



*Meeting:* **Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

*Date/Time:* **Monday, 5 June 2017 at 2.30 pm**

*Location:* **Sparkenhoe Committee Room, County Hall, Glenfield**

*Contact:* **Ms R Palmer (0116 305 6098)**

*Email:* **rosemary.palmer@leics.gov.uk**

### Membership

Dr. P. Bremner CC    Mrs B. Seaton CC  
Mr. G. Hirst        Mr. S. D. Sheahan CC  
Mr. J. Kaufman CC    Mrs D. Taylor CC  
Mrs. C. Lewis        Mr. G. Welsh CC  
Mrs. R. Page CC      Mrs. A. Wright CC  
Mrs H. L. Richardson CC

**Please note: this meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's web site at <http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk>  
– Notices will be on display at the meeting explaining the arrangements.**

### AGENDA

- | <u>Item</u>   | <u>Report by</u> |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Appointment of Chairman.<br><br>To note that Mrs A Wright CC was nominated as Chairman elect to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the Annual Meeting of the County Council held on 17 May 2017. |                  |
| 2. Election of Deputy Chairman.   |                  |
| 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2017.   | (Pages 5 - 12)   |
| 4. Question Time.   |                  |
| 5. Questions asked by members under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).   |                  |
| 6. To advise of any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent  |                  |



elsewhere on the agenda.

7. Declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.
8. Declarations of the Party Whip in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.
9. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order 36.
10. Quarter 4 2016/17 Performance Report. Chief Executive and Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 13 - 24)
11. Young Carers. Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 25 - 28)
12. Extended Free Childcare Entitlement. Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 29 - 34)
13. Date of next meeting.  
  
The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to take place on 11 September at 1.30pm.
14. Any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent.

## **QUESTIONING BY MEMBERS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

Members serving on Overview and Scrutiny have a key role in providing constructive yet robust challenge to proposals put forward by the Cabinet and Officers. One of the most important skills is the ability to extract information by means of questions so that it can help inform comments and recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny bodies.

Members clearly cannot be expected to be experts in every topic under scrutiny and nor is there an expectation that they so be. Asking questions of 'experts' can be difficult and intimidating but often posing questions from a lay perspective would allow members to obtain a better perspective and understanding of the issue at hand.

Set out below are some key questions members may consider asking when considering reports on particular issues. The list of questions is not intended as a comprehensive list but as a general guide. Depending on the issue under consideration there may be specific questions members may wish to ask.

### **Key Questions:**

- Why are we doing this?
- Why do we have to offer this service?
- How does this fit in with the Council's priorities?
- Which of our key partners are involved? Do they share the objectives and is the service to be joined up?
- Who is providing this service and why have we chosen this approach? What other options were considered and why were these discarded?
- Who has been consulted and what has the response been? How, if at all, have their views been taken into account in this proposal?

### **If it is a new service:**

- Who are the main beneficiaries of the service? (could be a particular group or an area)
- What difference will providing this service make to them – What will be different and how will we know if we have succeeded?
- How much will it cost and how is it to be funded?
- What are the risks to the successful delivery of the service?

### **If it is a reduction in an existing service:**

- Which groups are affected? Is the impact greater on any particular group and, if so, which group and what plans do you have to help mitigate the impact?
- When are the proposals to be implemented and do you have any transitional arrangements for those who will no longer receive the service?
- What savings do you expect to generate and what was expected in the budget? Are there any redundancies?
- What are the risks of not delivering as intended? If this happens, what contingency measures have you in place?

This page is intentionally left blank



Minutes of a meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at County Hall, Glenfield on Monday, 6 March 2017.

PRESENT

Mr. S. D. Sheahan CC (in the Chair)

Mr. G. Hirst	Mr. T. J. Pendleton CC
Mr. J. Kaufman CC	Mrs. C. M. Radford CC
Mr. L. J. P. O'Shea CC	Mr. E. D. Snartt CC
Mr. A. E. Pearson CC	Mr. G. Welsh CC

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Lewis and Mr Perry.

In Attendance

Mr. I. D. Ould CC – Cabinet Lead Member.

51. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2017.

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

52. Question Time.

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 35.

53. Questions asked by members under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).

The Chief Executive reported that no questions have been received under Standing Order 7 (3) and 7 (5).

54. To advise of any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent elsewhere on the agenda.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

55. Declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare any interest in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

Mr D Snartt CC declared a personal interest in all items on the agenda as two members of his family were teachers.

Mr O'Shea declared a personal interest in all items on the agenda as his daughter worked in a school nursery.

Dr Eynon declared an interest in Item 9 as a salaried GP and a volunteer at Ashmount School.

56. Declarations of the Party Whip in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.

There were no declarations of the party whips.

57. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order 36.

The Chief Executive reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 36.

58. Ofsted Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children and Families concerning the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection of children social care services in Leicestershire and an Action Plan prepared to address the recommendation contained with the Ofsted report. A copy of the report, marked Agenda Item 8, is filed with these minutes.

In response to questions and comments made by members of the Committee, the Director and Cabinet Lead Member advised as follows:-

- i) The most recent self-assessment undertaken had concluded that the outcome of the inspection was likely to find that the Authority would be rated as requiring improvement but noting that there were areas of good practice. The Ofsted findings therefore reflected the most recent self-assessment and the Council should therefore accept the findings and seek to address the recommendations contained in the report;
- ii) Based on the self-assessment and in advance of the Ofsted inspection the Department had begun to address some of the issues now identified in the Ofsted report with an investment of £0.5million for making improvements. As a result the Action Plan contained references of work having commenced in January. The Ofsted inspection team were made aware of these proposals and whilst generally supportive advised that they were unable to factor these into their consideration as it was too early to assess their impact;
- iii) The Action Plan would be revised in the light of further work being undertaken and having regard to the impact of the work already underway. As such, and given the need to engage with partners, it was not possible to provide a definitive statement of the resource requirements at this stage. In this regard the Committee were reminded that many of the proposed actions did not have a resource requirement but were about embedding good management and social work practices within teams;
- iv) There was no clear view as to a appropriate social work case load as it varied with the complexity of the case and experience of the staff dealing with the case.

