







CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING

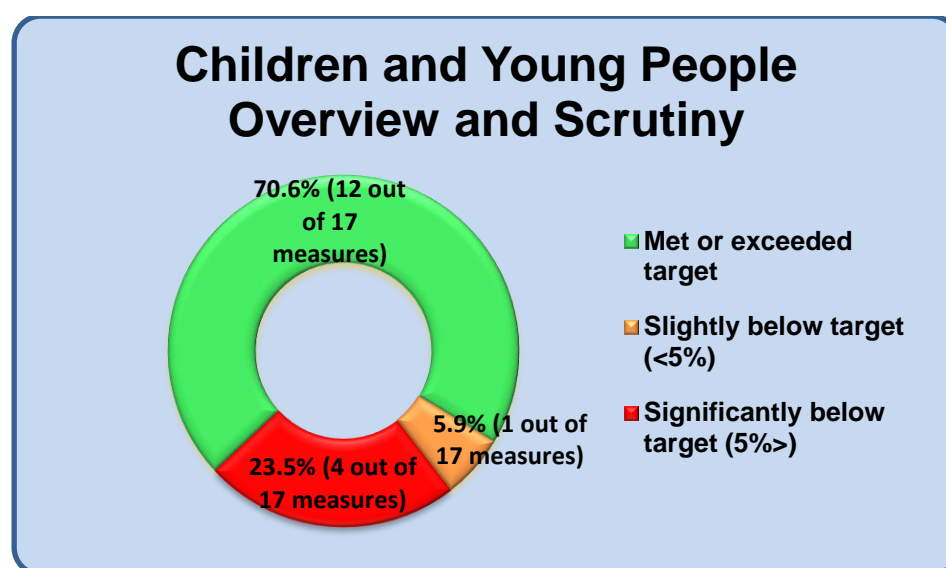
Performance: Quarter 4 & End of Year 2018/19

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. We are reporting on 17 measures as one measure is not available this quarter.



Improved performance

- 66.6% (10 out of 15*) improved long term (average of previous 4 quarters)
- 66.6% (10 out of 15*) improved short term (since last quarter)

*where data available

Highlights

- Vacancy rate for all children's social worker roles is 28%. This is the lowest it has been since 2013. (Jan 2019)
- Rate of smoking at time of delivery has reduced for the 6th consecutive quarter, from 19% in Q1 2017/18 to 14.9% in Q3 2018/19
- All special schools are now graded good or better. 3 are outstanding and 2 good.

Measures in target (green)

Code	Status	Name	Long trend	Short trend
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		
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		
SEKS4P8		Average Progress 8 Score	N/A	N/A
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	N/A

Measures significantly below target (red)

Code	Status	name	Long trend	Short trend
EDU3(b)		The percentage of children who were persistently absent from school		
CASEIEYFS Gap		Percentage achievement gap at Early Years Foundation Stage Profile between the lowest attaining 20 % of children and the mean		
PH14		Excess weight in 4-5 year olds		
SE2 OEPr		The percentage of primary sector schools in Medway judged to be good or better		

Measures not available this quarter

Code	Status	Name	Long trend	Short trend
NI 101 (E&M)	N/A	The percentage of looked after children who achieve the required standard in GCSE English and maths	N/A	N/A

Benchmarking




	Council Plan Measure – Compares favourably with national performance?	Yes ✓ No ✗ Same =
CASEIKS4 Ofsted	The percentage of secondary sector schools in Medway judged to be good or better	✓




Council Priority: Supporting Medway's people to realise their potential

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	
Annual							
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
2016/17	22.6%	2017/18	23.4%	21.5%			
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Councillor Brake, the portfolio holder for Adults' Services, 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.</p> <p>The figures for the 2018/19 school year will be available in October 2019.</p>							

PH15		Excess weight in 10-11 year olds				Aim to Minimise	
Annual							
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
2016/17	35.5%	2017/18	34%	34%			
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The figures for the 2018/19 school year will be available in October 2019.</p>							

Supporting Healthy Weight

Tackling childhood obesity is a strategic priority for Medway Council. Achieving this aspiration requires a wide range of partnership working. This includes coordinating networks such as the Infant Feeding Strategy Group.

The group includes Medway NHS Foundation Trust, Medway Community Healthcare Community Interest Company, Medway Council and NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group. The group produced a strategy in 2018 stating an ambition to increase breastfeeding initiation rates by 1% every year for the next five years. Data for 2018/19 shows that this was achieved in the first year of the strategy, rising from 69.2% to 71.3%.

