

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY 23 OCTOBER 2023

REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS USED IN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide scrutiny committee with an overview of the current Performance Indicators used within the Scrutiny process and to consider appropriate next steps in relation to a review of the Performance Indicators.

Background

2. Childrens Services provide a range of statutory services and functions on behalf of the Council as well as being a regulated service, subject to regular Inspection and judgement by OFSTED. As part of these processes Childrens Services are duty bound to measure their performance through a range of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
3. A significant proportion of the performance measures that are collated are statutorily required to be collected and measured and there are statutory returns which must be completed, for example the SSDA903 which requires the statutory return of data to the Department for Education.
4. As our improvement journey has developed since the Inadequate judgement in 2015, a key focus has been performance data. This focus has seen the demand for data increase and the numbers of measured performance indicators has increased significantly with the current quarterly Childrens service Performance report containing 84 individual performance measures.
5. Whilst the importance of the members of Scrutiny committee members scrutinising and challenging the data is well recognised, there was previously a decision reached that the attention of the committee would be better focused on a smaller sub section of the key indicators and a more condensed version of the performance report was produced for scrutiny.

Current Situation

6. An overview of Childrens Services Performance is currently presented on a quarterly basis by the Assistant Director of Childrens Services to the Scrutiny Committee. This is presented by way of an agreed selection of Indicators (22 of the KPIs) and an overview report.

7. From a service perspective, the 22 KPIs were selected as they are seen to provide a summary of the key areas across the whole service and in this sense are seen as a representative sample of the larger full Performance Report.
8. Members have expressed the wish to review the Performance Indicators currently presented to Scrutiny. The service is wholly supportive of this and welcomes the oversight and challenge that scrutiny presents. Given the purpose of presenting the report is to empower committee members to scrutinise the service, it would seem more appropriate that members are included in the review process, rather than an officer process and decision.
9. I would therefore suggest that a Task and Finish group be established to include members and Officers to review the use of Performance indicators. This group should consider both the existing KPI's which are presented, as well as the overview report in the context of the full performance report, to consider if there are any measures currently not being presented to Scrutiny which members would value seeing.

Recommendations

10. It is recommended that Scrutiny note the contents of the report and support the establishing of a Task and Finish Group to review the Performance Indicators used within the Scrutiny process.

Chris Bell

Assistant Director, Childrens Services

Background Papers

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S17 Crime and Disorder	The service supports the Council's crime and disorder responsibilities, young people engaged in learning are less likely to engage in anti-social behaviour
Health and Wellbeing	The service actively promotes health and wellbeing
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	The service promotes sustainability
Diversity	The service actively supports the diversity agenda
Wards Affected	All wards will be affected
Groups Affected	All families of learners with special education needs
Budget and Policy Framework	Services for SEND are supported through the Dedicated Schools Grant
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
Council Plan	This work will support the aim to provide excellent services for children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) - implement a new SEND strategy, increase the number of SEND places in schools and work to raise SEND funding levels from central government
Efficiency	The work will support efficient use of resources to support SEND
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This work will have a positive impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers