

Council Priority: PEOPLE

Supporting Medway's people to realise their potential

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING

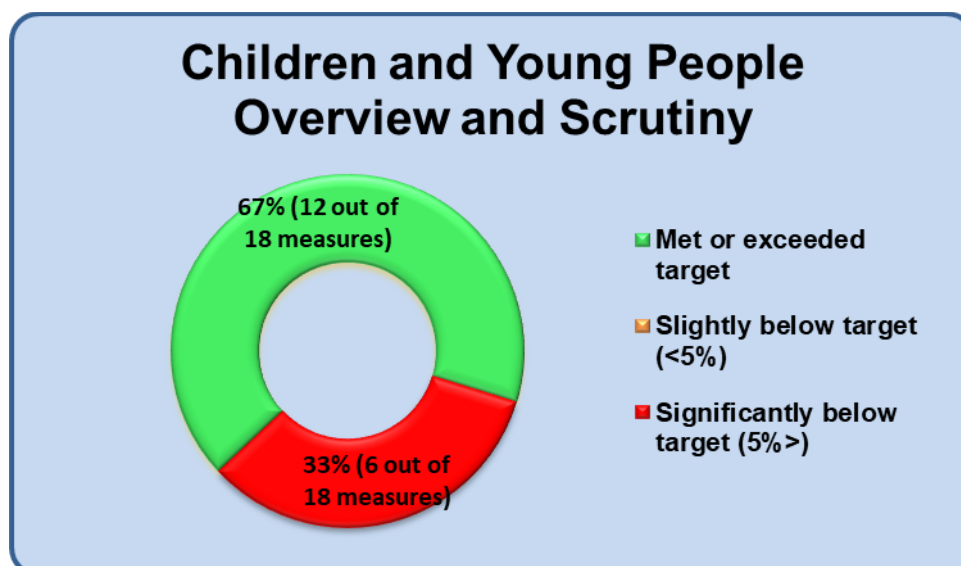
Performance: Quarter 2 2020/21

Key

Red	significantly below target (>5%)	Amber	slightly below target (<5%)	Green	met or exceeded target
Imp	Improved	Det	Worsened	Static	Static

Council Plan measures: summary performance

There are 25 Council Plan measures that fall under the remit of this committee. We are reporting on 18 as data for 7 measures is not available this quarter.



Improved performance

- 61% (11 out of 18*) improved long term (average of previous 4 quarters)
- 50% (9 out of 18*) improved over the short term (since last quarter)

*where data available

Measures in target (green)

Code	Status	Measure	Long Trend	Short Trend
ILAC1	Green	Average Caseloads in Assessment teams	DET	DET
ILAC2	Green	Average Caseloads in Post Assessment teams	IMP	IMP
ILAC3	Green	Completed initial child and family assessments which started as S47, where the child was visited within 1 working day.	IMP	IMP
ILAC5	Green	% of children with long term fostering as a plan, where the child, carer and service have agreed for the placement to last until the child is ready to leave care.	IMP	IMP
ILAC6	Green	Rate of open CIN cases per 10,000	IMP	IMP
CA13	Green	The percentage of children permanently excluded from school (upheld only)	IMP	STATIC
CASEIKS4 Ofsted	Green	The percentage of secondary sector schools in Medway judged to be good or better	IMP	STATIC
CASEISPEC Ofsted	Green	The percentage of special schools in Medway judged to be good or better	STATIC	STATIC
SE2 OEPr	Green	The percentage of primary sector schools in Medway judged to be good or better	IMP	IMP
CASEIEYFS Gap	Green	Percentage achievement gap at Early Years Foundation Stage Profile between the lowest attaining 20 % of children and the mean	IMP	IMP
OfstedPrim Mnt	Green	The percentage of Maintained primary schools in Medway judged to be good or better	IMP	IMP
CSC0006	Green	Number of CP per 10,000 children	IMP	IMP

Measures significantly below target (red)

Code	Status	Name	Long Trend	Short Trend
A1	Red	The average number of days (over the last 36 months) between a child entering care and moving in with adoptive family	IMP	IMP
ILAC4	Red	Completed initial child and family assessments which started as S17,	DET	DET

