

# Swindon Borough Council

## Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Wednesday, 22 July 2015**

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices

At 6.00 p.m.

### **Conservative Councillors**

*Gemma McCracken (Chair)*  
*Michael Bray*  
*John Haines*  
*Cathy Martyn*  
*Maureen Penny*  
*Eric Shaw*  
*Steve Weisinger*

### **Labour Councillors**

*Teresa Page*  
*James Robbins*  
*Carol Shelley*  
*Nadine Watts*  
*Julie Wright*

**Committee Officer:** Rita Glen Gallo 463611  
email: [RGlen-Gallo@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:RGlen-Gallo@swindon.gov.uk)

Swindon Borough Council can be contacted at the Civic Offices, Euclid Street,  
Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 445500)

**Access Arrangements** - The venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you have any special requirements to enable you to attend the meeting or would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size, please contact the Committee Officer as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.

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## **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Appointment of Vice-Chair**
- 3. Declaration of Interest**

Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

**4. Public Question Time**

See explanatory note below. Please phone the Committee Officer whose name and number appears at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.

**5. Appointment of Co-optees** (Pages 3 - 6)

**6. Children's Services Performance Report** (Pages 7 - 28)

**7. Work Programme 2015/16** (Pages 29 - 36)

**Date of Despatch:** 14 July 2015

**Public Question Time** - Swindon Borough Council remains committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters, and matters relating to planning and licensing applications). We will give priority to those who submit questions in writing at least two days before the meeting. Questions must be relevant, clear, and concise. You may not use Public Question Time as an opportunity to make speeches or statements.

Questions in writing should be sent to the Committee Officer whose contact details appear on the agenda above or to the Director of Law and Democratic Services, we will publish it, along with the answer, alongside the Minutes. The process associated with asking a public question is set out in the "Public Question Time at Council Meetings Protocol and Guidance" available on the Council's Website.

(<http://www5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13338&path=0>) or from the Committee Officer named above.

## Appointment of Co-Optees

### Children's Health, Social Care and Education

#### Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015

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Author:	Head of Law & Democratic Services
Wards:	All Wards
Locality Affected:	All Locality Areas
Parishes Affected:	All Parish Area

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#### 1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to confirm the appointment of co-optees to the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2015/16.
- 1.2 The Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required by the Council's Constitution to appoint parent governor and diocese representatives to its membership and may choose to appoint additional co-opted members.

#### 2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 To confirm the appointment of David Dawson as the Catholic Church Diocese representative.
- 2.2 To confirm the appointment of a Church of England Diocese representative to the Committee as and when nominations are received.
- 2.3 To confirm the appointment of 2 Parent Governor Representatives to the Committee as and when nominations are received.
- 2.4 To consider the appointment of the following non-voting representatives:
  - Alison Paul (Swindon Association of Special School Headteachers).
  - Simon Cowley (Swindon Association of Primary Headteachers).
  - Steve Colledge (Swindon Association of Secondary Headteachers).
  - Steve Henderson (Equalities Advisory Forum).
  - Pete Rowe (Swindon Healthwatch).
  - Name to be confirmed (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education).

#### 3. Detail

- 3.1 The Council's Constitution states that the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee will appoint no more than 2 church

# Appointment of Co-Optees

## Children's Health, Social Care and Education

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representatives and 2 parent governor representatives to its membership as full voting members in respect of education matters. If the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee deals with other matters, these representatives shall not vote on those other matters, though they may stay in the meeting and speak.

- 3.2 The Committee is asked to determine whether any additional co-opted representatives should be sought to support its work programme for the year.

#### **4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 The Committee may choose only to appoint co-optees required under the Constitution and to appoint other co-optees to support their work programme on a meeting-by-meeting basis.

#### **5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management**

##### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 Co-opted representatives are entitled to claim travel and meal allowances in order to attend Council meetings, the costs of which are met from within the Allowance budget. There are no procurement implications arising from the contents of this report.

##### Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Section 21 of the Local Government Act requires every local authority to establish an overview and scrutiny function to hold the Executive to account, undertake policy development and review, monitor and improve performance.

##### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other direct implications arising as a result of this report.
- 5.4 The remit of the Committee includes the review, scrutiny and development of policy recommendations and the monitoring performance of corporate priorities.

##### Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 No Diversity Impact Assessment is required at this stage. Any DIA that is required during review of topics included within the work programme will be identified at the appropriate stage.

# Appointment of Co-Optees

## Children's Health, Social Care and Education

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Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015

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#### Risk Management

- 5.6 No risk management issues have been identified at this stage. Any risk management issues will be identified at the appropriate time when a topic is under review by the Committee and if it makes any recommendations.

#### **6. Consultees**

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

#### **7. Background Papers**

- 4.1 None.

#### **8. Appendices**

- 8.1 None.

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## Children's Services Performance Report

### Children's Health, Social Care and Education

#### Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015

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Author:	John Gilbert, Board Director Commissioning (DCS/DASS)
Wards:	All Wards
Locality Affected:	All Locality Areas
Parishes Affected:	All Parish Areas

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#### 1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This report provides the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Committee with an update of performance and key issues relating to commissioning and performance.
- 1.2 A key purpose of Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee is to hold Commissioners of Children's Health and Social Care Services to account.
- 1.3 Any Commissioner of Children's Health and Social Care Services in Swindon is required to provide information on the planning and provision of children's health and social care services within the Borough and consult with the Committee on any planned substantial changes or developments to service provision.

#### 2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the report.
- 2.2 Identify any areas of concern that require further investigation.

