










Council Priority: PEOPLE

Supporting Medway's people to realise their potential

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING

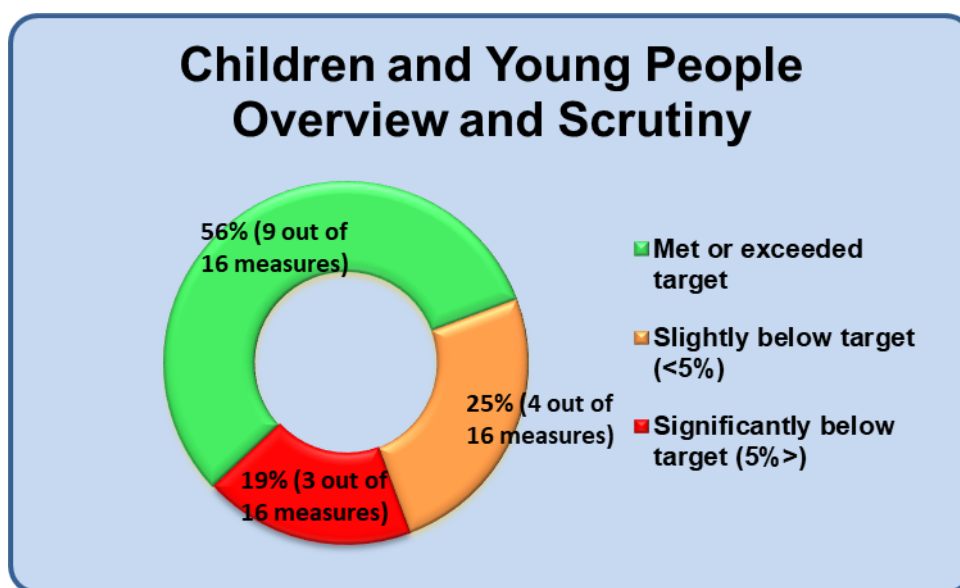
Performance: Quarter 4 2019/20

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 Council Plan measures for this priority. We are reporting on 16 as data for 2 measures are not available this quarter.









Improved performance

- 56% (9 out of 16*) improved long term (average of previous 4 quarters)
- 43% (6 out of 14*) improved short term (since last quarter)

• *where data available

Measures in target (green)

| Code | Status | Name | Long trend | Short trend |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|
| PH16 |  | Smoking at time of delivery |  |  |
| CASEIEYFS Gap |  | Percentage achievement gap at Early Years Foundation Stage Profile between the lowest attaining 20 % of children and the mean |  |  |

| Code | Status | Name | Long trend | Short trend |
|---------------------|--------|--|------------|-------------|
| CA13 | | The percentage of children permanently excluded from school (upheld only) | | |
| CASEIKS4 Ofsted | | The percentage of secondary sector schools in Medway judged to be good or better | | |
| CASEISPEC Ofsted | | The percentage of special schools in Medway judged to be good or better | | |
| SEKS4P8 | | Average Progress 8 Score | | N/A |
| SE KS2 | | The percentage of children who achieve the required standard or above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at KS2 | | |
| EDU3(b) | | The percentage of children who were persistently absent from school | | |
| NI 117 | | 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 |
|----------|--------|---|------------|-------------|
| SE2 OEPr | | The percentage of primary sector schools in Medway judged to be good or better | | |
| CSC0004 | | Number of LAC per 10,000 children | | |
| SEKS4A8 | | Average attainment 8 score | | N/A |
| A1 | | The average number of days (over the last 36 months) between a child entering care and moving in with adoptive family | | |

Measures significantly below target (red)

| Code | Status | name | Long trend | Short trend |
|---------|--------|----------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| PH14 | | Excess weight in 4-5 year olds | | |
| PH15 | | Excess weight in 10-11 year olds | | |
| CSC0006 | | Number of CP per 10,000 children | | |

Measures not available this quarter

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|---|-----|-----|
| N23 | N/A | The percentage of children social care substantive posts not filled by permanent social workers | N/A | N/A |
| 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 |

Strategic Risks

During quarter 4 2019/20, in response to COVID19, the Council implemented its Emergency Plan procedure and risks have been managed through this. The Council has established a network of specialist 'Cells' which lead on functional elements of the Council's




recovery including those tasked with co-ordinating the recovery for vulnerable adults through Adult Social Care, Schools and Education and Housing, and those responsible with ensuring the Council's core functions continue to operate 'business as usual' wherever possible including Finance, HR and Customer Contact.

