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Merton Council

Children and Young People

Overview and Scrutiny

Panel



Date: 15 March 2022

Time: 7.15 pm

Venue: Council chamber - Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX

AGENDA

Page Number

8 Performance Monitoring Report

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The meeting room will be open to members of the public from 7.00 p.m.**

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Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel membership

Councillors:

Sally Kenny (Chair)
Hayley Ormrod (Vice-Chair)
Stan Anderson
Omar Bush
Nick Draper
Edward Foley
Joan Henry
James Holmes
Russell Makin
Dennis Pearce

Co-opted Representatives

Uzma Ahmad, Parent Governor
Representative
Mansoor Ahmad, Parent Governor
Representative Secondary and Special
Sectors
Roz Cordner, Church of England Diocese
Dr Oona Stannard, Catholic Diocese

Substitute Members:

Thomas Barlow
Andrew Howard
Carl Quilliam
Dickie Wilkinson

Note on declarations of interest

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that matter and must not participate in any vote on that matter. For further advice please speak with the Managing Director, South London Legal Partnership.

What is Overview and Scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny describes the way Merton's scrutiny councillors hold the Council's Executive (the Cabinet) to account to make sure that they take the right decisions for the Borough. Scrutiny panels also carry out reviews of Council services or issues to identify ways the Council can improve or develop new policy to meet the needs of local people. From May 2008, the Overview & Scrutiny Commission and Panels have been restructured and the Panels renamed to reflect the Local Area Agreement strategic themes.

Scrutiny's work falls into four broad areas:

- ⇒ **Call-in:** If three (non-executive) councillors feel that a decision made by the Cabinet is inappropriate they can 'call the decision in' after it has been made to prevent the decision taking immediate effect. They can then interview the Cabinet Member or Council Officers and make recommendations to the decision-maker suggesting improvements.
- ⇒ **Policy Reviews:** The panels carry out detailed, evidence-based assessments of Council services or issues that affect the lives of local people. At the end of the review the panels issue a report setting out their findings and recommendations for improvement and present it to Cabinet and other partner agencies. During the reviews, panels will gather information, evidence and opinions from Council officers, external bodies and organisations and members of the public to help them understand the key issues relating to the review topic.
- ⇒ **One-Off Reviews:** Panels often want to have a quick, one-off review of a topic and will ask Council officers to come and speak to them about a particular service or issue before making recommendations to the Cabinet.
- ⇒ **Scrutiny of Council Documents:** Panels also examine key Council documents, such as the budget, the Business Plan and the Best Value Performance Plan.

Scrutiny panels need the help of local people, partners and community groups to make sure that Merton delivers effective services. If you think there is something that scrutiny should look at, or have views on current reviews being carried out by scrutiny, let us know.

For more information, please contact the Scrutiny Team on 020 8545 4035 or by e-mail on scrutiny@merton.gov.uk. Alternatively, visit www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 15 March 2022

Wards: All

Subject:

Lead officer: Jane McSherry, Director of Children, Schools and Families

Lead member: Cllr Eleanor Stringer

Contact officer: Karl Mittelstadt, Head of Performance, Improvement and Partnerships

Recommendations:

A. Members of the panel to discuss and comment on the contents of the report

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report summarises the performance information for 2021/22, up to 31st January 2021, as set out in the accompanying document, the Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Performance Index 2021/22.
- 1.2. Information on Q4 (January to March 2022) will be made available at the next scrutiny meeting in April 2022.

2 DETAILS

Exception Report

- 2.1. The following indicators are marked as amber or red.

No	Indicator	Rating	Service Commentary
16	Average number of weeks taken to complete Care proceedings against a national target of 26 weeks.	R	Nationally a target of 26 has been set for an authority to conclude court proceedings and to achieve a court decision. We always strive to meet the nationally set target of 26 weeks. Due to small number of children in proceedings in Merton, delays with one family can skew our figures. A range of influences impact on the duration of court proceedings – some of which are outside of the authority's immediate control. These

			<p>include court availability, the availability and timeliness of expert witness input, and the desire to engage effectively with the wider family network to explore alternatives (where appropriate and safe to do so).</p> <p>The service has monthly court and PLO tracking meetings. On a quarterly basis, representatives from the Children and Families Court Advisory Services (Cafcass) attend. These meetings allow the authority to raise concerns about timeliness.</p>
22	Number of in-house foster carers recruited	R	Merton places a large proportion of children with in-house foster carers. There is always room to improve and we are currently planning a refreshed communication strategy for the new financial year.
30	Reception year surplus places	R	See commentary below.

