

Bracknell Forest Council Plan 2015 – 2019

To meet the challenges ahead the council needed a clear and focused approach that would address the financial challenge and deliver the commitments made in the 2015 election manifesto. We have articulated our approach in a new narrative for the organisation that we believe is right for the challenges we face:

Bracknell Forest is a good place to live with a mainly affluent, well educated and independent population.

The council will provide leadership and work with others to keep the borough a place where all residents can thrive and benefit from core services.

What we do ourselves we aim to do well, but we must prioritise to live within our means.

We will provide an essential safety net and target this to people and areas with greatest need.

In targeting our services, we will continue to prioritise early help and prevention so struggling or vulnerable people can maximise their opportunities to become independent.

Our Council Plan sets out six strategic themes. Collectively, these themes are our vision of what we want the borough to be. Each theme is linked to key measures of success and performance indicators. The vision, themes and key measures provide the framework for us to deliver our new approach and be a council that can adapt and innovate to keep Bracknell Forest a good place to live.



Performance measures

There are 76 performance measures in the Council Plan which provide an overview of performance across the organisation. These measures provide 106 performance indicators of which 45 are available to benchmark using LG Inform. This benchmarking report produced annually each October, supports our internal performance framework and creates an opportunity to place our performance in a wider context allowing us to question how we do things and where we can improve.

Reporting on the Council Plan began in quarter 1 of 2016/17 i.e. April to June 2016. This report looks at the benchmarking data for those metrics in the Council Plan which are also within LG Inform. It compares the data to that which was included in the baseline report done in October 2016 and comments on the change in performance since then. The report is current as of October 2017.

There is no ideal time to produce the report as some data will always be out of date but mid-point in the financial year has been agreed as the most appropriate. This will miss the latest schools and adult social care data which tend to be published each year in October/ November. Data on LG Inform is however continually being updated as new figures become available and the graphs on the website report will automatically update throughout the year. The comments in the website report will not update but these will be reviewed every six months. The comments in this report are correct as of October 2017.

In the report the figures for Bracknell Forest have been compared with those of all English Unitary authorities. An analysis of the statistics comparing Bracknell Forest with its 'CIPFA nearest neighbours' does not show any significant differences from the comparison with all English unitary authorities.

Summary:

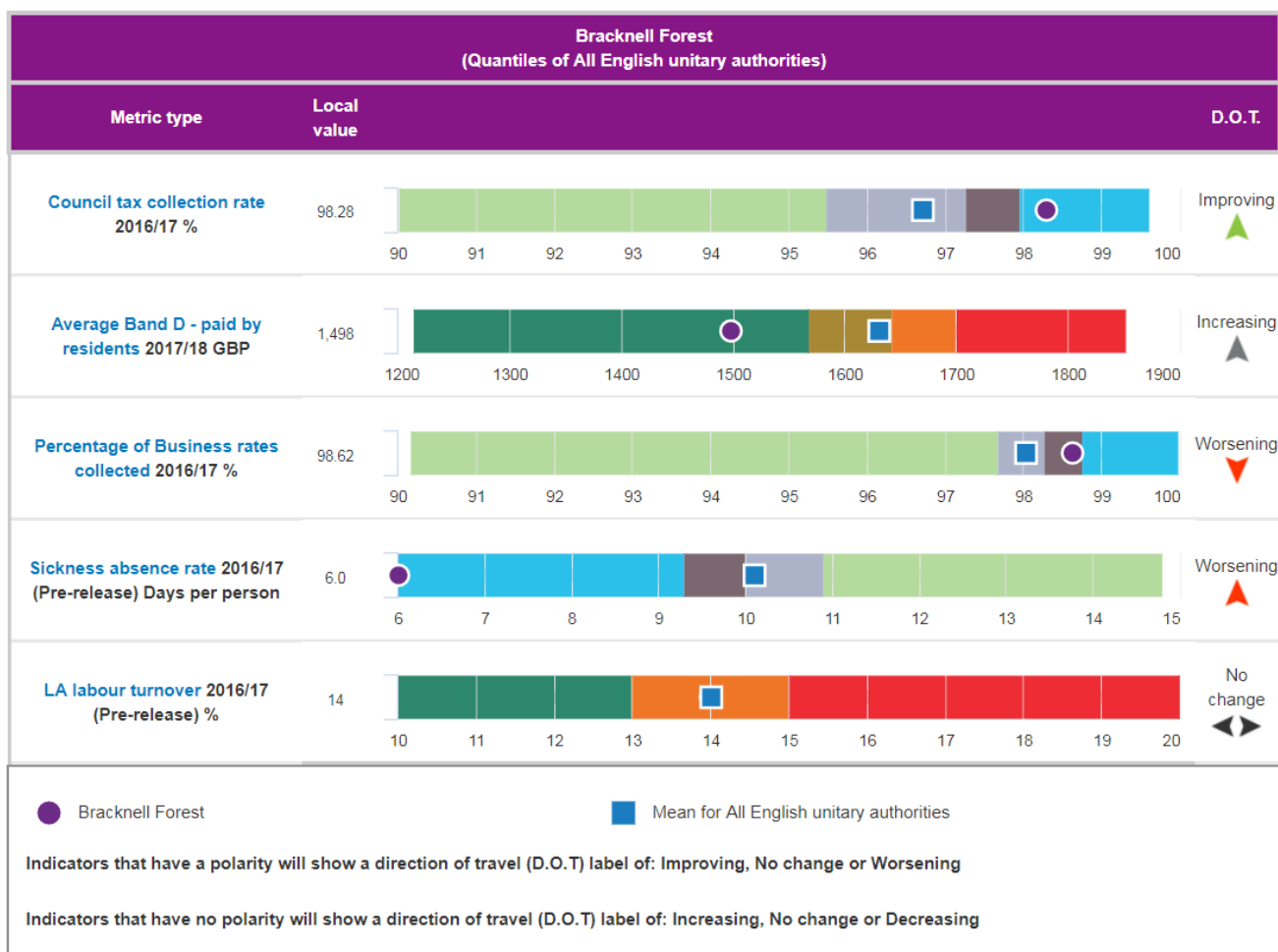
Of the 45 metrics benchmarked for which there was data available, Bracknell Forest is currently in the top quartile for 22 metrics, 49% of the metrics as compared to all other English Unitary Authorities; and in the bottom quartile for 2 metrics, which is 4%.