Each 'Cell' lead is responsible for maintaining a risk register detailing the impacts of recovery from COVID19 on their area of responsibility, following the Council's Risk Management Strategy.




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 |
| 2017/18 | 23.4% | 2018/19 | 24% | 21.5% |  |  |  |
| <p>Rates of children classified as "overweight" and "obese" are monitored through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), which is delivered through schools. Children's weight and height are measured in reception class (ages 4-5) and again in year 6 (ages 10-11). For children in reception year, the rates of those with excess weight is 23.9% in Medway for 2018/19 (increasing from 23.4% from the previous year), which is above the England average of 22.6%.</p> <p>Obesity is a complex problem with multiple causes and significant implications for health and beyond. To tackle the increasing issue of obesity in children and adults, national and local action is needed now. With no one single solution available, tackling such an ingrained problem requires a long-term, system-wide approach that makes obesity everybody's business. Medway Council's Public Health Team have developed a whole system approach to tackling obesity, based on Public Health England's recently published whole system obesity guidance.</p> <p>Support from a wide range of sector partners is currently being sourced and commitment from system leaders. Medway Council currently coordinates a wide range of activities that aim to tackle obesity, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive range of family and adult support services for tier 2 and tier 3 weight management, offering free support services for people at varying levels of excess weight. • Healthy eating and cookery programmes for families and children. • Regular promotion of national and local campaigns such as Sugar Smart, Change4Life and Beside You breastfeeding campaign. • A planning guidance note that restricts hot food takeaways within 400m radius of schools. • Providing a wide range of training to professionals and volunteers on subjects like healthy eating and obesity. | | | | | | | |

- Commissioning 0-19 provider to include healthy weight as a priority in health visiting and school nursing contracts.
- Coordination of an annual healthy weight summit that encourages as many public, private, voluntary and academic sector partners to promote this agenda and take their own actions forwards.
- A Better Medway workplace programme, that supports workplaces to create healthy workforces.
- Free swimming for under 16's.
- Multiple sport and physical activity opportunities within schools and in community settings.

| PH15 | | Excess weight in 10-11 year olds | | | | Aim to Minimise | |
|---------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|--------|--|---|---|
| Annual | | | | | | | |
| | Value | | Value | Target | Status | Long Trend | Short Trend |
| 2017/18 | 34% | 2018/19 | 36.2% | 34% |  |  |  |

Rates of children classified as "overweight" and "obese" are monitored through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), which is delivered through schools. Children's weight and height are measured in reception class (ages 4-5) and again in year 6 (ages 10-11). For children in year 6, the rates of those with excess weight is 36.4% in Medway for 2018/19 (increasing from 34% from the previous year), which is above the England average of 34.3%.

Obesity is a complex problem with multiple causes and significant implications for health and beyond. To tackle the increasing issue of obesity in children and adults, national and local action is needed now. With no one single solution available, tackling such an ingrained problem requires a long-term, system-wide approach that makes obesity everybody's business. Medway Council's Public Health Team have developed a whole system approach to tackling obesity, based on Public Health England's recently published whole system obesity guidance.

Support from a wide range of sector partners is currently being sourced and commitment from system leaders. Medway Council currently coordinates a wide range of activities that aim to tackle obesity, including:

- Comprehensive range of family and adult support services for tier 2 and tier 3 weight management, offering free support services for people at varying levels of excess weight.
- Healthy eating and cookery programmes for families and children.
- Regular promotion of national and local campaigns such as Sugar Smart, Change4Life and Beside You breastfeeding campaign.
- A planning guidance note that restricts hot food takeaways within 400m radius of schools.
- Providing a wide range of training to professionals and volunteers on subjects like healthy eating and obesity.
- Commissioning 0-19 provider to include healthy weight as a priority in health visiting and school nursing contracts.
- Coordination of an annual healthy weight summit that encourages as many public, private, voluntary and academic sector partners to promote this agenda and take their own actions forwards.
- A Better Medway workplace programme, that supports workplaces to create healthy workforces.

- Free swimming for under 16's.
- Multiple sport and physical activity opportunities within schools and in community settings.

Supporting Healthy Weight

On 18 February, Medway Health and Wellbeing Board discussed a whole system approach to tackling obesity in Medway. The Board's recommendations were then discussed at Medway Council Cabinet on 3 March 2020. Cabinet agreed that tackling obesity is a core priority area relating to the Council Plan priorities and directly affects all five themes of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

They supported the proposed whole system approach to tackling obesity in Medway, which will include the establishment of a Healthy Weight Core Working Group, a food partnership group and physical activity network. They also agreed to encourage stakeholders and organisations to engage with the Healthy Weight Network.




