

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2003-2004**Report By: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION****Wards Affected**

Countywide

Purpose

1. To consider outcomes on the national Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) relating to the Education Directorate for 2003-2004.

Financial Implications

2. None.

Report

3. Annually, the Education Directorate is required to submit 25 Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) to the Audit Commission. For 2003-2004 -
 - 12 targets have been achieved or exceeded.
 - 9 targets have been missed by a narrow margin.
 - 4 targets have been missed by over 10%.
4. Of the targets missed by more than 10%, BVPI 40 (Pupils achieving level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 mathematics) has already been reported to Scrutiny Committee (23rd September 2003 and 19th January 2004). Attendance at primary school (BVPI 46) is also below that anticipated. The reasons for this are currently unclear and investigations will begin shortly.
5. The other two of the 4 targets missed by more than 10% relate to the percentage of statements of special educational needs prepared within 18 weeks, both including and excluding those affected by 'exceptions to the rule'. LEAs, the health services and social services have an 18-week time limit in making a statutory assessment that these bodies must normally meet. There are circumstances in which it is not reasonable to expect the bodies concerned to meet those time scales (such as when it is necessary to seek further advice or when a child or parent is absent for more than 4 consecutive weeks) and the normal time limits do not therefore apply. Such circumstances are described as 'exceptions to the rule'.
6. The percentage of statements of special educational needs prepared within 18 weeks excluding those affected by 'exceptions to the rule' under the SEN Code of Practice (BVPI 43a) has shown an increase on the previous year's performance (from 58% to 70%) but not by as much as was hoped for. The Educational Psychology Service has significantly reduced delays. Reviewing procedures, within the process with a view to minimising possible reasons for delays in other areas under direct control, is a priority action.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Stephanie Hood on (01432) 260879

7. The percentage of statements of special educational needs prepared within 18 weeks including those affected by 'exceptions to the rule' under the SEN Code of Practice (BVPI 43b) has made only slight improvement (from 42% to 43%) and mainly reflects delays caused by the need for all the relevant health, education and social worker assessments to be completed. The issue is under discussion with the relevant professionals, and new protocols are to be put in place. Administrative procedures within the LEA will also be examined to ensure that they assist the process.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee consider the performance against national Best Value Performance Indicators for the Education Directorate.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Monitoring of Performance Indicators 2003-2004