However, having recognised that case-loads were on the high side part of the £0.5 million investment was used to engage temporary social work staff. The aim of the department was to have permanent staff in post wherever possible but given the increasingly competitive market for social work staff it needed to engaged interim staff;

- v) With regard to the criticisms made about support to newly qualified social work staff this had been accepted. The Department was now working with the Learning and Development service to address this and involved providing support and mentoring from senior practitioners.
- vi) The concerns regarding First Response related primarily to the timeliness of response and not so much the quality of the response. The Action Plan had prioritised this area with a view to seeking early improvements in response times;
- vii) The Action Plan would be submitted to Ofsted as required. Under the current arrangements there would not be a direct follow up on the Action Plan. There was need to have in place robust systems to ensure implementation of actions but also to provide evidence as to whether such actions were having the desired impact. In addition the Department would look to other means of assessing its performance including a Peer Review process;
- viii) The difficulties identified in the Ofsted report regard therapeutic services such as CAMHS were recognised. The most recent Care Quality Commission report into therapeutic services provided by the Leicestershire Partnership Trust also raised similar concerns. In this regard members were advised that a summit was to be held in mid-March involving the key stakeholders to find a way forward. The Director indicated that he would be pressing for a review of the CAHMS contract and for the development of a new pathway for services which included some early interventions which would in turn reduce the need for more intensive services. The development of the new Children's Plan and the establishment of a new Children's Partnership Group as part of the Health and Wellbeing Board would provide a dedicated forum for championing children health services;
- ix) The concerns raised regarding housing support for young people aged 16-17 was acknowledged and the Director would seek to bring forward actions aimed at speeding up support for these young people.

**RESOLVED:-**

That the Cabinet be advised that the Committee notes the recommendations set out in the report and:-

- a) accepts the findings of the Ofsted inspection report;
- b) welcomes and supports the Action Plan prepared in response;
- c) would wish to work with the Department and Lead Member to develop a new performance management and monitoring framework so that the proposed actions are implemented and monitored to ensure that they are delivering the required improvements in services to children and young people;

- d) has requested the Director of Children and Families Service to report to the next meeting with an update on the action plan and proposals new performance and monitoring referred to in (c) above.

59. Local Safeguarding Children Board Business Plans 2017/18.

The Committee considered a report of the Independent Chairman of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Board which set out the business plan priorities for the coming year, 2017/18. A copy of the report, marked Agenda Item 8, is filed with these minutes.

The Independent Chairman, Mr Paul Burnett, outlined the priorities going forward and advised the Committee that these priorities paid due regard to the findings of the Ofsted inspection report. He drew particular attention to his concerns regarding services for promoting the emotional health and wellbeing of young people and supported the views expressed in the earlier discussion on the Ofsted report about seeking improvements in the CAHMS service and developing an early intervention offer.

In response to a comment regarding improving support for young care leavers who were homeless or at risk of being homeless, Mr Burnett indicated that he would take the concerns now expressed to the Safeguarding Board Executive for consideration.

RESOLVED:-

That subject to the comments now made the priorities of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Board in relation to children safeguarding be supported.

60. Fostering and Adoption - Details on Adoption Placement Breakdown, Pressures in the LAC System and the Future Strategy for Fostering.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children and Families concerning an update on adoption placement breakdowns, the pressures in the Looked after Children Service and the future strategy for fostering. A copy of the report, marked Agenda Item 10, is filed with these minutes.

In the ensuing discussion the following points were made:-

Adoption

- a) The Service had recently begun a recruitment exercise given the increase in the number of children seeking adoption;
- b) Whilst the Service was required to provide support to adoptive parents for a period of three years where necessary such support was available beyond the three years;

Looked After Children

- c) The increase in the numbers of looked after children were increasing pressures but the Service had responded to the challenges this posed. The Ofsted inspection findings were that the placements for children looked after were good ;
- d) Care leavers were supported and monitored and further information would be provided in the next update to members;



## Fostering

- e) The increase in the number of looked after children and the impending retirement of some 60 foster carers meant that the Service was now looking to recruit approximately 200 new foster carers over the next four years. A marketing campaign had been agreed to raise awareness and there were targeted recruitment campaigns being undertaken. The level of interest had been high and in the current year 26 applicants had been approved by the Panel against a target of 31;
- f) Foster care was seen as a more appropriate form of care as opposed to institutional care and provided greater scope for finding good placements for children;
- g) Recently there had been an increase in larger sibling groups coming into care and this had placed pressures on finding appropriate placements;
- h) The costs of in-house foster care significantly lower than the private fostering sector. On average there would be a saving of £15,000 per annum on an ordinary placement rising to £150,000 where more complex one-to one care was provided. The marketing and recruitment campaign which was costing approximately £50,000per annum should be seen in this context;
- i) The Foster care strategy would also look at the payments made to in-house foster carers to ensure that such payments were in line with the rates paid by other agencies. In this regard it was pointed out that whilst payment rates were important of greater importance was the support and engagement of the service with foster carers;
- j) There was a higher than expected number of safeguarding concerns raised this year. This was being looked into and the checks made before approval of a foster carer were being strengthened;
- k) There had been an increase in the number of 'connected carers'. These were carers who had some connection with the child (relatives or friends) and who had agreed to foster the child. Such carers were registered as foster carers and supported in the same way. Given that such carers would also know the child and their background it was sometimes necessary to provide additional support to deal with wider issues.

Members welcomed the update provided, expressed their support for the strategy to recruit additional foster carers and requested an update on the recruitment campaign.

