

Children's Services Performance Report

Children's Health, Social Care and Education

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 22nd July 2015

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

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.

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3. Detail

3.1 What are the challenges that your organisation is facing?

Top Seven Priorities	Process	Outcomes
Safeguarding at the social care front door – contacts, referrals and assessments	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 contacts from April 2014-March 2015, compared to 8138 for the previous year. There were 2591 referrals 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.
Number of children in need (section 17 social care)	The number of children in need 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.

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Number of Early Help Record and Plans (EHR) completed	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.	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).
Number of children having Fixed Term (FTE) and Permanent Exclusions (PEX)	<p>In Swindon during academic year 2013/14 there were 1049 fixed term exclusions 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>	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

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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 permanently excluded 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>
Rate of 18 year olds in Swindon that are Not In Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	<p>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 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>
Childhood Obesity	<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:</p> <p>http://www.swindonjsna.co.uk/dna/healthy-weight</p>

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Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Provision	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.	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 th July, setting out the research, and proposing actions for a sustainable level of high quality provision for children and young people with SEND.

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3.2 What have you done well?

Top Five Achievements	Steps taken	Next steps
Child protection – timeliness of conferences	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 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 enquiries that went to initial child protection conference within 15 working days 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.
Number of children in care in commissioned (external) placements outside of Swindon	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%.

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First Time Entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice System	Based on 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 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.
Youth Unemployment rates for 18-24 year olds	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%.

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Conceptions and conceptions leading to births in women under 18 are continuing to fall	<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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Expand the availability of Emergency Hormone Contraceptives (EHC) in community pharmacies in areas of highest deprivation where conceptions rates are highest.</p> <p>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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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.

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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 22nd July 2015.