For those indicators where there is a polarity i.e. an assessment can be made as to whether the situation is improving or worsening, 22 indicators improved from the previous reporting period and 11 had worsened.

Note: The direction of travel arrows (D.O.T.) in the graphs below indicate the change in performance from the previous reporting period. This will be either the previous quarter or the previous year depending upon the individual metric.

- For indicators where there is a polarity (i.e. a higher or a lower figure is better) a green direction of travel arrows indicates that performance has improved since the previous reporting period a red arrow indicates that performance has got worse and two horizontal arrows indicate that performance has not changed .
- For indicators for which there is no polarity all arrows are grey and are labelled to indicate whether the figure has increased or decreased since the last reporting period or whether there has been no change.
- On all graphs the purple circle shows the figures for Bracknell Forest and the average for all English unitary authorities is represented by a blue square.

Comments last updated October 2017.



Notes:

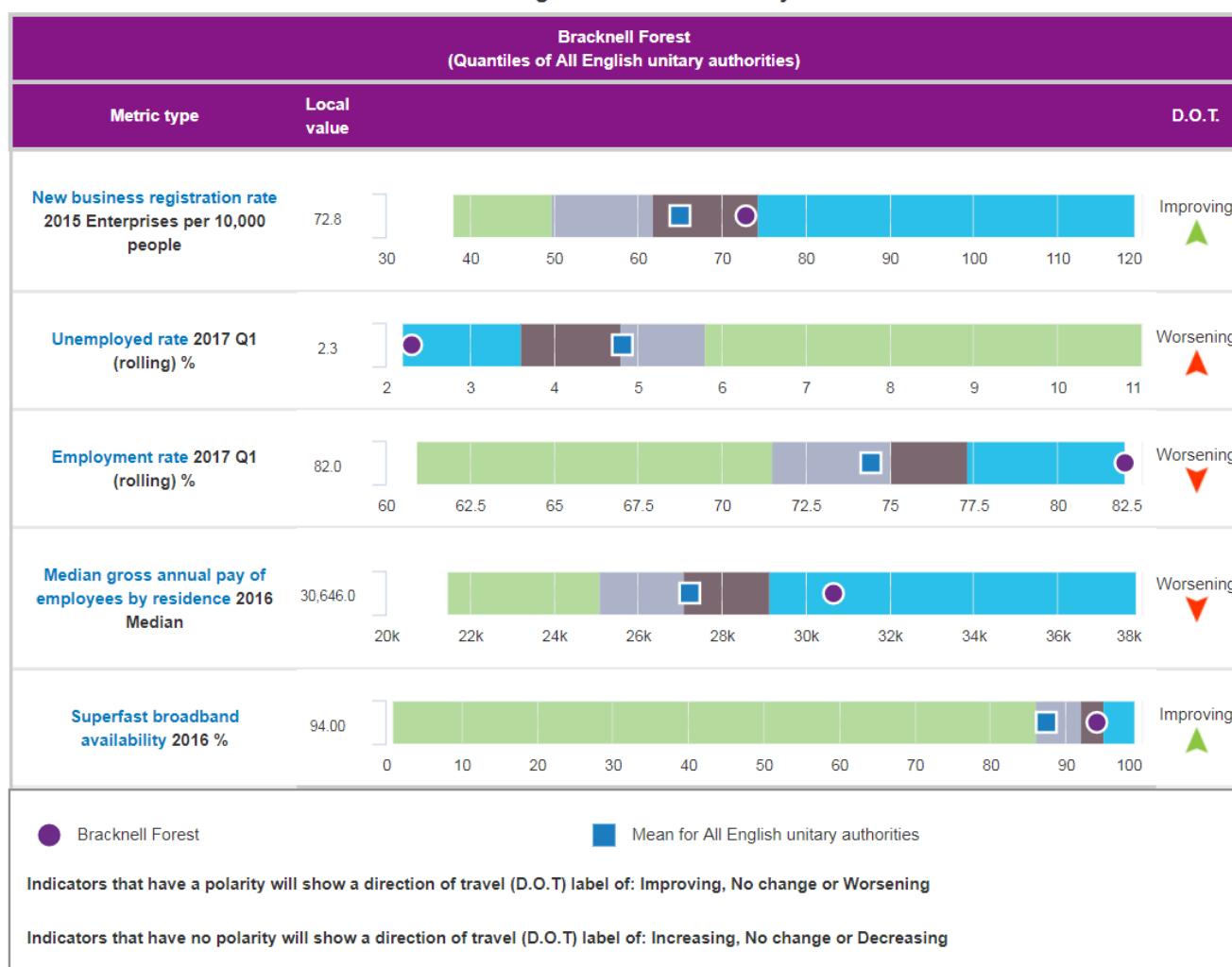
The collection of Council Tax and Business Rates is extremely high. Council Tax collection is stable at 98.28% in 2016/17 in comparison to 98.26% in 2015/16. Business Rates collection is also stable going from 98.90% in 2015/16 to 98.62% in 2016/17.

The lower than average Band D tax bill is reflective of the Council's aim of keeping Council Tax in the lowest 10% nationally amongst similar authorities. Whilst the amount has increased from £1,433 in 2016/17 to £1,496 in 2017/18, it remains well below the average of £1,630.

The sickness absence rate for Bracknell Forest is up from 5.2 days per employee in 2014/15 to 6.0 in 2016/17. However, this is well below the average of 10.1.

The staff turnover figure for Bracknell Forest is up from 13% in 2014/15 to 14% in 2016/17 which is the same as the average.

A strong and resilient economy



Notes:

The metrics for a strong and resilient economy show that Bracknell Forest is currently out-performing the other unitaries. New business registrations are at 72.8 registrations per 10,000 people compared to 64.9 registrations per 10,000 people for all English unitaries.

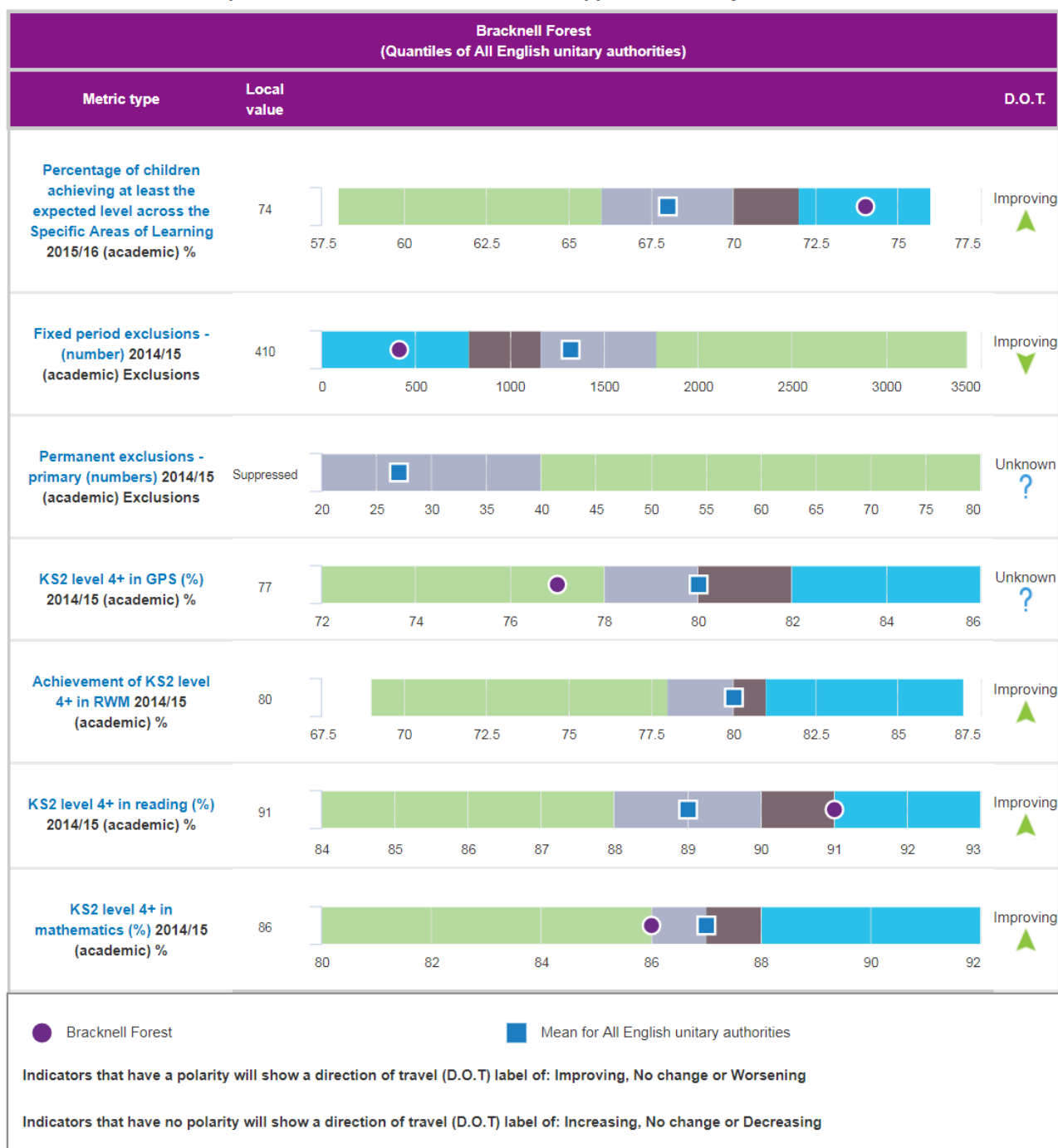
There are high levels of employment, 82.0% in 2017 Q1, and low levels of unemployment, 2.3% in 2017 Q1, in the borough. These figures have worsened slightly since the previous quarter, however these figures are very stable and consistently the first or second of all English unitaries. Last year's benchmarking reported the unemployment figure for 2015 Q4 as 2.3% and an employment figure for 2015 Q4 of 83.4%.

