



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

*Date/Time:* **Monday, 15 January 2018 at 1.30 pm**

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

*Contact:* **Anna Poole (0116 305 0381)**

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### Membership

Mrs H. L. Richardson CC (Chairman)

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

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– Notices will be on display at the meeting explaining the arrangements.**

### AGENDA

<u>Item</u>	<u>Report by</u>
1. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2017.	(Pages 5 - 14)
2. Question Time.	
3. Questions asked by members under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).	
4. To advise of any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent elsewhere on the agenda.	
5. Declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.	



6. Declarations of the Party Whip in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.
7. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order 36.
8. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 to 2021/22. Director of Children and Family Services and Director of Corporate Resources (Pages 15 - 38)
9. Quarter 2 2017/18 Performance Report. Chief Executive and Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 39 - 54)
10. OFSTED Inspection Framework: Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services. Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 55 - 58)
11. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is scheduled to take place on Monday 5 March 2018 at 1.30pm.

12. 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?

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Minutes of a meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at County Hall, Glenfield on Monday, 13 November 2017.

PRESENT

Mrs H. L. Richardson CC (in the Chair)

Dr. P. Bremner CC  
Mr. J. Kaufman CC  
Mrs. R. Page CC  
Mrs B. Seaton CC

Mr. S. D. Sheahan CC  
Mrs D. Taylor CC  
Mr. G. Welsh CC  
Mrs. A. Wright CC

27. Election of Chairman.

RESOLVED:-

That the appointment of Mrs H. L. Richardson CC as Chairman of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2018 be noted.

28. Election of Deputy Chairman.

RESOLVED:-

That Mrs B. Seaton CC be elected Deputy Chairman of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2018.

29. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2017 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

30. Question Time.

The following question, received under Standing Order 35, was put to the Chairman of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

**Question by Ms Sue Whiting, resident:**

Could the Chairman please tell me how many Leicestershire children, who have Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP), have their needs met in placements situated in other Local authority areas for:-

- |            |    |        |
|------------|----|--------|
| Age ranges | a) | 0-5    |
|            | b) | 6-11   |
|            | c) | 12-16  |
|            | d) | 17-19  |
|            | e) | 20-25? |

**The Chairman replied as follows:**

Age Range	Number
0-5	1
6-11	90
12-16	143
17-19	71
20-25	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>

**Ms Sue Whiting asked the following supplementary question in relation to the question:**

“In the 12-16 age range, there are 143 children who are educated in out-of-county provision. Obviously, there is a huge range of needs, but is there one particular need that overrides other needs?”

**On behalf of the Chairman the Director subsequently responded as follows:**

“There are a number of different reasons why children with Education, Health and Care Plans are in placements situated in other Local Authorities. We have a large proportion of children with high functioning autism and other associated needs that are placed within our independent provision. We are looking at how we can best meet their needs within the Local Authority.”

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

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

32. Urgent Items.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

33. Declarations of Interest.

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

No declarations were made.

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

There were no declarations of the party whip.

35. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order 36.

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

36. Proposals to Consult on Removal (Closure) of Residential Facilities at Maplewell Hall Special School.

The Committee considered the following documents which had been submitted in relation to this agenda item:-

- a report of the Director of Children and Family Services, marked 'Agenda Item 10', concerning the proposals for removal (closure) of the residential facilities at Maplewell Hall School with effect from September 2018;
- A statement from the Lead Petitioner, Kayti Ryan;
- A statement on behalf of Maplewell Hall School from Kirsty North, Care and Intervention Team Leader; and
- The consultation document 'Have your say on the proposed closure of the residential facilities at Maplewell Hall School'.

Copies of the documents listed above are filed with these minutes.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting the following people who attended to speak on this item:

- Kayti Ryan, the Lead Petitioner
- Kirsty North, Care and Intervention Team Leader at Maplewell Hall School.

In introducing the report the Director emphasised:-

- 37% of the school population used the residential facility at Maplewell Hall School; none of the children had a requirement for residential provision detailed in their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP);
- The funding allocated to the school totalled £293,000 per annum to support the residential provision; and
- There was a need for equity and fairness in how the funding from the High Needs Block was allocated. Funding should be allocated according to the assessed need with priority being given to those with the highest need.

With regard to the consultation, 252 responses had been received. These showed a clear disagreement with the proposals and provided a rich picture of why the provision was valued by children, young people and their families as it helped the children and young people to develop their independence and social skills and, through providing respite care, improved the quality of family life.