Code	Status	Name	Long Trend	Short Trend
		where the child was visited within 5 working days.		
EDU3(b)	Red	The percentage of children who were persistently absent from school	DET	STATIC
CSC0004	Red	Number of LAC per 10,000 children	DET	DET
PH16	Red	Smoking at time of delivery	DET	DET
NI 117(16-17)	Red	The percentage of 16-17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	DET	DET

Measures not available this quarter

Code	Status	Name	Long Trend	Short Trend
PH14	NA	Excess weight in 4-5-year olds	NA	NA
PH15	NA	Excess weight in 10-11-year olds	NA	NA
SEKS4A8	NA	Average attainment 8 score	NA	NA
ILAC7	NA	Audit Measure	NA	NA
SE KS2Mnt	NA	The percentage of children who achieve the required standard or above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at KS2 in Maintained Schools Only	NA	NA
SE KS2	NA	The percentage of children who achieve the required standard or above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at KS2	NA	NA
N23	NA	The percentage of children social care substantive posts not filled by permanent social workers	NA	NA

Strategic Risks

The quarter 2 20/21 Strategic Risk Register is attached at Appendix 2. The register shows all strategic risks together with mitigation in place to minimise impact and likelihood. The risks pertaining solely to this council priority are shown below (full details in Appendix 2).

Reference	Risk Register Page (app 2)	Risk	Owner	Current residual risk score	L-likelihood I-impact
SRO9B	4	Keeping vulnerable adolescents safe	Director of People	BII	L - high I - critical

Reference	Risk Register Page (app 2)	Risk	Owner	Current residual risk score	L-likelihood I-impact
SR26	9	Non-delivery of Children's Services Improvement	Director of People	All	L – very high I - critical
SR39	10	Lack of resources to keep young people with SEND safe due to increasing demand and complexity of need pressures	Director of People	BII	L - high I - critical

The following risks pertain to all priorities:

Reference	Risk Register Page (app 2)	Risk	Owner	Current residual risk score	L-likelihood I-impact
SRO3B	13	Finances	Chief Finance Officer	AI	L – very high I - catastrophic
SR46	17	Medway's Economic Recovery from Covid19	Assistant Director Regeneration (Recovery Lead Officer for Medway Council)	BII	L - high I - critical
SR32	22	Data and information	Chief Legal Officer	CII	L - significant I - critical
SR36	25	Alternative service delivery models	Chief Legal Officer, Director of RCET	BIII	L - high I - Marginal

Reference	Risk Register Page (app 2)	Risk	Owner	Current residual risk score	L-likelihood I-impact
SR37	29	Cyber Security	Chief Finance Officer	CI	L - Significant I - Catastrophic
SR02	36	Business continuity and emergency planning	Director of RCET	DII	L - low I - critical

Council Plan Outcome: Healthy and active communities

Programme: Improving everyone's health and reducing inequalities

Council Plan Measures

PH14 Excess weight in 4-5 year olds

Annual	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
2019/20	22.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2018/19	21.5%	24%	Red	Minimise	DET	DET

The data for 2019/20 will be published towards the end of 2020.

PH15 Excess weight in 10-11 year olds

Annual	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
2019/20	34%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2018/19	34%	36.2%	Red	Minimise	DET	DET

The data for 2019/20 will be published towards the end of 2020.

Supporting Healthy Weight

Over the last quarter the Public Health team has started to progress more whole system actions that were approved by Health and Wellbeing Board and Cabinet at the start of the year. July saw the first meeting of the newly formed Medway Food Partnership and plans are underway to host the first Physical Activity Partnership. The intention for these groups is for them to feed into the already established Healthy Weight Network, which is an annual meeting. These more regular subgroups

aim to bring like-minded partners and individuals together to push forward the important physical activity and healthy eating agendas. The third subgroup for Infant Feeding continues to meet and work strategically on issues such as increasing breastfeeding rates.

To support the development of these groups, the Public Health team have recruited a Whole System Obesity Officer. Their role will be to increase the awareness, participation and outputs of the network and subgroups, encouraging more organisations to join and take action on the obesity agenda. Having started at the end of September, the post holder will be tasked with updating the newly developed asset maps, as it is likely that many previous healthy weight activities have been ceased due to COVID-19 and the subsequent social distancing rules.