RESOLVED:-

That the report and update now provided be noted.

### 61. 2018/19 School and High Needs Funding Proposals.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children and Families concerning a proposed response to the consultation paper issued by the Government on the National Funding Formula (NFF) for schools and the formulaic basis for the distribution of the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2018/19. A copy of the report, marked Agenda Item 8, is filed with these minutes.

The Cabinet Lead Member advised the Committee that the F40 Group were not in favour of the proposals outlined in the consultation document even though a number of them would benefit. Leicestershire would see no overall benefit and most schools would be adversely affected. He advised that whilst a robust response would be made to the Government he did not hold out much hope for a significant change to the proposals now outlined.

A number of members expressed concerns at the impact that the proposals would have on Leicestershire Schools who were already amongst the lowest funded in the country and the potential risk to the viability of small schools.

Some members of the Committee expressed their concern at the use of the word 'disproportionate' in recommendation (b) (iii) and suggested this be deleted.

It was moved by Mr Snartt and seconded by Mr O'Shea:-

That the Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the proposed response to the consultation as set out in the report and the appendices thereto'

The motion was put and carried, five members voting for the motion, no members voting against and with five members abstaining.

#### 62. Quarter 3 2016/17 Performance Report.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children and Families which provided an update on the Children and Families Service performance and the end of quarter 3 of 2016/17. A copy of the report, marked Agenda Item 12, is filed with these minutes.

The Chairman advised the Committee that Mr Perry, a co-opted member of the Committee who was unable to attend the meeting today had asked a question about why the Ofsted inspection outcomes for schools were above average when attainment at some key stages were below average. A written response had been produced and tabled at the meeting, and a copy filed with these minutes.

Members were advised that the figures shown in paragraph 10 of the report were the most up to date and these superseded the figures in the appendix to the report. A revised appendix would be circulated to members.

Replying to questions from members, the Director advised:-

- a) Whilst he did not think there would be a significant difference in the performance of maintained schools against those that were academies such information could be provided to members if required;
- b) Given the cohort of children in residential care is quite low a national project is underway to look into the academic performance of such children and its findings were due soon;
- c) The early years strategy currently under development would reference the importance of physical activity as an important contributor to improving educational performance as well as promoting health and wellbeing.

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

63. Date of next meeting.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 1.30pm.

11.00-12.50  
13.30-15.05  
6<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Chairman

This page is intentionally left blank



**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**  
**COMMITTEE: 5 JUNE 2017**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN**  
**AND FAMILIES**

**QUARTER 4 2016/17 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update of the Children and Families Service performance at the end of quarter 4 of 2016/17.

**Background**

2. The report is based on the set of performance measures aligned with the Council Corporate Strategy to 2017/18. The overall performance dashboard is attached in two parts Appendix A and Appendix B. Additional information and supporting dashboards are also attached covering:
  - Appendix C supports the indicator “Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact”
  - The data and commentary provided refers to quarter 4 2016/17 (January 2017 to March 2017). Any subsequent changes will be notified in future reports.

**Report Changes**

3. Appendix B is focussed on Education indicators. Quartile positions are added where new national data has been released.

**Overview**

4. From 29 measures that have new data available: 10 have improved; 16 show no significant change and 3 have declined.
5. From 36 measures that have a national benchmark: 10 are in the top quartile, 11 are in the second quartile, 8 are in the third quartile and 7 are in the fourth quartile.

### **Children and young people are safe within caring family homes**

6. The number of 'Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales' was 100%, a slight rise from quarter 3 that places Leicestershire in the top quartile nationally.
7. The percentage of Child Protection plans lasting 2 years or more that were open at the end of quarter 4 was 1.9%. This was similar to the end of quarter 3. The percentage of plans that closed during quarter 4 lasting 2 years or more was 2.45%, approximately 2% lower than quarter 3.
8. The percentage of 'Children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time' fell by 13.8% to 10%. This moves Leicestershire from the bottom quartile of all local authorities to the top quartile using available comparisons. (The top quartile boundary is 13.8% or lower, the bottom quartile is 20.7% or above).
9. The 'percentage of children with 3 or more placements during the year' was 8%. This is 1% better than the quarter 3 figure and places Leicestershire in the top quartile nationally. The '% of children in the same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption' was 69.3%. This is a small rise from quarter 3 and now places Leicestershire in the second quartile by national levels.
10. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 91.8%. This places Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities using available comparisons. Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 51.8%. This was in the second quartile by comparison.
11. There were 70 Child Sexual Exploitation referrals in Leicestershire during quarter 4. This is 5 more than quarter 3.

### **Supporting Leicestershire Families and Early Help**

12. A total of 7,724 individuals accessed Early Help services during quarter 4. This is a significant increase of 600 compared to quarter 3. This was mainly driven by an increase in individuals visiting children's centres, which rose by 640 compared to the previous quarter.
13. The number of families receiving targeted Early Help during the quarter was 893 and the number of individuals was 2,279. This includes family members and individuals supported through Supporting Leicestershire Families and the Children's Centre Programme.
14. The Payment By Results (PBR) claim increased to 705, 25.4% of the overall target. The PBR target runs over four years until 2020. Progress will not be linear due to claim periods and long term work yielding results later.
15. 20 Early Help cases were stepped up to Social Care. This is the same as the quarter 3.

## **Children and young people have their health, wellbeing and life chances improved**

### Health and wellbeing

16. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had an annual health assessment' within the last 12 months is 67.3%, this is lower than quarter 3 when the figure was 75%. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had a dental check' is 75.8%. This is 1% higher than quarter 3.
17. Data for Children in Care with up to date immunisations is not yet available. Health partners record immunisations to a different standard determined by the child's date of entry into care. The confirmed percentage based on this standard is awaited.

