

## **HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**11 OCTOBER 2022**

### **COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT & RISK SUMMARY QUARTER 1 2022/23**

Report coordinated by Phil Watts, Chief Operating Officer

Contributors: Children and Adults – Directorate Management Team

#### **Summary**

Medway's Council Plan 2022/23 sets out the Council's three priorities. This report and appendices summarise how we performed in Q1 2022/23 on the delivery of the programmes and measures which fall under the remit of this committee which are: People (Appendix 1).

This report also presents the Q1 2022/23 review of strategic risks (Appendix 2).

Following feedback from CMT, Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the format of the report has been improved. The new style report shows performance of each programme. It includes the achievements for the programme and the actions being taken to improve performance.

#### **1. Budget and policy framework**

- 1.1. The Council Plan 2022/23 was agreed at Full Council in February 2022. It sets out the Council's three priorities and six values which aim to deliver these priorities. It includes the measures we use to track performance. These measures are refreshed annually.
- 1.2. Risk management is an integral part of good governance. The Council recognises that it has a responsibility to identify and manage the barriers to achieve its strategic objectives and enhance the value of services it provides to the community. The Cabinet has responsibility to ensure the effective operation of risk management in the Council.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1. Following feedback from Corporate Management Team, Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the format of the report has been improved. The new style report shows performance of each programme. It includes the achievements for the programme and the actions being taken to improve performance.
- 2.2. This report sets out the performance summary against the Council priority relevant for this Committee: People. It focuses on where we have achieved or exceeded

our targets, and how we are tackling underperformance. This report also sets out the latest review of the strategic risks relevant to this committee together with mitigation in place to minimise impact and likelihood.

- 2.3. Performance in respect of Children Social Care, which also falls under the priority “People”, is not included here, as it is the focus of a report to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.4. Detailed background information supporting this report can be found in Appendix 1: People.
- 2.5. Risk owners have reviewed and updated their risks which have subsequently been reviewed and agreed by the Strategic Risk Management Group (SRMG) and Corporate Management Team (CMT). The revised Strategic Risk Summary can be found in Appendix 2: Strategic Risk Summary.
- 2.6. There have been no changes to strategic risks that are relevant to this committee.

### 3. Business Support Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 25 August 2022

- 3.1 At the Business Support O&S Committee on 25 August 2022, members asked for the removal of risk SR52 (A New Severe Pandemic, eg Flu, Covid-XX, Mers or other, more serious than Covid19) from the strategic risk summary to be referred to this Committee for further discussion.

The relevant extract from the minutes of this meeting is set out below:

- **Removal of SR52 – A new severe pandemic from the risk register –** Considerable concern was expressed about the removal of this risk from the register, and it was considered that the absence of a risk associated with pandemics from a public risk register would look odd given what had happened over the last two and a half years. It was suggested that there be a review of the risk to see if it could be reinstated. The Chief Operating Officer said that the steer from the Director of Public Health was that the response to a pandemic would be business as usual as staff were in place to respond should the need arise. This approach had been accepted by Corporate Management Team. A Member suggested that sight of departmental risk registers might give reassurance to Members.

The Committee was advised that the most appropriate forum for a discussion on this issue was the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chief Operating Officer advised the Committee that it would be preferable for it to focus its discussions on the matters within its terms of reference and that some of the issues raised under this item would be better dealt with by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee where the appropriate officers would be in attendance and could provide full responses to Members.

- 3.2 The Director of Public Health has made the following comments:

- 3.2.1 The UK government is currently undertaking a public enquiry regarding its response to the Covid19 pandemic. The findings and recommendations from this enquiry will inform how the country responds to any future pandemics. There have been a number of specific reviews looking at aspects of the UK response, with a focus on risk assessment/management and building resilience. Central

government will shortly publish the UK Resilience Strategy. This strategy will set out expectations for all organisations and stakeholders in relation to how they prepare for and manage, potential threats to the public health, critical infrastructure and the ability of the UK to continue to function should adverse events occur.