## Children's Services Performance Report

Children's Health, Social Care and Education

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015

### 3. Detail

#### 3.1 What are the challenges that your organisation is facing?

Top Seven Priorities	Process	Outcomes
<b>Safeguarding at the social care front door – contacts, referrals and assessments</b>	Family Contact Point records all contacts for children's services in the wider sense, so Early Help contacts as well as contacts that become referrals to Children's Social Care. There were 10,996 <b>contacts</b> from April 2014-March 2015, compared to 8138 for the previous year. There were 2591 <b>referrals</b> to end March 2015, compared to 2254 for the same period in the previous year. From April 2014 to February 2015 a total of 2171 assessments were completed taking an average of 30 working days.	The service is managing increasing risk in referrals and assessments being undertaken due to the sheer volume. The timeliness of the new statutory assessment is sound and the number of cases going from referral to assessment is good.
<b>Number of children in need (section 17 social care)</b>	The number of <b>children in need</b> cases at end February 2015 was 1322. This is above the national average (1110), and is a 30.1% increase from 1016 at the same point in 2013/14.	Children in need cases are being reviewed to ensure that these cases couldn't be better managed in Tier 2 or universal services.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Victoria Guillaume, Direct Dial 01793 463855, [vguillaume@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:vguillaume@swindon.gov.uk).



## Children's Services Performance Report

Children's Health, Social Care and Education

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<p><b>Number of Early Help Record and Plans (EHR) completed</b></p>	<p>A total of 135 EHRs were completed during quarter 3 of 2014/15. This compares to 110 in quarter 2. For quarter 3 in the previous year (2013/14) 115 CAFs/EHRs were completed.</p>	<p>The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) was replaced by the Early Help Record and Plan in November 2013. Ofsted recognised the strength of Early Help in Swindon and the access that families have to early help before entering statutory services. We need to increase the number of EHRs and Plans that are created and children supported to prevent the escalation of cases to children's social care. Partners need to consider if their staff are appropriately starting EHRs as the proportion of those undertaken in comparison to statutory social care assessments is disproportionate (although this is not particular to Swindon and is a national issue).</p>
<p><b>Number of children having Fixed Term (FTE) and Permanent Exclusions (PEX)</b></p>	<p>In Swindon during academic year 2013/14 there were 1049 <b>fixed term exclusions</b> from Swindon Secondary Schools. Of the 1049 exclusions, 863 were from academies and 186 from a maintained school.</p> <p>The latest Swindon data (complete to end of term five - 22/5/15) indicates that there have</p>	<p>There is good collaboration between secondary schools and SBC to manage provision for pupils at risk of or in receipt of permanent exclusion. Children with characteristics of vulnerability are over represented among those that are excluded from school. It should be noted here that 11 out of 12 of Swindon</p>

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Victoria Guillaume, Direct Dial 01793 463855, [vguillaume@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:vguillaume@swindon.gov.uk).

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	<p>been 917 fixed term exclusions. Of these 917 exclusions, 799 were from academies and 118 from a maintained school.</p> <p>20 children were <b>permanently excluded</b> from Swindon schools to end March 2015, and increase from 9 in the previous year.</p>	<p>secondary provision are Academies. Issues around exclusion and also around SEND (see below) are addressed through the Education Strategy Board, chaired by the Regional Schools Commissioner.</p>
<b>Rate of 18 year olds in Swindon that are Not In Education, Employment or Training (NEET)</b>	<p>The proportion of 16-18 year olds (academic ages) that is <b>NEET</b> in Swindon is 5.6% (421 young people), lower than last year's figure of 6.0% (428 young people), and this compares to national and regional averages of 4.8% and 4.6%.</p>	<p>When analysing figures by age, the NEET rate for 18 year olds in Swindon is 10.3%, above the national average of 7.5%, although this has started to come down.</p>
<b>Childhood Obesity</b>	<p>In 2013/14 9.5% of children aged 4-5 years were obese, this rises to 17.6% at age 10-11. Although this rate is similar to the England average reducing the number of children who are obese or overweight remains an area of focus given its impact on health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>There is a Healthy Weight strategy and a Get Swindon Active Strategy. Both of these have been adopted by SBC and the NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group. They aim to reduce obesity and increase physical activity levels in both adults and children. These can be found on the Swindon JSNA website at:  <a href="http://www.swindonjsna.co.uk/dna/healthy-weight">http://www.swindonjsna.co.uk/dna/healthy-weight</a></p>

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Victoria Guillaume, Direct Dial 01793 463855, [vguillaume@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:vguillaume@swindon.gov.uk).

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<p><b>Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Provision</b></p>	<p>Swindon has proportionately more children and young people with a Statement of Special Educational Need than regionally or nationally. Swindon also has a higher number of specialist providers, which includes 6 Special schools and 15 Specialist Resource Units attached to mainstream school. There is a forecast increase in demand for all Special Education Needs provision, and Swindon is also seeing children needing access to special provision at a younger age than before, which is increasing the pressure further. The Government's new SEND reforms extend the age range able to access statutory Special Educational Needs assessment from 0-25 years and could place additional pressure on the system.</p>	<p>As more children are identified with SEND and require specific provision to meet their needs, a number of schemes have been identified in the Education Capital Programme, but there is a significant risk that we will create future pressure and expectation as children move from Children to Adult Services. Therefore Commissioners commissioned research to explore in detail the education options and outcomes for our children with SEND and look at the pros and cons of young people being supported in a mainstream or specialist provision. A report was presented to Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> July, setting out the research, and proposing actions for a sustainable level of high quality provision for children and young people with SEND.</p>
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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Victoria Guillaume, Direct Dial 01793 463855, [vguillaume@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:vguillaume@swindon.gov.uk).

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### 3.2 What have you done well?

Top Five Achievements	Steps taken	Next steps
<b>Child protection – timeliness of conferences</b>	333 child protection enquiries (also known as Section 47s) were completed from April 2014 to February 2015. 269 out of the 333 child protection enquiries complete went to <b>child protection conference</b> , compared to 269 out of 489 in the same period in 2013/14, indicating that a clearer threshold for the process is now in place. The percentage of enquiries that went to initial child protection conference <b>within 15 working days</b> has increased between April 2014 and February 2015 to 74.3%.	The percentage of child protection enquiries going to child protection conference within 15 working days (74.3%) is good compared to the national average of 69.3%, and is good in the context of an increase in the number of children on child protection plans.
<b>Number of children in care in commissioned (external) placements outside of Swindon</b>	45 children in care (19%) were in externally commissioned placements at the end of February 2015. This compares with 19.8% (50 children) in 2013/14. 10.7% of children were placed more than 20 miles away from their home address, down from 14.3% at the end of March 2014.	This is improved performance from 2013/14 and in line with the national average. 86.4% of looked after children were in family placements at the end of February 2015, which is an improvement position, and remains above the national average of 80%.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Victoria Guillaume, Direct Dial 01793 463855, [vguillaume@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:vguillaume@swindon.gov.uk).