It is anticipated that the figures will improve further with the new jobs created due to the regenerated town centre.

Median gross annual pay has decreased from £31,213 in 2015 to £30,645 in 2016. This is well above the average of £27,232.

The coverage of Superfast broadband across the borough in 2016 was very high at 94%. This is up from 92% in 2015.

People have the life skills and education opportunities they need to thrive



Notes:

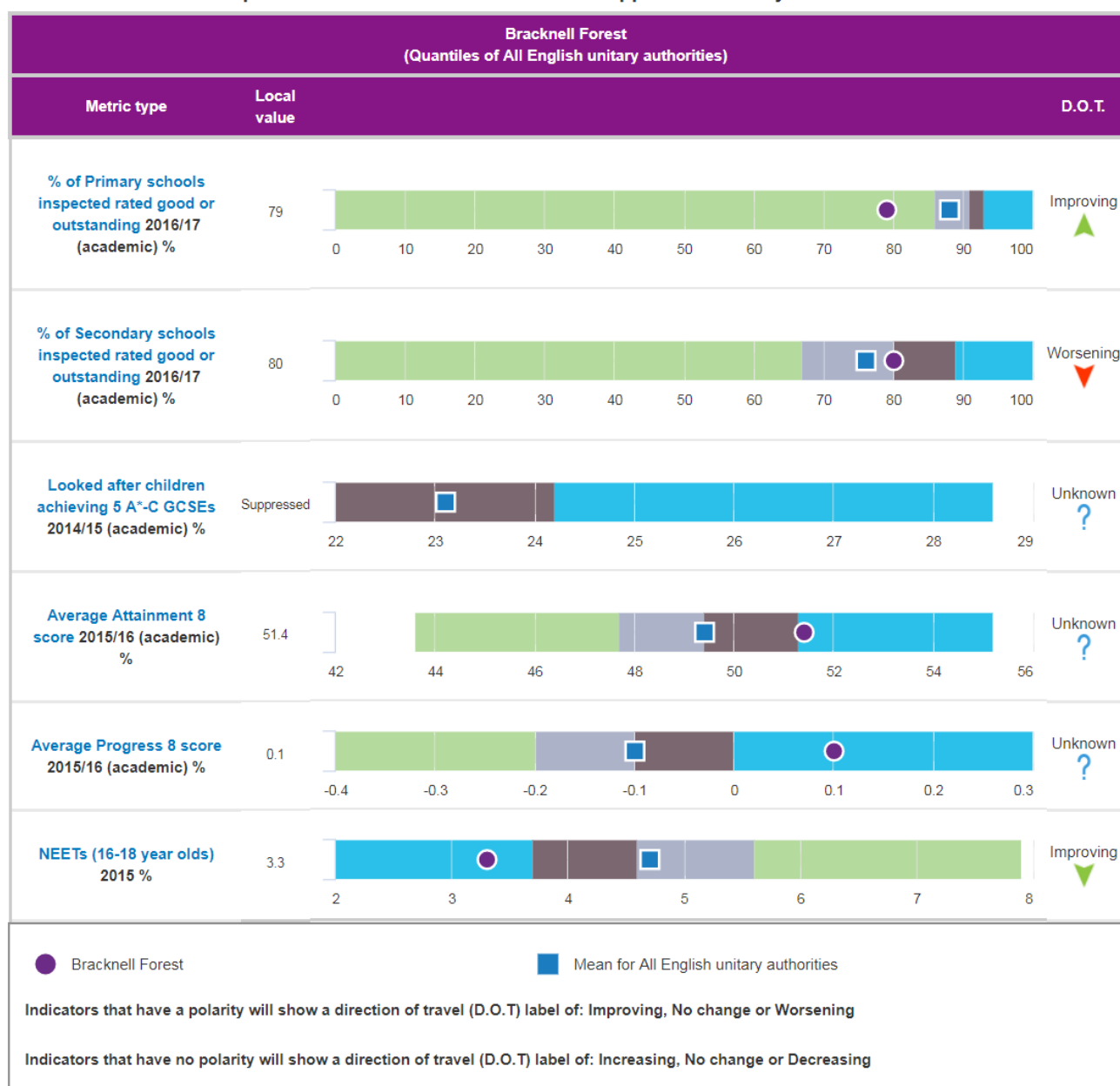
From 2015/16 the KS2 assessments was changed significantly. The next benchmarking report in 2018 will include the new data.

Percentage of children achieving at least the expected level across specific areas of learning has increased from 72% in 2014/15 to 74% in 2015/16 and is in the top quartile.

In KS2 the percentage of pupils achieving level 4+ in maths was 86% in 2014/15 (up from 85% in 2013/14) and in reading was 91% in 2014/15 (up from 89% in 2013/14). Overall achievement at KS2 for reading, writing and maths was 80% in 2014/15 - up from 79% in 2013/14 and in line with the average.