## **Children and young people and their families live within thriving communities**

18. Safer communities' data is reported a quarter in arrears due to the timescales of collection and submission from the other agencies involved (e.g. Police).
19. The majority of youth offending and crime statistics use a rolling one year figure, for example quarter 3 2015/16 to quarter 3 2016/17. None of the youth offending measures are currently rated as 'red'.

## **Children and young people achieve their potential**

### Early years

20. The percentage of eligible 2 year olds accessing their Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) was 80%. This is a small rise compared to the previous figure of 78.8%.
21. The percentage for eligible 3 and 4 year olds was 95% after being 100% in the previous quarter. The actual number of 3 and 4 year olds remained constant. However, the figure is calculated as a percentage of the most recent population estimate and this has been refreshed to a higher figure.
22. The percentage of all childcare providers in Leicestershire rated as good or outstanding was continues to rise and is now 94%. This is 2.1% higher than quarter 3 and 8.7% higher than quarter 4 2015/16.

### Ofsted outcomes

23. The percentage of Leicestershire schools rated as Good or Outstanding and the percentage of pupils in Good or Outstanding schools are both above national averages and in the second quartile of local authorities. The current figures stand at 90.1% and 88.7% respectively. This is higher than quarter 3 in both cases. The percentage of good or outstanding Special Schools remained at 100%.

Sufficiency

24. The percentage of pupils entering primary school for the first time obtaining their first choice was 91.4%. This was similar to 2016. The percentage of pupils obtaining their first choice secondary school was 93.3%. This was also similar to 2016.

Education data

25. Some additional national data has been released for vulnerable groups to allow better benchmarking of previously reported results.

Vulnerable Groups

26. Leicestershire Key Stage Two outcomes for Children in Care were suppressed for low numbers in the national release. However, local data suggests that 17.64% pupils reached the Expected Standard for Reading, Writing and Mathematics, compared to a published statistical neighbour average of 24.5%.

27. Key Stage Four outcomes for Children in Care have traditionally been a weak area for Leicestershire. However, relative performance was much improved for 2016. The average Progress 8 score was -1.16, the same as statistical neighbours and very close to the national average of -1.14. Leicestershire's Attainment 8 score was better than both national and statistical neighbour figures and in the second quartile of local authorities.

28. The average Progress 8 score for pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) was in the top quartile of all local authorities, a contrast to the lower performance at Key Stage 2. However, Progress 8 for disadvantaged pupils was in the bottom quartile of all local authorities.

29. New data for persistent absence in secondary schools has been published. Persistent absence is now defined as a pupil missing 10% or more sessions (previously this was 15% or more). The Leicestershire rate is 12.8%, which is similar to statistical neighbours and in the second top quartile of local authorities.

30. Local data for secondary school transfer is now available. 93.3% of children were offered a place at their first choice of secondary school. This compares to 95.7% last year.

Economy/Employment and Skills

31. The latest data from Prospects is for the end of March 2017 and shows a Leicestershire NEET figure of 2.2% (309 young people), a similar figure to quarter 3. Leicestershire has a lower NEET figure than most of the East Midlands and is around the average of statistical neighbours.

32. The NEET figure for SEND young people was 3.4% for March 2017. This is the same as the figure reported in quarter 3.



33. Data for the percentage of young people achieving Level 2 qualifications by the age of 19 has been released. Leicestershire has an improved figure of 85.6% (85.4% last year) which places Leicestershire in the second quartile of local authorities.

### **Officers to Contact**

Stewart Smith, Business Partner – Performance and Business Intelligence

Tel: 0116 305 5700

Email: Stewart.smith@leics.gov.uk

### **Appendices**

- Appendix A - Children and Families Department performance dashboard for quarter 3, 2016/17 – part 1
- Appendix B - Children and Families Department performance dashboard for quarter 3, 2016/17 – part 2
- Appendix C - supports the indicator 'Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact'

### **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

34. Addressing equalities issues is supported by this report. The corporate dashboard highlights a number of elements of performance on equalities issues. The education of pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium is recorded in this report with other pupil groups reported on directly to the relevant Heads of Strategy and Assistant Director.