Evidence shows that improving breastfeeding rates has a significant impact on the health of infants and a positive impact on future childhood obesity rates. This increased rate was achieved by a number of actions including the recent launch of a Grow My Brain campaign, co-designed by the infant feeding strategy group members. The Grow my Brain Campaign aims to raise awareness of the importance of bonding with babies in the womb, and the first days and years of a child's life.

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			
Quarterly								Annual			
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend		Value	Target	Status
Q3 2018/19	N/A	Q4 2018/19	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2018/19	N/A	N/A	N/A

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			
Quarterly								Annual			
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend		Value	Target	Status
Q3 2018/19	539	Q4 2018/19	537	605				2018/19	537	605	

Comments

The 3 year average has reduced for the fourth quarter in a row and now stands at 537 days. This is below the 605 day target but above the 527 days of 2017-18. 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.

Benchmarking

Publication of the 2017-18 National 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			
Quarterly								Annual			
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend		Value	Target	Status
Q3 2018/19	66.7	Q4 2018/19	67.0	67.0				2018/19	67.0	67.0	

Comments

At the end of the year there were 427 Looked After Children. This equates to a rate of 67 per 10,000 population. Whilst this is fractionally higher than at the end of December and September it is in line with the target. The trend throughout the year is upward. At the end of the year with just under 4% more children in care than at the start.

The increase in the rate of referrals reported in Q3 has continued into Q4. Over the year there has been a 133% increase, from 365 per 10,000 population in April 2018 to 852 per 10,000 in March 2019. 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. This has translated into an increase of 24% in the numbers of children being assessed as being in need. This increase in work will inevitably lead to greater pressure on the service, increasing the number of children on child protection plans and being taken into care.





Benchmarking

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

Actions

The Independent Reviewing Officers are increasing the IRO footprint and are providing greater scrutiny, support and challenge to ensure plans for children and young people are effective and avoid drift. The Service Manager ensures that there is sufficient scrutiny of the quality of the IRO footprint and ensures there is progress of Care Plans and Pathway Plans. IROs 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 FWI Episode. The quality of mid-way reviews will form part of the QA 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			
Quarterly							Annual				
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend		Value	Target	Status
Q3 2018/19	57.9	Q4 2018/19	56.0	65.3				2018/19	56.0	65.3	

Comments

The rate and numbers of children on a child protection plan has dropped between Q3 and Q4. It currently stands at 56 per 10,000 which equates to 357 children. Over the last 12 months the rate

of CP plans has fluctuated, being as low as 54.5 per 10,000 and as high as 58.6. Whilst the increased rate of referrals and the subsequent rise in the number of children being assessed as being in need have impacted on the CP work load, there has been positive work by the service on managing the amount of time a CP plan is open. This has resulted in the rate of plans open longer than 18 months more than halving, from a high of 14.4% in August 2018 to 6.7% in March 2019. This improved throughput will have worked to reduce the overall rate of children on a plan.

Benchmarking

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





Actions

Work is being undertaken to ensure that there is increased participation of health partners in strategy meetings and increased availability of police to ensure that timely and full information is provided to facilitate the comprehensive consideration of risks to children. Attention is also being paid to improving the quality of assessments which will ensure that children access the right services at the earliest point possible reducing the likelihood of an escalation in need.

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 and monthly Performance and Quality Assurance.

The number of children with a Child Protection Plan reviewed in timescale remains very high at 99 per cent at 31/03/19. There is progress in reducing the duration of child protection plans for 2+ years

The Service Manager continues to give increased scrutiny to the quality and progress of all plans. The CP planning surgery function reviews all CP Plans that have been open for 15 months or more. This is a formal meeting between CP conferencing manager and Area manager where the need for continuation of the CP plan is rigorously scrutinised to ensure that the right level of planning is implemented.

N23		The percentage of children social care substantive posts not filled by permanent social workers						Aim to Minimise			
Quarterly							Annual				
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend		Value	Target	Status
Q3 2018/19	31%	Q4 2018/19	28%	28%				2018/19	28%	28%	

Comments

As of January 2019 the vacancy rate for all children's social worker roles is 28%. This is the lowest it has been since 2013.

Benchmarking




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

Actions

Successful recruitment activity is expected to reduce these rates to an overall rate of vacancies in Children's safeguarding to 25% by May. Recruitment activity has included an Open Morning at Broadside, where almost half of the attendees were interviewed and offered posts on the day; The service had a stand at the Compass event in Birmingham which put many newly qualified workers in contact with the Service and greater use is being made of social media via marketing videos and Google AdWords.