## Children's Services Performance Report

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Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015

<b>First Time Entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice System</b>	Based on previous year's outturn, the target is to have less than 44 <b>first time entrants</b> into the justice system per quarter. Against this figure there were 122 first time entrants by the year end, which shows a continuing trend for the reduction in FTEs. These trends are in line with what is happening nationally, where there is a significant reduction in first time offending.	In March 2015, the Swindon YOT was subject to a Full Joint Inspection led by HM Inspectorate of Probation. The inspection report makes a number of recommendations about the YOT's management processes which are being acted upon, and this will give the reassurance the inspectors require about how the YOT's results are achieved. The overall message from the report is that in the areas that truly matter – reducing reoffending among young people, and making sure they properly serve their court sentences – the Swindon Youth Offending Team performs well. In fact, the rating given for the work to make sure young offenders serve their sentences places the Swindon YOT as one of the best performers in England and Wales.
<b>Youth Unemployment rates for 18-24 year olds</b>	Youth unemployment related figures show a positive picture. The number of 18-24 year olds claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) halved over the year: 2.6% (440 young people) in March 2015, compared to 5.2% (870 young people) in the previous year, and compared to 2.9% nationally.	In addition, March 2015 figures show that the proportion of 16-17 year olds (academic ages) in learning activities in Swindon was 91.2% (4,743 young people), higher than the previous year's figures of 90.4% (4,610 young people). Official figures show Swindon with higher participation in learning figures than comparative areas: national average at 90.6% and regional average at 89.6%.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Victoria Guillaume, Direct Dial 01793 463855, [vguillaume@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:vguillaume@swindon.gov.uk).

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<p><b>Conceptions and conceptions leading to births in women under 18 are continuing to fall</b></p>	<p>Q1 2014/15 saw the lowest ever recorded monthly conception rate 16.0 (per 1,000, 15 – 17 year olds) compared to England average of 23.9 (per 1,000, 15 – 17 year olds). Swindon has continued to provide an accessible young people's sexual health outreach service which provides high quality advice and treatment at a range of locations and times to meet the sexual health needs of all young people</p>	<p>Quality assure Sex and Relationship Education programmes for schools through Swindon Healthy Schools to ensure high quality provision is delivered to primary and secondary aged children. Expand the availability of Emergency Hormone Contraceptives (EHC) in community pharmacies in areas of highest deprivation where conceptions rates are highest. Continue to raise awareness to young people of how to access confidential advice and support around wellbeing, relationships and sexual health</p>
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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Victoria Guillaume, Direct Dial 01793 463855, [vguillaume@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:vguillaume@swindon.gov.uk).



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#### 3.3 Supporting Information

None.

#### 4. **Alternative Options**

4.1 None.

#### 5. **Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management**

##### Financial and Procurement Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications arising as a result of this report. Any expenditure arising as a result of an item on the Committee's work programme will be met by the Overview & Scrutiny Support budget, subject to the approval of the Committee.

##### Legal and Human Rights Implications

5.2 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) requires every Local Authority to establish an overview and scrutiny function to hold the Executive to account, undertake policy development and review, monitor and improve performance report.

##### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

5.3 There are no other direct implications arising as a result of this report. Any further implications will be identified when a topic is reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

##### Diversity Impact Assessment

5.4 No Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) is required at this stage as this report proposes no changes to services. Any DIA that is required during review of topics included within the work programme will be identified at the appropriate stage.

##### Risk Management

5.5 No risk management issues have been identified at this stage. Any risk management issues will be identified at the appropriate time when a topic is under review by the Scrutiny Committee and if it makes any recommendations.

# **Children's Services Performance Report**

## **Children's Health, Social Care and Education**

### **Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015**

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#### **6. Consultees**

- 6.1 The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

#### **7. Background Papers**

- 7.1 None.

#### **8. Appendices**

- 8.1 Children's Services Performance Report 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015.