The Chairman invited Mrs Taylor CC, local Member to speak.

Mrs Taylor expressed concern that the report proposed closure of the residential facility when there was increased demand for provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). She added that it was important to support vulnerable children to be independent as this would reduce demand later in life for Adult Social Care services. It was highlighted to the Committee that OFSTED had rated the educational provision as 'outstanding' in September 2016.

Mrs Taylor also expressed concern about the lack of detail in the report regarding:-

- The additional transport and revenue costs generated as a result of the potential closure of the residential facility;
- The accuracy of the report regarding the current usage of the residential facility.

Mrs Taylor felt that there had been limited discussion between the County Council and Maplewell Hall School about the residential provision; options should be considered that would keep the offer of a residential experience available for SEND children and young people.

Mrs Taylor suggested a full service review should be undertaken of the High Needs Block which recognised the variance in provision required to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND and the benefit of having different provision across all special schools so all needs were catered for. Mrs Taylor asked for it to be placed on record that she did not support the proposal to close the residential facility at Maplewell Hall School.

The Chairman invited Kayti Ryan, Lead Petitioner and parent of a child at Maplewell Hall School to speak.

Kayti Ryan presented the petition signed by 11,592 people in the following terms:-

*“The petition opposes the closure of the residential facility at Maplewell Hall School.”*

In summary, Kayti informed the Committee that:-

- The petition aimed to stop the closure of the residential facility at Maplewell Hall School;
- The children learned valuable life skills, preparation for adulthood and independence – all of which could not be taught at home;
- Those children who accessed residential provision gained far more than those who did not;
- That residential care was not included in EHCPs as it had always been presented as a facility the school automatically offered to students.

The Chairman invited Kirsty North, Care and Intervention Team Leader at Maplewell Hall School to speak.

Kirsty emphasised to the Committee that it was important to consider the children holistically, to provide support which met all their needs. She added that short breaks could prevent family breakdown and such short breaks were difficult to access through normal social care channels. The provision catered for children from across the County; if it was removed it would generate cost, safety and transport implications. The familiar environment of the residential facility to the education provision was important to the needs of the children and young people who attended and helped with developing their social and life skills.

In the ensuing discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Some Members were of the view that the issue was not clear cut as, although the residential provision for these children was not detailed in their EHCP, it provided an excellent opportunity for children and young people to develop independence and life skills;



- The benefit of the residential provision at Maplewell Hall School to children and young people was recognised. Members were assured that the value and quality of the provision was not in question;
- The EHCP was a holistic assessment, with input from professionals across education, health and social care. It considered all aspects of a young person's needs and family needs where appropriate. The assessment process was robust and inspected by OFSTED. It was reviewed on an annual basis and any parent who did not agree with the EHCP could appeal to an independent tribunal. Education provision needs were assessed by an Educational Psychologist. The residential element of this related to educational provision being required over a 24 hour period and no children in Leicestershire had been assessed with this need. However, if parents felt that they required respite care, as part of the social care element of the EHCP, they could request to be reassessed on this basis. This would not be provided by Maplewell Hall School as it was not registered to provide respite care;
- The after school provision began at school closure until 7.30pm. Some children stayed beyond this time, ate their evening meal, then carried out further 'after tea' activities, before going to bed. The criteria to determine who should benefit from this provision was set by the school. Should the decision be made to close the residential facility, the continuation of the after school provision would be a matter for the school to put in place; the County Council was supportive of working with the school on this;
- The Committee felt that the report lacked clarity regarding any additional transport costs that would be incurred if the residential provision was closed and costs for any children who might subsequently be assessed as requiring some form of residential or respite provision;
- The Committee understood that Maplewell Hall School received £293,000 for residential provision but was not clear of the actual cost of providing residential care and extra-curricular activities. It was also felt that discussions with the school should take place to understand whether a reduced offer could be put in place;
- Concern was expressed that, given the High Needs Block supported 3,600 children, there was a lack of equity and fairness in only 69 pupils receiving residential educational provision. The Committee was advised that the High Needs Block was significantly overspent with resources ringfenced by Government and likely to be capped. In light of the challenging resourcing position, and the growing demand for SEND services, difficult decisions had to be made about the services that could be provided; it was important that services provided were based on assessment and sound criteria.

