










CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING

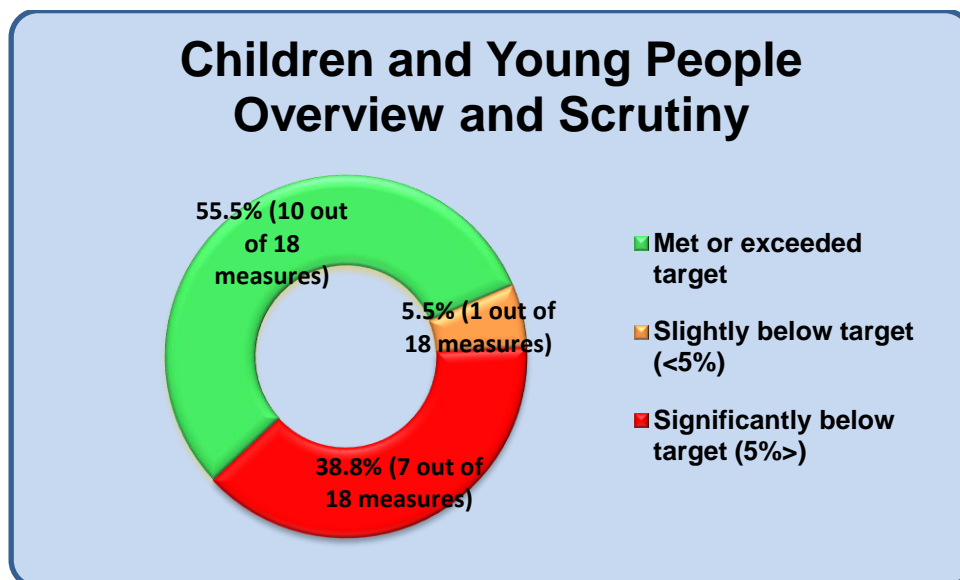
Performance: Quarter 3 2018/19

Key

 Significantly below target (>5%)	 Slightly below target (<5%)	 met or exceeded target	
 improved	 worsened	 static	
 data only, no target	N/A – data not available	Short trend – since last quarter	Long trend – average over last 4 quarters
Benchmarking – compares favourably with national performance or standards	 Yes compares favourably	 No does not compare favourably	= similar performance

Council Plan Measures: Summary Performance

There are 18 measures of success which fall under the remit of this Committee



Improved performance

- 50% (9 out of 18) improved long term (average of previous 4 quarters)
- 50% (9 out of 18) improved short term (since last quarter)

Highlights

- Local Government Association proposal submitted to be local authority trailblazer site.
- Medway League achieved the highest weight loss on record for 15 week season in Man vs Fat Football League
- Medway first digital stop smoking service (online advisor, text service, mobile app)
- Rate of social worker vacancies dropped by a quarter since start of year
- Continued improvement in KS2 performance. Gap between Medway and National results narrowed to 2 percentage points

Measures in target (green)

Code	Status	Name	Long trend	Short trend
NI 101 (E&M)		The percentage of looked after children who achieve the required standard in GCSE English and maths		
A1		The average number of days (over the last 36 months) between a child entering care and moving in with adoptive family		
CSC0004		Number of LAC per 10,000 children		
CSC0006		Number of CP per 10,000 children		
PH16		Smoking at time of delivery		
CA13		The percentage of children permanently excluded from school (upheld only)	-	-
CASEISPEC Ofsted		The percentage of special schools in Medway judged to be good or better		-
SE KS2		The percentage of children who achieve the required standard or above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at KS2		
PH15		Excess weight in 10-11 year olds		
NI 117(16-17)		The percentage of 16-17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)		

Measures slightly below target (amber)

Code	Status	Name	Long trend	Short trend
SEKS4A8		Average attainment 8 score	N/A	

Measures significantly below target (red)

Code	Status	name	Long trend	Short trend
N23		The percentage of children social care substantive posts not filled by permanent social workers		
CASEIKS4 Ofsted		The percentage of secondary sector schools in Medway judged to be good or better		
PH14		Excess weight in 4-5 year olds		
SEKS4P8		Average Progress 8 Score	N/A	
CASEIEYFS Gap		Percentage achievement gap at Early Years Foundation Stage Profile between the lowest attaining 20 % of children and the mean		
SE2 OEPr		The percentage of primary sector schools in Medway judged to be good or better		
EDU3(b)		The percentage of children who were persistently absent from school		