Programme: The best start in life

Council Plan Measures: Performance




CASEIYFS Gap	Percentage achievement gap at Early Years Foundation Stage Profile between the lowest attaining 20 % of children and the mean				Aim to Minimise		
Annual							
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
2017/18	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.

- We plan to put a proposed joint package of support in place for providers requiring support following an inadequate Ofsted inspection and we are also jointly working together to deliver briefing sessions to all Early Years Providers.
- The introduction in 2013 of the 2 year funded childcare for the most disadvantaged children was to give these children a better start in preparing them for school readiness both with personal self-care skills and being academically school ready. The Early Years Sufficiency team that formed in January 2018 have worked very hard to engage parents in using their entitlements for funded early years childcare and education and this has resulted in the Summer Term having 855 children in Medway receiving a 2 year funded childcare place and this has risen to 896 for the autumn term 2018.
- The introduction of the Government funded 30 hours of childcare in Sept 2017 for 3 & 4 year olds meeting eligibility also has a strong focus of children being ready for school. The Programme Lead for Early Years Sufficiency secured a DFE bid of £72,000 in 2018 to support the uptake and engagement of parents using the 30 hours funded childcare and to encourage more providers to offer the 30 hours places and in particular childminders. As a result of this, in Medway we currently have 135 Private/Voluntary and Independent settings (PVI) delivering the 30 hours and 107 Childminders. The number of children taking a 30 hour place has almost doubled between autumn 2017 and the summer term of 2018 with over 1500 children taking a place in the summer term. The Programme Lead

has ensured the team now has an Outreach Officer to give sustained support to both providers and parents in engaging with Government Funded childcare and education.

PH16		Smoking at time of delivery						Aim to Minimise			
Quarterly						Annual					
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend		Value	Target	Status
Q2 2018/19	15.29%	Q3 2018/19	14.94%	17.5%				2018/19	N/A	N/A	N/A

The rate of smoking at time of delivery has reduced for the 6th consecutive quarter, from 19% in Q1 2017/18 to 14.9% in Q3 18-19. A combination of factors is contributing to this, including increased emphasis on CO testing by midwives, together with a focus on meeting the holistic care needs of women who are referred. .

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. There has been a slight dip in the ante-natal visits data, and action plan has been put in place to address this.

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 will be complete by May 2019. New Emotional and Mental Health workers have been embedded within the school aged nursing team. They will be providing two drop in sessions a term to support students with low level mental health and wellbeing issues.

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 trained over 40 professionals from across the system to better support young people. Additional funding has been secured from the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) and a project officer has been appointed to lead on this work. This will involve working with schools to train professionals in supporting young people to access online counselling relating to self-harm. 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			
Quarterly							Annual				
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend		Value	Target	Status
Q3 2018/19	0.03%	Q4 2018/19	0.01%	0.01%				2018/19	0.07%	0.06%	

Comments

For the academic year 2018-19 (September to March) there have been 20 upheld permanent exclusions. This brings the percentage for the academic year to 0.04%. In the same period last year there were 45 upheld exclusions. So far this academic year Medway's exclusion rate is below the 0.06% target and better than the latest published national rate of 0.1%.

Of the 20 exclusions upheld this year. The large majority have been in secondary schools. Half were for persistent disruptive behaviour and 20% were for assault against a pupil. The majority of excluded pupils were boys.

So far this academic year 9 exclusions have been overturned or retracted. Less than half of these were resolved via a managed transfer with the support of educational leaders across the system.

As always there are some cases that are subject to appeals.

For the 2018-19 financial year there have been 33 upheld Permanent exclusions. This equates to 0.07%, which is slightly less than the 0.06% target. Last financial year there were 65 (0.14%) permanent exclusions upheld. If all the exclusions awaiting outcomes are upheld then this financial years total will be 51, which is 0.11%. This would represent an improved performance of 14 exclusions which is a significant 21% reduction on the 17-18 total.

Please note, the annual target of 0.06% is apportioned across each quarter.

Benchmarking

Nationally the rate of permanent exclusions is 0.1% (2016-17).

CASEIKS4 Ofsted		The percentage of secondary sector schools in Medway judged to be good or better						Aim to Maximise			
Quarterly							Annual				
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend		Value	Target	Status
Q3 2018/19	82.4%	Q4 2018/19	88.2%	88.2%				2018/19	88.2%	88.2%	

Comments





Currently 17 of Medway's 18 secondary schools have inspections. Of these 4 are outstanding, 11 are good and 2 require Improvement. This means that 15 are good or better. Since the last quarter 1 school (Robert Napier) has moved from Requires Improvement to Good, raising the overall rate to 88.2%, meaning the target has been met.

