

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 1 2017/18

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Summary

Medway's Council Plan 2017/18 sets out the Council's three priorities. This committee is responsible for some of the performance measures within the two Council Priorities:

- Supporting Medway's people to realise their potential; and
- Maximising regeneration and economic growth.

This report summarises how we have performed in Quarter 1 2017/18 for the 17 key measures of success which support the above priorities.

Council Plan measures of success summary (17 measures):

- 54% measures of success were on target.
- 50% measures of success have improved over the long term (compared with the average of the previous 4 quarters).

New performance highlights this quarter:

- 127 fewer 16 and 17 year olds not in employment, education or training (NEET) compared with the same period last year, (from 383 in Q1 2016/17 to 256 in Q1 2017/18) (Full details: section 3.2.3).

Examples of other performance highlights (including those which have been highlighted in previous quarterly reports and continue to perform well):

- Over the last 3 years, adopted children have averaged 528 days from entering care to moving in with their adoptive families. This is an improvement of 101 days compared with same monitoring period last year. Please note that every "later life" adoption completed has a significant negative impact on this timeliness indicator which means that this indicator may not necessarily reflect the continuing improvements in timeliness being achieved by the service.

1. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 1.1 The Council Plan 2016/21 was agreed at the Council meeting on 25 February 2016. It set out the Council's three new priorities and three new ways of working. Success in these areas will lead to a better quality of life across Medway.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report sets out the performance summary against the Council priorities relevant for this committee: supporting Medway's people to realise their potential and maximising regeneration and economic growth. It focuses on where we have achieved or exceeded our targets, and how we are tackling underperformance in respect of children and young people.
- 2.2 This report also sets out performance in respect of the "Development of a 16-19 Strategy (including apprenticeships)" which falls under the remit of this committee.
- 2.3 Performance in respect of Adult Social Care, which also falls under the priority "supporting Medway's people to realise their potential", will be the focus of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.4 Detailed background information supporting this report can be found in Appendix 1: Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee Detailed Report Q1 2017/18

3. PRIORITY: SUPPORTING MEDWAY'S PEOPLE TO REALISE THEIR POTENTIAL

3.1 Measures of success - summary

Details of the 17 measures of success for this committee are included in Appendix 1; however, 6 of these are either data only, or data is not expected until after this report is published.

- 6 out of 11 measures were on target
- 4 out of 10* measures have improved compared with last quarter
- 5 out of 10* measures have improved compared with the average of the previous 4 quarters.

(* Total number of measures where comparative data is available)

3.2 Service comments

We want to support all our residents, especially young people, to realise their potential through the provision of services and initiatives that will help Medway become a healthier and safer place to live.

3.2.1 OUTCOME : HEALTHY AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

Details of the 2 measures of success for this outcome are included in Appendix 1; however, data for these is not expected until after this report is published.

3.2.2 OUTCOME : RESILIENT FAMILIES

Details of the 7 measures of success for this outcome are included in Appendix 1; however, 2 of these are either data only, or data is not expected until after this report is published

- 3 out of 5 measures were on target
- 1 out of 5 measures have improved compared with last quarter
- 3 out of 5 measures have improved compared with the average of the previous 4 quarters.

Programme: Together we can - Children's Services

The reorganisation of the Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS) has been completed with staff having been reorganised into social work pods in order to support the future transition to a Medway Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in the future.

An interim Head of Partnerships and Projects has been appointed. They have been in place since early June and will be the project manager for the MASH. They will be contacting relevant agencies to set up a Strategic Board and an Operational Board. A "Go Live" in September is proposed, subject to confirmation following an evaluation of the opportunities and challenges. Recruitment to the Referral and Information Officer posts, and the Data Analyst, is in process. The Schools' Social Worker posts will go out to recruitment in the next month and we will be inviting representatives from other agencies to be part of the interview process.

Recruitment and retention remains a challenge in a difficult market. Extensive work has been undertaken to understand and revise our offer, with the aim of reducing Medway's dependency on expensive agency social workers. A clear, challenging and rewarding career development path is also proposed. Latest data, to May 2017, shows that 41% of children's social worker substantive posts are not filled by permanent workers. This is a very similar position to the 40% reported in September.