Benchmarking

	Council Plan Measure – Compares favourably with national performance?	Yes ✓ No ✗ Same =
SE KS2	The percentage of children who achieve the required standard or above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at KS2	✓
A1	The average number of days (over the last 36 months) between a child entering care and moving in with adoptive family	✗

Council Plan Outcome: Healthy and active communities

Programme: Improving everyone's health and reducing inequalities

Council Plan Measures: Performance

PH14		Excess weight in 4-5 year olds					Aim to Minimise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
2016/17	22.6%	2017/18	23.4%	21.5%			




Comments, actions and benchmarking

In year R, the percentage of children categorised as being overweight or obese has seen a slight increase from 22.6% in 2016/17 to 23.4% in 2017/18, all of this increase occurring in the overweight category. It should be noted that this change is not statistically significant and Medway is in line with the national average.

Medway provide a wide range of family and childhood weight management services including the 'Tri For You' programme. This 12 week family-centred support package includes cookery skills, activity opportunities and home pack/self-support. In addition the council offers a wide range of indoor and outdoor leisure and green space opportunities. Work between Public Health, planning and other RCET services is underway to create a healthier environment, that allows children to be more active and eat healthier food.

CLr Brake chairs the Supporting Health Weight network, which is a collection of 28 partner organisations from the public, private, voluntary and academic sector partners, that are working together to take a multi-agency approach to reducing obesity across the population.

The figures for the 2018/19 school year will be available in October 2019.

PH15		Excess weight in 10-11 year olds					Aim to Minimise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
2016/17	35.5%	2017/18	34%	34%			

Comments, actions and benchmarking

In year 6, the percentage of children categorised as being overweight or obese has decreased from 35.5% in 2016/17 to 34.0% in 2017/18. It should be noted that this change is not statistically significant and Medway is in line with the national average in relation to overweight and obesity in year 6.

In addition to PH 14 commentary, the Supporting Healthy Weight Network has formed a smaller more strategic group to create some priority actions for the network to progress. These will be championed through the Health and Wellbeing Board and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh.

The figures for the 2018/19 school year will be available in October 2019.

Supporting Healthy Weight

The National Child Measurement Programme data was published in October 2018, showing how Medway's overweight and obesity statistics have changed in the last year. Three out of the four indicators have improved. Obesity and overweight combined figures have reduced in 10-11 year olds (35.5% to 34%) and the rate of obesity has reduced from 20.3% to 20.1%. For 4-5 year olds the obesity figure reduced from 10.3% to 10.1%, however their overweight and obese figure combined increased from 22.6% to 23.4%.




Medway Council have submitted a proposal to the Local Government Association to be a local authority trailblazer site. This scheme will fund three innovative local authorities, to use their existing powers to use new ways to tackle childhood obesity locally. Medway Council's submission focused on applying existing planning powers to restrict hot food takeaways close to schools, whilst supporting all food outlets to add healthy choices to their menus and food offer. Medway Council will find out in February if the bid was successful.

The biggest success for the last quarter was the Man vs Fat football league pilot at Strood Sports Centre. The Medway league achieved the highest weight loss on record for a 15-week season. The 80 Medway players lost almost 700 kilograms combined. With the pilot achieving all of its pre-set Key Performance Indicators the league continues, adding to the list of weight management interventions that already exist in Medway.

Council Plan Outcome: Resilient families




Programme: Together We Can - Children's Services

Council Plan Measures: Performance

NI 101(E&M)		The percentage of looked after children who achieve the required standard in GCSE English and maths					Aim to Maximise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
2014/15	N/A	2015/16	28.6%	25%				

Comments

Due to the small size of the cohort the 2016-17 result was redacted. The result for 2017-18 is expected to be published in March 2019. The latest national result is 7.4%




A1		The average number of days (over the last 36 months) between a child entering care and moving in with adoptive family					Aim to Minimise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q1 2018/19	548	Q2 2018/19	538	605				

Comments

The three year average has decreased marginally to 538. Although higher than Q3 last year 538 days is still well below the 605 day target. It should be noted that there are occasions, such as when a long term private fostering arrangement becomes an adoption, where the positive outcome for a child and family is detrimental to this measure. This was the case in 2017-18, in Medway.

Benchmarking

Publication of the 2017-18 Nationwide statistics shows that Medway is behind the 520 day national level and the 498 Statistical neighbour outturn.