Council Plan Outcome: Resilient families

Programme: Together We Can - Children's Services Council Plan Measures

A1 The average number of days (over the last 36 months) between a child entering care and moving in with adoptive family

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	450	507	Red	Minimise	IMP	IMP
Q1 2020/21	450	511	Red	Minimise	IMP	IMP

Comments

The 3-year average has dropped to 507 days.

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.

Actions

There are two parts to this figure – the time taken from entering care to PO and the time from PO to match. The 3-year average for PO to match is 188 days, below the national average of 201 days. However, these figures can be further improved through the formation of the RAA with Bexley and Kent and will lead to immediate access to a wider pool of adopters, to further improve timescales.

The 1 year rolling average from entering care to making of a PO has shown a steady improvement for completed adoptions and has reduced to 257. However, this figure will be adversely affected by the pandemic as cases come through because of the impact on court timescales.

CSC0004 Number of LAC per 10,000 children

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	70.0%	73.5%	Red	Minimise	DET	DET
Q1 2020/21	70.0%	70.6%	Amber	Minimise	DET	DET

Comments

At the end of September there were 467 looked after children. This equates to 73.5 per 10,000, population and is above the target. There has been an increase, equating to 17 children. This may be a result of the national measures re Covid19 forcing a reduction in the numbers of children leaving care. A pattern mirrored nationally.

Benchmarking

Nationally there are 65 Looked After Children per 10,000 population, Medway has a lower rate than our statistical neighbours, at 74 per 10k. However, the rate in the South East is lower than in Medway, at 53 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. There is now a more detailed children in care and care leavers scorecard and this is being used as the basis for a 3 weekly performance clinic focussing on this group, chaired by the AD and Head of Corporate Parenting. This has only been possible since the realignment of the service areas. There has been a rise in the overall number of children in care, however this may be as a result of an unusually low number leaving and as such should not be interpreted as an upward trend at this point. Due to Covid19 there have been significant delays in concluding care proceedings therefore, the number of children exiting care under an SGO, adoption order or CAO has been low. This is highly unusual and is likely to continue whilst the present restrictions are in place.

CSC0006 Number of CP per 10,000 children

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	65.3%	48%	Green	Minimise	IMP	IMP
Q1 2020/21	65.3%	68%	Amber	Minimise	DET	IMP

Comments

Work to reduce the numbers of Children on a CP plan continues to show benefits. Currently, there are 304 children on a plan, which equates to a rate of 48 per 10,000. Since June there has been a 30% reduction in the numbers of children on a plan.

The average number of children progressing to a Child Protection Plan, in Q2 2019-20 was 51. In Q2 2020-21, the average was 13. This is consistent with the drop in contacts and referrals seen during Covid19. As part of the Covid19 response all CP plans were risk assessed. Between June and September 228 children came off a plan.

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

Our focus has been to reduce the number of children subject to a CP plan and we can see the effects of review work conducted by the service taking effect. The number of children subject to a plan for over 24 months has reduced from 11, in April, to 6 in June, with further work planned for Q2. The roll out of the Signs of Safety model will further support our aim.

In addition, there is now closer management oversight of cases before progressing to child protection conference, review of all children subject to a CP plan for more than 18 months, and review of all adolescents to ascertain whether a more appropriate response to address contextual safeguarding concerns should be undertaken.

ILAC1 Average Caseloads in Assessment teams

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	22	14.7	Green	Minimise	DET	DET
Q1 2020/21	22	10.8	Green	Minimise	NA	NA

Comments

This is a new Council plan measure and has been introduced following the ILAC inspection, where caseloads were challenged. The snapshot at the end of September 2019 put average caseload in the assessment teams at 27.7. The snapshot at the end of September 2020 shows the average caseload is 14.7, up from Q1, but still comfortably below target. 7% of social workers have caseloads above target, with the highest caseload of any worker being 25.

Benchmarking

There is no benchmarking for this local measure.

