

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 18 SEPTEMBER 2014

2014/2015 Q1 PERFORMANCE MONITORING

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Corporate Performance and Intelligence Team

Summary

This annual report provides a summary of Medway's performance for Quarter 1 2014/15 against its priorities, which it set out in The Council Plan 2013/15. The following information against the relevant Council priority is provided for this committee:

- Performance against Key Measures of Success
- Updates on Key projects

1. Budget and Policy Framework

This report summarises the performance of the Council's Key Measures of Success for 2014/15 as set out in The Council Plan 2013/15.

2. Background

- 2.1 This report sets out the performance summary against the relevant Council priority for this committee:

Medway's Priorities

- *Children and young people have the best start in life in Medway*

- 2.2 It focuses on where we have achieved or exceeded our targets, and how we are tackling areas for improvement.

- 2.3 Detailed background information supporting this report can be found at:

Appendix 1: Performance tables – detailed reports on 18 Key Measures of Success

3. Summary of performance

3.1 Key Measures of Success Quarter 1 2014/15: in target

We monitor 18 Key Measures of Success to gauge if we are delivering on our priority to give children and young people the best start in life.

- 5 (28%) out of 18 measures met target in Quarter 1 2014/15

For measures where comparative data is available, the number and percentage of Key Measures of Success in target, compared with previous years were:

- 2 (14%) out of 14 in Quarter 1 2014/15
- 4 (29%) out of 14 in Quarter 1 2013/14 (N.B this is only comparing the 2014/15 indicators against their 2013/14 Q1 performance)

4. Key Priority 1: Children and young people have the best start in life in Medway

4.1 Customer Perception

The Tracker survey, a phone based survey of around 400 residents, is carried out bi-annually. The next survey is due to be carried out in September and the results will be included in the next Q2 performance report.

Service Comments

4.2 Children's Care

4.2.1 The Voice of the Child

The Medway Youth Parliament hosted the 2014 Try Angle Awards that celebrate the achievement of children and young people in Medway. There were 321 nominations this year, which is the largest number of nominations since the awards started 20 years ago. 960 people attended the event, held at the Central Theatre in Chatham.

Young Commissioners recently presented findings of the Tellus Survey to senior managers. This is a questionnaire completed by Medway school pupils in years six, eight and ten. They are now working on a DVD with their thoughts about Medway, and the importance of involving children and young people in service planning and delivery. The DVD will be shown at the Medway CAN (Children's Action Network) launch in September.

A project led by the Young Inspectors with the aim of restricting hot food takeaway times near schools was presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and received positively. The Young Inspectors also conducted a mystery shopping exercise on sexual health services and presented their findings to managers.

Work is about to start with care leavers to find out their experiences upon leaving care and to find out what if anything could have been done differently.

A new young people's group has been formed to support the SEN Review and the implementation of the local offer. The group has already discussed what they would like to see on the local offer website and reviewed information leaflets aimed at young people.

4.2.2 Medway Action for Families

To date, Medway Action for Families (MAFF) has turned around the lives of 181 families. The programme is being seen as a model of good practice in both its strategic vision and operational implementation by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

565 families have been identified, which exceeds the target set by central government. The team continues to identify families to ensure Medway achieves maximum outcomes for local people, payments by results, and turns around the lives of 560 families by March 2015.

The pooled resource continues to develop with the addition of a post funded by Public Health starting in September and additional resources are being put in place to engage more families. Work continues with adult mental health (social care) and housing in the development of posts.

4.2.3 Early Help

The new Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS) is now in place and there has been an increase in positive feedback from partners regarding the service they are receiving.

The Family Support Service is also in place and includes the CAF (Common Assessment Framework) service. The number of CAF assessments initiated is positive, with an increase of more than 250 in 2013-14. The future implementation of an eCAF module enabling partners to complete these electronically directly to the system will improve this further. The team will be working with partners to ensure their further engagement.

4.2.4 Moving on Medway

Progress continues to be made against the Children's Improvement Plan, overseen by the External Improvement Board. Examples of good practice are continually sought, and there have been a number of visits to other local authorities.

A new system of learning audits based on the Ofsted methodology is underway and these are supporting the development of social work practice. Themed and multi agency audits are also ongoing.

Q1 has seen pressure on services due to an increase in levels of child protection cases and assessments. Audits undertaken concluded that thresholds are being correctly applied, which suggests that pressures are due to historic cases working through the system. Resources have been put in place to deal with the increase in numbers and there is a project underway to help better understand and manage demand coming into the system.

Performance on assessment timeliness has fallen, however weekly review meetings including the Director and Assistant Director are taking place and the backlog is being cleared, with the expectation that performance will be back on track by Q3.

Chief Supt Mark Nottage has been seconded from Kent Police for six months to focus on supporting practice improvement and reducing the demand on police and children's social care services.

We have been successful in our bid to the Department for Education Innovation Fund for a project to identify the most effective types of intervention for adolescents on the edge of care.

The Council's Employment Matters Committee has formally adopted social work employer standards. We continue to recruit social workers and the plan for all Children Social Care staff to be co-located at Broadside is on track for a move in Q2.

4.2.5 School Effectiveness and Pupil Performance

Whilst the number of schools in special measures remains the same, all are showing improvement on Ofsted monitoring visits.

We have exceeded the statutory percentage in the moderation of SATs papers in the primary sector to ensure rigorous standardisation of assessment levels. This ensures that the local authority can be assured of the integrity of the moderation exercise. This is a major area of work this quarter for staff but very productive as school staff pair with LA specialists to moderate work in schools, thus creating an opportunity for school staff to learn from each other.

Provisional results in all key stages will be available in Q2, including those below the floor threshold which is a key indicator.

A revised school improvement strategy is being drafted with a focus on improving primary school standards and school OFSTED judgements.

Staff continue to challenge pupil exclusions, where appropriate, and also to find alternative placements for children through managed moves which pre-empts exclusion. Exclusions are the decision of the school, not the local authority. We are well below our very ambitious target of 0.01% (4) but at 0.04% (17), we are still significantly better than the national average.

4.3 Public Health

- 4.3.1 The Public Health directorate launched a Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) project with all schools in June. Working with the national PSHE association we are offering to conduct a review of PSHE within Medway Secondary Schools, based on the findings of this we are offering training and a full framework for delivery. Since the launch 10 out of the 17 secondary schools have signed up to the review. To our knowledge this is the first time a review on this scale has been carried out by a Local Authority.

10. Risk management

- 10.1 Risk helps to deliver performance improvement and is at the core of decision-making, business planning, managing change and innovation. It is practised at both management and service delivery level and enables the effective use of resources, secures the assets of the organisation and its continued financial and organisational well-being.
- 10.2 The purpose of the Council Plan performance monitoring reports during the year is to enable managers and members to manage the key risks identified in delivering priorities.

11. Financial and legal implications

- 11.1 There are no finance or legal implications arising from this report.

12. Recommendations

- 12.1 It is recommended that Members consider quarter 1 2014/15 performance against the Key Measures of Success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2013/15.

Lead officer contact

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Background papers

Council Plan 2013/15