This page is intentionally left blank

## Children and Families Performance FY2016/17 Q4 part 1

Supporting Indicator	Updated	Latest update	Current Performance	Better or worse than previous data point^	Trend Charts	* East Midlands not SN			
						Status RAG	National benchmark (quartile 1 = top)	Most recent Statistical Neighbour average	Corporate or service Target
<b>Children and young people are safe within caring family homes</b>									
<b>Social Care</b>									
% child protection cases which were reviewed within timescales.	Y	Q4 2016/17	100.0%	Better		G	1	94.0%	100%
% of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for second or subsequent time	Y	Q4 2016/17	10.0%	Better		G	1	18.1%	no target
% of Child Protection plans lasting 2 years or more open at the end of the quarter	Y	Q4 2016/17	1.90%	Similar		A	2	1.7%	no target
% of Child Protection plans lasting 2 years or more that cease during the quarter	Y	Q4 2016/17	2.45%	Lower		A	1	3.4%	no target
Placement stability - % children with 3 or more placements during a year	Y	Q4 2016/17	8.00%	Better		G	1	11.6%	<9%
Placement stability - % children in same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption	Y	Q4 2016/17	69.3%	Better		A	2	66.70%	70%
% of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation (end of quarter)	Y	Q4 2016/17	91.8%	Similar		G	1	80.8%	75%
The % of Care leavers in education, employment and training (EET) (end of quarter)	Y	Q4 2016/17	51.8%	Similar		A	2	46.5%	Top quartile
% children who wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (3 year average)	Y	2013-2016	61.00%	Better		G	2	49%	65%
CSE referrals	Y	Q4 2016/17	70	Lower - no polarity		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Supporting Leicestershire Families and Early Help</b>									
No. of individuals open to Early Help services	Y	Q4 2016/17	7,724	Higher		n/a	n/a	n/a	no target
No. of individuals with an Early Help Assessment	Y	Q4 2016/17	2,279	Lower		n/a	n/a	n/a	no target
No. of families with an Early Help assessment	Y	Q4 2016/17	893	Lower		n/a	n/a	n/a	no target
No. of SLF families claimed for as a % of overall payment by results target	Y	Q4 2016/17	705 (25.4%)	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	no target
The % of families referred to locality hubs that are allocated/processed within 28 days	Y	Q4 2016/17	95%	Better		n/a	n/a	n/a	95%
The % of Social Care referrals referred to Early Help	Y	Q4 2016/17	19.90%	Higher		n/a	n/a	n/a	no target
Number of Early Help stepped up to Social Care	Y	Q4 2016/17	19	Similar		n/a	n/a	n/a	no target
Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact - including through family and youth star		See Appendix						n/a	no target
<b>Children and young people have their health, wellbeing and life chances improved</b>									
SEND - Children and young people assessed and decision taken whether or not to issue a statement, or EHC plan, during calendar year	N	2015	360	Higher - no polarity		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SEND - Percentage of EHC plans issued within 20 weeks	N	2015	99.1%	n/a		G	1	25.15%	Top quartile
SEND - Total number of statements / EHC plans over 12 month period	N	2015	2995	Higher - no polarity		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SEND - no. of SEND appeals lodged for calendar year per 10,000 school population	Y	2015-16	3.15	Higher		A	2	3.39	Top quartile
The % of children in care who have had dental checks within last 12 months (at end of period)	Y	Q4 2016/17	75.8%	Better		n/a	n/a	n/a	79%
The % of children in care who have their annual health assessment within last 12 months (at end of period)	Y	Q4 2016/17	67.3%	Worse		n/a	n/a	n/a	86%
The % of children in care with up to date immunisations (at end of period)	N	2016	79.0%	Worse		n/a	n/a	n/a	88%
The average emotional health strengths/difficulties score for children in care.	N	Q3 2016/17	15.9	New		n/a	n/a		
<b>Children and young people and their families live within thriving communities</b>									
Number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17 (rolling 12 months)	N	Q1 2016/17	124	Same		G		n/a	Top quartile
Rate of re-offending by young offenders	N	Q4 2015/16	0.82	Similar		G		n/a	Top quartile
Number of instance of the use of custody for young people	Y	Q3 2016/17	1	Higher		G		n/a	<5%
The % of people reporting they have been a victim of ASB in the last 12 months (rolling 12 months)	Y	Q3 2016/17	5.50%	Similar		G		n/a	Reduce
The % of people who agree that the Police and other local services are successfully dealing with ASB and Crime	Y	Q3 2016/17	89.9%	Similar		A		n/a	
% of people who feel safe in their local area after dark (rolling 12 months)	Y	Q4 2016/17	88.61%	Lower		n/a		n/a	
Total Crime Rate (per 1,000 population - rolling 12 months)	Y	Q3 2016/17	49.34	Similar		A		n/a	
Reported hate incidents (per 1,000 population - rolling 12 months)	Y	Q3 2016/17	0.70	Higher - no polarity		n/a		n/a	
The % of people who agree that people from different backgrounds get on (rolling 12 months)	Y	Q4 2016/17	95.00%	Similar		n/a	n/a	n/a	
% of domestic violence cases reviewed at MARAC that are repeat incidents (rolling 12 months)	Y	Q2 2016/17	30%	Similar		G	n/a	n/a	
Incidence of domestic homicide	Y	Q4 2016/17	4	Lower		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

## RAG rating key

- Top quartile of local authorities or high in the second quartile with an improving trend
- Second or third quartile with room for improvement
- Fourth quartile or low in the third quartile with a declining trend

This page is intentionally left blank

## Children and Families Performance FY2016/17 Q4 part 2

^Data point may be previous quarter or previous year.

\* East Midlands not SN

Supporting Indicator	Updated	Latest update	Current Performance	Better or worse than previous data point	Trend Charts	Status RAG	National benchmark (quartile 1 = top)	Most recent Statistical Neighbour average	2017/18 target
<b>Children and young people achieve their potential</b>									
<b>Education Sufficiency</b>									
The % of pupils obtaining their first preferences for first time admission to primary school.	Y	2017	91.4%	Similar		G	1	90.2%	90%
The % of secondary pupils achieving their first preference for secondary transfer.	Y	2017	93.3%	Similar		A	n/a	n/a	94%
<b>Education Quality</b>									
The % of eligible 2 year olds taking up their FEEE	Y	Q4 2016/17	80.0%	Better		G	1	75.9	78%
The % of eligible 3 and 4 year olds taking up their FEEE	Y	Q4 2016/17	95.0%	Worse		A	3	99.2	98%
The % of all childcare providers rated good or outstanding.	Y	Q4 2016/17	94.0%	Better		G	1	87.1%	Top quartile
The % of schools rated Good or Outstanding.	Y	Dec-16	90.1%	Similar		A	2	88.6%	>84%
The % of Special Schools rated Good or Outstanding	Y	Dec-16	100%	Same		G	1	95.3%	100%
The % of pupils in Good or Outstanding schools	Y	Dec-16	88.7%	Similar		A	2	87.5%	no target
The % of reception pupils reaching a 'Good' level of development'.	N	2016	67.50%	Better		A	3	71.8%	60%
Key Stage 2 - pupils achieving expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics	N	2016	53.0%	New		A	3	51.3%	85% (old measure)
Key Stage 4 - Progress 8	N	2016	-0.11	New		A	3	-0.04	70%
Progress measures from KS1 to KS2 (Maths)	N	2016	-1.00	New		R	4	-0.99	Above national average
Progress measures from KS1 to KS2 (Writing)	N	2016	-0.73	New		R	4	-1.06	Above national average
Progress measures from KS1 to KS2 (Reading)	N	2016	-1.00	New		R	4	-0.4	Above national average
A Level average points score (per entry)	N	2016	208.50	Similar		A	3	n/a	215
% of Level 2 qualifications by age 19	Y	2016	85.6%	Better		A	2	85.9%	88%
Secondary School persistent absence rate (new definition)	Y	2016	12.8%	New		A	2	12.67%	6.4%
<b>Vulnerable groups</b>									
The % inequality gap in achievement across all early learning goals.	N	2016	28.20%	Better		A	2	27.15%	Top 20%
The % of reception pupils with FSM status achieving 'Good' level of development'.	N	2016	44%	Better		R	4	52.20%	60%
Key Stage 2 - % of pupils eligible for Free School Meals achieving expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics	N	2016	29.0%	New		R	4	29.4%	Above national average
Key Stage 2 - % of SEN statement/EHCP pupils achieving expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics	N	2016	5.0%	New		R	4	6.44%	no target
Key Stage 2 - % of Children in Care achieving expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths	Y	2016	17.64%	New		Not published by DfE		24.50%	no target
Key Stage 4 - % of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium achieving Progress 8 ('Disadvantaged' figure used)	Y	2016	-0.61	New		R	4	-0.51	Above national average
Key Stage 4 - % of SEN statement/EHCP pupils achieving Progress 8	Y	2016	-0.73	New		G	1	-0.98	no target
Key Stage 4 - % of Children in Care achieving Progress 8	Y	2016	-1.16	New		A	3	-1.16	no target
% of NEET 16-19 for children with SEN and disability	Y	Mar-17	3.4%	Similar		A	n/a	n/a	no target
NEET young people aged 16-17 (new criteria)	Y	Mar-17	2.2%	Similar		A	2	2.2%	<4%
The participation rate of 17 year olds.	Y	Feb-17	92.4%	Worse		A	3	92.50%	97%