Commentary

Indicator 30: Reception surplus places

- 2.2. This indicator is the total school reception roll against total operating admission numbers. Between October and December 2021, the percentage of surplus places has increased from 10.6% to 12.1% (which is outside of our target range of 5-10%).
- 2.3. There is no official national benchmark on an appropriate level of surplus places. Surplus places across schools provide more choice of school places, but since schools are largely funded based on numbers on roll, surplus places have a negative impact on the school budget, and therefore potentially teaching and learning. In the late 1990s the Audit Commission recommended that a surplus of 5-10% would enable the appropriate balance of choice and to economically provide sufficient school places, and this is still considered a reasonable estimate of best practice and so has been used for this indicator.
- 2.4. With a greater fall in demand for reception year places due to the migration impacts of Covid, we narrowly missed the 10% target maximum

for 2020/21. Members scrutinised the School Places Strategy document at a recent meeting.

Amendments, Corrections and Data Caveats

2.5. We are currently not able to report accurately against the following indicator:

Indicator Number	Descriptor	Commentary
21	% looked after children in foster placements who are placed with in-house foster carers	We have under-reported this indicator due to recording issues. The correct figures are as follows (incorrect figures in brackets): Q1 – 63% (48%) Q2 – 58% (50%)
8	% of quorate attendance at child protection conferences	Data reporting is currently unreliable. The way in which Mosaic is currently configured does not allow an easy analysis of quoracy. The QA and Practice Development Team review quoracy as part of their service.

3 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Performance Index 2020/21.

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Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Performance Index 2020/21



Please note that Year to date performance - unless otherwise stated indicates April - March

