

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families

Councillor Karen McCarthy

7th September 2022



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Portfolio

- Lead Member Children's Services as set out in DfE statutory guidance
- Safeguarding children and young people
- Overseeing the Children's Trust
- Overseeing Early Years
- Corporate Parenting
- SEND and Inclusion



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Children and Families Directorate

- 1,757 staff covering 26 service areas
- Supporting 320,000 children with universal services
- 10,500 children and young people have an EHCP
- 4,400 vulnerable children receive services from Virtual School

Birmingham's Current Education Provision



Ofsted Good / Outstanding 83.6%



Pupil Numbers

Data taken national statistics combining information from the school census, school level annual school census, general hospital school census and alternative provision census for 2022.
*All-through schools are classed as secondaries

State-funded nursery	3023
State-funded primary	112189
State-funded secondary*	86280
State-funded special school	4553
Pupil referral unit	324
State-funded total	206,369
Independent school	8199
Total	214,568

Improvement Journey

- DfE appointed commissioner John Coughlan CBE overseeing key improvements in SEND services
- Re-established Birmingham Children's Partnership working with all key agencies in the City to support our children and families

Strategic Priorities

1. Strengthen approaches to identify, recognise and respond to the vulnerability of specific groups of children and young people
2. Transform and improve services for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in line with statutory requirements and to deliver sustainable, well performing services, with inclusion of children and young people at the heart
3. Transform and improve Children and Young People's Travel to deliver a sustainable, well performing service, with outcomes for children and young people at its heart
4. Ensure services are sustainable, compliant with statutory requirements, and designed to deliver best outcomes for children, young people, families, and communities

Progress

- Education and Skills directorate renamed as the Children and Families Directorate. A clear emphasis on placing children and families at the heart of our focus and services.
- Stability and permanence to directorate management team
- Focus has been on getting the basic rights – baselining of all 26 service areas to inform improvement plan
- Further Cabinet Report in November 2022 to set out resource and next phase of transformation following June 2022 report
- Children Services Improvement Board – CM attends
- Focus on culture and practice – restorative practice
- Improved communication with parent and families and staff
- Report sets out progress in SEND / Early Years, Education and Youth Engagement and Youth Services

SEND and Inclusion

- SEND and improvement update on our accelerated progress plan is being shared with O&S today
- There is much work to address the significant weaknesses that were identified in our last Ofsted / CQC inspection
- SEND Strategy refresh
- SEND Improvement Board chaired by DfE appointed Commissioner (CM attends) monitors the APP
- Staffing increase in key areas SENAR, HTST – has seen notable improvements in performance

Birmingham Children's Trust

- Performance of our BCT continues to improve
- Number of focused inspections and recent inspections have shown improved progress
- Appendix 1 in report sets out priorities and progress
- Good practice is firmly embedded in programmes such as Stronger Families, EmpowerU Hub, Early Help offer Preparation for Adulthood. Introduction of the Practice Model for the Trust build on relationship-based practice and much more.
- Quality Assurance Framework firmly embedded
- Our Rights and Participation service – ensuring our children and young people shape our services

Corporate Parenting

- Corporate Parenting Board Meeting – Annual Take Over Meeting – June 2022
- Key priorities driven by voice of our young people
 - Standard of accommodation
 - Mental Health and emotional wellbeing
 - Digital Poverty
 - Support for young people to take on apprenticeships levelling up with those on higher education pathways
- Successes – Bfriends charity launched; HAF programme; Volunteer Recruitment Campaign; Partnership Strategy, the 'Future You' film screening – work on our Care Leavers offers including establishment of a multi-disciplinary Care Leavers Resource Hub

BCT challenges

- Financial challenges – growth in numbers of children in care
- Increases across residential care and supported accommodation and finding good care placement
- Risk in complexity of need of children and young people in our care
- Resources being stretched – recruitment and retention both local, regional and national shortage of social workers

Commissioning

Provider/Organisation	Contract purpose
Birmingham Education Partnership	School improvement. BEP is commissioned by the council to deliver school improvement and development to schools.
Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	0-19 healthy child programme. BCHT provides health visiting, school nursing. Commissioners commission the healthy child programme with BCHT on behalf of public health.
Birmingham Children's Trust	BCT provides children's social care, early help and youth offending services for the council.
StreetGames	StreetGames are the lead organisation the council commissions to co-ordinate (and provide some elements) of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme. They subcontract with smaller organisations city wide to deliver the range of activities and food into local communities
Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	BCHT delivers a number of therapy services on behalf of the council. These include Speech and Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy Services. These support children and young people with SEND.



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