## RAG rating key

	Top quartile of local authorities or high in the second quartile with an improving trend
	Second or third quartile with room for improvement
	Fourth quartile or low in the third quartile with a declining trend

This page is intentionally left blank

## Appendix C - Feedback from Children and Families about their involvement in SLF

### Quotes from parents/carers

- " Having an SLF support worker has made a massive difference to everyone in our family. Having someone that understands and is willing to listen. Provides ideas of way that I can help myself and the kids, as well as accessing services that can help us."
- "That I am able to contact SLF, even though my case has been closed. It makes me feel safer and more confident as a parent."
- "Finding organisations that help with his learning. Opening up on feelings and not feeling trapped anymore."
- "When she said that she could work with the whole family. I had not worked with agencies before and did not trust them. I was really happy as my daughter and her boyfriend were able to attend the job club."
- "Being given tools to help in challenging situations. Having someone to listen."
- "I think that it's a good service, everything that's being put in place is working."
- "Just being there for me when I most needed someone. I wouldn't have been able to carry on if it hadn't been for my workers support. Nothings to big or too small to ask her, she has made me realise that I am alive. I am forever grateful for her help and support, I call her my guardian angel."

### Child / Young People

- "My worker makes me feel supported, even when I feel very alone."
- "I go to Winning Wednesday's because it's a place where I take refuge in where I can be myself without being judged for it."
- "My worker helped my step dad to leave by telling him some things that he was doing were not right."
- "Basically my SLF worker stopped me from getting into trouble and gave me good advice that really helped a lot."

This page is intentionally left blank





**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**  
**COMMITTEE: 5 JUNE 2017**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY**  
**SERVICES**

**YOUNG CARERS**

**Purpose of report**

1. This report sets out the work taking place to identify, assess and support young carers across Leicestershire.

**Background**

**Overview of Young Carers in Leicestershire**

2. For the purposes of the County Council, a young carer is defined as:  

‘a child or young person, aged 19 years or under, who provides regular and on-going care and emotional support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances’.
3. This includes primary, secondary and sibling carers living in Leicestershire
4. The 2011 census data shows there are 166,363 young carers in England. However this figure is still likely to be an underrepresentation of the actual number. In May 2014, new figures from the 2011 census were released showing the extent of young carers in English counties. Young carers, age 15 or younger in Leicestershire and Rutland total 1,169. Data for 15-18yr age group is not yet available. It is therefore estimated that there are approximately 2000-2500 young carers in Leicestershire and Rutland at present.
5. In 2016-17 the County Council undertook 150 assessments for young carers, which exceeds the target of 130 for the year. There are three Supporting Leicestershire Families (SLF) Young Carers groups across the county and a fourth is about to be reopened. There are also groups in the county provided by voluntary sector partners Young Leicestershire and Barnardo’s Carefree.
6. A Memorandum of Understanding - No Wrong Doors (MOU) has furthered joint working practice between Children’s and Adult’s Social Care as well as with Public Health. The Directors of all three Departments have signed their commitment to the MOU. The NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are currently considering signing up too. This has helped embed transition arrangements with Adult and Health Services.

## Contract Management – Assessment of Young Carers

7. 'Barnardo's Carefree' is commissioned to carry out the assessment of needs for support for all young carers under the age of 18 on request from them or their parent or on the appearance of need. This meets the local authority's statutory requirement in line with the Care Act (2014) to provide access to an assessment of need. This is available regardless of who they care for, what type of care they provide or how Young carers, the person cared for and, if different, the parents Parents/Carers of the young carer are informed about the assessment process and we ensure they are able to participate in the process as effectively as possible. In addition the contract currently expects the provider to:
  - Proactively seek **the identification and referral** of young carers to the service
  - Adopt a **'whole family' approach to assessment** of young carers and their families
  - Provide individual **tailor –made support plans** for young carers
  - Act as a **conduit for young carers to access respite provision**
  - Facilitate the **'transitions' process for young carers reaching 18 years old**
  - Ensure the **Engagement of young carers** in the development of services
  
8. Contract Monitoring information for Quarter 4 of 2016-2017 informs of the following:
  - a. 53 young people have been referred to the Service, exceeding the target of 32 referrals per quarter. The target placed on the Contract to assess 166 young people during its 18 month period was exceeded at the 12 month point, with Barnados Carefree receiving 168 referrals.
  - b. No further action was taken for 10 of the 53 young people. The decision to decline involvement was made by family units.
  - c. Increase in referrals from secondary schools during the quarter. This is attributed to the development of school champions.
  - d. No safeguarding referrals were made over this quarter.
  