A new dashboard of current interventions and possible future priorities for the healthy weight network partners is currently being populated, that will help identify the best opportunities for network members to effectively tackle obesity.

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 |
|--|---|---------|-------|--------|--------|------------|-----------------|
| Annual | | | | | | | |
| | Value | | Value | Target | Status | Long Trend | Short Trend |
| 2017/18 | N/A | 2018/19 | N/A | 34% | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Due to the small size of the cohort the 2018/19 result was redacted. The latest national result is 18% (Grades 9-4). | | | | | | | |




| 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 |
| Q3 2019/20 | 545 | Q4 2019/20 | 575 | 558 |  |  |  |

Comments

While Medway may look to be doing as well or better than some LAs we know that we can do better to reduce the time children have to wait to be placed with their adoptive family. This is particularly the case in the time it takes between the granting of a placement order and the child being placed as this is within the control of the service.

Benchmarking

The 18/19 national benchmark is 486 days and the statistical neighbour outturn is 440. Medway is closer in line with the South East benchmark of 529.

| CSC0004 | | Number of LAC per 10,000 children | | | | | Aim to Minimise |
|-------------------|--------------|--|--------------|---------------|---|---|---|
| | Value | | Value | Target | Status | Long Trend | Short Trend |
| Q3 2019/20 | 66 | Q4 2019/20 | 67.2 | 67.0 |  |  |  |

Comments




At the end of March there were 428 looked after children. This equates to 67.2 per 10,000, population. This is above the target. There has been a small increase since December, equating to 7 children. It is normal for the number of looked after children to fluctuate. The average rate over the last 6 months is 66.5 per 10,000 compared to a rate over the last 12 months of 65.9 per 10,000.

Benchmarking

Nationally there are 64 Looked After Children per 10,000 population, with which we are largely in line. Medway has a lower rate than our statistical neighbours, at 73 per 10k. However, the rate in the South East is lower than in Medway, at 51.4 per 10,000 population.

Actions

As with CP plans it is important that the right children are brought into care at the right time and only for as long as they need to be. The work on the more detailed performance scorecard for Children in Care and Care Leavers is in progress and will be used as the basis for a 3 weekly performance clinic that focuses on this group chaired by the AD and Head of Corporate Parenting. This has only been possible since the realignment of the service areas as it is now possible to focus attention specifically on corporate parenting services although the Covid-19 situation has disrupted these plans albeit temporarily.

| CSC0006 | | Number of CP per 10,000 children | | | | | Aim to Minimise |
|-------------------|--------------|---|--------------|---------------|---|---|---|
| | Value | | Value | Target | Status | Long Trend | Short Trend |
| Q3 2019/20 | 66 | Q4 2019/20 | 72 | 65.3 |  |  |  |

Comments

The number of children on a child protection plan has risen over the quarter to 72 per 10,000 population. This equates to 459 children, an increase when compared to the 421 children on a plan at the end of December. At the end of March 2019 there were 355 child protection plans. The extra 104 plans represent a rise 29%. Other local authorities have seen an increase in children subject to child protection plans and becoming looked after following an inadequate Ofsted judgement.

Benchmarking

Medway is above the latest (2017-18) statistical neighbour rate, of 51 per 10,000 and of the current (2017-18) national rate of 44.

Actions

We were hoping to see plans, core groups and visits performance improve as the system settles after the realignment however, we can track a steady decline in home visiting from 21.3.20 due to Covid19. The numbers of children with a CP plan that have been risk assessed as not requiring a face to face visit has been a cause for concern for managers. We are reviewing all these children as a matter of urgency. If risk assessments do prove to be accurate then there has to be a question raised about whether we are making the right decisions at CPCs. The numbers are above national and statistical neighbour averages would suggest we are not getting this right. We will be developing the means by which we can report on virtual visits/contacts over the coming period. Performance in reviewing CP cases in timescales is at 100% this month. Our newly appointed CPC Manager is closely monitoring all children with plans over 18 months to test for drift and is reviewing those children subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time.

| 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 |
| Q3 2019/20 | 21% | Q4 2019/20 | N/A | 25% | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Comments

Data has been requested, but not received, from HR colleagues. As such this measure cannot be updated at present.




Benchmarking

Nationally the vacancy rate is 17% and for our statistical neighbours it is 22%.

Actions

There is ongoing multiplatform recruitment activity. The market continues to be very tough and the decision to increase capacity in both the first response (assessment) service and the area safeguarding teams to support reduced caseloads, has resulted in additional challenge to fill posts with either permanent or agency staff. The focus will continue to be maintained on both recruitment and retention of staff as this is a key indicator of the ability to make sustained service improvement.