Benchmarking

Nationally this figure is 79%





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			
Quarterly							Annual				
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend		Value	Target	Status
Q3 2018/19	100%	Q4 2018/19	100%	80%				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			
Quarterly							Annual				
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend		Value	Target	Status
Q3 2018/19	11.5%	Q4 2018/19	11.1%	10%				2018/19	11.1%	10%	

Comments

The full year 2017-18 Absence statistics have now been published by the Department for education. These relate to activity between September 2017 and July 2018.

Medway has made good progress over the last 3 years. However, the challenging 10% local target has been missed.

Between 2016 and 2018 the rate of Persistent absence has dropped from 11.8% to 11.1% this is a 6% drop. Between 2018 131 fewer children were classed as persistently absent (missing 10% or more of sessions) than in 2016.

Nationally the three year persistent absence trend is worsening, with the rate rising from 10.5% in 2016 to 11.2% in 2018. This is a 7% rise and equates to an extra 36885 children missing more than 10% of school. In Kent persistent absence has risen from 11.3% in 2016 to 11.9% in 2018.

Compared to all Local authorities Medway has risen from 100th to 75th as a result of this strong performance.

The table below disaggregates Persistent absence by school type.

In Medway Primary Persistent Absence has remained level with last year but improved over the last 3 years, compared to a worsening national picture. This has seen Medway rise 10 places in the rankings of LA performance.




There is a stronger picture in Medway secondary Schools, where Persistent Absence has improved by 11% over the last 3 years, compared to the national picture, which has deteriorated by 6%. This encouraging outcome has seen Medway secondary schools rise 36 places in the LA rankings, to 36th.

Persistent Absence is particularly acute in Special schools, where children with long term health conditions may find regular attendance challenging. Whilst the rate has risen, in Medway by 15%, Nationally it has also risen, but by 10%

	Medway					National		
	2016	2017	2018	Rank 2017	Rank 2018	2016	2017	2018
All Persistent Absence	11.8	11.4	11.1	100	75	10.5	10.8	11.2
Persistent Absence Primary	9.9	9.6	9.6	123	113	8.2	8.3	8.7
Persistent Absence Secondary	14.1	13.5	12.6	72	36	13.1	13.5	13.9
Persistent Absence Special	20.8	22.3	23.9	14	24	26.9	28.5	29.6

Actions

An improving picture to date with, moving forward, an increase focus on Primary Schools and working more closely with both maintained and academies to develop stronger links to improve persistent absence. There are particular issues and demands on Special Schools as a consequence of the health needs of the pupils they educate and the fact that data is not split between absences due to a health need. Absence at special schools is a direct consequence of the needs of the pupil and not as a consequence of them not engaging with education.

SE KS2		The percentage of children who the required standard or above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at KS2						Aim to Maximise			
Quarterly							Annual				
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend		Value	Target	Status
Q4 2017/18	58%	Q1 2018/19	63%	61%				2018/19	N/A	N/A	N/A

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		The percentage of primary sector schools in Medway judged to be good or better						Aim to Maximise			
Quarterly							Annual				
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend		Value	Target	Status
Q3 2018/19	84.0%	Q4 2018/19	85.1%	90.0%				2018/19	85.1%	90.0%	

Comments

The number of inspected schools remains at 74. Currently 85.1% of these are graded good or better. 8 (no change from last quarter) are outstanding, 55 (+1) are good, 9 (-1) require improvement and 2 (no change) are inadequate. One school has moved (Lordswood) has moved from Requiring Improvement to Good. Despite this improvement the 90% target has been missed.

Nationally 86.8% of Primary schools are rated good or better. Currently 79.5%, 35 of 44 academies, are graded good or better, compared to 93.3% of LA maintained primary schools (28 out of 30). Both Inadequate schools are academies.

Benchmarking

Nationally 89% of Primary schools are rated good or better.


Currently 79.5%, 35 of 44 academies, are graded good or better, compared to 93.3% of LA maintained primary schools (28 out of 30). Both Inadequate schools are academies.

Actions

The School Improvement team continues to be engaged with maintained primary schools to raise standards through a detailed programme of support and challenge to all levels of leadership with in our schools. The team regularly liaise with the Regional Schools Commissioner's office to review performance of academies and offer support where appropriate.

SEKS4A8	Average attainment 8 score	Aim to Maximise
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Annual

	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
2016/17 academic yr	45.5%	2017/18 academic yr	45.8%	46.1		N/A	N/A

Comments


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. This needs to be seen in the context of a journey of improvement which will continue.