Mr Ould, Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Young People informed the Committee that an audit of the Maplewell Hall School had been commissioned, particularly as some parents had been asked to contribute between £9-15 per night for the residential provision for their children. He thanked the Committee for raising the issue of outcomes.

The Committee was reminded that at its meeting in November, the Cabinet would take the decision of whether to formally consult on the process of closure; they were not taking the decision to close the residential facility at Maplewell Hall School. The Committee was

further advised that, as the petition on this matter had exceeded the 10,000 signature threshold, the Cabinet decision would be reported to the Council to enable it to discuss the matter. No action would be taken until after the Council meeting.

It was moved by Mr S. D. Sheahan CC and seconded by Mr G. Welsh CC:

*“That the Cabinet be asked to defer this matter pending more detailed consideration of the issues that have been raised by this Committee”.*

The motion was put and not carried with three Members voting in favour and six against.

The Chairman confirmed that the comments of the Committee would be passed to the Cabinet and summarised the key points as follows:-

- The Committee recognised the benefits of the residential provision at Maplewell Hall School; the value and quality of the provision was not in question;
- Little had been done to understand if a smaller offer could be made at reduced cost;
- There was uncertainty about the costs and alternatives available.

RESOLVED:-

That the comments of the Committee be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 24 November 2017.

### 37. Early Support and Inclusion for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children and Family Services concerning the current position with the Early Support and Inclusion contract that the Department has with Menphys and the plan for delivery of these services after December 2017. A copy of the report, marked “Agenda Item 11”, is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

- i) The contract procedure rules prevented a further extension of the contract with Menphys;
- ii) Delivery of Early Support and Inclusion Services after December 2017 would be carried out in-house by the Children and Family Services Department which remained committed to offering high quality services to all children that it supported. Officers had a high level of expertise in working with children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and assured the Committee that service delivery would be enhanced by the services already offered by the Department;
- iii) A robust communications plan had been developed in conjunction with Menphys; the Director of Children and Family Services had written to all parents of children at Menphys letting them know of the change in service delivery and offering the opportunity to discuss their future support requirements. Additionally, plans were in place to ensure that potential new parents were made aware of the new service offered;

- iv) Where families needed additional support, or where their needs were not sufficiently clear or more complex, they would be offered an Early Help assessment to identify needs and deliver required support, either through group work or on a one-to-one basis; officers would offer a range of provision that would sit alongside the Early Help offer;

RESOLVED:-

That the current position with the Early Support and Inclusion contract that the Children and Family Services Department has with Menphys and the plan for the delivery of the services after December 2017 be noted.

38. Children's Social Care Recruitment and Retention Strategy.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children and Family Services which provided an overview of the development of a Recruitment and Retention Strategy for Children's Social Care. A copy of the report, marked "Agenda Item 12" is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points were raised:-

- i) In developing the Recruitment and Retention Strategy, officers had considered a variety of data including Leicestershire County Council HR Data, recent staff survey results, usage of agency workers and had benchmarked salary data with other County and City Authorities;
- ii) The Recruitment and Retention Strategy had been developed to recruit permanent staff and so reduce the use of agency workers; currently agency workers amounted to 11.5% of the Children's Social Care workforce. The situation experienced by the County Council in recruiting and retaining permanent Children's Social Care staff reflected the national picture;
- iii) All actions included within the draft Recruitment and Retention Strategy could be implemented within the current policy framework. However, should additional actions be considered that fall outside the policy framework, a revision would be considered;
- iv) The Strategy considered and highlighted a number of elements that were important when recruiting new staff including salary, working environment and flexible working policies, training and future opportunities to progress professionally. The Strategy also considered the use of the Apprenticeship Levy and links to university. Regarding entry qualifications, Members were informed that there was currently a Social Work degree which people could study on leaving further education before entering employment;
- v) The Committee recognised that the role of the Team Manager was vital in encouraging job satisfaction and generating a work life balance for staff. The Committee was concerned that there were a number of vacancies at this level;
- vi) There were a number of reasons why vacancies existed for experienced Senior Practitioners, many of whom had successfully moved into Team Manager positions within Leicestershire County Council. However, some had moved to other Local Authorities following the offer of incentives;

vii) A salary gap had been identified in comparison with other Local Authorities; the gap increased at the higher salary scales, with a gap of up to £3,000;

viii) The Committee discussed the possibility of offering incentives to encourage job applications for new Social Workers. However, it was recognised that there would be a need to set out expectations for the length of time that the new incumbent should remain in post before moving on to make this worthwhile to the County Council.