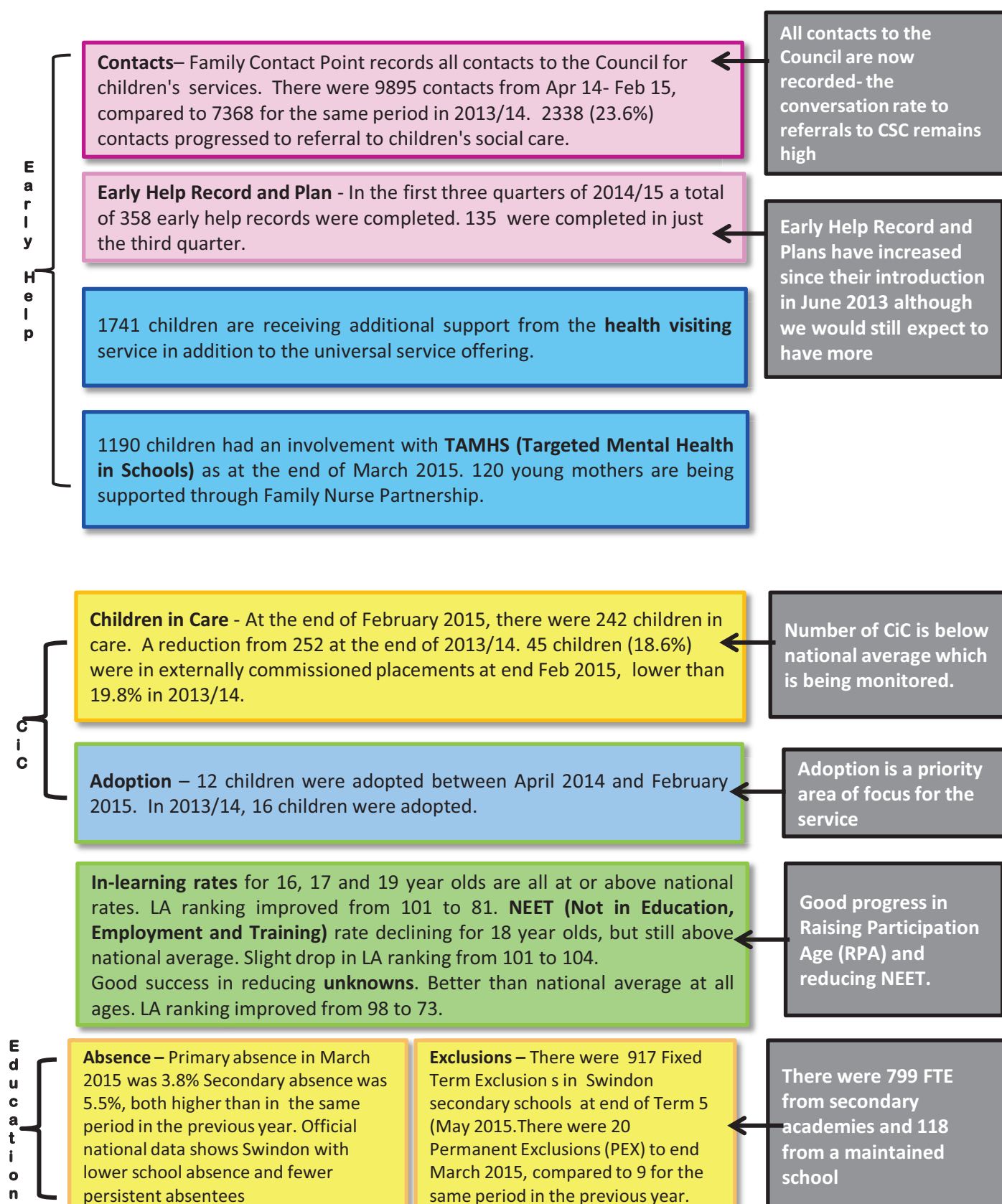


# Children's Services Performance Report

Children's Health, Social Care and  
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*Data position end February 2015 and end  
March 2015 where data available*

## Headline Messages from Data position at end of February 2015 and end March 15 where data available



## Headline Messages from Social Care Safeguarding Data End of February 15 and end March 15 where data available

### REFERRALS

**Referrals** – There were 2338 referrals from April 2014 to Feb 2015 compared to 1977 for the same period in the previous year. Of the 2338 referrals, 28.1% are re-referrals. Most relate to domestic abuse notifications.  
The percentage of social care specific referrals progressing to assessment was 83.7% for April 14 to Feb 2015. This is lower than end January 2015 when 92.5% was reported.

The demand on the 'front door' of social care remains very high. The national picture is variable.

### ASSESSMENTS

#### Statutory Assessments

From April 2014 to February 2015, a total of 2171 statutory (social care) assessments had been completed in an average of 30 days. The national average is 25 days. The number open at any one time in Assessment & Child Protection team remains too high.

Swindon transferred to a single statutory assessment at the beginning of March 2014.

There were 24 **child protection enquiries** (also known as **section 47 investigations**) finished in Feb 2015. The percentage of enquiries going to Child Protection Conference within 15 working days has decreased from 81% between April and December 2014 to 74.3% between April 2014 and February 2015. This is higher than the national average of 69.3%.

### CHILD PROTECTION

**Child Protection Plans** - 216 children were on a child protection plan at the end of December 2014. The number has decreased from 251 in August 2014. The number of children on a child protection plan is above the national and statistical neighbour average. 94.2% had their **reviews** completed on time compared to 98.4% in 2013/14.

Specific performance improvements were implemented to improve the timeliness of Initial Child Protection conferences as well as managing the increases occurring. Number of children on plans is above national and statistical neighbour average

The rate of children starting a **child protection plan** for a second or subsequent time has increased to 18.8% between April 2014 and February 2015. Conference Chairs are monitoring this to explore any possible themes

At the end of February 2015, 2.62% (6 children) of children ceasing a protection plan had been on a **plan for 2 years or more** compared to 5.4% in 2013/14.

Children on subsequent plans increased. There are fewer children remaining on a plan for 2 years compared with previous year.

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## Early Help Services

### Performance Assessment

**Early Help Record (EHR)** A total of 135 EHRs were completed during quarter 3 2014/15. This compares to 110 in quarter 2 2014/15. For quarter 3 the previous year (2013/14) 115 CAFs/EHRs were completed.

The CAF was replaced by the Early Help Record and Plan in November 2013. Ofsted recognised the strength of Early Help in Swindon and the access that families have to early help before entering statutory services. Partner agencies may need to consider if their staff are appropriately starting EHRs as the proportion of those undertaken in comparison to statutory social care assessments is disproportionate (although this is not particular to Swindon and is a national issue).

**Early Help Plan (Plan) and Early Help Review (Review)** The Early Help Record will always lead to a plan being created for the child. The plan may be delivered in a number of ways depending on its complexity.

In quarter 3 2014/15 68 plans were completed. This compares to 61 initial TACs/EH Plans in the same period in the previous year. There were 61 plans completed in quarter 2 of 2014/15.

132 reviews were completed in quarter 3 2014/15, compared with 159 in quarter 2. There can be a delay in input of Early Help Records, Plans and Reviews due to schools sending in periodically. Data for the whole year will be refreshed in June to ensure these are captured.

### Strengths

- ✓ Council Early Help services are seen as a strength

### Challenges/Risks

- We need to increase the number of Early Help Record and Plans that are created and children supported to prevent escalation of cases to children's social care.