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 educational standards in academies.

SEKS4P8	Average Progress 8 Score	Aim to Maximise
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Annual

	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
2016/17 academic yr	0.03	2017/18 academic yr	0.02	0.03		N/A	N/A

Comments

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 educational standards in academies.

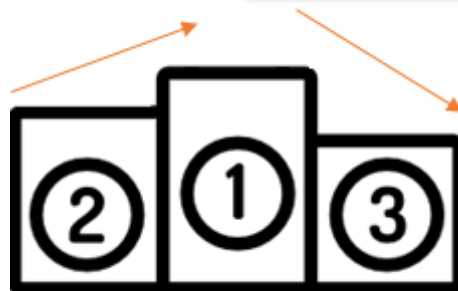
Pupil Absence in Medway, academic year 2017-18 (published 21/3/19)

Medway has shown a 31 place improvement in the LA rankings for overall absence rates for all schools and is now ranked 47th. Showing a significant 32 place improvement for overall absence in secondary schools, now 31st.

Medway has shown a 4 place drop in the LA rankings for overall absence rates in special schools but continues to remain within the top 10% ranked

Medway has maintained its authorised absence and unauthorised absence rates against an increasing national

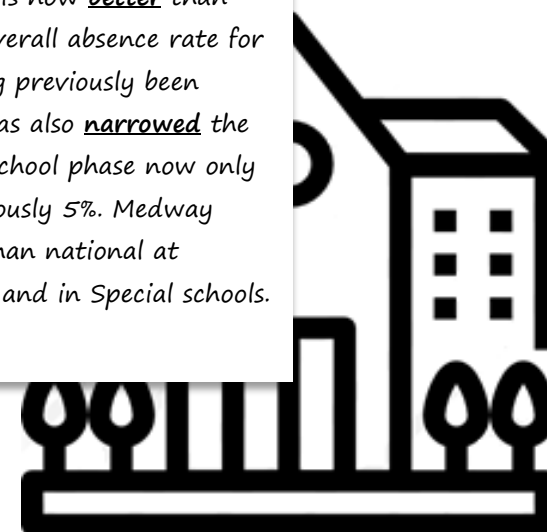
A 25 place improvement for persistent absence in all schools, now 75th. Also showing a 10 place improvement in Authorised absence, now 45th and a 11 place improvement in unauthorised absence, now 84th



Medway absence is now better than national in the overall absence rate for all schools, having previously been inline. Medway has also narrowed the gap at primary school phase now only 2% behind, previously 5%. Medway remains better than national at Secondary phase and in Special schools.



Medway continues to improve its persistent absence rate showing a 3% reduction on the previous year against national's increasing trend, now below national.







Council Priority: Maximising regeneration and economic growth

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			
Quarterly								Annual			
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend		Value	Target	Status
Q3 2018/19	2.50%	Q4 2018/19	2.80%	6.00%				2018/19	2.80%	6.00%	

Comments

The latest published data is up to February 2019. At this point 2.8% of 16-17 year olds were classed as NEET. This equates to 178 young people. Due to the cyclical nature of this measure comparisons are made to the position 12 months ago rather than from quarter to quarter. At the end of February 2018 there were 228 young people classed as NEET, which equated to 3.5% of the cohort. This means that, like for like against last year there has been a 20% reduction on the percentage of 16 and 17 year olds classed as NEET.

The rate of young people for whose activity is not known is 3.8%, this represents 239 young people. This is an 82% reduction on last February when the rate in Medway was 21.3%.

Currently there are 6 LAC 16&17 year olds who are NEET and less than 5 whose status is Not Known. This is very similar to February 2018. There are less than 5 young people known to the Youth Offending team who are NEET again this is comparable to last year. 11 SEND are NEET and 6 are recorded as activity not known. The NEET figure is a small increase on the 11 NEET in February 2018 but the not known number this year (6) is almost a quarter of the 23 in February 2018, reflecting the good work done in this area.

Benchmarking

Nationally the rate of NEETs is 2.7% and the South East rate is 2.5%. Whilst these are better than Medway it is important to note that in February 2018 the National rate was 2.8% and the regional rate 2.3%. This means that Medway has made better progress (a 20% reduction year on year) than National, which has made a 4% reduction and the South East which has worsened by 8%.

Medway's rate of 16-17 year olds whose activity is unknown is still higher than the national rate of 2.2% and the South East rate of 2.5%

Actions

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 and progress has been seen in relation to the SEN group.

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

The plan was approved by Cabinet on 5 March 2019 and will be published imminently.