RESOLVED:-

That the Recruitment and Retention Strategy for Children's Social Care be noted.

39. Progress Report: OFSTED Continuous Improvement Action Plan 2017- 2020 - The Road to Excellence.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children and Family Services concerning the progress made against the OFSTED Continuous Improvement Action Plan. A copy of the report, marked "Agenda Item 13", is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points were raised:-

- i) Following the OFSTED Inspection, Officers had reviewed all processes and procedures in the First Response Team. A monthly review of all children had been implemented, which had resulted in changes to
  - a. the management structure and overview procedures in First Response;
  - b. the out-of-hours provision;
  - c. the initial contact provision as cases were referred to the Service;
- ii) Substantial work had also been carried out to ensure that the right support mechanisms were in place to support newly qualified Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYEs) staff in their first year;
- iii) Of the single assessments completed within timescale, only 74.9% had been completed within the target 45 days; this was reduced from the 90% completed last year. However, the number of single assessments completed had increased from 191 last year to 390 this year; and the quality had greatly improved. This improvement brought the County Council in line with its statistical neighbours;
- iv) The County Council system, Tableau, used to manage performance reporting, provided daily reports for Service Managers for their areas. Additionally, a monthly report was produced on both the national and local Performance Indicators, which showed where the County Council performance sat in relation to statistical neighbours and the England average. Management practices had been put in place so that the data was scrutinised to ensure appropriate actions were taken to address the identified need;
- v) Members were informed that the area that presented greatest risk to delivering the OFSTED Continuous Improvement Action Plan was in the recruitment of staff. This was the subject of a detailed report earlier on the agenda;

- vi) The Committee commended officers for the detailed report on progress and acknowledged the progress made.

RESOLVED:-

That the progress made against the OFSTED Continuous Improvement Action Plan be noted.

40. Date of next meeting.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 15 January 2018 at 1.30pm.

1.30 - 4.15 pm  
13 November 2017

CHAIRMAN

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**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**15 JANUARY 2018**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES AND THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES**

**MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2018/19–2021/22**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to:
  - a) Provide information on the proposed 2018/19 to 2021/22 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as it relates to the Children and Family Services Department;
  - b) Ask members of the Committee to consider any issues as part of the consultation process, and make any recommendations to the Scrutiny Commission and the Cabinet accordingly.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. The County Council agreed the current MTFS in February 2017. This was the subject of a comprehensive review and revision in light of the current economic circumstances. The draft MTFS for 2018/19–2021/22 was considered by the Cabinet on 12 December 2017.

**Background**

3. The MTFS is set out in the report to Cabinet on 12 December 2017, a copy of which has been circulated to all members of the County Council. This report highlights the implications for the Children and Family Services Department.
4. Reports such as this one are being presented to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The views of this Committee will be reported to the Scrutiny Commission on 24 January 2018. The Cabinet will consider the results of the scrutiny process on 9 February 2018 before recommending a MTFS, including a budget and capital programme for 2017/18 to the County Council on the 21 February 2018.

**Service Transformation**

5. The transformation programme continues to be targeted at the development and implementation of a sustainable, cost effective operating model for the Children and Family Services Department that improves outcomes for children and young people in Leicestershire.
6. The department has significant transformation projects charged with delivering the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) savings in relation to the development of the

Care Placement Strategy, children's centres and early help services and services for pupils with High Needs;

- Care Placement Strategy – the department continues to develop this key strategy to effectively manage the Looked After Children (LAC) system through keeping numbers as low as possible by diverting children to use new and more forms of family support. This is linked to the changes being delivered through the Early Help Review. It will also enable the delivery of more cost effective placement solutions, including intensive family support, which will reduce the use of residential care. Where residential care is necessary ensuring it is cost effective. Additionally the fostering service will be developed to avoid and reduce the number of more costly Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements and extend the use of Adoption to include older and more challenging children.
- Early Help - The department is developing plans to meet the £1.5 million MTFS savings against Early Help (Children's Centres, Supporting Leicestershire Families (SLF), Youth Offending Services), the plans will be considered by Cabinet in January 2018. The plan will also incorporate the need to fund an additional £2.3 million due to the ending of the SLF partner contributions and Department for Communities and Local Government grant in 2020 which is currently supporting the Supporting Leicestershire Families Service.
- High Needs – The High Needs Strategy Board has developed and is monitoring a number of workstreams to address the overspend position on the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The Board is also making plans for the future strategy to ensure that expenditure can be contained within the overall level of grant including the impact of changes in funding levels as a result of the implementation of the national funding formula delivering changes to the allocation methodology for the grant. This will include a financial strategy that will set out how the grant will be managed in future years.