Performance data shows encouraging results:

Entering care to adoptive family

The average number of days, over the last 12 months, between a child entering care and being placed with an adoptive family is 491. This good performance has meant that the rolling 36 month measure (Council plan indicator A1) has fallen for the last 4 quarters from 629 in June 2016 to 528 in June 2017, ahead of the 605 day target.

Looked after children (LAC)

There has been a small rise in the proportion of LAC per 10,000 population, between March 2017 (61.5) and June 2017 (61.9). This equates to an increase of less than 5 children. The number of LAC is 393, below the target of 426 and as such the rate of LAC per 10,000 population is below the target of 67. Accounting for the IDACI levels of deprivation Medway could expect to have a LAC per 10,000 rate of 78. We are currently performing well below this.

Child protection (CP)

The rate of child protection per 10,000 population has also risen slightly between March and June. This equates to 10 more children having a CP plan. Performance remains well below target (51 vs a target of 65.3). Accounting for the IDACI levels of deprivation, Medway could expect to have a CP per 10,000 rate of 56. We are currently performing well below this.

Foster carers

In the first three months of this year there has been a +2 net growth in the number of in house foster carer households.

Programme: The best start in life

Healthy Child Programme

Health visiting performance has improved significantly since transition in 2015 and the service is engaging and supporting more families across Medway month-on-month as a result. The 2.5 year check has been a particular area for improvement in the past 6 months improving by over 20%.

The School Nursing service is on target to meet 90% coverage of the National Child Measurement programme by July, and has seen improving levels of take up of health screens for Reception year (year R). The waiting list of assessments for continence issues has dropped significantly from around 50 to 12 as the service has put additional resource into addressing this issue.

Positive discussions are underway to integrate health representation in the new Medway Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

An integrated model of 0—19 Child Health Services (including Public Health and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) services) was approved by Cabinet and CCG Governing body in Dec 2016 and a consultation with over 300 participants took place in January and February, the results of which will be fed into our proposals. We are currently at the competitive dialogue stage of the commissioning process.

3.2.3 OUTCOME: ALL CHILDREN ACHIEVING THEIR POTENTIAL IN SCHOOLS

Details of the 7 measures of success for this outcome are included in Appendix 1; however, 2 of these are either data only, or data is not expected until after this report is published

- 2 out of 5 measures were on target
- 3 out of 5 measures have improved compared with last quarter
- 2 out of 5 measures have improved compared with the average of the previous 4 quarters.

Programme: Raising aspiration and ambition

Primary phase attainment data

During June and July, schools submit their Early Years, Phonics, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 test results. These are cleaned and validated before provisional results are published during September and October.

Early, pre validation, unpublished results indicate an encouraging picture for Medway. With not all Councils having reported, 74% of Medway children have achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) compared to 71% nationally. The 2015-16 final attainment for this measure was 73.3%.

Similarly for year 1 Phonics screening the pre validated, unpublished Medway result is 82% compared to 81% for the incomplete emerging national picture. Last year's final phonics result for Medway was 81.8%.

At Key stage 1 the key measure is the combined reading, writing and maths measure. Medway achieved an unvalidated and unpublished result of 69.5% against the emerging national result of 63.7% Last year Medway achieved 64.6% in this measure.

In recent years, Medway's Key stage 2 results have been poor. Last year saw Medway climb 25 places in the rankings of all local authorities. 2015-16 was also the first year of a tougher, redesigned, regime. This year Medway has shown encouraging progress, with 58% of children working at or above the required standard. Nationally this figure is 61%. Although behind the national result, it is important to note that Medway's year on year proportional rise is greater than the national increase, indicating Medway is making faster progress than national and closing the gap.

It is very important to remember that these results are provisional and both Medway's and the national results are likely to change.

Ofsted Inspections

Across all schools, with current inspections, 83.3% have an Ofsted rating of good or better. This represents 79 schools. Of these, 15 are outstanding (4 secondary, 7 primary, 3 special and 1 PRU) and 64 are good (10 Secondary, 52 Primary 1 special and 1 PRU). One secondary school has moved from good to requires improvement this quarter. The primary estate has seen one school move from requires improvement to good in the quarter. 82% of inspected primary academies are good or better (3 outstanding and 24 good) compared to 84% of Local Authority (LA) maintained primary schools (4 outstanding and 28 good).