Please note: Where data has been suppressed it is because numbers are so low that they could potentially lead to the identification of individuals. In the case of exclusions all results below 5 have been suppressed.

People have the life skills and education opportunities they need to thrive



Notes:

The percentage of Primary schools rated as good or outstanding increased from 71% in 2015/16 to 79% in 2016/17. Although performance is increasing the figure is still in the lowest performing quartile. For context, 79% is equivalent to 25 out of 32 primary schools in the borough.

For secondary schools the result in 2016/17 was 80%, a decrease from 100% in 2015/16. For context, 80%, is equivalent to 4 out of 5 secondary schools. From 2018/19 this indicator will be separated to distinguish between academies and maintained schools.

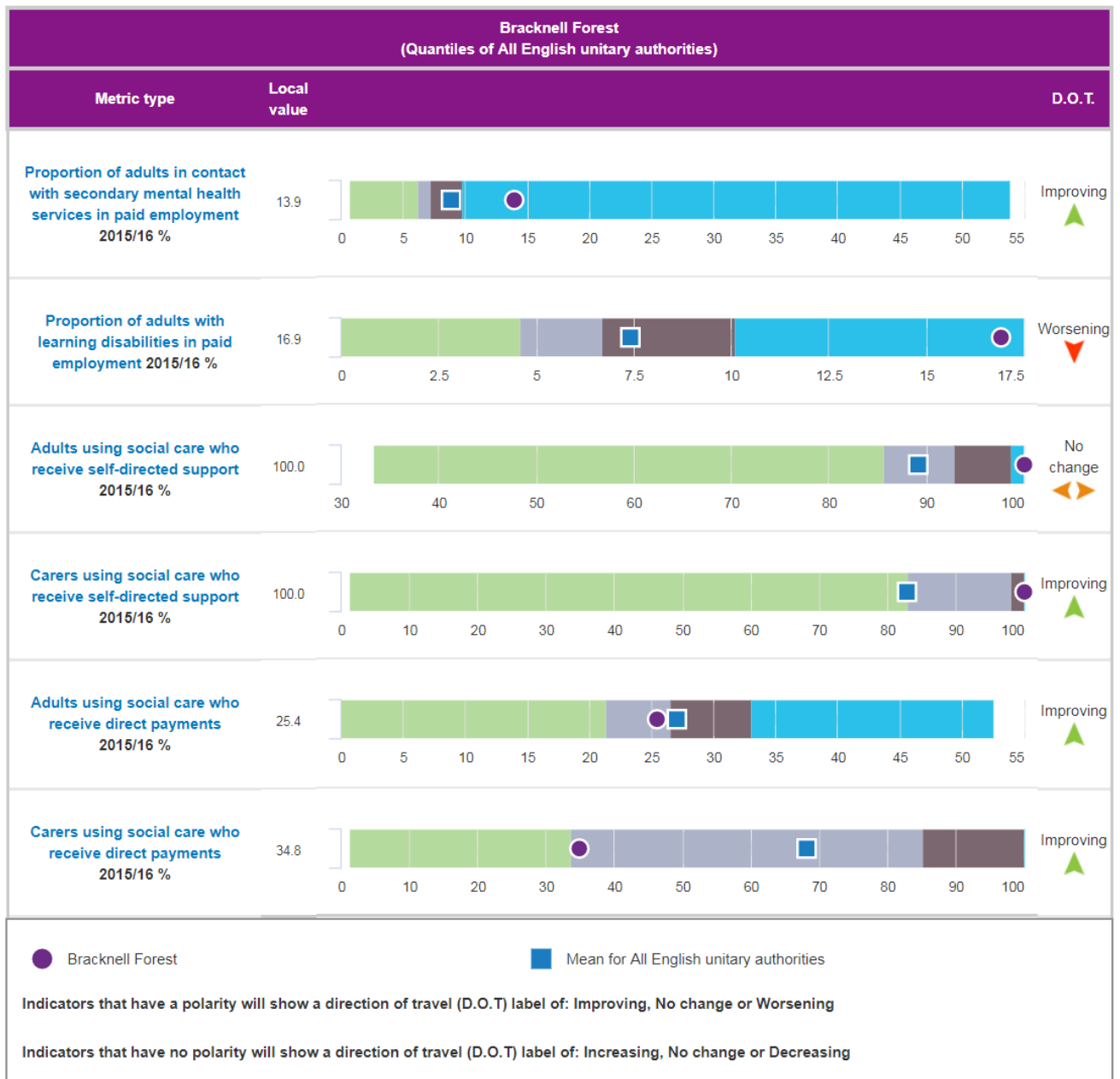
The latest data for looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSE's is from 2014/15 and is also suppressed because the numbers are very low. In 2016/17 the figure was 33.3% of a cohort of 6.

The average attainment 8 and progress 8 scores for 2015/16 are very high and both in the top quartile.

The latest data available on LG Inform on NEETs is from 2015, when the figure was 3.3% in Bracknell Forest compared to an average of 4.7%. The latest available data from Q2 2017/18 is 4.8%. This is 1.1% lower than the same period last year. The figure for Q2 each year is generally high due to the number of year 11's who are NEET as a result of having completed their summer exams and not being in a form of education, employment or training.