7. The programme will be dynamic and respond to:

- Legislative changes in the role of local authorities in education and social care
- The continued reform in social work practice.

### Proposed Revenue Budget

8. The table below summarises the proposed 2018/19 revenue budget and provisional budgets for the next three years. The proposed 2018/19 revenue budget is shown in detail in Appendix A.

	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000
Original prior year budget	60,800	68,849	68,974	70,099
Budget Transfers and Adjustments	814	0	0	0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>61,614</b>	<b>68,849</b>	<b>68,974</b>	<b>70,099</b>
Add proposed growth (Appendix B)	8,680	2,800	2,800	3,200
Less proposed savings (Appendix B)	-1,445	-2,675	-1,675	-670
<b>Proposed/Provisional net budget</b>	<b>68,849</b>	<b>68,974</b>	<b>70,099</b>	<b>72,629</b>



9. Detailed service budgets have been compiled on the basis of no pay or price inflation, a central contingency will be held which will be allocated to services as necessary.
10. The central contingency also includes provision for an annual 1% increase in the employers' contribution to the Local Government Pension Scheme based upon the 2016 triennial actuarial revaluation of the pension fund.
11. The total gross proposed budget for 2018/19 is £305.918m with contributions from specific grants, health transfers and service user and partner contributions projected of £237.069m (including £231,734m of services funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant. The proposed net budget for 2018/19 totals £68.849m and is distributed as follows:

<b>Net Budget 2018/19</b>	<b>£ million</b>	
Directorate	1.0	1.4%
Safeguarding, Improvement and Quality Assurance	2.3	3.3%
Children in Care	37.4	54.3%
Field Social Work	9.5	13.9%
Targeted Early Help	10.2	14.8%
Education Sufficiency	0.3	0.4%
Education	1.3	1.9%
SEND and Children with Disabilities	3.9	5.8%
Business Support and Commissioning	2.9	4.2%
<b>Department Total</b>	<b>68.8</b>	

### Other Changes and Transfers

12. A number of budget transfers (totalling a net increase of £0.8m) were made throughout the 2017/18 financial year and are now adjusted for in the updated original budget. These transfers are:
- 2017/18 pay inflation, from the central contingency £0.7m
  - Apprenticeship levy £0.1m

Since the Cabinet Report was presented in December, a Public Health transfer of £0.8m has been agreed. This transfer will be included in the February report to the Cabinet.

13. Growth and savings have been categorised in the appendices under the following classification:
- \* item unchanged from previous MTFS;
- \*\* item included in the previous MTFS, but amendments have been made;
- No stars new item.

This star rating is included in the descriptions set out for growth and savings below.

Savings have also been classified as Transformation or Departmental and highlighted as "Eff" or "SR" dependent on whether the saving is seen as an efficiency or a service

reduction or a mixture of both. "Inc" denotes those savings that are funding related or to generate more income.

## Growth

14. Growth over the next four years in the local authority budget total £17.48m, including £8.68m in 2018/19. The budget increases are outlined below and summarised in Appendix B. Before the MTFs report to Cabinet on 9 February, the provisional MTFs will be reviewed and if appropriate updated by the latest budget monitoring position for 2017/18. The social care placement budget in particular is subject to volatility.
15. \*\* G1 Demographic Growth – Social Care Placements £5,900,000 rising to £14,700,000 by 2021/22  
At March 2017 Leicestershire had 37 Looked After Children (LAC) per 10,000 population, lower than the statistical neighbour average of 51, East Midlands average of 55 and England average of 62. It is estimated that over this MTFs period numbers growth will be encountered that will result in Leicestershire becoming in line with the statistical neighbour average. Nationally the number of placements for children in care is expected to grow and it is anticipated that numbers of looked after children in Leicestershire will continue to grow in line with increases in similar authorities. The national position is that the numbers of children in care is continuing to rise and this pattern is being seen in Leicestershire.
16. The MTFs forecast is based on current trend analysis and proportion of children placed in different type of provision as shown below;

