

CABINET



Report subject	BCP Children's Outcomes Self – Assessment June 2019
Meeting date	12 July 2019
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	In line with best practice expectations, BCP Council has produced a self-assessment of its current performance in delivering Children's Services. This will guide and inform service and practice improvement activity.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that:- Cabinet be requested to receive and note the Self-Assessment of BCP Children's baseline performance in the knowledge that the Children's Overview and Scrutiny received the self-assessment at the June meeting and plans to scrutinise the performance and the improvement plan in the July meeting.
Reason for recommendations	Cabinet to have early oversight of the baseline performance of BCP Council Childrens' Services in meeting the needs of Children, Young People and their families.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Sandra Moore, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families
Corporate Director:	Judith Ramsden, Corporate Director, Childrens Services
Contributors:	Neil Goddard, Service Director, Quality and Assurance Rachel Gravett, Children's Commissioner Kevin Jones, Interim Service Director Children's Social Care Sharon Buckby, Interim Service Director Family and Inclusion Vicky Wales, Service Director Family and Inclusion
Wards:	Authority wide
Classification for Decision	For information

Background

1. The Ofsted Inspections of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Framework requests each Local Authority (LA) to produce an annual self-evaluation of social work practice.
2. Best practice dictates that an up to date self-assessment underpins the improvement activity of a department. The self-assessment should answer three key questions:
 - (a) What do you know about the quality and impact of social work practice in your local authority?
 - (b) How do you know it?
 - (c) What are your plans for the next 12 months to maintain or improve practice?
3. As a new Local Authority, BCP does not have previous self-assessments to build upon, and indeed detailed performance management processes are being finalised in the Summer 2019. The need to understand performance and thus target improvement activity has been prioritised across Children's Services. The self-assessments of the preceding councils, along with their inspection outcomes, inform this work but the objective was to create a BCP baseline self-assessment.
4. The self-assessment attached at **Appendix 1** is based on data for the first 80 days of BCP Council, 1st April 2019 to 22 June 2019. Where necessary, this has been supplemented with data from the preceding councils to give a 6 or 12-month picture of performance. It was essential that this data was compiled at this early stage to ensure a clear and consolidated understanding of the outcomes the new council is delivering for children, young people and their families.
5. Reference is also made to the quality assurance work that has already been undertaken and is ongoing. This includes a peer review of Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and assessment services that was undertaken by officers from the Department for Education funded Partner in Practice, North Tyneside Council. The outcomes of internal audits of practice, complaints and

compliments and early feedback from social work staff and young people are also included.

6. The educational outcomes included are necessarily historic as data relating to the most recent cohorts has not yet been published. However, all schools in BCP have been included and this is the first-time, data in this format has been produced. A Learning Partnership Board has been established in BCP, it is a representative body of educational and training leaders across the area. The objective of the board is to drive up educational standards through peer to peer support, the identification of best practice and cooperative working to address wider issues and achievement gaps for disadvantaged groups. The Council is a key partner in this board and will be sharing area wide and benchmarking data to inform its work in to the future.

Self-Assessment Outcome

7. The detailed self-assessment includes data and analysis relating to current performance. This highlights areas of strong performance as well as those areas where targeted improvement is required.
8. Based on this analysis, an improvement plan is being developed that will drive performance to be at least good. This will focus on **5** key areas of improvement:
 - (a) Consolidation and Change**
 - (b) Leadership and Management**
 - (c) Workforce Development**
 - (d) Partnership working**
 - (e) Quality Assurance and Improving practice standards**
9. The delivery of this plan will lead improvement activity over the short to medium term. Clear priorities have been established meaning activity over the next 3-6 months will be concentrated on:
 - (a) The launch of a consultation on the future structure of children's services management and the design of children's social care;
 - (b) The establishment of robust performance information and quality assurance for BCP in order to make evidence-based decisions to inform and deliver improvement activity and impact;
 - (c) The Implementation of recommendations from current audit activity and the self-assessment include the following activity:
 - i. The review and improvement of the children's front door services which include MASH and Assessment
 - ii. A review of Early Help Services including youth services, consideration of what services are needed to support Adolescents at Risk and Alternative Provision; and
 - iii. Prioritised focus on key practice areas.

10. Performance management will continue to underpin the ongoing work to develop and implement the new Children's Services for BCP. The self-assessment has been key in bringing this work together at an early stage and providing a basis for improvement activity. In order to be sure that the best outcomes are delivered this will be ongoing activity that will remain under constant review. The next iteration of the self-assessment will be completed in the Autumn to inform the Ofsted engagement conversation and this will highlight the progress that has been made from the baseline set out in the attached, and also the revised priority areas for the next stage of the improvement journey.

Summary of financial implications

11. There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report

Summary of legal implications

12. There are no legal implications arising as a result of this report

Summary of human resources implications

13. There are no Human Resources implications.

Summary of environmental impact

14. There are no environmental impact implications.

Summary of public health implications

15. There are no public health implications.

Summary of equality implications

16. There are no specific equalities act implications.

Summary of risk assessment

17. There are no specific risk implications.

Background papers

Appendices

Appendix 1 BCP Childrens Outcomes Self -Assessment June 2019