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 |
| 2018/19 | 31.8% | 2019/20 | 28.7% | 30% |  |  |  |

Comments

Data is now published for the 18/19 academic year (reported 19/20). Medway has made a 10% improvement (3.1pp) compared to the 17/18 academic year (reported 18/19). This is a strong performance. Medway is now better than national, by 11% (3.7pp) and more importantly Medway has seen an improvement year on year whilst nationally rates have worsened, by 2%. This

means that Medway has now moved from the 2nd quartile into the first quartile (best performing.) nationally.

| PH16 | | Smoking at time of delivery | | | | | Aim to Minimise | |
|------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|---|---|---|--|
| | Value | | Value | Target | Status | Long Trend | Short Trend | |
| Q2 2019/20 | 14.49% | Q3 2019/20 | 14.77% | 17.5% |  |  |  | |

Monthly referrals continue to show an improvement compared to same period in previous year. Both local and national SATOD prevalence saw a marginal increase in Q3. Training is being delivered quarterly to community midwife teams.

Healthy Child Programme

The service has been significantly impacted since the start of March as a result of COVID. Around 1/3 of the children's workforce have been redeployed into adult services as part of the mutual aid programme. NHSE produced guidance around which children's services are being prioritised. We have maintained face to face contact for the New Birth Visits (10-14 days) and are providing remote support for the ante-natal check and the 6-8 week Maternal Mood Assessment. Families who are deemed as vulnerable are still being supported. The service has been collaborating closely with Midwifery, Early Help and Social Care to ensure that volumes of contacts are minimised, the outcomes if contacts are maximised and information is shared in a timely manner. Twice weekly calls between all of these parties are being held and a risk log is in place.

The school nursing team were due to have a new performance framework in place for the 2019/20 academic year. The performance framework will ensure we can monitor the impact of the service. This reporting has been delayed due to the impact of COVID (redeployment and new national guidance on role of school nursing. The team are still covering safeguarding, emotional and mental health and manning duty lines for help and advice.

The Child Health team have been providing daily resource packs and lesson plans to schools over the last 8 weeks to support schools. They have also created online tools such as the family monthly challenge. A two week programme of work for schools around health and well-being has been shared with schools with a very positive response. The team are still working with schools to ensure they are all ready to meet the new national requirements around RSE from September 2020.




The Emerge Self Harm Service was due to launch at Medway Foundation Trust this month but we have changed the format to a phone based referral service for the next few months and there are a number of young people already being supported through this phone line.

The Medway Offer around ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) started in early March with the Screening of the resilience film where around 100 professionals attended the film at Mid Kent College, further workshops have been postponed until later in the summer.

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 | |
| Q3 2019/20 | 0.02% | Q4 2019/20 | 0.01% | 0.02% |  |  |  | |

Comments

In quarter 4 there were less than 3 upheld exclusions. As such numbers are redacted. For the same period last year there were 8 upheld exclusions.

Currently, this academic year there have been 14 upheld exclusions. This is half the number there were for the first 6 months of the 2018-19 academic year and equates to 0.03%.

However, it should be noted that these are 20 exclusions awaiting an outcome. As such there could be between 34 and 14 confirmed exclusions. In 2018-19 54% of all exclusion processes were upheld. So far this year 58% of all completed exclusion processes have been upheld. We may reasonably expect between 10 and 12 of the 20 pending processes to result in an exclusion. Which may indicate that our number for September to March 2019-20 will be between 24 and 26. This indicates a potentially higher level than last year. However, the effects of the Covid 19 School Closure may alter this prediction.




So far, all exclusions have been issued to secondary school pupils, 70% are male, 35% were for persistent disruptive behaviour, 29% for violence against another pupil and almost 60% were from 2 schools.

Of those Children excluded none were Looked after, none had an EHCP and 5 are receiving SEN Support.

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

Benchmarking

Nationally the rate of permanent exclusions is 0.1% (2017-18)

| 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 | |
| Q3 2019/20 | 94.1% | Q4 2019/20 | 94.4% | 80.3% |  |  |  | |

Comments

Of the 18 Secondary schools in Medway 4 are classed as outstanding, 13 are good and 1 is inadequate. This means that 17 of 18 are good or better. The inadequate judgment applies to the Waterfront UTC from its time as Medway UTC.




In the last quarter Walderslade Girls has moved from requiring improvement to Good.