9. The current contract with Barnados Carefree contract was due to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, however, it was agreed that this would be extended until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.
  
10. Strategic Overview for this area of work is provided for the Frail Older People/Dementia Better Care Together workstream which is managed by Adults and Communities.

## Achievements - Leicestershire as a leading Authority

11. Leicestershire is a national first in having Public Health sign the MOU alongside Children's and Adult's Services. The Children's Commissioner Report advises that no Local Authority is recording the number of young carers. This is not the case in Leicestershire as evidenced above.

12. The work of the department and the Carers Trust led to UCAS agreeing to add a young carer tick box to the UCAS form within the next two years (by 2018-19 academic year).
13. The department has raised the awareness of Young Carers across education providers and has seen the introduction of Champions within schools, ensured that information about the number of young carers in Leicestershire is collected and worked with partners to deliver support to young carers across Leicestershire. A Carers Reference Group has been established which provides information to the strategic governance of the Young Carers work.

### **Opportunities, Challenges and Actions**

14. The extension to the current commissioned contract provides an opportunity to develop a longer term strategy to meet the statutory responsibility for Young Carers. This opportunity will enable an outcome focused approach to commissioning.
15. An annual overview of the achievements and challenges of the commissioned service should be available by the end of May 2017.
16. The Carers Network Group, chaired by Adults and Communities, next meets this month and the focus is to develop a Carers Strategy for the County Council. Key stakeholders will be fully engaged in the development and that work will be completed by September. It will embrace multi-agency working and data sharing.
17. The identification of Young Carers remains problematic and as a consequence it is extremely difficult to obtain an accurate view of the demand of the work. One of the challenges is how young carers are identified within Children and Family Services and guide them to access assessment and support, particularly young people who are in households with mental health, substance misuse and physical health issues. An online learning package is available on the Learning Hub for staff to develop their awareness of the issue and to ensure that their assessments and interventions are framed around this dynamic.

### **Resource Implications**

15. There are no significant resource issues associated with this contract and work. The money to support young carers is part of the Early Help Offer for the department.

### **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

16. Young carers are a vulnerable group and as such remain one of the Early Help Offer priority groups. Any changes to provision would need to be carefully managed through an EHRIA.

### **Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

22. None.

**Officers to Contact**

Jane Moore  
Assistant Director, Education and Early Help  
[Jane.Moore@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.Moore@leics.gov.uk)

Carly Turner, Service Manager, Supporting Leicestershire Families  
[Carly.turner@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Carly.turner@leics.gov.uk)



**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**  
**COMMITTEE: 5 JUNE 2017**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY**  
**SERVICES**

**EXTENDED FREE CHILDCARE ENTITLEMENT**

**Purpose of report**

1. This report provides an overview of the department's work in the implementation of the extended offer to parents of 30 hours of free childcare as required under the Childcare Act 2016. The report summarises the progress made by the Early Learning and Childcare Service in delivering the early roll of the extended offer on behalf of Leicestershire as 'an early implementer site'.

**Background**

**Leicestershire Early Learning and Child Care**

2. The Local Authority has a duty to secure sufficient high quality childcare provision which supports parents back into work or study (this includes out of schools and holiday provision). The Early Learning and Childcare Service delivers and commissions support to those providers that are judged to be less than good by Ofsted. The service provides advice and guidance to all providers in the county. Currently in Leicestershire 94% of all childcare providers achieve a rating from Ofsted of good or outstanding.
3. In Leicestershire the market is dominated by private, voluntary and independent providers. This means that the role of the Early Learning and Child Care service is critical in positively influencing and shaping the market providers and securing improved outcomes for pre-school children.
4. The Local Authority has a responsibility to administer and monitor the take up of the Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) for eligible disadvantaged 2 years old children. In Leicestershire 80% of eligible children are funded which is above national average of 72%. Take up of free early education available to all 3 and 4 year olds is at 95%.
5. The service also ensures that children in care access their free early education entitlement. The Personal Education Plans (PEP) for pre-school children in the care of the Local Authority describes the action required to ensure that these children progress in their learning. Recent analysis of children's progress

demonstrates the significance of early education for young children in care. We know that when young boys (age 3 and 4 years) come into care only 25% of them are working at their age related expectations. However after 6months of being in care and accessing their free early education entitlement 63% of young boys reached age related expectations.

### **30 Hour FEEE Entitlement**

6. The Childcare Act 2016 has introduced a new statutory requirement for the Local Authority. From September 2017 there must be available an additional 15 hours per week of free childcare for eligible working parents of three and four-year-olds; this essentially doubles the universal entitlement. The 15 hour entitlement for the most disadvantaged two year olds remains in place. The new policy envisages a significant, positive impact on families, helping to give children the best start in life, and making childcare more affordable for parents so that they can take up work or work additional hours.
7. The Local Authority's allocated funding is provided through the Early Years Block within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The funding is based on the January census data completed by providers immediately preceding the financial year and adjusted by the census from the following year. Leicestershire is one of the 48 authorities receiving the lowest rate per pupil for free early education entitlement.
8. In January 2017, the Department for Education (DfE) invited Leicestershire to become an early implementer site, rolling out the extended entitlement from April 2017 (in advance of the statutory date of September 2017). As part of this arrangement DfE agreed to provide additional resource and practical support to facilitate early implementation.
9. The Children and Families department took the view that an early implementation with DfE support would provide a longer period of introduction in advance of the statutory deadline. Such sizable change to the child care market coupled with ambiguity in relation to both demand and capacity indicated there were likely to be a number of significant challenges to implementation.