CSC0004		Number of LAC per 10,000 children					Aim to Minimise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2018/19	67	Q3 2018/19	66.7	67.0			

Comments

There are currently 425 looked after children (LAC), which is in line with the Q2 number of 427. Whilst it is normal for numbers to go up and down the downward trend seen between November 2017 and June 2018 has now reversed and there has been a fluctuating upward trend since.




Benchmarking

Nationally there are 73 Looked After Children per 10,000 population, higher than Medway's outturn However Medway has higher rates than out statistical neighbours, whose rate is 54.4 per 10,000/

Actions

The Independent Reviewing Officers are being challenged to provide greater scrutiny, support and challenge to ensure plans for children and young people are effective and avoid drift. The Service Manager is giving increased scrutiny to the quality and progress of Care Plans and Pathway Plans. Independent Reviewing Officers (IRC) are now commenting on the quality of direct work with children and young people as part of their mid-way review. This report is to be developed into a FrameWorki Episode. The quality of mid-way reviews will form part of the quality assurance activities of the Service Manager.

Our Care Leavers receive a range of good support and live in suitable accommodation as they move out of care. Supporting Care Leavers engagement in education, training and employment will continue to be a priority area of focus in the coming academic year. During the next period there is a plan to develop the specification to extend the successful Youth Service scheme of Fostering Mentors to Care Leavers. Further work is needed over the coming period around capacity and agreed areas for delivery.

CSC0006		Number of CP per 10,000 children					Aim to Minimise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2018/19	53.5	Q3 2018/19	58.1	65.3			

Comments

There has been a rise in the rate of children on a child protection (CP) plan. In September there were 341 children, this has increased to 370. In November the numbers peaked at 373. This has meant that Medway's rate per 10,000 now exceeds both the national level (45) and the statistical neighbour level of 55. Despite this Medway remains below target.

It is clear from other statistics that there has been a considerable upturn in the rate of referrals, form 409 per 10,000 to 637 per 10,000 in the last 3 months. The rate of assessment has risen, similarly, form 392 per 10k in

2017-18 to 631 per 10k in the last 3 months. There has been an increase in the rate of section 47 enquiries per 10k from 185 in 2017-18 to 245 in Q3 and also a jump in the number of intimal Child protection Conferences per 10k from 63 to 79 in the last quarter. These factors have combined to drive up the rate of children on a plan.

These changes may be the combined result of economic and demographic factors both nationally and locally, changes to practice and policy within our 'Front door' operation and a natural move towards risk aversion following feedback from the peer review, Ofsted inspection and consultant's input.

Benchmarking




Medway is above the latest (2017-18) statistical neighbour rate, of 55 per 10,000 and ahead of the current (2016-17) national rate of 45. The national rate is also rising.

Actions

The Service and the Quality Assurance team continue to work together to challenge each decision to implement a child protection plan, ensuring that it is the correct support mechanism for the children involved. The length of CP plans is also subject to challenge and scrutiny by both the QA service and Children's safeguarding management.

The number of children with a Child Protection Plan reviewed in timescale remains very high at 99.3 per cent at 31/12/18. There is progress in reducing the duration of child protection plans for 2+ years and with the annual target of 4 per cent of plans lasting 2+ years when closed on course to be achieved in 2018/19.

The Service Manager continues to give increased scrutiny to the quality and progress of all plans. The Support and Challenge Panel reviews all CP Plans that have been open for 15 months or more. To increase the impact of scrutiny it is planned to introduce an internal formal meeting with Area Managers to review all CP plans that are 9 months plus from September.

N23		The percentage of children social care substantive posts not filled by permanent social workers					Aim to Minimise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2018/19	34%	Q3 2018/19	31%	28%			

Comments

The rate of all social work vacancies has dropped from 40% in Q1 to 31% in Q3. This is a direct result of the recruitment and retention work done within the safeguarding service. This has resulted in there being almost a quarter fewer vacancies than at the start of the year.

