

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	Children's Services Key Performance Indicators Q1 2025-26
Meeting date	Paper circulation by email
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	This report provides a performance update for the period April – June 2025 (Quarter 1 2025-26) for the key performance indicators relating to Children's Services as detailed in the Corporate Performance Scorecard. It should be noted that these are our amended KPIs and targets for the new financial year. They are based on our previous KPIs and therefore the focus, alignment to corporate priorities and ambitions have not changed. However, minor changes have been made to improve accuracy, clarity and to align with our internal reporting (which is also reviewed annually and set against national comparators whenever possible).
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: The performance update is noted by members of the board.
Reason for recommendations	For noting

Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Richard Burton, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People
Corporate Director	Cathi Hadley, Director of Children's Services
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Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Information

Background

1. This report provides a performance update for the period April - June 2025 (Quarter 1 2025-26) for the key performance indicators (KPI) relating to Children's Services as detailed in the Corporate Performance Scorecard ([A shared vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole | BCP](#)).
2. The key performance indicators are reported under the following 2 directorates in Children's Services: Children's Social Care and Education & Skills.

Children's Social Care

3. **Decrease the percentage of Children and Young People returning to Early Help (targeted support) within 12 months.** This measure shows that Early Help (targeted support) is having a positive impact on the lives of children. The data is based on Level 3 Targeted Intervention which is part of the Early help system. During Q1, we remained on target, with a continued low volume of re-referrals into the service. This trend reflects a positive trajectory, suggesting that the interventions delivered through BCP Early Help and Targeted Intervention service, and the broader EH partnership are effectively addressing the needs of children and families at the earliest opportunity. Notably, the reduction in repeat interventions highlights the impact and sustainability of our current approach. The introduction of clear pathways across the wider EH partnership is progressing well. These developments are strengthening multi-agency collaboration and enhancing the consistency of support offered.
4. **Ensure that the timeliness of assessments to determine the child's needs is conducive with offering the right service at the right time to children, young people and their families.** This measure shows that child and family's needs are assessed in a timely fashion. Plans and services are implemented without delay. The percentage of assessments completed by Social Care that were completed within timeframe remains high for the 5th quarter in a row. Performance outstrips our statistical neighbours and other Good LAs by at least 5 percentage points. We are consistently high performers in this area.

Education and Skills

5. **Reduce the attainment gap and improve learning outcomes for children and young people in receipt of free school meals.** This measure shows that pupils are achieving better results at Key stage 4. Results will be available at the end of August for BCP and will be uploaded at the end of Q2. Comparison data will be available in November and uploaded at the end of Q3.
6. **Reduce the percentage of primary school aged children permanently excluded from school.** This measure shows the percentage of children who were permanently excluded in primary schools during the Spring term. Children who experience a permanent exclusion from school, miss vital time from their educational learning. For some children this disruption can be significant and have a profound impact on their progress and future outcomes. The Inclusion Service have liaised closely with school leaders to ensure supportive plans are in place for children who potentially could be excluded from a school. We are working collaboratively with children, young people and their families, as well as school leaders and other partners to develop a Belonging Plan to ensure that the priorities set out in our Belonging Strategy are delivered and impactful. We have also secured funding to commission 'The Difference' (an educational charity) to develop whole-school inclusion and support with the development of a three-tier Alternative Provision model. We will also utilise grant funding to collaboratively develop high-quality ordinarily available provision across the conurbation. The rate of primary age permanent exclusions remains below national comparators but in line with regional comparators.
7. **Reduce the percentage of secondary school aged children permanently excluded from school.** This measure shows the percentage of children who were permanently excluded in secondary schools during the Spring term. We are working collaboratively with children, young people and their families, as well as school leaders and other partners to develop a Belonging Plan to ensure that the priorities set out in our Belonging Strategy are delivered and impactful. We have also secured funding to commission 'The Difference' (an educational charity) to develop whole-school inclusion and support with the development of a three-tier Alternative Provision model. We will also utilise grant funding to collaboratively develop high-quality ordinarily available provision across the conurbation.
8. **Increase the percentage of Education Health Care Plans issued within 20 weeks.** This measure shows of all EHCPs issued in the quarter the percentage of those that were issued within timescale. Performance has dropped since the last quarter due to the previously anticipated effects of delays to Educational Psychology Advice being completed as a result of service capacity limitations. However, this figure still remains above national average at 46.4%. A capacity management plan is in place to manage the backlog and ensure timeliness matches at least national average while still addressing older assessments.

Options Appraisal

9. None

Summary of financial implications

10. Local authorities have a statutory duty arrange education for children who are permanently excluded. If children cannot be placed in a mainstream school, they will be in alternative provision. An alternative provision place will cost between

£20,000 and £50,000 per year. Places are funded from the High Needs Block funding, which is currently in deficit.

Summary of legal implications

11. None

Summary of human resources implications

12. None

Summary of sustainability impact

13. None

Summary of public health implications

14. It has been evidenced that children who have been permanently excluded achieve less well against a wide range of health and wellbeing outcomes, both through childhood and in later life.

Summary of equality implications

- 15. Children and young people who are disadvantaged, vulnerable, have additional needs and have minority ethnic heritage could be disproportionately affected by permanent exclusion.
- 16. Some groups of children are more likely than others to be referred to social care services. For example, disabled children have been found to be at greater risk of abuse and neglect, and recognition and assessment can be delayed for this group, as signs of neglect and abuse may be confused with the underlying disability or condition. Disabled parents, and parents with a learning disability, may require additional support to engage with children's services.
- 17. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are without parental protection and may face language barriers (NICE Social Care Guideline Equality Impact Assessment).

Summary of risk assessment

18. None

Background papers

None

Appendices

None