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## Safeguarding at the social care front door – contacts, referrals and assessments

### Performance Assessment

**Contacts** Family Contact Point records all contacts for children's services in their wider sense (ie includes Early Help) as well as contacts that become referrals to Children's Social Care. There were 9895 contacts to Family Contact Point from April 2014 to February 2015, compared to 7368 for the same period in 2013/14. There were 917 contacts in February 2015, compared to 908 in January. *An analysis is being undertaken around patterns of contact/referral volume increase, and this will be reported to LSCB in due course.*

**Referrals and Re-Referrals** 2338 referrals were received in Children's Social Care between April 2014 to February, compared to 1977 for the same period in the previous year. In February there were 213 referrals compared to 187 in January. Swindon is in line with the national and statistical neighbour averages (Swindon 532.5 per 10,000 under 18 compared with 560.6 statistical neighbour and 525.3 national average).

Of the 2338 referrals from April 2014 to December 2015, 28.1% (657) are **re-referrals**. This is an increase from 26% for the same period in the previous year. It is also higher than the national average of 23.4% (2013/14). A local audit identified that often the re-referrals arrived at a time when the first referral was still open – indicating communication to partners is not strong enough and is being addressed.

**Statutory Assessments** From April 2014 to February 2015, a total of 2171 assessments were completed taking an average of 30 working days. The average length of time taken nationally last year was 25 working days. 785 statutory assessments were 'open' as at the end of February 2015. This remains high, but is an improvement from 850 in January 2015. Not all of these assessments are overdue.

**Percentage of social care specific referrals leading to statutory assessment** 83.7% of social care specific referrals progress to assessment from April 2014 to February 2015. This is a decrease from the end of January 2015 when 92.5% was reported. As only social care referrals are reported here, it is anticipated that as triaging arrangements mature, this figure will rise to nearer 100%.

**Number of children in need (section 17 social care)** The number of children in need (this does not include children subject to a child protection plan or children in care) has decreased to 1322 at the end of February 2015, down from 1353 in January 2015. This is above the national (1110) and statistical neighbour (1165) average. This is a 30.1% increase from 1016 at the same point in 2013/14 and needs to be addressed to ensure these cases couldn't be better managed in Tier 2 or universal services.

### Strengths and Challenges

**Strengths** The service is managing a significant risk in referrals and assessment being undertaken due to the sheer volume. The timeliness of the new statutory assessment appears to be sound and the number of cases going from referral to assessment is also good. A new permanent team manager started work in Family Contact Point/Assessment and Child Protection Team in November 2014.

**Challenges** The number of re-referrals being made to the service is being addressed following a practice audit and the volume of children in need cases held within Children's social care is being monitored to ensure effective and timely impact as the service will need to ensure a more timely 'step down for cases.

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## Safeguarding Referral and Assessment to Social Care

### Performance Assessment

#### **Workforce information for Children's Social Care:**

Overall caseloads compare reasonably with the national picture. Caseloads in the Assessment and Child Protection Team (ACP) have reduced since Quarter one but this is the team where caseloads are higher than the service would wish. Caseloads in ACP team now average around 30 – 35 children, per social worker, averaging elsewhere across the service between 23 - 25 per social worker. Throughout the year the Council has increased resource in response to increased demand and service pressure, in September 2014 agreeing to 7 extra establishment social workers.

The new configuration of teams, disbanding the Children in Care Team as well as the Court Team, has seen the creation of four community teams, with one Team Manager and two Assistant managers, 9 social workers and 2.2 social care workers, in each team, that were in place in early February 2015.

Through an active recruitment drive for social workers and managers, social worker vacancies have reduced from 20% to 10% but front line Children's Social Care (CSC) Managers remains an issue with 33% vacancies, although this figure includes the newly established 5 x Assistant Team Managers. All these roles are covered by temporary / agency staff.

#### **Multi-Agency Risk Panel (MARP)**

Children's Social Care operate the MARP process. All the services highest risk cases may be reviewed there as well as any case that other partners are worried about high risk being referred for discussion. Most high risk CSE cases are reviewed at the Panel as well as cases where professional are concerned for other reasons – such as gang activity. To assure itself that the MARP is effective and having the desired outcomes, a review has been completed and was reported to the LSCB in June 2015.

### Strengths

- Good progress in recruiting social workers

### Challenges

- Continued challenges in recruiting social work managers

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## Child Protection Processes and Outcomes 1

### Performance Assessment

**Child Protection Enquires (also known as Section 47's) going to initial child protection conference within 15 working days** - 333 child protection enquires were completed from April 2014 to February 2015. This compares to 489 in the same period in 2013/14. There were 24 enquires completed during February 2015.

269 out of the 333 child protection enquires completed went to **child protection conference**, compared to 269 out of 489 in the same period in 2013/14 indicating that a clearer threshold for the process is now in place. The percentage of enquires that went to initial child protection conference within 15 working days has increased between April 2014 and February 2015 to 74.3%. This is good compared to the national average of 69.3%, but a slight decrease from 77.9% in 2013/15. This performance is also good in the context of an increase in the number of children on child protection plans.

**Children on Child Protection Plans** 216 children were on a child protection plan at end February 2014. This is still a relatively high number, although the trend has been decreasing since August 2014 when there were 251 children on child protection plans. There was an increase from 196 in January 2015, and 30 children became subject to a child protection plan in February 2015. The monthly average was 24 between April 2014 and January 2015.

Between April 2014 and February 2015, 94.2% of children on child protection plans had their **reviews** completed on time. This is down from 98.4% in March 2014. The national average is 94.6% and the statistical neighbour average is 96.7%. Urgent action is being taken in Quality Assurance and Reviewing which has been a contributing factor to this improvement.

**Number of children having second or subsequent plans** Is 18.9% between April 2014 and February 2015, an increase from 11.1% in April 2014. This is above the national average (15.8%) and statistical neighbour (16.4%) and further understanding of the reasons for this increase is required needed.

**Duration of children on child protection plans** 2.6% of children ceasing a child protection plan remained on a plan for two years or more between April 2014 and February 2015, compared to 5.4% in the previous year. This is below the 2013/14 national average of 4.5% and below the statistical neighbour average of 4.2%.