Benchmarking




Nationally the vacancy rate is 17% and for our statistical neighbours it is 23%

Actions

Recruitment for Children's Safeguarding has been the focus of intensive support. It is expected that 8 permanent social workers, of which 6 are managers, will start in January. This is in addition to the 4, 2 of which are filling management vacancies. The projected vacancy rate in safeguarding, as at November 18, is 23%




Programme: The best start in life

Council Plan Measures: Performance

CASEIEYFS Gap		Percentage achievement gap at Early Years Foundation Stage Profile between the lowest attaining 20 % of children and the mean					Aim to Minimise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
2016/18	28.2%	2018/19	31.8%	29.5%				

Comments

The percentage gap between the lowest attaining 20% of children and the mean has risen to 31.8% This reverses the positive downward trend seen in this measure over the last four years. Medway is now level with the national outturn (31.8%) and worse than the South East outturn of 28.1% nationally there has been a very slight worsening of results, with the percentage gap widening from 31.7% to 31.8% in the last year. However in the South East there has been a 10% widening of the gap, from 25.6% to 28.1% in the last year, compared to a 13% widening of the gap in Medway.

PH16		Smoking at time of delivery (SATOD)					Aim to Minimise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q1 2018/19	15.42%	Q2 2018/19	15.29%	17.5%				

Smoking at time of delivery continued to reduce for the 6th quarter in a row, with Q2 prevalence reported as 15.3%. This is a reduction of 3.7% since Q1 2017/18 and compares to the 0.3% national reduction for the same period. In Medway, there were no women with an unknown smoking status during Q2 2018/19 and shows that all pregnant women have been tested to verify smoker status.

Healthy Child Programme

Health visiting performance continues to improve significantly since changing over to the Local Authority. The service is engaging and supporting more families across Medway month-on-month as a result. Public Health England demonstrated that Medway has had the biggest improvement in coverage since changeover, of any authority in the South East region. Four of the five mandated checks are in line with national averages. We continue to improve coverage (the number of people receiving the service) and the standards of service each year. The 6-8 week check, which focusses on maternal mental health, has reached another new high for Medway, which is at 95% coverage (650 face to face contacts delivered in 3 months). This is now regularly being reported above the South East average.

The 2.5 year check, although still an outlier, has been a particular area for improvement and has increased by over 30% in the past 2 years. But still remains just short (75% in Q2) of the 80% target.

The School Nursing service delivered nearly 95% coverage of the National Child Measurement programme in 2017/18, which is an improvement on the previous academic year. Year 6 pupils have already been screened for the current academic year and the new integrated screening programme (height, weight, hearing and vision) for Year R pupils starts in Jan 2019.




Medway Community Healthcare has recently made further improvements to its integrated Child Health Services model. There is now a single point of access, a new child development team and routine smoking screening for all new mothers.

The Child Health Team continues the strong engagement with schools. 75% of primary schools and 100% of secondary schools are now working with Public Health on the Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) health agenda. A task and finish group has been set up with partners to look at the emerging issue of self-harm. The group has had good engagement and input from Self Harm UK who will be delivering a masterclass on the subject in Jan 2019 for Medway professionals. A research project around the impact of Period Poverty in Medway was undertaken in the autumn of 2018 and findings were presented to the council's Overview and Scrutiny committee. As a result, a number of actions are underway to further improve the local offer for local young people by working with schools, Medway Foodbank and Medway Youth Trust.

Council Plan Outcome: All children achieving their potential in schools

Programme: Raising aspiration and ambition

Council Plan Measures: Performance

CA13		The percentage of children permanently excluded from school (upheld only)					Aim to Minimise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q2 2018/19	0.02%	Q3 2018/19	0.02%	0.02%				

Comments

There has been a focus on reducing the number of permanent exclusions. This is reflected in the ongoing downward trend we continue to see.




For the 2018-19 academic year (September to December) there have been 12 pupils permanently excluded. There remain 16 pupils who await a final outcome. This means that the total number of possible exclusions is 28. In the 2017-18 academic year, between September and December, there were 17 upheld exclusions. Of the 12 upheld exclusions 9 were in secondary schools and 3 in primary schools and two thirds of them for Persistent Disruptive Behaviour. Last year there were 3 exclusions from primary schools in the whole year. The current permanent exclusion percentage is 0.05% which is below the 0.06 target. Nationally the rate of permanent exclusions is 0.1% (2016-17).

Benchmarking

Looking at the national picture, with the lower number of exclusions recorded in Medway for 2017-18 it is reasonable to suggest with this continued level of reduction, our annual rate will be decrease, bringing Medway closer to the current national rate.

Actions

Work to support and challenge schools who begin the exclusion process continues. In 2017-18 88 permanent exclusions were issued with 61% resulting in an upheld outcome. The remaining 39% were either withdrawn or still await a conclusion. In 2016-17 67% of exclusions started resulted in the pupil actually being excluded.