No.	Performance Indicators	Frequency	Target 2021/22	Benchmarking and trend				BRAG rating	Merton 2021/22 performance											
				Merton 2020/21	Merton 2019/20	England	London		Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22
Assessments																				
1	Number of Early Help Assessments undertaken by the Authority	Monthly	Not a target measure	18 due to covid	68 completed	No benchmarking available	No benchmarking available	Not a target measure	5	16	9	24	22	18	14	13	12	6		
2	% of Single Assessments authorised within the statutory 45 days	Monthly	91%	94%	94%	83.1% (DfE 2018/19)	83% (DfE 2018/19)	Green	97%	92%	85%	66%	87%	85%	93%	94%	90%	99%		
3	% of Education, Health and Care (EHCP) Plans issued within statutory 20 week timescale (YTD Calendar Year /Monthly)	YTD/Monthly	55%	TBC	39.6% (DfE SEN2 Jan 2021 for the 2020)	58% (DfE: SEN2 Jan 2021 for the 2020 calendar year)	61.8% (DfE: SEN2 Jan 2021 for the 2020 calendar year)	Green	63% 62%	61% 56%	64% 74%	61% 42%	63% 79%	66% 87%	68% 100%	69% 76%	71% 100%	100% 100%		
Child protection																				
4	Child Protection Plans rate per 10,000	Monthly	Not a target measure	39.0	19.5	41.4 (DfE 2020/21)	36.3 (DfE 2020/21)	Not a target measure	37.1	36.3	32.5	30.0	30.8	27.8	28.1	26.8	24.9	22.0		
5	Number of children subject of a Child Protection Plan	Monthly	Not a target measure	186	92	No relevant benchmarking available	No relevant benchmarking available	Not a target measure	176	172	154	142	146	132	133	127	119	105		
8	% of quorate attendance at child protection conferences	Quarterly	95%	N/A	N/A	No relevant benchmarking available	No relevant benchmarking available	Not a target measure			N/A			N/A		N/A				
9	% of reviews completed within timescale for Children with Child Protection Plans	Monthly		99%	99%	93.2% (DfE 2020/21)	96.7% (DfE 2020/21)	Not a target measure	100%	97%	95%	94%	95%	98%	100%	100%	97%	100%		
10	% of Children subject of a CP Plan who had a CP visit within timescales in the month	Monthly	Not a target measure	94%	84%	No relevant benchmarking available	No relevant benchmarking available	Not a target measure	97%	97%	95%	93%	99%	91%	89%	96%	82%	90%		
11	% of Children that became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for the second or subsequent time	Monthly	20%	20%	24%	22.1% (DfE 2020/21)	18.4% (DfE 2020/21)	Green	16%	14%	16%	13%	14%	14%	13%	12%	11%	12%		
Looked After Children																				
12	Looked After Children rate per 10,000	Monthly	Not a target measure	30	33.0	67 (DfE 2020/21)	47 (DfE 2020/21)	Not a target measure	30.0	30.6	31.0	30.6	30.0	29.7	29.1	28.9	27.6	26.4		
13	Number of Looked After Children	Monthly	Not a target measure	142	154	No relevant benchmarking available	No relevant benchmarking available	Not a target measure	142	145	147	145	142	141	138	137	132	126		
14	Number of UASC children and young people	Monthly	Not a target measure	24	29	No benchmarking available	No benchmarking available	Not a target measure	23	21	20	19	19	22	22	23	23	18		
16	Average number of weeks taken to complete Care proceedings against a national target of 26 weeks	Quarterly	26 weeks	41	37	31 (CAFCASS 2018/19)	No relevant benchmarking available	Red			42			69			N/A			
17	% of Looked After Children cases which were reviewed within required timescales	Monthly	96%	96%	96%	Not published	Not published	Green	99%	96%	94%	94%	97%	96%	96%	96%	98%	98%		
18	% of Looked After Children participating in their reviews in month (year to date) (excludes children aged 0 - 4)	Monthly	Not a target measure	93%	90%	No relevant benchmarking available	No relevant benchmarking available	Not a target measure	94%	88%	91%	100%	83%	73%	88%	86%	90%	94%		
19	Stability of placements of Looked After Children - number of placements (3 or more in the year)	Quarterly	11%	8%	11%	9% (DfE 2021/22)	9% (DfE 2021/22)	Amber			14.9%			12.7%			11.4%			
20	Stability of placements of Looked After Children (aged under 16) - length of placement (in care 2.5years, placement 2 years)	Quarterly	65%	65%	75%	70% (DfE 2020/21)	71% (DfE 2020/21)	Green			48%			64.4%			70%			
21	% of Looked After Children in foster placements who are placed with in-house foster carers	Quarterly	60%	49%	61%	No relevant benchmarking available	No relevant benchmarking available	Green			63%			58%			62%			
22	Number of in-house foster carers recruited	Quarterly	20	16	12	No relevant benchmarking available	No relevant benchmarking available	Red			1			2			2			