### **Eligibility**

10. Estimates for the number of parents in Leicestershire who will be eligible for the extended offer are between 4,500 and 4,900 parents. Eligibility for the additional free entitlement includes households where all parents are working and earning the National Minimum or Living Wage for the equivalent of 16 hours a week **and/or**:
  - One/ both parent/s is on leave (parental, maternal etc.)
  - One/ both parent/s is on statutory sick pay
  - Parents on zero-hours contracts are eligible,
  - Parents who are registered as self-employed are eligible,
  - Parents are eligible where one parent is employed and the other parent has either: substantial caring responsibilities/ and or disability;

- Foster carers with their own three- and four-year-old children are eligible.

Exclusions:

- Parents who are in training will not be eligible as they can receive other government support.
- An income cap of £100K income has been applied. One or more parents earning over this level will not be eligible.

### **Implementation Work**

12. To ensure Leicestershire was ready to implement the extended offer from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, the Early Learning and Childcare service developed a clear plan with a number of work-streams:

i) *Sufficiency Analysis*: Since the government announcement of intentions, the Early Learning and Child Care Service has undertaken a number of important consultations with parents and providers. This has helped to gauge sufficiency issues and gaps in order to inform planning. Parents and providers have also been consulted on key elements of the local funding formula, including quality supplements, deprivation supplements and the proposed inclusion fund.

ii) *Eligibility Checking*: Without the national eligibility checker service in place, the Early Learning Service had to develop a local mechanism to review eligibility. A dedicated telephone line for parents ran from 21<sup>st</sup> February until 21<sup>st</sup> April 21 2017. This was supported by the additional funds provided by the DfE.

iii) *Work with local providers*: Preparation of the market has included:

- Fortnightly written guidance on businesses preparation
- Development of new electronic toolkits for businesses
- Delivery of training to the sector
- Head teacher and governor briefings
- Promotional materials to engage and inform parents
- Materials to support the concept of a 'blended offer'

iv) *Partnership Work*:

- With National Day Nursery Association to address practical challenges and charging arrangements
- With Childcare Works commissioned by the government to support the implementation nationally.
- Promotional events for the sector to promote partnership approaches in delivery.
- Information for partners.
- Supported a successful DfE capital funding bid £431,547 to create additional market capacity. This will create an additional 94 places by September 2017 in Charnwood, Hinckley, Oadby and Wigston.
- Attendance at national events has enabled Leicestershire to learn lessons from other local authorities and share good practice.

v) *Inclusion*: All councils are required to establish a local inclusion fund for all 3 and 4 year old children who have special educational needs or disabilities wishing to access the extended offer. This funding is to target those children with lower level need or emerging difficulties. Children with more complex needs and those in receipt of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) continue to be eligible to receive funding via the 'High Needs Block' of the DSG. Children and Family Services have allocated £200K to create the inclusion fund.

vi) *IT development*: The local authority must develop mechanisms to validate claims made by providers through the Capita Portal. Leicestershire made a successful bid to DfE to support IT solutions. An award of £20,689.30 towards has now been secured.

vii) *Monitoring of impact*: The service is actively monitoring the impact of the introduction of the extended offer within Leicestershire. Specifically:

- the potential for an adverse impact on the numbers of vulnerable 2year old children accessing their free entitlement in high quality provision
- the extent to which parents are able to secure an extended offer through one provider
- the extent to which providers make additional charges and how well these are communicated to local parents.
- The extent to which local provision remains of high quality given the increase in the sector workforce which will be required to meet local demand.

### **Progress to date**

13. Since the decision to become an early implementer site, good progress has been made:
- To date 71% of Leicestershire providers who responded to the latest consultation have indicated that they will provide an extended offer from April. Over half of local providers have indicated their willingness to work in partnership with other providers to enable more parents to take up their entitlement.
  - The Early Learning service has to date dealt with 4,649 parents who have received a unique reference number which they can use at their chosen provider.
  - The DfE have praised the quality of planning and promotional materials produced by the service and these have shared these with other local authorities as examples of good practice.



### **Resource Implications**

14. The rates for provider payments have been considered by the Schools Forum and were approved within the County Councils Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and are funded by DSG.
15. The implementation of the extended 30 hours provision does not add any financial risk to the local authority. There is an inherent risk as local authorities are required to fund providers for the number of hours provided which does not precisely match the allocation of DSG. This financial risk will continue to be managed within the overall budget, Any overall underspend or overspend reverts to the DSG reserve and does not impact the local authority budget.

### **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

16. Advice indicated that no EIHRA was needed as the new statutory duty was not deemed to be a change in policy, but an extension in the funding of hours.

### **Conclusions**

17. Despite very challenging timescales good progress has been made in the early implementation of the extended offer for free early education. The work of the Early Learning and Child Care service has been recognised and praised by the Department of Education with local resources and materials being cascaded for use in other local authorities.
18. Excellent local relationship building work combined with strong communication with the sector has helped to deliver early implementation. Local providers have demonstrated considerable willingness and flexibility in responding to this significant challenge so quickly.
19. The early implementation of the extended offer means that within Leicestershire there is a growing range of delivery models including opportunities for developing a blended offer for parents where they cannot access 30 hours in one provision.
20. Pro-active and tailored communications with key internal and external partners have successfully promoted the offer to working parents as demonstrated in the level of take up within short timescales.
21. The new inclusion fund will support eligible families to return to work and ensure more children with emerging educational needs have opportunities to access early education.

### **Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

23. None.

**Officer to Contact**

Jane Moore

Assistant Director

Email: [Jane.Moore@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.Moore@leics.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0116 3052649