CASEIKS4 Ofsted		The percentage of secondary sector schools in Medway judged to be good or better					Aim to Maximise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2018/19	78%	Q3 2018/19	82.4%	88.2%			

Comments, Benchmarking

Currently 17 secondary schools have inspections. Of these 4 are outstanding and 10 are good. 3 require improvement. This is an increase on Q2, when there were 18 inspections being counted, the re-brokering of the Medway UTC (now Waterfront UTC) has meant that their inadequate inspection is no longer "live". In the South East 87% of secondary school are good or better and nationally 80.3% are good or better. This places Medway in the top 30 LAs nationally.

Actions

The school improvement team continues detailed work to raise standards in the single maintained secondary school. The team continues to work closely with the Regional Schools Commissioner to improve education standards in academies.




CASEISPEC Ofsted		The percentage of special schools in Medway judged to be good or better					Aim to Maximise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q1 2018/19	100%	Q2 2018/19	100%	80%			

Comments

There have been no changes in grading this quarter.

All of the special schools are now graded good or better. 3 are outstanding and 2 good.

This is a very positive outcome.




EDU3(b)		The percentage of children who were persistently absent from school					Aim to Minimise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2017/18	11.4%	Q3 2017/18	11.5%	10%			

Comments

11.5% is the rate published for the Autumn 2017 and Spring 2018 terms. This is a small rise on the 11.4% published result for the 2016-17 full academic year. Nationally the Autumn/Spring level shows an increase to 11.3%, from 10.8%. Although both rates are increasing, meaning more children are persistently absent from school, the gap between Medway and national is closing.

Actions

The service are currently writing a deep dive paper focussing go the underlying causes, comparator activity and possible actions regarding this measure.

SE KS2		The percentage of children who the required standard or above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at KS2				Aim to Maximise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
2017/18	58%	2018/19	63%	61%			

Comments

Final KS2 data has now been published. The percentage of Medway pupils reaching or exceeding the expected standard for the aggregated Reading, Writing and maths measure (RWM) is 63%, better than the 61% target. Nationally the rate is 65%. Medway has narrowed the gap, compared to 2016-17 by half, from 4 percentage points to 2. This continues a trend of improving performance that has seen Medway move from being the 150th ranked LA (out of 150) in the 2014-15 year to 96th in the 2017-18 year.




Benchmarking

Nationally the rate is 65%. Medway has narrowed the gap, compared to 2016-17 by half, from 4 percentage points to 2. This continues a trend of improving performance that has seen Medway move from being the 150th ranked LA (out of 150) in the 2014-15 year to 96th in the 2017-18 year.

Actions

The improvements in reading and writing within the maintained schools, has been helped by a multi layered targeted intervention two years ago by the Council's School Improvement Team, when the current cohort were in Year 5.

The success of these strategies has now positioned maths as the key subject priority for improvement.

SE2 OEP _r		The percentage of primary sector schools in Medway judged to be good or better				Aim to Maximise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2018/19	86.0%	Q3 2018/19	84.0%	90.0%			

Comments

The number of inspected schools has risen from 71 to 74. Currently and compared to last quarter there are 8 outstanding schools (no change) 54 Good schools (+1) 10 Schools requiring improvement (+3) and 2 inadequate (-1).

Benchmarking



This means our overall percentage of Good or better schools has dropped to 84%. In the South East 91% are graded good or better and nationally this figure is 89%

Currently 93% of LA maintained primary schools are good or better and 77% of primary academies are good or better. Both inadequate schools are academies.

Actions

The School Improvement Service remains committed and engaged with our Primary schools to raise standards through a detailed programme of support and challenge to all levels of leadership within our schools.

The ongoing process of acadamisation has a potential subsequent impact on the currency of inspections, which may change the cohort and result without there being new inspection results.

SEKS4A8		Average attainment 8 score					Aim to Maximise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
2016/17	45.5%	2017/18 academic yr	45.8%	46.1		N/A	



Comments and benchmarking

Provisional data was published on the 16/10/18 and relates to the 2017-18 academic year.

Average attainment 8 scores have risen in Medway, the South East and nationally. In Medway the rate of improvement is 0.7%, behind the 0.9% rise and the South East and the 1% national rise. This means the gap between Medway and national has widened, compared to last year. Medway's Selective schools remain considerably above the national out turn, but have dropped compared to last year. Medway's non selective schools remain static compared to last year's results.