Actions

Maintaining manageable caseloads is an important target to support our recruitment and retention strategy and to improve the quality of our practice with children and families. The continuing lower caseloads mean that social workers in the assessment service have more time to complete effective assessments, and to undertake short term interventions under Child in Need plans which help to reduce the higher caseloads in the children's social work teams.

ILAC2 Average Caseloads in Post Assessment teams

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	18	14.4	Green	Minimise	IMP	IMP
Q1 2020/21	18	20.7	Red	Minimise	NA	NA

Comments

This is a new Council plan measure and has been introduced following the ILAC inspection, where caseloads were challenged. The snapshot at the end of September 2019 put average caseload in the assessment teams at 22.6. A snapshot at the end of September 2020 shows post assessment social work teams (Areas 1 to 4) Social Workers have an average caseload of 14.4, which is below target. The highest caseload is 22 and 28% social workers have caseloads over the target. The reduction in the number of children on child protection plans is a major factor in the drop in caseloads.

It should be noted that caseloads going marginally over target is, in many cases, preferable to breaking up sibling groups.

Benchmarking

There is no benchmarking for this local measure.

Actions

Caseloads in the post assessment team have decreased with the introduction of an additional project team for a period of 6 months and commencement of the Child in Need Review Office. The establishment of the additional team and the Child in Need Review Officer has enabled practitioners to deliver intensive interventions to families and we have increased throughput of work.

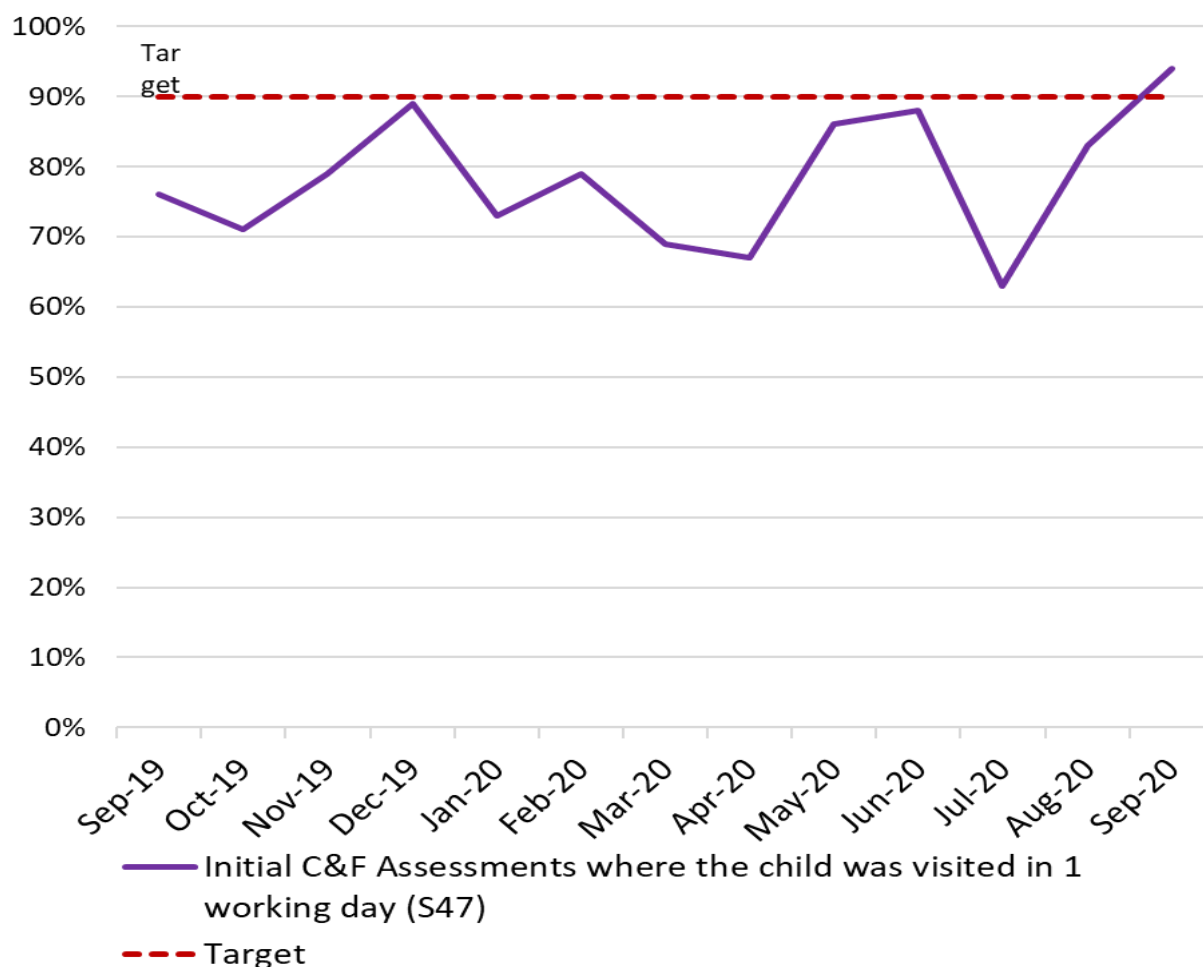
ILAC3 Completed initial child and family assessments which started as S47, where the child was visited within 1 working day.