Benchmarking

Nationally this figure is 77 %

Actions

The school effectiveness team continue to support all maintained schools through their inspection process. Discussions with inspectors during the inspection and attendance at the verbal feedback ensure that all key and implicit inspection findings are in line with our expectations, or are clearly understood and recorded. This evidence base forms part of the post-Ofsted inspection plan as appropriate. Outside of the regular inspection cycle there is frequent intelligence sharing with the regional HMI and RSC regarding academies where there may be a developing concern.




| 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 | |
| Q3 2019/20 | 100% | Q4 2019/20 | 100% | 80% |  |  |  | |

Comments

There have been no changes in grading this quarter.

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

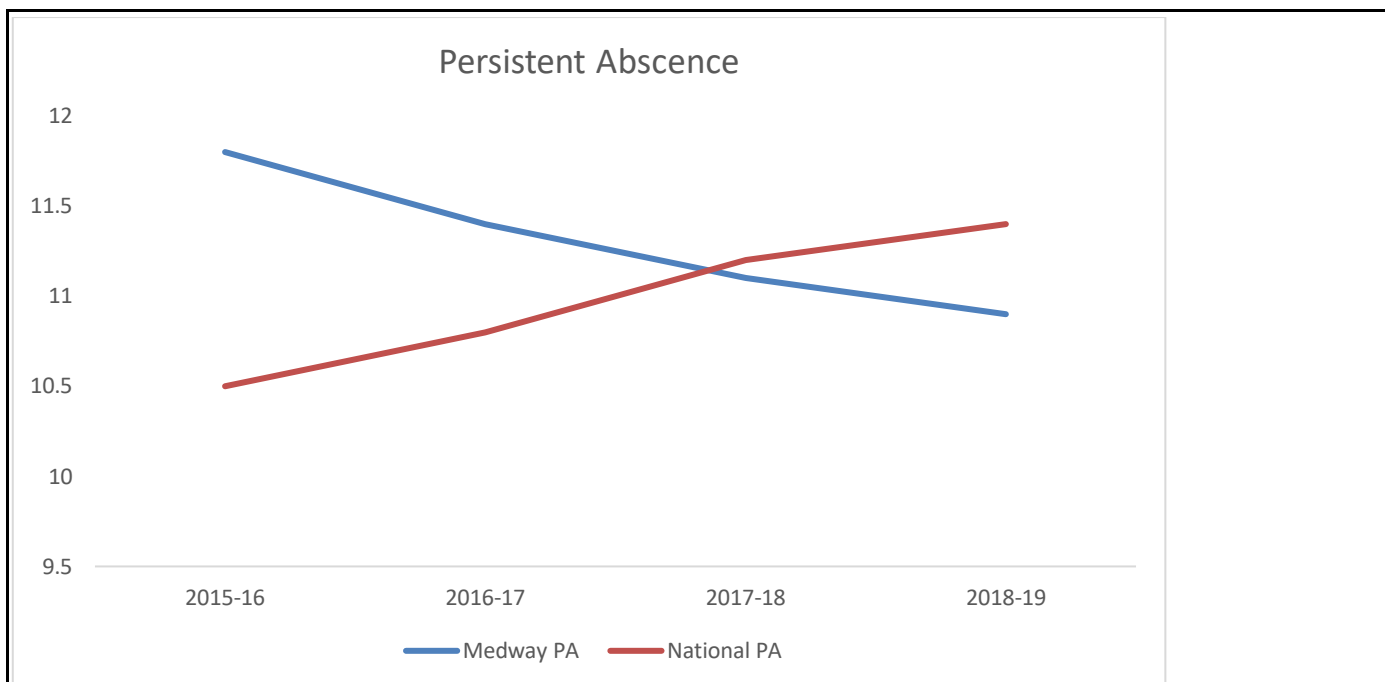
This is a very positive outcome.

| EDU3(b) | | The percentage of children who were persistently absent from school | | | | | Aim to Minimise | |
|---------------------|-------|---|-------|--------|---|---|---|--|
| | Value | | Value | Target | Status | Long Trend | Short Trend | |
| 17/18 Academic year | 11.1% | 18/19 Academic year | 10.9% | 11.4% |  |  |  | |

Comments

Finalised data has now been published for the 18/19 academic year.

The proportion of Medway pupils who have missed more than 10% of sessions in the year has fallen for the fourth year in a row, compared to a rising national trend. As such Medway schools have maintained a better than national rate of persistent absence and risen 22 places in the ranks of LA performance. Compared to 2017-18 performance has improved by 0.2 percentage points (2%).