The school improvement team continues detailed work to raise standards in the single maintained secondary school. The team continues to work closely with the Regional Schools Commissioner to improve education standards in academies.

Finalised data will be published on 24/1/19

SEKS4P8		Average Progress 8 Score					Aim to Maximise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
2016/17	0.03	2017/18 academic yr	0.02	0.03		N/A	

Comments and benchmarking

Prior to the finalised release of data by the Department for Education there has been a slight revision of the progress 8 scores. Medway is at 0.02. A positive progress 8 score indicates that children have made better progress than expected between KS2 and 4, compared to the progress of pupils, nationally, who were at the same point at the end of KS2. The National progress 8 score has also been upgraded, moving to -0.02. This means that the gap between Medway and National is 0.04, this is less than the 0.05 gap achieved in the 2016-17 academic year. However, Medway remains ahead of national and ahead of the South East, where the progress 8 score was 0.01.

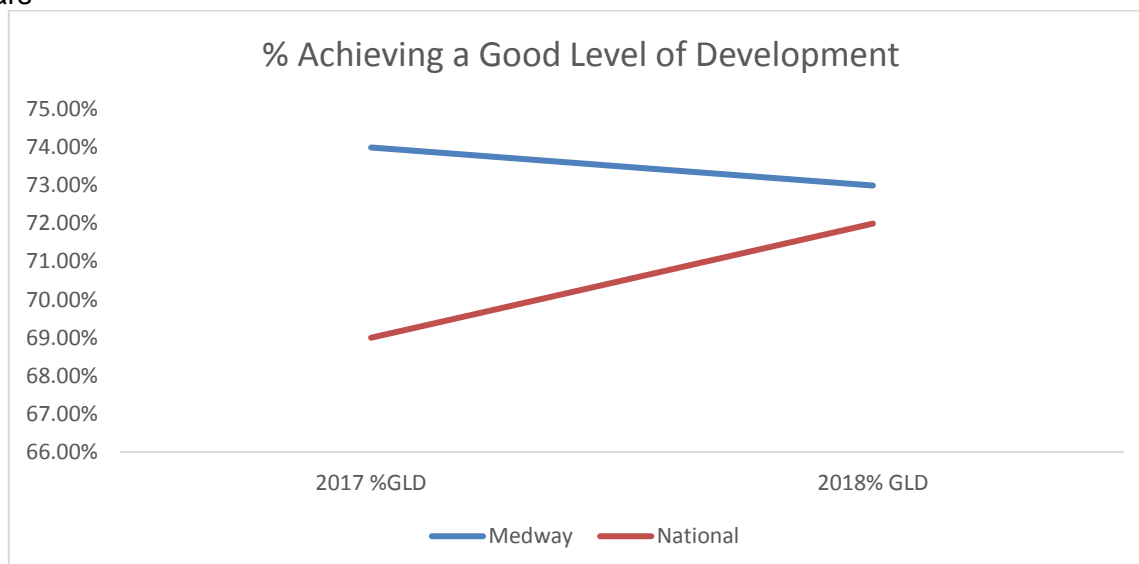
The school improvement team continues detailed work to raise standards in the single maintained secondary school. The team continues to work closely with the Regional Schools Commissioner to improve education standards in academies.

Finalised data will be published on 24/1/19

Attainment

Primary and Early Years provisional attainment data is now available. This is still subject to change.

Early years



*%GLD: percentage achieving a good level of development. YOY movement is calculated as a proportional percentage change of last years attainment.

The percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development (GLD) has deteriorated -1.4% (1pp), compared to 74% in 2017-18. It is now 73%.

Year 1 Phonics

Benchmarking

Medway	National
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2018 %WA: 82% •2017 %WA: 82% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2018 %WA: 83% •2017 %WA: 81%

*%WA: percentage working at or above the expected level

For the last two years, Medway has performed above national performance in phonics. This year, the national performance has improved and just over taken Medway's steady phonic performance.

KS1

Benchmarking

For the last two years, Medway's KS1 has performed, and continues to perform above national performance, but, the national rate of improvement is faster and the lead that Medway has over national is closing.