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	90.0%	94%	Green	Maximise	IMP	IMP
Q1 2020/21	90.0%	89%	Amber	Maximise	NA	NA

Comments

This is a new Council Plan measure, introduced following the ILAC inspection, which challenged unidentified risk. In September 2019 76% of S47 assessments were seen in 1 day. This has risen to 94% following a dip seen over the summer.

% of C&F Assessments visited in timescale



Benchmarking

There is no benchmarking for this local measure.

Actions

The assessment service is closely monitoring this PI which is also considered at the regular performance clinics. The dip in performance was a direct result of Covid restrictions and performance has now improved and is expected maintain performance above target.

ILAC4 Completed initial child and family assessments which started as S17, where the child was visited within 5 working days.

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	85%	74%	Red	Maximise	DET	DET
Q1 2020/21	85%	81%	Amber	Maximise	NA	NA

Comments

This is a new Council Plan measure, introduced following the ILAC inspection, which challenged unidentified risk. In September 2019 49% of S17 assessments were seen in 5 days. This has risen over the last year peaking at 88% in July 2020. Over the last two months this has dropped back and is now below target.

Benchmarking

There is no benchmarking for this local measure.

Actions

The assessment service is closely monitoring his PI which is also considered at the regular performance clinics. The dip in performance was a direct result of Covid restrictions and several visits to large families being completed late. Managers are reviewing exception at child level data and where required practitioners are receiving additional support to improve their practice.

% of C&F Assessments visited in timescale



ILAC5 % of children with long term fostering as a plan, where the child, carer and service have agreed for the placement to last until the child is ready to leave care.

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	60.0%	65%	Green	Maximise	IMP	IMP
Q1 2020/21	60.0%	63%	Green	Maximise	NA	NA

Comments

This is a new Council plan measure, introduced following the ILAC inspection which challenged our performance regarding permanency planning. In September 2019 only 43% of children with long term fostering as a plan had agreed that the placement would last until the child was ready to leave care. There has been a steady improvement in this measure over the course of the last year. This indicator is now above target.

Benchmarking

There is no benchmarking for this local measure.

Actions

There has been significant improvement in relation to this indicator over the last year. Permanence Panel and a process for regular permanence planning meetings are now in place. Additional Fostering Panels have been convened to approve carers and the match for a long-term placement. It is expected that this indicator will continue to improve.

ILAC6 Rate of open CIN cases per 10,000

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	382	330	Green	Minimise	IMP	IMP
Q1 2020/21	382	336	Green	Minimise	NA	NA

Comments

This is a new Council Plan measure, introduced to give context to the overall level of need amongst children in the authority. A child in need is defined, under the Children's Act 1989 "as a child who is unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health or development will be significantly impaired, without the provision of services, or the child is disabled." This includes all looked after Children and all children on a child protection plan as well as other children supported by social services who are not, looked after on a CP plan. Medway would not be considered an outlier presently, with our current rate of CIN comparable to the national level.

Benchmarking

Nationally there are 334 CIN cases per 10,000 population. This is slightly higher 382 for our statistical neighbour group and at 304 in the South East.