Benchmarking

Nationally the 17-18 full year rate was 11.2% and this rose, indicating a worsening of performance, to 11.4% nationally.

Actions

The AASSA team continues to be work with the majority of schools and academies to raise attendance and lower persistent absence. The team challenges schools and academies to ensure robust internal procedures are maintained and the appropriate families are identified for support.

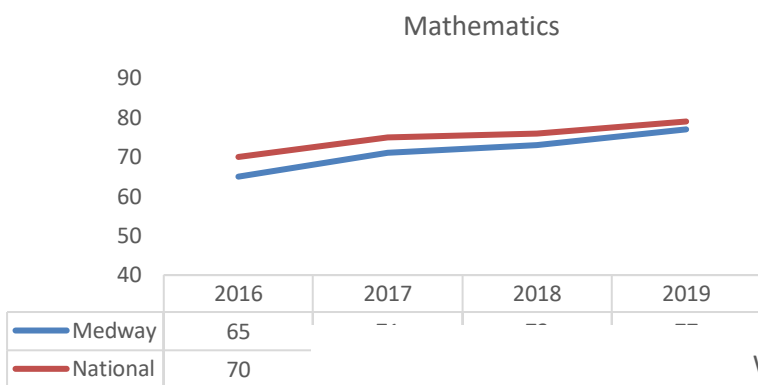
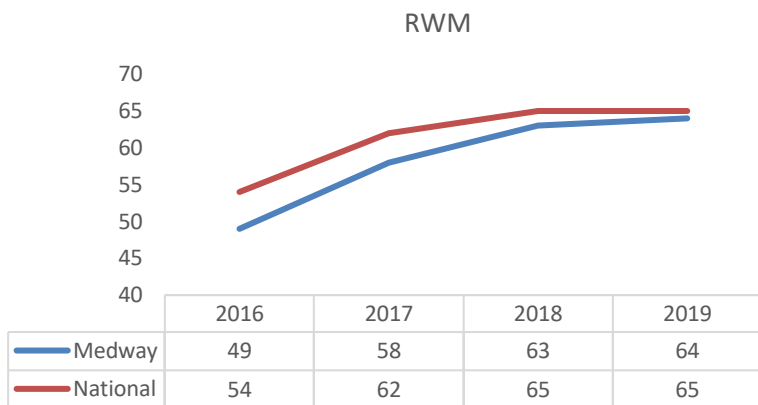
| SE KS2 | | The percentage of children who the required standard or above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at KS2 | | | | Aim to Maximise | |
|----------------|--------------|---|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| | Value | | Value | Target | Status | Long Trend | Short Trend |
| 2018/19 | 63% | 2019/20 | 64% | 64% | | | |

Comments

Final results have now been published for the 18-19 academic year.

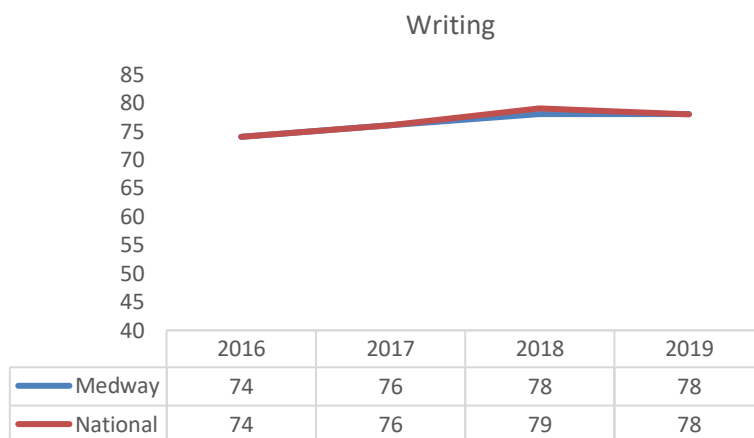
64% of Medway pupils reached the required standard in the aggregated Reading, Writing and Maths measure, 1 percentage point (2%) better than last year. Medway pupils remain behind national but the gap has been halved and is now 1 percentage point.

Over the last 4 years Medway's aggregated KS2 Reading Writing and Mathematics results have risen by 15 percentage points, 31%, in this time the national rate of improvement has been 11 percentage points, 20%.