	Achieving expected standard					
	% 2018	Rank 2018	Rank movement	National level	Difference to national 2018 % (pp)	National gap movement
Reading	78%	28 th	-9	75%	+4% (3pp)	-1

Writing	72%	41 st	-28	70%	+3% (2pp)	-4
Mathematics	78%	32 nd	-17	76%	+3% (2pp)	-2

Year 1 Phonics

Benchmarking

Medway	National
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2018 %WA: 82% •2017 %WA: 82% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2018 %WA: 83% •2017 %WA: 81%

*%WA: percentage working at or above the expected level

For the last two years, Medway has performed above national performance in phonics. This year, the national performance has improved and just over taken Medway's steady phonic performance.

KS2

At Key stage 2 63% of Medway pupils achieved the expected standard in the aggregated Reading Writing and Mathematics measure. Whilst this lower than the national result Medway has continued to narrow the gap, which has reduced by 40% since 2016.




	2016	2017	2018
Overall South East Performance	55	63	66
ENGLAND	54	62	65
Medway	49	58	63

This has meant that Medway has continued to make positive progress in the rankings of all LAs performance, and now stands at number 96, having been 150th in 2015.



Council Priority: Maximising regeneration and economic growth




Measures in target (green)

NI 117(16-17)		The percentage of 16-17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)		
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Council Plan Outcome: Resident with jobs and skills

Programme: Jobs, Skill and Employability

Council Plan Measures: Performance

NI 117(16-17)		The percentage of 16-17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)					Aim to Minimise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
		Q3 2018/19	2.50%	6.00%			
Q2 2018/19	1.10%						

Comments

The latest published figures are to November 2018. Currently 2.5% of the 16-17 year old cohort are NEET. This is 162 individuals. Due to the cyclical nature of this measure comparisons are made to the position 12 months ago rather than from quarter to quarter. In November 2017 there were 123 (1.9%) individuals classed as Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET). Nationally the November 2018 rate is 2.4% and for the South East it is 2.1%. Medway's increased level of NEET compared to November 17 is in contrast to the National trend year on year trend but in line with the rise seen in the South East, when November 2017 is compared to November 2018. Currently the activity of 478 young people is unknown. This represents 7.5% of the cohort. This is higher than the national rate of 5.9% but similar to the South East rate of 7.1%. In November 2017 there were 1571 individuals whose activity was not known. This represented 24% of the cohort. Significant and successful work has been completed by the Information Advice and Guidance team in reducing the numbers of Not Knowns. This work has meant that Medway is now ranked 116th out of 152 local authorities for the combined NEET and Not Known percentage (10.1%). In November 2017 Medway was ranked 148th, with a combined NEET and Not Known percentage of 25.9% Medway has now moved from the 5th (bottom) quintile into the 4th quintile.

Currently there are 7 looked after children (LAC) 16&17 year olds who are NEET and less than 5 whose status is Not Known. This is comparable to November 2017. There are less than 5 young people known to the Youth Offending team (YOT) who are NEET this is better than last November when there were 7 NEET young people known to YOT. At the end of November 2018 there were 17 young people aged 16 or 17 with an Education Health and care Plan (EHCP) who were NEET. This is an increase on the 12 in November 2017.

Action

Work to reduce the level of young people whose activity is unknown continues. The information Advice and Guidance (IAG) team are actively engaged with local schools and colleges to share information. Significant work is being done to ensure the cleanliness of the database, which supports efficient work. The IAG team are working closely with the key vulnerable groups. The levels of LAC and special educational needs (SEN) NEET are comparable to the same time last year and no young people known to YOT are currently NEET.

Project - A Skills Plan for Medway will be completed in 2018.

Comments

This plan will incorporate the objectives of the 16 – 18 Youth Strategy, alongside interests such as apprenticeships, degree apprenticeship and internships to support lifelong learning.

The Medway Skills Board was established in 2017 to prioritise skills development in target sectors and to ensure that all residents benefit from growth. The Skills Board (Members and Officers' Boards) is responding to national, regional and local policy in its work to establish Medway's five skills priorities. Working with the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), Skills Advisory Group and the Kent and Medway Skills Commission, the Board is ensuring that Medway's skills priorities are embedded in wider policy development. The four skills priorities focus effort on 1) Matching Business Demand and Skills Supply, 2) Developing Medway's Talent Pool, 3) Eliminating Barriers to Employment and 4) Transforming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) to EETs.

Action

During Q3 the plan was substantially reshaped, with several new sections added and some removed. The plan is designed to tell a story of the current local and national skills picture, and Medway's response. The final draft of the Skills Plan was approved by Members in November. The plan will be launched at the Skills Summit in March 2019.