Please note: Where data has been suppressed it is because numbers are so low that they could potentially lead to the identification of individuals. For GCSE results of looked after children, all results below 15 have been suppressed (2014/15).

People live active and healthy lifestyles



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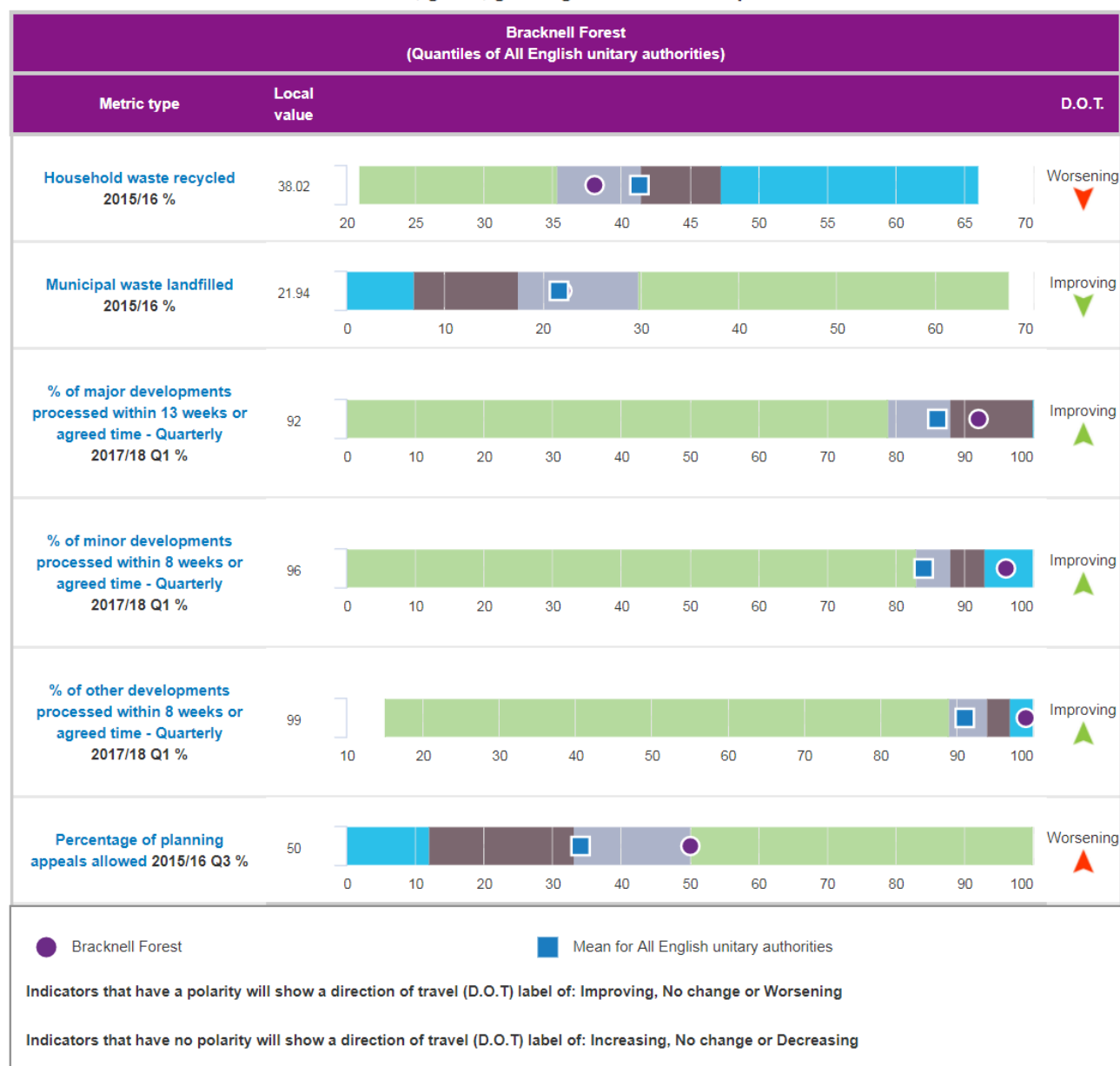
In Bracknell Forest the proportion of adults in contact with mental health services in paid employment was 13.9% in 2015/16 - an improvement from 13.3% since 2014/15. This indicator is no longer reported locally and more recent data is not yet available.

Those with learning difficulties in paid employment have decreased from 19.5% 2014/15 to 16.9% in 2015/16. However, this is higher than the average of 7.4% and is in the top quartile. The latest available data shows the proportion of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment has decreased further in 2016/17 to 15.3%

Bracknell Forest Council is performing above average for people using social care who receive self-directed support and carers who receive self-directed support. Both metrics were at 100% from 2015/16 going forward.

Bracknell Forest Council is performing above average for people using social care who receive direct payments and carers who receive direct payments. In 2015/16, both figures were in the 3rd quartile at 25.4% and 34.8% respectively compared to averages of 27.0% and 68.1% respectively. However, as of 2016/17 both figures were at 100%.