Actions

Medway is not an outlier in relation to this indicator. The rate of children subject to a child protection plan per 10,000 is lower than national and statistical neighbour levels. Work including, actions such as closer management oversight of cases before progressing to child protection conference, review of all children subject to a CP plan for more than 18 months, and review of all adolescents to ascertain whether a more appropriate response to address contextual safeguarding concerns continue. A more robust approach continues to be taken to support child in need planning to build partner confidence in this intervention, which includes a specialist Child In Need reviewing officer post and process, and strengthened child in need planning through the Signs of Safety practice model.

N23 The percentage of children social care substantive posts not filled by permanent social workers

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	25%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Q1 2020/21	25%	36%	Red	Minimise	DET	IMP

Data for Q2 is currently being compiled

ILAC7 Audit Measure TBC

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Programme: The best start in life

Council Plan Measures

CASEIYFS Gap Percentage achievement gap at Early Years Foundation Stage Profile between the lowest attaining 20 % of children and the mean

Annual	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
2018/19	30.0%	28.7%	Green	Minimise	IMP	IMP
2017/18	29.5%	31.8%	Red	Minimise	DET	DET

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

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q1 2020/21	17.5%	18.37%	Red	Minimise	DET	DET
Q4 2019/20	17.5%	13.9%	Green	Minimise	IMP	IMP

NHS Digital have released Q1 figures as documented. Data reporting processes regarding CCG footprints have changed in that SATOD prevalence is being reported as a combined figure for Kent & Medway. We are working with colleagues at Kent and Medway CCG as well as MFT to verify data processes going forwards. Anecdotally, based on data from previous years, we estimate Medway's figures to reflect approximately 841 maternities with approximately 138 women smoking, equalling a prevalence of 16.4%.

The Stop Smoking Service continues to work efficiently with midwifery colleagues and have noted a significant increase in midwife referrals from 91 in Q1 (2019/20) to 126 in Q1 (2020/21).

Healthy Child Programme

The service has been significantly impacted since the start of March as a result of COVID. Since Mid-September the Health Visitor and School Nursing services have had all staff (that haven't taken other roles) returned to their substantive posts. We are working towards full return of face to face contacts for all 5 mandated checks and most are now back up and running. Coverage of mandated checks has continued to be good despite the disruption. School Nursing demand is high and we are in the process of recruiting additional nurses to support schools who have welcomed the service back. We are looking to trial a digital inclusion project with Health Visiting midwifery and Early Help before Christmas.

The Child Health team have been providing ongoing resource packs and lesson plans to schools. They are now producing monthly return to school packs for both staff and students. The packs cover everything from bereavement to domestic abuse. The packs have been shared nationally and are being used by 14 other English local authorities as well as the Welsh school board. The team are still working with schools to ensure they are all ready to meet the new national requirements around Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) from September 2021. The team are leading on the Department for Education 'Wellbeing for Education Return programme', due to commence after half term. The sessions include 5 themes with hour long modules.

Public Health have commissioned a media agency to work with the Council on innovative messaging and channels. This will be aimed at young people around

COVID. Working with the Communications and Digital team, we are starting with messaging around the Rule of 6 and Halloween. These messages will be sent out before the end of the month.

Council Plan Outcome: All children achieving their potential in schools

Programme: Raising aspiration and ambition

Council Plan measures

CA13 The percentage of children permanently excluded from school (upheld only)

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	0.02%	0.00%	Green	Minimise	IMP	STATIC
Q1 2020/21	0.02%	0.00%	Green	Minimise	IMP	IMP

Comments

There have been no permanent exclusions this quarter.

In the 19/20 academic year 45 exclusion processes were started. 27 resulted in an exclusion. This equates to 0.06% 13 were retracted or not upheld. This is 29% of all stated exclusions and 5 remain unresolved.

Clearly Covid19 and the closure of schools has been a significant factor in reducing the numbers of exclusions. However, work continues with schools to reduce the numbers of exclusions and include a pilot of 4 schools involved in the European Positive Behaviours Programme which seeks to reduce exclusion by adopting a value-based system to manage behaviour. Initial feedback has been very positive with some schools seeing a considerable reduction in excludable behaviours.

