to be vision screened due to having an additional need, is referred onto either the Orthoptist team or Community Optician with parental consent, depending on the child's need.

4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1 Bromley Healthcare CIC have invested both resources and time in improving the service and establishing important partnerships and networks. BHC co-locates with the Early Intervention and Family Support service in two of the Children and Family Centres and provide services from all Children and Family Centres.

5. IMPACT ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- 5.1 This Contract has a good impact of the health and wellbeing of children and young people and their families / legal guardians. The following summary is very positive. The only areas where the service is performing less well than the England average (MMR immunisation, A&E attendances), the performance in Bromley is better than London as a whole. Overall, comparing local indicators with England averages, the health and wellbeing of children in Bromley is better than England. In this area:

- The infant mortality rate is similar to England with an average of 12 infants dying before age 1 each year. Recently there have been 6 child deaths (1 to 17 year olds) each year on average.
- The teenage pregnancy rate is better than England, with 55 girls becoming pregnant in a year.
- 4.3% of women smoke while pregnant which is better than England.
- 82.8% of newborns received breast milk as their first feed. Breastfeeding at 6 to 8 weeks after birth is 63.7.% which is better than the rate for England (49.2%)

- The MMR immunisation level does not meet recommended coverage (95%) but is higher than most London boroughs. By age 2, 87.6% of children have had one dose.
- Dental health is better than England. 12.0% of 5 year olds have experience of dental decay.
- Compared with the England averages, this area has a similar percentage of children in Reception (21.8%) and a lower percentage in Year 6 (33.9%) who have excess weight.
- The rate of child inpatient admissions for mental health conditions at 34.5 per 100,000 is better than England. The rate of self-harm (10 to 24 years) at 205.5 per 100,000 is better than England.
- 82.8% of children aged 2 to 2½ years were at or above the expected level of development in all five areas of development (communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem-solving and personal-social skills) in the financial year ending 2022. This is higher than the England average.
- 2.5% of babies were born with a low birth weight (less than 2,500g). This is similar to England. The recent trend shows no significant change.
- Nationally, the rate of hospital admissions of children and young people for conditions wholly related to alcohol, between 2016 and 2020, is decreasing and this is also the case in Bromley. The admission rate in the latest pooled period is also better than the England average.

In the financial year ending 2022, there were 15,460 A&E attendances by children aged four years and under. This gives a rate which is worse than England but this rate is very high for all of London. Compared to the rest of London the rate is low in Bromley

Non-Applicable Headings:	SOCIAL VALUE, CARBON REDUCTION AND LOCAL / NATIONAL PRIORITIES, IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (INCLUDING VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN) AND CUSTOMER IMPACT, TRANSFORMATION/POLICY IMPLICATIONS, IT AND GDPR CONSIDERATIONS, STRATEGIC PROPERTY CONSIDERATIONS, PROCUREMENT CONSIDERATIONS, FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS, PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS, LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS.
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Report No. CSD19180 'Contract Award for 0-19 Years Public Health Nursing Service'