No.	Performance Indicators	Frequency	Target 2021/22	Benchmarking and trend				BRAG rating	Merton 2021/22 performance											
				Merton 2020/21	Merton 2019/20	England	London		Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22
23	Number of <u>Looked After Children</u> who were adopted (YTD)	Monthly	Not a target measure	3	6	No relevant benchmarking available	No relevant benchmarking available	Not a target measure	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	3	3		
23a	Number of <u>Looked After Children</u> for whom agency Special Guardianship Orders were granted (YTD)	Quarterly	Not a target measure	7 (11%)	9 (10%)	3800 (14% of those leaving care, DfE 2020/21)	420 (9% of those leaving care, DfE 2020/21)	Not a target measure			0			0			0			
Childrens Centres and Schools																				
25	% of total 0-5 year estimated Census 2011 population from areas of deprivation (IDACI 30%) whose families have accessed children's centre services (cumulative)	Quarterly	n/a	43%	55%	No relevant benchmarking available	No relevant benchmarking available	Not a target measure			12%			24%			25%			
26	% outcome of School Ofsted inspections good or outstanding (overall effectiveness)	Quarterly	91%	N/A - C19	95%	86% (31/08/2019)	93% (31/08/2019)	Green			95%			95%			95%			
27	Number of Primary* permanent exclusions (Number YTD Academic year)	Monthly	Not a target measure	0	0	4.9% (National exclusion statistics for AY 2019/20)	0.8% (National exclusion statistics for AY 2019/20)	Not a target measure	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	0	0	0	0		
28	Number of Secondary* permanent exclusions (Number YTD Academic year)	Monthly	Not a target measure	3	13	28.5% (National exclusion statistics for AY 2019/20)	14.6% (National exclusion statistics for AY 2019/20)	Not a target measure	<5	5	13	13	13	1	2	2	3	3		
29	Secondary *** persistent absenteeism (10% or more sessions missed)	Annual	Not a target measure	10.6%	10.9%	13.7% (DfE AY 2018/19)	12% (DfE AY 2018/19)	Not a target measure												
30	% of Reception year surplus places*** (calculated October and January)	Reported Quarterly	Range 5 - 10%	8.5% (Jan 2021)	6.4% (Jan 2020)	No relevant benchmarking available	No relevant benchmarking available	Red			8.7%			11.1%			10.8%			
31	% of Secondary school (Year 7) surplus places *** (calculated October and January)	Reported Quarterly	Range 5 - 10%	5.6%	1.6%	No relevant benchmarking available	No relevant benchmarking available	Green			5.6%			5.6%			3.0%			
Young People and Services																				
32	Youth service participation rate	Annual		TBC	1859	No relevant benchmarking available	No relevant benchmarking available	Not a target measure												
33	% of CYP (16 - 17 year olds) not in education, employment or training (NEET)	Monthly	Not a target measure	1.4%		2.8% (DfE 2020/21 based on Dec - Feb average)	1.8% (DfE 2020/21 based on Dec - Feb average)	Not a target measure	1.3%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.6%	1.4%	0.9%	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%		
34	% of CYP (16 - 17 year olds) education, employment or training status 'not known'	Monthly	Not a target measure	1.3%	1.1%	2.7% (DfE 2019/20 based on Dec - Feb average)	2.2% (DfE 2018/19 based on Dec - Feb average)	Not a target measure	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.6%	1.1%	12.8%	2.2%	1.2%	1.1%		
35	Number of First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 (cumulative)	Monthly	50	39	38	224 (rate per 10,000, 2019)	260 (rate per 10,000, 2019)	Green	3	4	8	10	13	14	16	18	20	21		
36	Rate of proven re-offending by young people in the youth justice system - quarterly / annual (annual is 20/21)	Quarterly	Not a target measure	TBC	TBC	38.4% (2018/19 YJB pub 2021)	41.8% (2018/19, YJB pub 2021)	Not a target measure			45.5%			45.5%			40% 45.2%			
37	Supported Families: Number of Families engaged for Expanded Programme	Quarterly	Not a target measure	300	254	No relevant benchmarking available	No relevant benchmarking available	Not a target measure			100			175			257			
38	% of commissioned services for which quarterly monitoring was completed	Quarterly	100%	100%	100%	No relevant benchmarking available	No relevant benchmarking available	Green			100%			100%			100%			
39**	% agency social workers (HR data)	Quarterly**	Not a target measure	17.6% DfE Census Sept 2021	17.6% DfE Census Sept 2020	15% (DfE Census Sept 2020)	22.7% (DfE Census Sept 2020)	Not a target measure			28%			37%			35%			



No.	Performance Indicators	Frequency	Target 2021/22	Benchmarking and trend				BRAG rating	Merton 2021/22 performance												
				Merton 2020/21	Merton 2019/20	England	London		Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	
40**	Average total caseload for social workers (working with looked after children and/or children subject of child protection plans) (total caseload including non LAC and CPP cases as at end of month) Combines and replaces previous indicators 7 and 15	Monthly**	Not a target measure	14.36 (DfE Census Sept 2021 - Awaiting validation)	16.8 (DfE Census Sept 2020)	16.3 (DfE Census Sept 2020)	14.6 (DfE Census Sept 2020)	Not a target measure	14	15	13	12	12	13	13	13	13	12			
<i>Indicators 27 & 28 : * all pupils educated in Merton Schools (including special schools)</i>																					
<i>Indicators 29, 30 & 31: *** all pupils educated in Merton Schools (excluding special Schools)</i>																					
<i>Indicators 39 & 40** Quarterly and monthly data reported from live date reported by Human Resource or Mosaic respectively. There is no direct comparable benchmarkable data as the DfE uses a different definition of a 'social worker' for the purpose of who is included in the annual Children's Social Workforce Census.</i>																					

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