### Strengths

- ✓ The timeliness of child protection conferences is positive

### Challenges/Risks

- Partners need to work to reduce the number of children subject to Child Protection Plans
- Chairs need to improve the timeliness of Review Child Protection Conferences

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## Permanency Children in Care and Adoption

### Performance Assessment

**Number of children in care** 242 children were in care at the end of February 2015, up 6 from January 2015. This compares with 252 at the end of 2013/14. Swindon is below the national average (286.2 children in care when scaled to the Swindon population). 45 children in care (19%) were in externally commissioned placements at the end of February 2015. This compares with 19.8% (50 children) in 2013/14. 10.7% of children in care were placed more than 20 miles away from their home address, down from 14.3% at the end of March 2014. This is improved performance from 2013/14 and in line with the national average. 86.4% of looked after children were in family placements at the end of February 2015. This is a slight increase from 86.0% in January 2015 and remains above the national average of 80%.

**Placement Stability** Short term placement stability remains an issue. At the end of February 2015, 4.96% of children in care had 3 or more placements. Year end performance is projected to be higher (18% for previous 2 years in Swindon compared to 11% nationally). 11.6% of children in care had either 3 care address changes or 3 new placement information records. Swindon has more adolescent young people in care than the average and we know this adds to placement stability issues.

**Adoption** - 12 children were adopted between April 2014 and February 2015. In 2013/14 a total of 16 children were adopted.

**Timeliness of Adoption** – The average number of days between coming into care and being placed for adoption is high, at 853 days compared to 636 nationally. Performance has improved since the end of October when 844 days was recorded. We know this figure is also higher due to the complexity of the children that were found placements.

The Fostering & Adoption Team Manager has confirmed his retirement in May 2015, and recruitment is underway.

### Strengths

- The numbers of children needing placement outside of Swindon remains low. We have been able to adopt some children with particular/special needs this year to date despite making the timeliness figure for adoption higher.

### Challenges/Risks

- The rate of children adopted is receiving attention to ensure the levels are appropriate.
- The service continues to explore ways of enhancing placement stability.



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## Children, Families and Community Health Quality Assurance Framework

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Children, Families & Community Health have recently reviewed its **Quality Assurance Framework** and introduced a new quarterly performance board to oversee the introduction of new social work quality standards. It has also developed some Key Quality Indicators (KPIs), to sit with its Performance indicators to start providing improved information on how good the services are rather than simply how many or how much of an activity it conducts.

**Children and Families - Child protection audits** - The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Team has undertaken **audits of 12 child protection cases** and **29 'mini' audits of cases** where a request is made for an initial child protection conference. This has shown that child protection thresholds for the area social care teams are appropriate and work has been undertaken with the A and CP team on thresholds for conferences, quality of reports on the ICS system and management oversight.

**Children and Families - Looked after children review audits** - An audit by the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Manager of 40 LAC review minutes indicated that there were inconsistencies in the IRO's approach to recording and a range of practice areas. These audits also indicate that the LAC review Minutes lack consistency for recording decisions that are SMART and outcome focused with timeframes and responsibility and discussion for permanency at 2nd review for every child. Work has been undertaken within the team to improve consistency in these areas.

**Staff Change:** The prior Head of Safeguarding left her role in December 2014. A new permanent appointment has been made and she will take on a revised job of Service Manager Quality Assurance & Review. The new role will focus on the service lead for safeguarding, quality assurance and the Principal Social Work strategic lead. One of the priorities for the interim manager is to support the development of an annual audit/survey plan for Children's Social Care as well as take on the Chair of the LSCB Quality Assurance Sub group.

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### Strengths

- A new Quality Assurance Framework will strengthen the services confidence in its assessment of the quality of the service

### Challenges/Risks

- To embed the new Quality Assurance Framework.

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## Exclusions

### Performance Assessment

#### **Fixed term exclusions (FTEs) in the secondary sector**

In Swindon, during the academic year 2013/14, there were 1049 FTEs from Swindon secondary schools. Of the 1049 FTEs, 863 were from Academies, and 186 were from a maintained school.

The latest Swindon data available (complete to the end of Term 5 – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015) indicates that there have been 917 FTEs. Of these 917 FTEs, 799 were from Academies and 118 from a maintained school.

#### **How many children have been Permanent Excluded (PEX) from school?**

20 children were permanently excluded from Swindon schools up to end of March 2015, an increase from 9 permanent exclusions for the same period in the previous year.

19 PEXs were from secondary-aged pupils with 1 being primary-aged. 17 pupils with a PEX were Male while 3 were Female. 16 PEXs were from pupils in years 8, 9 or 10.

14 pupils had their Permanent Exclusion withdrawn so far in 2014/15, and this compares to 21 for the same period of the previous year.

Latest figures made available by the Department for Education show that PEX as percentage of school population for Swindon in 2012/13 was 0.04, slightly lower than 0.05 for the previous year, and this compares to 0.06 for England, 0.06 for the South West and 0.07 for Statistical Neighbours.

### Strengths

- Collaboration between all secondary schools and SBC to manage provision for pupils at risk of or in receipt of permanent exclusion

### Challenges/Risks

- Both fixed term and permanent exclusions are up against previous year's figures
- Latest available comparative figures for fixed term exclusions (2012/13) show Swindon among the local authorities in England with highest FTE rates (20<sup>th</sup> out 151)
- Children with characteristics of vulnerability are overrepresented among those that are excluded from school.

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## Attendance, NEET, Participation in Learning and Youth Unemployment

### Performance Assessment

**Primary School Attendance** Primary absence was 3.8% in March 2015, similar to the same period of previous year, at 3.7%. For reference, absence in Primary schools in Swindon in 2013/14 was 3.6% while the national and regional averages were 3.8%.

**Secondary School Attendance** Secondary absence was 5.5% in March 2015, higher than for the same period of previous year, at 5.0%. For reference, absence in Secondary schools in Swindon in 2013/14 was 5.0% while the national and regional averages were 5.1% and 5.3%, respectively.

**Persistent Absenteeism (less than 85% attendance)** 915 (3.3%) pupils were deemed as persistent absentees in 2013/14, lower than 1,227 (4.5%) pupils in the same period of the previous year, and also lower than the national and regional averages of 3.5% and 3.6%.

