

Children's Services Performance Report

Children's Health, Social Care and Education

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 3rd February 2016

Author: Head of Children, Families & Community Health & Interim Director of Children's Services

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 (Commissioner's name).
- 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.

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 6673 contacts from April 2015 to September 15 compared to 5317 for the	The service is managing increasing risk in referrals and assessments being undertaken due to the sheer volume. The timeliness of the new statutory assessment has increased from 30 to 36 days on average between

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Jo Ash, Direct Dial 01793 465849, jash@swindon.gov.uk.

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	previous year. There were 1540 referrals between April and September 15 compared to 1374 for the same period in the previous year. From April 2015 to September 2015 a total of 1833 assessments were completed taking an average of 36 working days.	April – September 14 and April – September 15. The vast majority of referrals do result in a statutory assessment being completed which means that screening at the point of contact is good.
Number of children in need (section 17 social care)	The number of children in need cases at end September 15 was 1309. This is above the national average (1140), and is an increase from 1232 at the same point in 2014/15.	The overall number of children in need has reduced slightly as cases assessed are being stepped down to early help service provision in a more timely way in the latest performance reporting period. The number of cases open as children in need will be higher as the referral and assessment rate continues to increase.

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Number of Early Help Record and Plans (EHR) completed	A total of 296 EHRs were completed during between April and September 15. This compares to 227 in the same period of the previous year.	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) Daniel/Paul B	30 Swindon pupils were Permanently excluded from schools in 2014/15, compared to 13 in the previous academic year. Latest official figures, for 2013/14, show Swindon with fewer Permanent exclusions as a proportion of the school population compared to England. In September 2015 there were 2 permanent exclusions, compared to none for the same period of the previous year. Both pupils	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 secondary

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	<p>attended secondary schools.</p> <p>There were 1,880 Fixed Term school exclusions in Swindon in 2014/15, compared 1,782 in the previous academic year. In terms of pupil numbers, 720 were FT excluded in 2014/15. Latest official figures, for 2013/14, show Swindon among the 25 local authorities in England with highest FT exclusion rates. In Swindon, during the month of September 2015, there were 172 fixed term school exclusions, similar to 179 FTEs in the same period of the previous year.</p>	<p>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 6.4% (476 young people), and in line with last year's figure of 6.3% (466 young people), and this compares to national average of 4.9%</p>	<p>When analysing figures by age, the NEET rate for 18 year olds in Swindon is 10.3% (258), above the national average of 7.3%%.</p>
Number of children in care in commissioned (external) placements outside of Swindon	<p>77 children in care (28.7%) were in externally commissioned placements at the end of September 15. This compares with 20% (45children) in September 14. An increase in asylum seeking children is one of the main reasons for the increase as the majority of these children are being placed in with Independent fostering agencies. There was a particular increase during June and July 15. 13% of children were placed more than 20</p>	<p>84.3% of looked after children were in family placements at the end of September 2015, and remains above the national average of 80%.</p>

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	miles away from their home address, down from 17.4% in April 15.	
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. In 2015 Swindon's % of children with a statement or EHCP increased by 0.2ppts to 4.2%, England and South West remained static at 2.8%.	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 Achievements	Steps taken	Next steps
Child protection – timeliness of conferences	Scheduling systems have been improved and the facilitation of conferences has been reviewed to ensure timely outcomes for families going through the process. The percentage of enquiries that went to initial child protection conference within 15 working days was 72.3% between April and September 2015	The percentage of child protection enquiries going to child protection conference within 15 working days (72.3%) is slightly below the national average of 74.7%, and is good in the context of an increase in the number of children on child protection plans.
Children placed within Swindon area and in a family placement (Corporate Priority measure)	87% of children were placed less than 20 miles away from their home address, up from 82.6% in April 15. This measure is a corporate priority with a target to increase to 93% by 2019. There will always be circumstances where it is in the child's best interest to place them away from the Swindon area.	84.3% of looked after children were in family placements at the end of September 2015, and remains above the national average of 80%. Swindon is undertaking a campaign to recruit new foster carers so that it can further improve the number of children placed within Swindon locally with in house foster carers.
First Time Entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice System	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 75 First Time Entrants (figure still provisional), by the end of Q2, which shows a continuing trend for the reduction in FTEs. These trends are in line with what is happening nationally, as overall there has been a significant reduction in youth	To sustain the decrease and ensure interventions with young people are effective in preventing re-offending.

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	offending.	
Apprenticeships for 16-18 year olds	September 2015 figures show that 4.9% of 16 – 18 year olds were in apprenticeships, 0.7%pts higher than September last year. Swindon's apprenticeship levels for this age group are higher than comparative areas: national average at 4.5% and regional average at 4.6%.	The latest performance data for November 15 indicates a continued increasing trend in the number of young people in apprenticeships.
Child Protection Reviews held within timescales	100% of children on child protection plans at the end of September received all of their reviews within timescales between April and September. This is an achievement in the context of an increased number of children on child protection plans.	The target will continue to be 100% in line with good practice

3.3 Supporting Information

3.3.1 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 report.

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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 and in any recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 No Diversity Impact Assessment 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

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 3rd February 2016