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 Partnership measure: Percentage of all Secondary Schools judged good or better

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	85%	94.4%	Green	Maximise	IMP	Static

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q1 2020/21	85%	94.4%	Green	Maximise	IMP	Static

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.

Benchmarking

Nationally this figure is 76% and the South East currently has 86.6% of schools graded good or better.

Actions

During COVID19 Parliament has suspended Ofsted as an inspection regulator.

CASEISPEC Ofsted The percentage of special schools in Medway judged to be good or better

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	90.0%	100%	Green	Maximise	Static	Static
Q1 2020/21	90.0%	100%	Green	Maximise	Static	Static

During COVID19 Parliament has suspended Ofsted as an inspection regulator

EDU3(b) The percentage of children who were persistently absent from school

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	11.4%	13.5%	Red	Minimise	DET	Static
Q1 2020/21	11.4%	13.5%	Red	Minimise	DET	DET

Comments

Information is calculated from the spring census, conducted in January 2020. There has been a noticeable rise in the number of children classed as persistently absent as at the end of term 2. The rate was 12% in primary schools and 15% in secondary schools.

The cancellation of the school summer school census, due to Covid 19, will mean there will be no updated data until the Autumn census is published in December 2020.

Benchmarking

Nationally the 2018-19 rate of PA was 11.4%

Actions

The AASSA team continues to be work with the majority of schools and academies to raise attendance and lower persistent absence.

PA figures will be affected by Covid19 and the school closures as no updated data until the Autumn Census.

The team challenges schools and academies to ensure robust internal procedures are maintained and the appropriate families are identified for support.

OfstedPrimMnt The percentage of Maintained primary schools in Medway judged to be good or better

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	93%	96%	Green	Maximise	IMP	IMP
Q1 2020/21	93%	92.8%	Amber	Maximise	NA	NA

Comments

There has been a rise in the proportion of LA Maintained primary schools rated good or better. This is due to a change in the cohort, a reduction of 3 from 28 to 25, due to school federations and Oaklands school becoming an academy. 24 out of 25 LA maintained primary schools are rated good or better, with 4 graded outstanding, 1 requires improvement.

Actions

During COVID19 Parliament has suspended Ofsted as an inspection regulator.

SE KS2 The percentage of children who the required standard or above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at KS2

Annual	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
2019/20	65%	NA	NA	Maximise	NA	NA
2018/19	64%	64%	Green	Maximise	IMP	IMP

SE KS2Mnt The percentage of children who achieve the required standard or above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at KS2 in Maintained Schools Only

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	65%	NA	NA	Maximise	NA	NA

Comments

Due to Covid19 and the closure of schools there will be no data for the 19/20 academic year.

Actions

Maintained schools will be supported in the learning zones and held to account for their improvement plans their learning improvement zone and school effectiveness officer.

The Medway Education Partnership is working with Medway Education Leaders Association (primary school head teachers) to urgently address the shortfall in children who fail to reach the expected standard in reading by age 11.

The following priorities are driving actions in respective plans across the primary phase:

- **Improve** the **prioritisation** of all pupils' **ability to read** to the required standard, so that they can fully access the year group curriculum and be ready for the next phase of their education.
- **Improve** the achievement of pupils in **Key Stage Two** in all subjects in order to close the gap to national in reading, maths & grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Improve the performance of **disadvantaged** pupils and the progress of pupils with **SEND** in order to close the gap to national for all groups.

SE2 OEPr Partnership measure: Percentage of all Primary Schools judged good or better

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	87.5%	89.5%	Green	Maximise	IMP	IMP
Q1 2020/21	87.5%	88.5%	Green	Maximise	IMP	DET

Comments

There has been a small rise in the percentage of Primary schools rated good or better. This is due to a change in the cohort bought about by the federation of Luton infant and Junior schools and of Parkwood Infant and Junior Schools. Currently 68 schools are good and better, 8 are outstanding and 60 are good from a cohort of 76 (down from a cohort of 78 in Q1).

There are 51 academies. Of these 86% are good or better (4 Outstanding and 40 Good) 3 require improvement and 4 are inadequate.

Benchmarking

Nationally 87.8 % of Primary schools are rated good or better, with the South East having 90.8%

Actions

During COVID19 Parliament has suspended Ofsted as an inspection regulator.