### NEET, Participation in Learning and Youth Unemployment – March 2015

March 2015 figures show that the proportion of 16-17 year-olds (academic ages) in learning activities in Swindon was 91.2% (4,743 young people), higher than previous year's figures of 90.4% (4,610 young people). Official figures show Swindon with higher participation in learning figures than comparative areas: national average with 90.6%, and regional average at 89.6%.

The proportion of 16-18 year-olds (academic ages) in Unknown activities in Swindon is 4.5% (349 young people), significantly lower than last year's figure of 7.8% (601 young people), and this compares to national and regional averages of 6.5% and 7.3%.

The proportion of 16-18 year-olds (academic ages) that is NEET in Swindon is 5.6% (421 young people), lower than last year's figures of 6.0% (428 young people), and this compares to national and regional averages of 4.8% and 4.6%. When analysing figures by age, the NEET rate for 18 year-olds in Swindon (10.3%) is above the national average of 7.5%. This NEET rate for 18 year-olds has however started to come down, with almost 2%pts lower than December 2014 figures.

Youth unemployment related figures show a positive picture for the wider young people cohort (up to 24 year-olds). The number of 18-24 year-olds claiming JSA halved over the year: 2.6% (440 young people) in March 2015, compared to 5.2% (870 young people) in the previous year, and compared to 2.9% nationally. Latest official youth unemployment rates show similar rates against the previous year, but there are still significant numbers of economically active young people who are looking for work but that are not being successful in their job search.

### Strengths

- Latest official figures show Swindon with lower school absence and fewer persistent absentees
- Post-16 numbers in learning have increased, and there are fewer Unknowns
- Significant reduction in the youth unemployment rate so that we are now below the national average from a position of being higher than the national figures.

### Challenges/Risks

- NEET figures for 18 year olds are above national and regional averages

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## Youth Offending

### Performance Assessment

#### Reducing the number of Young People committing offences for the first time – First Time Entrants (FTE)

April 2014 to March 2015 (Q1-Q4 data)

The locally set target is to maintain low numbers of first time entrants (FTEs) into the justice system. Whenever possible, low level offending is dealt with without taking young people to court, especially if the young person has not been in trouble before. In the community the Police encourage reparation by the offender direct to those affected by their offending, (paying or repairing damage or a genuine apology etc. as part of a Community Resolution). In total there have been 186 **Community Resolutions**. In 2013/14 there were 273, so this is a reducing trend to watch.

Where offences are not suitable for a community resolution young people may be suitable for a **Cautions**. An example would be where there is no victim or the circumstances are more complicated and need a formal process. Cautions are given at the police station and can involve an assessment by the YOT and can involve Conditions being agreed to make good the harm done or completing basic interventions such as improving school attendance. In total there were 106 Cautions and 16 Conditional Cautions. In 2013/14 there were 55 Cautions and 28 Conditional Cautions, showing a significant increase in the use of Cautions.

Based on the previous year's outturn the target is to have less than 44 **first time entrants** into the justice system per quarter. Against this figure there were 122 First Time Entrants (subject to data cleaning) by the year end, which shows a continuing trend for the reduction in FTEs. These trends are in line with what is happening nationally, where there is a significant reduction in youth offending.

**Re-offending** data is produced by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) using police and Youth Justice Board (YJB) data and is based on a rolling cohort identified 24 months previously. Year on year Swindon YOT re-offending rate has been broadly in line or better than the national average which is currently 35%. During this period, however, the local rate rose to a high of 41.7%. Data suggests this is due to a small number of persistent offenders from 2011/12 re-offending, but as they 'roll through' the cohort timeframe it is expected to return to normal rates. Re-offending rates are predicted to rise across the country due to the reducing cohort of young people entering the justice system. In March 2015 the YOT was subject of a **full joint inspection** which ascertained that there were no practice or procedural issues of concern that were contributing to this rise at the time or in place currently. The final inspection report was published on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

### Strengths

- Offending rates are low and reducing

### Challenges

- To ensure re-offending rates are monitored to ensure we fully understand the issues and impact of small numbers of offenders.

## Work Programme 2015/16

### Children's Health, Social Care and Education

#### Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015

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Author:	Director of Law & Democratic Services
Wards:	All Wards
Locality Affected:	All Localities
Parishes Affected:	All Parish Areas

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#### 1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to have a work programme that details the activities that it will be undertaking during the Municipal Year.
- 1.2 The work programme details the various topics and issues that each Committee intends to look into during the coming year, with the aim of producing evidence based recommendations intended to provide service improvements for Cabinet and external agencies/bodies to consider.
- 1.3 Under the Council's Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Committees are required to agree a work programme at the start of the Municipal Year outlining their priorities and likely outcomes of considering these issues.

The work programme is developed taking into account:

- Corporate priorities and objectives, including the Cabinet Forward Plan.
  - Partnership strategic priorities and objectives.
  - The interests and concerns of Members, Council officers, members of the public and other stakeholders such as community and voluntary groups and local businesses.
- 1.4 Committees are encouraged to review the work programme on a regular basis to ensure it remains relevant and to prioritise the workload of the Committee.
  - 1.5 Members are reminded that the work programme must also take into account:
    - The workload of the Committee and of individual members.
    - The capacity of officers to support a review.
    - The resource implications of carrying out a review.
    - The timescales for a review.
    - The most appropriate method of carrying out a review e.g. Committee meeting, Task Group, Member Champion review.
  - 1.6 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 have presented the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a role, remit and powers regarding local health matters.

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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Contact Rita Glen-Gallo, 01793 463411, [rglen-gallo@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:rglen-gallo@swindon.gov.uk)

# Work Programme 2015/16

## Children's Health, Social Care and Education

### Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015

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- 1.7 The Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee is encouraged to be mindful of its role and remit when considering a work programme for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

### 2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- Consider and discuss the Chair's proposal for the 2015/16 work programme.
- Approve the proposed Work Programme for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.
- Appoint Members to any Task Groups agreed by the Committee.