Exclusions

Permanent exclusion rates remain high. During Quarter 1, 8 students were permanently excluded. This equates to 0.018%. There are a further 8 students awaiting the outcome of appeals against exclusions, which could raise the exclusion rate to 0.036%. In the 2015-16 academic year, 81 students were permanently excluded. This is 0.18%, an increase on the 2014-15 year of 0.04 percentage points, or 20 pupils. Of those 81 exclusions 96% were in secondary schools and 88% were from academies.

Amongst other actions the following have been implemented:

- Inclusions have strategically moved to Early Help and Targeted Services to ensure we are able to respond to the needs of the young people and family. This supports the area based model in Children's Services and will be strengthened further as we move to Children and family hubs.
- The Head of Service now has a development group with head teachers, where they are looking to reduce inclusions and improve attendance. This work is linked to the Section 11 audit undertaken by the Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB).
- The Head of Service is also meeting with the Inclusions Group to look at options to reduce exclusions. So far the group has identified the need for a strengthened response to emotional health and well being. The new contract with North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT) will have a positive impact on the area.
- The School improvement team are also working with the Regional Schools Commissioner to bid for funding to support inclusivity in 20 primary schools.

Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC)

Currently only one school has met the criteria (two inspections rated at Requires Improvement (RI), to be considered coasting and to be below floor) that leads to an automatic referral to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC).

The Local Authority has regular, informal, discussions with the RSC regarding schools within Medway (both Academies and Maintained) across a wide range of issues, including performance and finance. These discussions enable the LA to support schools and resolve issues before a formal referral becomes necessary. The Schools Update Group meet regularly to discuss known issues and pool intelligence. This group consists of representatives from School Improvement, Inclusion, Attendance, SEND, School governance, Finance, Business and Intelligence, and School organisation.

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

It is important to note that it is not possible to make a comparison of performance over recent years, without adjusting the pre 2017-18 figures. This is because the criteria for this measure have been changed, to bring reporting in line with DfE methodology. In previous years, 16-18 year olds who were NEET were included in the measure (NI 117). In 2017-18, this has now been changed to include just 16-17 year olds. (NI 117(16-17)).

Making this adjustment, we are reporting an overall reduction of 127 NEETS (from 383 to 256) in quarter 1 compared with the same quarter last year. The number of NOT KNOWN has remained relatively stable but has increased slightly by 13 from 266 last year to 279.

4 PRIORITY: MAXIMISING REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.

4.1 Measures of success: summary

Details of the 1 measure of success for this outcome are included in Appendix 1.

- 1 out of 1 measure was on target.

4.2 Service comments.

Skills Board (Development of a 16-19 Strategy (including apprenticeships))

The Cabinet approved the 16-19 Strategy for the period 2016-20 on 7 June 2016. The Strategy brings together a plan to increase participation in learning for 16 and 17 year olds, improve the transition for young people into the labour market and reduce the levels of those not in education, employment and training (NEET) and in 'not known' destinations aged 16-19 years.

The 16-19 Strategy is now embedded into Council policy. Resources across a number of services are being considered and allocated regarding the delivery of key actions within the policy into 2017-18.

An Overview and Scrutiny Task Group on Employment Opportunities for 18 -25 year olds has recently been established and will be drawing on the key messages and five long term goals in the 16-19 Strategy in the formulation of its findings and recommendations later in the year.

In addition to supporting the work of the Task Group, the Council is currently establishing a Medway Skills Board and skills development programme for residents. This Skills Board will comprise Officers' and Members' Boards. During quarter 1 the Board Terms of Reference and agendas have been drafted for consideration. A programme for an annual Skills Summit has been developed for consideration at the first Officers Board Meeting to be held in quarter 2.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Risk management 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, enabling the effective use of resources, and securing the assets of the organisation and its continued financial and organisational well-being.
- 5.2 The purpose of the Council Plan performance monitoring reports during the year is to enable managers and members to manage the risks identified in delivering on the Council's priorities.

6 FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is recommended that Members consider the quarter 1 2017/18 performance against the measures of success used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities.

LEAD OFFICER CONTACT

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Detailed Report Q1 2017/18

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Council Plan 2016/21 (2017/18 update)

<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=18256>