SEKS4A8 Average attainment 8 score

Annual	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
2019/20	46.6%	NA	NA	Maximise	NA	NA
2018/19	46.6%	46.6%	Green	Maximise	IMP	IMP

Comments

Due to Covid 19 and the closure of schools there will be no data for the 19/20 academic year.

Actions

Secondary schools will be both supported and challenged according to the school effectiveness strategy.

Council Priority: GROWTH

Maximising regeneration and economic growth

Council Plan Outcome: Resident with jobs and skills

Programme: Jobs, Skill and Employability

Council Plan Measures

NI 117(16-17) % of square footage let at Innovation Centre Medway (ICM)

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2020/21	2.6%	4.1%	Red	Minimise	DET	DET
Q1 2020/21	2.60%	3.30%	Red	Minimise	DET	DET

Comments

Data is available to August 2020.

The rate of NEET 16 and 17 year olds is 4.1 %. This represents 257 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 August 2019 2.4 % of 16 and 17 year olds, 153 individuals, were NEET. Year on year there has been a 71% deterioration in the proportion of young people who are NEET. There are currently 104 more 16 and 17 year old's who are NEET than a year ago.

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 4% which represents 250 individuals. This is over half the number of not knowns recorded in Q1 and represents a considerable improvement. In August 2019 there were 324 children whose activity was unknown this was 6.4%. As such, compared to last year this statistic has improved by 38%

The reduction in the number of not knowns will have been one reason for the increase in the number of NEETs. However, to contextualise the data the combined NEET/not Known percentage is now 8.1%, compared to 8.8% a year ago.

Benchmarking

Nationally the rate of NEET is at 3.4 % for August and at 3.1% in the South East. As such Medway is an outlier, however it is worth noting that the rate of NEET in Kent is 3.9 %. Kent will be affected by many of the same issues regarding the lack of training providers as Medway. Both Nationally and in the South East the rate of NEETS has worsened, compared to a year ago. However, the rate of change is greater in Medway.

The National rate of Not Knowns is 7.0% and the rate in the South East is 4.4%. both of these represent an improvement compared to last year. However, the improvement in Medway is stronger.

Nationally the combined NEET/Not known percentage is 10.4% and in the South east it is 7.5%. As such Medway is better than national but worse than the South East. Kent's combined rate is 8.3%.

Actions

A variety of factors across the 2019/2020 academic year lead to increased concern for our young people who are NEET and Unknown. Unknown figures were very high, partly due to reduced capacity within the Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) team, whilst a Council wide spending moratorium meant that letters that are normally sent to every Unknown did not go. IAG have recruited a FT Tracker increasing the tracking staff to 1.3fte, but the increase in NEET's puts further pressure on the service. Further work to offering workshops, online services and sessions to engage young people in group activities.

During COVID, IAG have maintained relationships with young people and whilst motivation has been very low from some of the young people, IAG ensured that they remained in contact and worked with them to increase their employability options. Employment Vacancies have been sparse during this time but they are starting to increase Educational provisions are seeing a reduction in young people returning. We would expect to see a rise in NEET's due to COVID and lack of provision.

Other ongoing projects to increase participation include:

- Further work to develop provision opportunities, in conjunction with Adult Ed and external providers.
- Continued and increased work with schools aimed at increased engagement.
- Close working relationships with the skills and employability programme manager leading to an increased focus internally to support the NEET requirements.
- Increased focus and a task force developed with the Looked After and Care Leaver teams to offer a focused approach to targeted young people.
- NEET provision in the area has also vastly reduced to due to a lack of funding -primarily European Social Funding. For the majority of the academic year, MidKent and Nacro were the main NEET providers. This has been a reduction of 13 providers and an estimated 180 learning opportunities. Where providers do have small pockets of funding, we seek to work with them to promote their offers to our young people who are NEET.
- The economic impact of COVID-19 will likely affect young people the most. We will seek ways to maximise the new government schemes, such as Kickstart, for the benefit of our young people.
- Increased access to internal database, which has enabled the tracking processes to improve and streamline the data held internally to ensure that it is succinct.