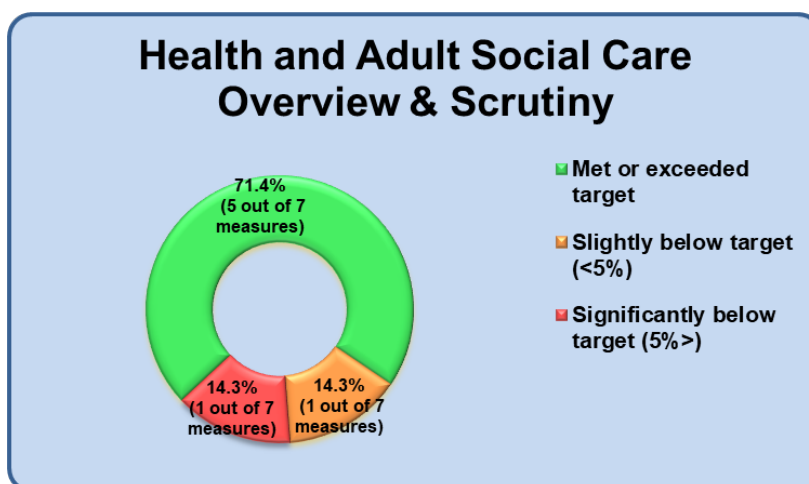
3.2.2 Initial learning from the Covid19 pandemic highlights the interdependence and importance of working across Local Resilience Forums (LRF). For Medway, our ability to protect our population is entirely dependent on working collaboratively with stakeholders at local, regional and national level. The Kent LRF is the vehicle that enables specific threats, in particularly those posed by a future pandemic to be mitigated.

3.2.3 The Director of Public Health and the Public Health team, working with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) retain a high degree of surveillance of any potential threats posed by communicable diseases. The Director of Public Health has oversight of the Council's emergency response and is assured that systems within Medway are tested regularly and are primed to respond should the need arise. This is in the case of a resurgence of the existing Covid19 virus, or a new novel virus.

3.2.4 The national alert levels for Covid19 have been lowered to its second lowest level (2). Level 2 means Covid19 is in general circulation in the UK, but direct Covid19 healthcare pressures are low and transmission is declining or stable. Rates of infection in Medway and the South East are relatively low. Additional control measures, including Covid19 booster vaccinations are being rolled out. New preventive clinical treatments have been developed and the death rate even in people who may unfortunately catch Covid19 are extremely low. On this basis the threats to the population posed by Covid19 are well known and mitigation is in place. The UK government will shortly publish the resilience strategy which will inform the national and local approach to risk management. Given the controls in place it is the view of the Director of Public Health that the specific inclusion of a risk associated with the Covid19 pandemic is not now required on the risk register.

#### 4. Summary of performance

4.1 There are 7 Council Plan measures for 2022/23 that fall under the remit of this committee: 7 measures for the People priority. We are reporting on 7.



## **Improved performance**

- 57% (4 out of 7\*) improved short term (since last quarter)
  - 43% (3 out of 7\*) improved long term (average of previous 4 quarters)
- \*where data available

## **5. Risk management**

5.1 Implementation of a performance management and risk framework allows the Council to evidence how successful it is in achieving against its stated objectives, and for residents it provides genuine accountability on how successfully the Council is administering its resources. The risk of inaccurate data being reported to Members is minimised through authorisation by Directorate and Corporate Management Teams. Assurance can therefore be placed on the accuracy of data used to assess performance. By reporting to Members, the risk of poor performance not being identified or addressed is minimised.

5.2 The Risk Management process helps the Council understand, evaluate, and take action on all their risks. It supports effective decision making, identification of priorities and objectives and increases the probability of success by making the most of opportunities and reducing the likelihood of failure.

5.3 The Council's Risk Management Strategy incorporates and:

- promotes a common understanding of risk.
- outlines roles and responsibilities across the Council.
- proposes a methodology that identifies and manages risk in accordance with best practice thereby seeking to prevent injury, damage, and loss.

## **6. Consultation**

6.1 The changes to the format of the report have been consulted upon with Directorate Management Teams, Corporate Management Team, the Leader, the Portfolio Holder for Resources, and the Portfolio Holder for Business Management. These were well received.

## **7. Financial and legal implications**

7.1 There are no direct finance or legal implications arising from this report.

## **8. Recommendations**

8.1 Members are asked to consider the Q1 2022/23 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities and to note the amended Strategic Risk Summary as set out in Appendix 2.

8.2 Members are asked to consider the referral from the Business Support O&S Committee on 25 August 2022 regarding the removal of risk SR52 (A New Severe Pandemic, eg Flu, Covid-XX, Mers or other, more serious than Covid19) from the strategic risk summary and decide whether or not to recommend to Cabinet that this risk continues to be managed through the surveillance of the Public Health team.

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**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 Council Priority: People

Appendix 2 Strategic Risk Summary

**Background papers:**

Council Plan 2022/23