

SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

Committee name	Children, Families & Education Select Committee
Officer reporting	Ian Kavanagh, Head of Business Intelligence
Papers with report	Appendix 1 – Six-month performance report 2025-26
Ward	All

HEADLINES

This six-monthly performance report monitors the value the council provides by benchmarking expenditure against key performance indicators. The analysis is based entirely on publicly available data to ensure a fair, transparent, and repeatable comparison with other local authorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

1. Notes the six-month performance report for 2025/26, as attached in Appendix 1; and
2. Makes any comments which will be presented to full Council in January alongside the six-month performance report for information.

Performance management is a critical function in local government, enabling councils to use data-driven insights to improve outcomes for residents. It supports accountability – both internally and externally – by demonstrating how public services respond to local needs and ensure value for money.

The Council's performance framework is aligned with the Hillingdon Council Strategy and incorporates a suite of reports accessible to services, senior management, the Corporate Management Team, and Cabinet – and then reported to select committees. This annual report draws on key performance indicators and monitoring data to assess progress against strategic objectives. Where applicable, it includes the most recent data available, including pre-2024/25 benchmarks.

Notably, the report integrates financial benchmarking from the 2024-25 local authority revenue expenditure and financing outturn report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Performance management is about using data to drive evidence-based decision making to challenge current ways of working and service delivery models. It is an important tool for local government to take responsibility for its own performance and for the public and national governments to hold local service providers to account, ensuring they respond to local needs and that public money is being spent wisely.

2. Performance management includes a range of processes and methods to identify shared goals and various measurements of progress towards these. Closely aligned to the concept of governance it ensures arrangements are in place so an authority's objectives can be achieved.
3. Within Hillingdon, performance is aligned to the Council Strategy, where a suite of performance reports is available to services, senior management teams, our Corporate Management Team, and the Leader and Cabinet. Monthly reports are presented to CMT and action logs completed.
4. This report uses key performance indicators and benchmarking data to show performance and value on key services for financial Year 2024/25 (or in some cases, the latest data available as well as pre-financial year 2024/25).
5. The 6-month performance report for 2025/26 presents a detailed and transparent benchmarking of how Hillingdon council is performing across its core service areas, with a clear emphasis on putting residents first. The report reflects a council that is actively responding to significant challenges—rising demand, financial pressures, and evolving community needs—while maintaining a strong commitment to service quality, accountability, and resident wellbeing.
6. **Hillingdon had the 4th lowest net expenditure in London per 100,000 residents.** Heathrow Airport's presence within the borough creates unique operational and financial pressures that many other London authorities do not face. Despite years of government underfunding and these unique challenges, Hillingdon continues to be recognised as a well-run council, consistently delivering strong value for money and maintaining one of the lowest net expenditure levels in London.

Children Services

7. Children's Services continues to provide safe, responsive and inclusive support despite high-pressure operating conditions. Hillingdon has the 3rd lowest net expenditure for Children's Social Care, however achieved an 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating in November 2023, the highest grade indicating a high quality, innovative service that consistently exceeds expectations where children achieve excellent outcomes. Only 15% of councils nationally are currently assessed at the highest standard.
8. Placement sufficiency remains a priority. Hillingdon has the lowest percentage of children in foster care (51%), which increases reliance on residential placements. Work is underway to stabilise provision and expand internal fostering capacity.
9. Hillingdon's Youth Justice Service has the 3rd highest net expenditure when compared to our youth justice statistical neighbours, however we are lower than the London average. It is positive to see we have the 4th lowest rate of first-time entrants compared to our statistical neighbours and lower than the London and national averages.
10. Hillingdon had the 4th lowest net expenditure for education and early years when compared to our statistical neighbours. This is reflected in the demand data for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) as we have the 4th lowest rate of children on an Educational Health Care (EHC) plan and the 2nd lowest rate of education health care needs assessments (EHCNA) requests.

PERFORMANCE DATA

Performance data is included throughout the report.

RESIDENT BENEFIT

This report enables residents, communities, and service users to understand how well services are performing, ensuring transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in meeting local needs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications to the Council associated with the recommendations in this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications that arise out of the recommendations set out in this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.

APPENDICES

Six-Month Performance Report, 2025/26