

Summary of Quarter 3 2021/22 Overview and Scrutiny performance discussions

1. Framework

- 1.1 Quarter 3 2021/22 performance was discussed at the following Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) meetings.

Children and Young People O&S: 03 March 2022

Health and Adult Social Care O&S: 10 March 2022

Regeneration, Culture and Environment O&S: 22 March 2022

Due to the timing of meetings, the summary of performance at the Regeneration, Culture and Environment O&S Committee will follow.

2. Items referred to Business Support O&S

No items were referred to Business Support O&S by the chairs of the other O&S Committees.

3. O&S Performance Discussions

- 3.1 This section provides a summary of the discussions at the Children and Young People O&S Committee, the Health and Adult Social Care O&S Committee and the Regeneration, Culture and Environment O&S Committee.

3.1.1 Children and Young People O&S Committee discussion summary.

Discussion:

The report which summarised the Council's performance against delivery of its priorities was introduced and Members raised several questions and comments which included:

A concern regarding the mechanics behind the changes in targets was highlighted in particular regarding Ilacs 7. The comments made were noted by the Director of People who stated that there was nuance associated with that target.

- **Risk** – it was asked when the risk for the 10-year High Needs Block Deficit Strategy downgrade occurred. The officer said the risk report was updated in January 2022 when the risk was downgraded as part of the high needs review and intervention that would be put in place. The full details would be shared as part of the full SEND Strategy report that would be presented at the next meeting of the Committee
- **Attendance in schools** – concern was raised that 1 in 4 secondary school pupils in Medway was persistently absent. Officers clarified that persistence absence was absence below 90%, the data presented had not been updated since the last quarter and was data for terms 1-4 of 2020/2021 during the height of the pandemic. Medway

had a higher percentage of absence related to COVID compared to National average. A fuller report would be provided once after term 4's data release were made available. Internal monitoring of attendance occurred through data provided by schools by choice and the data showed that Medway's current attendance was below National Average.

- **Breast Feeding Target** – targets were affected by the pandemic and NHS staff; and it was asked what further information in respect of peer support work could be provided as the trends appeared to be worsening. The officer said the indicator was red for Quarter 3 largely due to the impact of COVID across staffing across all NHS organisations. Quarter 4 could also remain red but should reduce back to green by Quarter 5. There were other measures and a summary of those figures would be provided to the Committee as a briefing. It was difficult to determine the driver behind the impact as this was still being explored to identify if there were a cohort of children with lower rates of breastfeeding which would highlight the reasons behind the impact.
- **Healthy Weight Summit** – it was asked how the healthy eating and cooking programmes could be extended across the community. The officer said a range of courses took place at different locations and he would come back to Members about capacity to run other courses in other places.
- **Cyber Security** - this remained an area of great concern and should remain a priority. It was asked that a training session be organised to which officers agreed.

Decision:

The Committee noted the report.

3.1.2 Health and Adult Social Care O&S Committee discussion summary.

Discussion:

Members considered a report on Council Plan performance in Quarter 3 of 2021/22 and also the Quarter 3 review of strategic risks.

A comment was made about the success achieved by the Directorate in the face of a very difficult financial position. Officers acknowledged that the available resources played a big part in being able to achieve the targets in the Council Plan and performance had improved in Quarter 3. The 2022/23 budget included an increase of £5.5m for adult social care.

Decision:

The Committee noted the Quarter 3 2021/22 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities.

3.1.3 Regeneration, Culture and Environment O&S Committee discussion summary.

To follow.