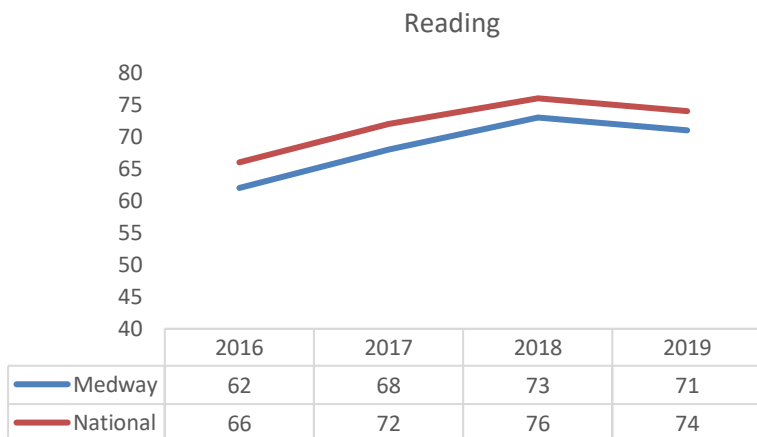


In the disaggregated maths measures Medway pupils have closed the gap to with national, making a better year on year improvement and are now only 2 percentage points behind the national level.

In writing Medway pupils with national having closed

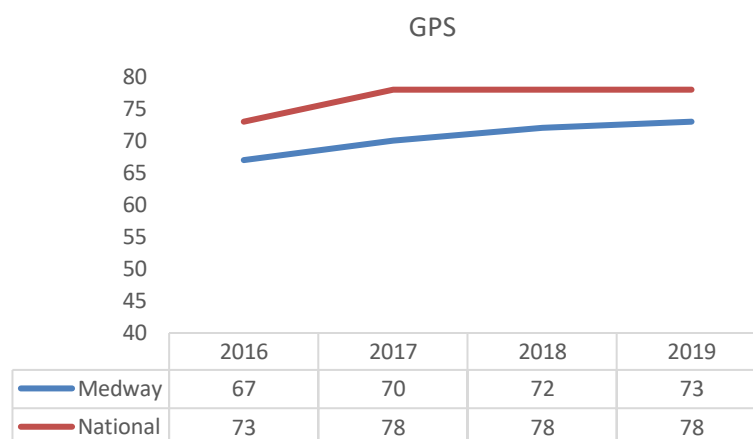


are now level the gap.



For Reading, both Medway and national attainment deteriorated. However national dropped faster than Medway so the gap narrowed

For Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Medway has made a 1 point (1%) improvement. remained static, for the running. This means continues to close the gap



and Spelling percentage National has third year Medway to national.

The school effectiveness team have worked extensively with the primary headteachers' association to highlight where best practice in Medway has yielded above national outcomes for pupils. All primary headteachers know which schools offer at least good provision in the technical aspects of reading. This has enabled teachers to share success and facilitate teacher development in each of the four learning zones.

| SE2 OEP | | 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 |
| Q3 2019/20 | 89.3% | Q4 2019/20 | 89.7% | 90.0% | | | |

Comments

There has been an increase in proportion of good or better schools for the second quarter in a row. 70 out of 78 now fall into this category. 8 are outstanding and 62 are good. There are now only 5 schools requiring improvement and 3 that are inadequate.

Of the 29 LA maintained primary schools 93.1% are graded good or better, with 4 outstanding 23 Good and 2 requiring improvement.

There are 49 academies. Of these 87.8% are good or better (4 Outstanding and 39 Good) 3 require improvement and 3 are inadequate.



Benchmarking

Nationally 87.9 % of Primary schools are rated good or better.

Actions

The school effectiveness team continue to support all maintained schools through their inspection process. Discussions with inspectors during the inspection and attendance at the verbal feedback ensure that all key and implicit inspection findings are in line with our expectations, or are clearly understood and recorded. This evidence base forms part of the post-Ofsted inspection plan as appropriate. Outside of the regular inspection cycle, there is frequent intelligence sharing with the regional Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) and Regional Schools



Commissioner regarding academies where there may be a developing concern and this may be reflected in the termly review of risk.

| SEKS4A8 | | Average attainment 8 score | | | | | Aim to Maximise | |
|---------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|--------|---|---|-----------------|--|
| | Value | | Value | Target | Status | Long Trend | Short Trend | |
| 2017/18 academic yr | 46.0 | 2018/19 academic yr | 46.6 | 46.8 |  |  | N/A | |

Comments

Medway has shown a 1% improvement (0.6 points). Nationally the result has declined by 0.2 points. This means that Medway has narrowed the gap with national and has moved up 14 places in the LA rankings.