A clean, green, growing and sustainable place



Notes:

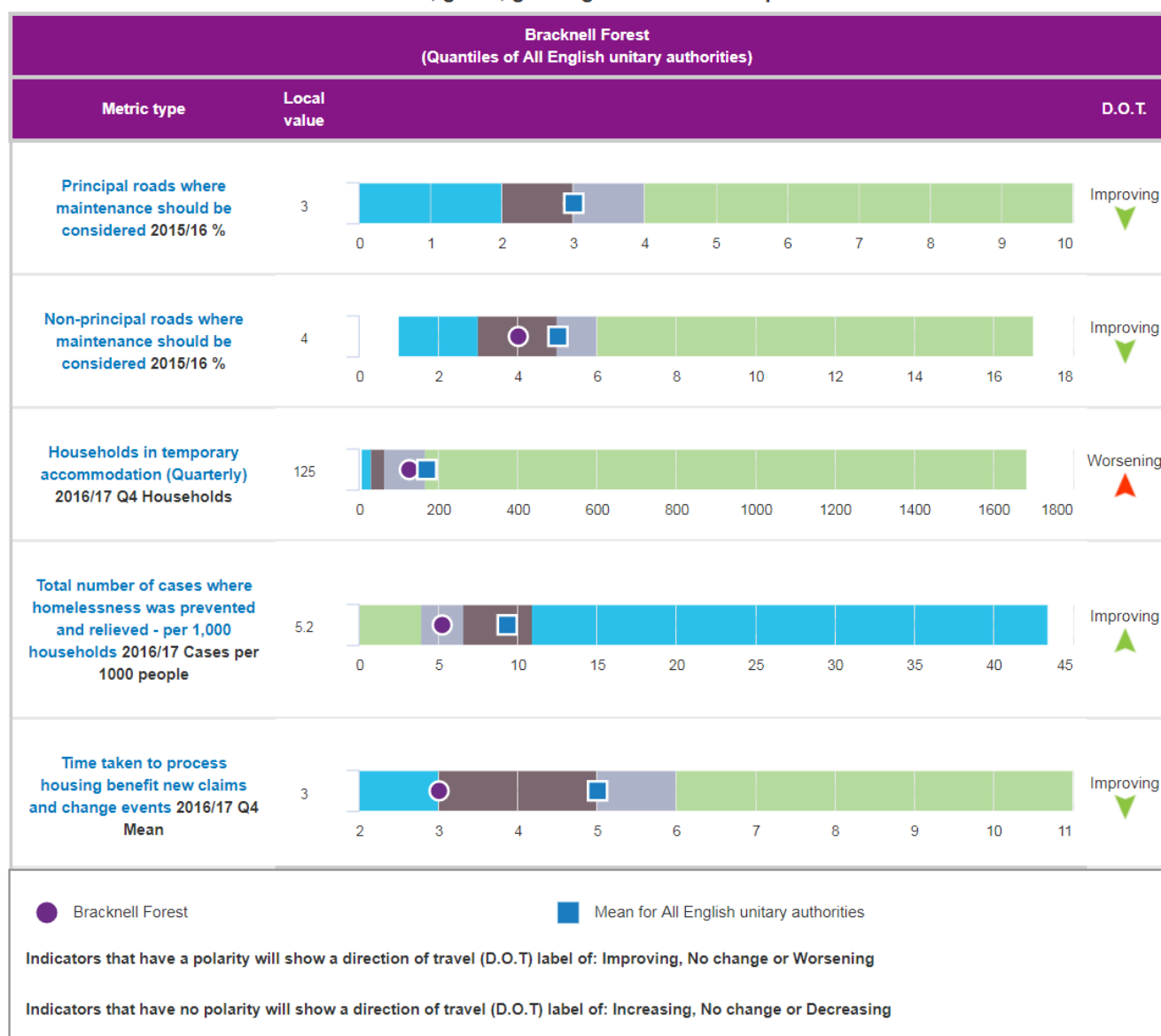
The proportion of household waste recycled in 2016/17 was 40.10%. (This data has not been updated on LG Inform.) This is the first time in five years the rate has been over 40% and is above our local target of 37.00%. It is also up from 38.00% in 2015/16. The all English Unitary Authorities average was 41.28% in 2015/16.

For municipal waste landfilled, the figure for 2016/17 was 19.78%. (This data has not been updated on LG Inform.) This was the lowest figure ever and a decrease from 21.94% in 2015/16. The all English Unitary Authority Average was 21.59% in 2015/16.

Bracknell Forest is a relatively high performing authority in terms of the processing of all types of planning applications - in Q1 2017/18 this was 92 major, 96 minor, 99 other. This is an increase on the Q4 2016/17 figures of 75 major, 92 minor, 97 other. Figures however do fluctuate from quarter to quarter.

The percentage of appeals allowed was 50% in Q3 2015/16. This was a change from 29% in Q2. The figure is however a snapshot in time. Analysis of the most recent data confirms this is not an area of concern.