### 3. Detail

- 3.1 It is important that Overview and Scrutiny adds value to the work of the Council and the Borough and produces tangible outcomes for local people that result in real service improvements. Selecting the right topics is crucial to ensure that Overview and Scrutiny will be effective.
- 3.2 Each year, a consultation exercise with Partner Organisations, Members and the Public is undertaken to find out what issues are important and should be included in the work programme for the next municipal year.
- 3.3 At the end of the 2015/16 municipal year, Partner Organisations were asked to make any suggestions for items to go in to the Work Programme for 2015/16.
- 3.4 The Work Programme attached at Appendix 1 includes these suggestions and the Committee is asked to approve the work programme for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

Task Group Reviews

- 3.5 The Committee is required to undertake individual reviews throughout the Municipal Year and proposals for reviews should be proposed and discussed at the Committee meeting.

### 4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 The Committee can choose not to have a detailed work programme, although it is recommended that it is best practice to do so.

### 5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications arising as a result of this report. Any expenditure arising as a result of an item on the Committee's work

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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Contact Rita Glen-Gallo, 01793 463411, rglen-gallo@swindon.gov.uk

# Work Programme 2015/16

## Children's Health, Social Care and Education

### Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015

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programme will be met by the Overview and Scrutiny Support budget, subject to the approval of the Committee.

#### Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Section 21 of the Local Government Act requires every local authority to establish an overview and scrutiny function to hold the Executive to account, undertake policy development and review, monitor and improve performance.

#### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other direct implications arising as a result of this report. Any further implications will be identified when a topic is reviewed by the Committee.

#### Links to One Swindon, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 The remit of the Committee includes the review, scrutiny and development of policy recommendations and the monitoring performance of corporate priorities.

#### Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 No Diversity Impact Assessment is required at this stage. Any DIA that is required during review of topics included within the work programme will be identified at the appropriate stage.

#### Risk Management

- 5.6 No risk management issues have been identified at this stage. Any risk management issues will be identified at the appropriate time when a topic is under review by the Committee and if it makes any recommendations.

## **6. Consultees**

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

## **7. Background Papers**

- 7.1 None

## **8. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Draft Work Programme for 2015/16.

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## **Children's Health, Social Care and Education** **Work Programme 2015-2016**

### **Terms of Reference of the Committee**

To fulfil all the functions of an overview and scrutiny committee as they relate to: –

- the review, scrutiny, and development of policy recommendations.
- the management of performance.
- the monitoring of progress towards delivering relevant strategies and corporate priorities.
- the formulation of advice for the Cabinet, Council and other partners and stakeholders.

To have specific responsibility for (but not limited to) the scrutiny of:–

- the performance of services for children towards agreed local and national Performance Indicators.
- the quality of provision and effectiveness of Local Authority strategies to raise standards of education within Swindon.
- specialist social services and integrated social services for children and young people in Swindon.
- the delivery of services to children and young people in Swindon generally.

In addition, as these relate to Children and Young People:

- The performance of services seeking to deliver healthy communities towards agreed local and national performance indicators.
- Health, health commissioning and service delivery.
- Public Health, Health promotion and the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Health Integration and collaborative working and commissioning with Health agencies and providers and General Practitioners.

In accordance with Section 7 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 (as amended), the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee will undertake scrutiny of local health service providers jointly with the Adult's Health, Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **Review of the Work Programme**

The work programme will be reviewed at every meeting of the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee to ensure that it remains relevant, to ensure that Members and Officers have sufficient capacity to deliver the work programme and to include any additional items on the work programme, if appropriate.

### **Contact details**

Committee Officer: Rita Glen-Gallo  
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Tel: 01793 463611

<b>22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
Co-optees Appointment	To confirm the appointment of Co-optees to the Committee.	Chair
Performance Report	To provide a detailed report on the Children's Services performance, informing the Committee of the latest indicators across Children's Services.	Victoria Guillaume
Work Programme discussion	To set the work programme for the forthcoming municipal year and agree Task Groups and Membership on to those groups.	All

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 – Theme of Meeting - Health</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
Youth Forum and Youth Parliament	To receive a report from the Members of the Youth Forum and Youth Parliament on their work programmes and achievements for the year and to give the Committee an opportunity to identify any issues raised that Overview and Scrutiny can assist with.	Claire Smith
Health Issues	To update the Committee on work being undertaken by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), School Nursing, Targeted Mental Health Service (TaMHS), Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership (AWP).	Victoria Guillaume
Performance update reports	To receive performance reports as required by the Committee from Commissioners and Providers.	Children's Services (SBC) Great Western Hospital (GWH) Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) NHS England Oxford Health Healthwatch

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 – Theme of Meeting – Safeguarding / Child Protection</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
"Mind the Gap"	Presentation by Youth Parliament	Claire Smith
Safeguarding	To receive a report updating the Committee on work being undertaken regarding Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence, Domestic Violence and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.	Victoria Guillaume

<b>11<sup>th</sup> February 2016 – Theme of Meeting - Education</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
Education / School Standards	To provide the Committee with the latest school standards figures in order that the Committee can effectively scrutinise the performance of schools within the Borough.	Peter Nathan
Education Strategy Board	To update the Committee relating to work being undertaken by the Board.	Peter Nathan
Ofsted Local Authority School Improvement Report Update		Peter Nathan
SEND Reform	To update the Committee on work being undertaken following the SEND Reforms that became law on 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2014.	Peter Nathan
Youth Parliament Update		Claire Smith

<b>13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 – Theme of Meeting – School Place Planning</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
School Admissions Process	To inform the Committee on the School Admissions Process.	Rebecca Mathis
Youth Offending Team	To update the Committee on work being undertaken by the Youth Offending Team	Kevin Leaning
Care Leavers	To receive an update relating work being undertaken by the Care Leavers Team	Valarie Williams
Performance Report	To provide a detailed report on the Children's Services performance, informing the Committee of the latest indicators across Children's Services.	Victoria Guillaume

### TASK GROUPS

<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
SEND reforms	

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