Medway student's performance has improved for the third year in a row, having risen 0.9 points, 2%, since 2016/17

| SEKS4P8 | | Average Progress 8 Score | | | | | Aim to Maximise | |
|---------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|--------|--|--|-----------------|--|
| | Value | | Value | Target | Status | Long Trend | Short Trend | |
| 2017/18 academic yr | 0.02 | 2018/19 academic yr | 0.03 | 0.02 |  |  | N/A | |

Comments

Medway has shown a notable improvement compared to a declining national picture. This has widened the performance gap, in Medway's favour and seen Medway rise 5 places in the LA ranking tables.

Actions




The school effectiveness team continues to work with the secondary headteacher's association, by sharing key priorities for improvement and offering to identify where good practice exists in order to encourage professional development through networking and sharing.

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 | |
|---------------|-------|---|-------|--------|---|---|---|
| | Value | | Value | Target | Status | Long Trend | Short Trend |
| Q3 2019/20 | 2.8% | Q4 2019/20 | 3.2% | 5.2% |  |  |  |

Comments

Data is available to February 2020

The rate of NEET 16 and 17 year olds is 3.2%. This represents 199 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.

In February 2019, 2.8% of 16 and 17 year olds, 179 individuals, were NEET. Year on year there has been a 14% deterioration in the number of Young people who are NEET.

The rate of NEET must be looked at in conjunction with the number of 16 and 17 year olds whose activity is not known. Currently this is 7.7% which represents 482 individuals. In February 2019 there were 239 children whose activity was unknown this was 3.8%. As such there has been 100% worsening of this statistic.

Medway's not known figure is significantly higher than the National and South East averages and the figure recorded in the same time period of the preceding year. A number of factors have influenced this including the impact of the recruitment moratorium leading to understaffing during the destination gathering period, the decision not to send "chasing letters" to clients, so as to save money and difficulties with the quality and timeliness of data shared from schools/colleges.

Most importantly, in Medway there is currently a crisis in training provisions. Many of the training providers were funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and since the threat of Brexit have folded. This has led to a reduction in providers from 12 to 2 resulting in a reduction of 140 places that would have previously been available to young people post 16. Nacro and Mid Kent College are now the only options available to young people not continuing at school or going into employment. This has had and will continue to have an impact on the NEET figures moving forward in this academic year.

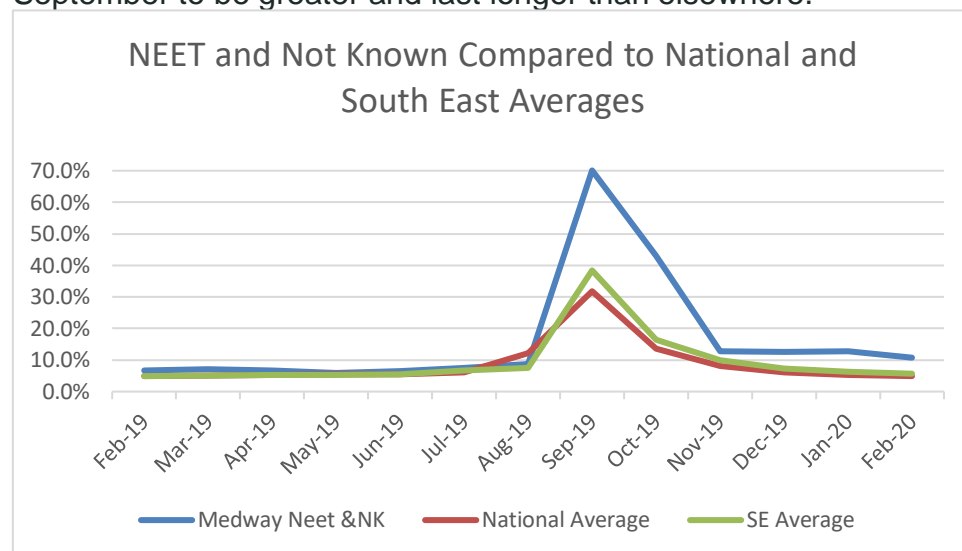
The Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) team have been working to reduce the level of not knows. The February outturn is a 21% reduction on the January result.

Benchmarking

Nationally, in February, 2.7 % of 16 and 17 year olds are NEET. In the South East this is 2.5%

Nationally the unknown activity rate is 2.5% and 3.9% in the South East.

The graph below combines NEET and Not Known figures and shows that although Medway has higher rates than national or our comparators, we follow broadly the same shape. However, the reduced tracking activity, caused by the moratorium, caused the annual spike seen in September to be greater and last longer than elsewhere.



Actions

The work that has driven an improved performance in reducing 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. However, the continued lack of resource within the IAG team and the dramatic collapse of the numbers of training provisions will likely lead to higher numbers of NEET and not knowns in the coming months.