A clean, green, growing and sustainable place



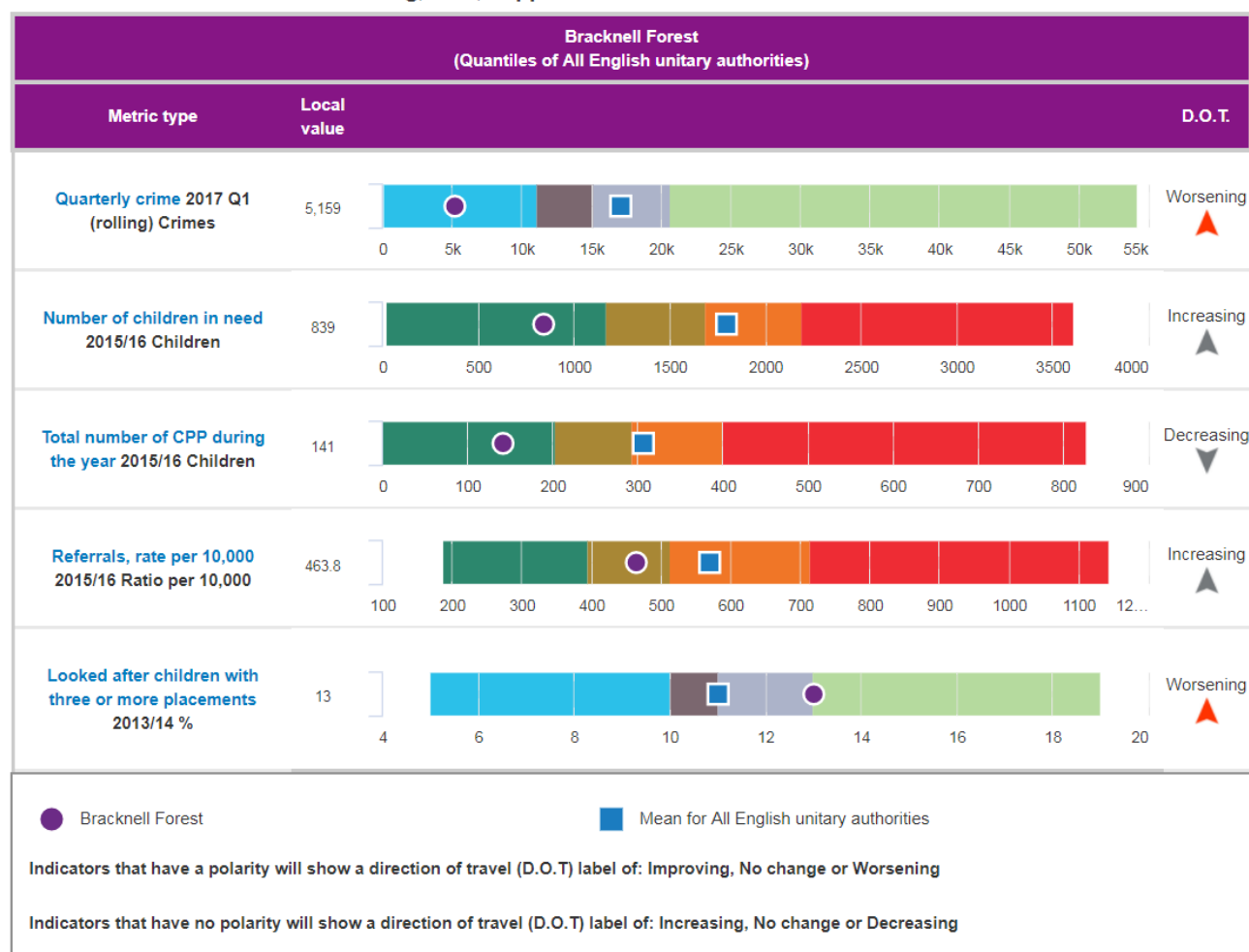
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Principal roads needing maintenance is average and has decreased from 9 in 2014/15 to 3 in 2015/16 which is an improvement. For non-principal roads the number has decreased from 7 in 2014/15 to 4 in 2015/16.

In Q4 2016/17 there were 125 households in temporary accommodation; down from 123 in Q3. The total number of cases where homelessness was prevented and relieved increased from 4.1 per 10,000 in 2015/16 to 5.2 in 2016/17 and remains below the average of 9.3 and in the 3rd quartile.

The time taken to process benefit claims is lower than that of the comparator authorities and has been improving at 3 days in Q4 2016/17 against an average of 5. This is down from 11 days in Q3.

Strong, safe, supportive and self-reliant communities



Notes

Crime rates in Bracknell Forest remain very low with 5,159 recorded in 2017 Q1 (rolling). This is down from 5,075 the previous quarter. The all English unitary average is 17,066.

The children in need figures on the LG Inform website are out of date. In Q2 2017/18, the number of children in need in Bracknell Forest was 924 (including looked after children and children with Child Protection Plans). This is down from 1092 in Q1 2017/18. However, the long term trend in the past year has been an increasing figure, up from 838 in Q2 2016/17.

The number of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plans has decreased slightly from 144 in 2014/15 to 141 in 2015/16. The average for all English unitaries is 306. More recent data is not available on the LG Inform website however; the number of children on a child protection plans increased from 142 in Q2 2016/17 to a peak of 171 in Q3 and Q4 of 2016/17 but has dropped to 143 in Q2 2017/18.

The rate of referrals to children's social care has increased from 381.0 in 2014/15 to 463.8 per 10,000 population in 2015/16. However, this has decreased more recently, and for Q2 2017/18 is 127.3 per 10,000 population.

The latest data in LG Inform on stability of placements is from 2013/14 when 13 children had 3 or more placements during the course of the year. The figure was the same for Quarter 2, 2017/18, when 13 children had 3 or more placements during the course of the year.