Placement	Projected		2018-22 MTFs			
	Baseline		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
FOSTERING	328		355	383	414	447
CONNECTED FOSTER CARER	93		100	108	117	126
RESIDENTIAL CARE	65		70	76	82	89
SEMI-INDEPENDENT LIVING	31		33	36	39	42
ADOPTION	27		29	31	33	36
PLACED WITH PARENTS (OR OTHER PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY)	12		13	14	15	17
MEDICAL						
YOUTH JUSTICE						
OTHER	9		10	11	12	12
<b>TOTAL LAC</b>	<b>565</b>		<b>610</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>769</b>
<b>Forecasted Leicestershire LAC rate per 10,000</b>	<b>41</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>53</b>

A number of factors have been identified that have contributed to the increase in cost and volume during 2017/18 which are expected to continue:

- Children with disabilities – the number of children with disabilities in residential care increased from 19 to 24 in the first six months of 2017 as a result of a demand to provide placements for young people with complex disabilities, including autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). As children become older and behaviour more challenging families begin to struggle to meet their need and to care for them full time, 21 of the 24 cases are young people in the 14 to 18 age

range. Whilst every attempt is made to support these young people and their families in the community, for some this has proved impossible. Due to their complex needs, if a foster placement can be found it often needs to be a solo placement at a higher cost or residential provision.

- Sufficiency in the market for Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) Placements –  
Nationally there is significant demand for IFA places for children with complex needs. Due to this unprecedented demand agencies have more choice over who they are able to offer a placement to with a tendency to prioritise children with less complex needs. This has resulted in children that would have previously been placed with an IFA being placed in residential provision at a cost differential of an average £2,650 per place per week.
- Children Suffering Trauma  
A further increase has been experienced in the number of younger people who have suffered high trauma and require intensive support and supervision to allow them to work through their experiences. A number of young people have experienced significant sexualised risk which require specific intervention and risk management. Additionally there has been a rise in the need for residential mother and baby placements which have been ordered by the court.

New - Social Care Agency Premia / Recruitment and Retention: £500,000 in 2018/19

Research across the East Midland region has identified differences in pay structure and rates for groups of social workers. It is intended that a market premia is applied to particular areas of the pay grades to ensure that social workers consider Leicestershire to be the employer of first choice and to allow effective career progression and remuneration to ensure that social workers choose to remain with the County Council. This in turn will reduce reliance upon agency workers which is reflected within the departments 2017/18 overspend.

New - Removal of Social care Staff Turnover Factor: £580,000 in 2018/19

Social worker staffing budgets have been historically reduced to recognise staff turnover levels, i.e. the gap between workers leaving and recruitment to the post. In order to respond to Ofsted expectations on caseloads posts are no longer held vacant and are indeed often covered by agency staff at a higher cost, For 2017/18 budgets are not achieving the turnover saving and it is proposed to remove this permanently.

New - Ofsted Continuous Improvement Plan: £2,000,000 2018/19

Cabinet considered and approved the investment necessary to support the post Ofsted Continuous Improvement Plan at its meeting on 15 September 2017. Together with £0.5m of growth included within the 2017/18 MTFS this funding will provide resource for 36 additional posts within children social care, establish a post adoption support fund and provide for 2 additional solicitors and address the financial pressure for increased costs arising from care proceedings.

\*G26 Removal of One Off Contribution to Supporting Leicestershire Families Programme: -£300,000

SLF is currently funded through a combination of partner funding, LCC earmarked funds, grant funding and revenue budget. Earmarked funds will be extinguished during the MTFS period and both partner contributions and future grant funding is uncertain. As a result a one off contribution was made in 2017/18 to reflect this uncertainty. This negative growth line reflects the one-off nature of this allocation

## Savings

17. Details of proposed savings for the local authority budget are set out in Appendix B and total £1.445m in 2018/19 and £6.465m over the next four years in total.

### Transformation

#### \*\* CF1 Eff – New Department Operating Model :+£190,000 rising to +£90,000 in 2020/21

This target is reduced from the £500,000 set out within the 2017/18 MTFS by £390,000. The senior manager restructure was completed in 2018/19, however due to previous savings not being delivered pending the appointment of a new Director of Children and Family Services this resulted in a £290,000 shortfall in budget. The savings set out here rectify the current position and incorporate future changes under development in the organisation of a number of education related functions such as education quality and school organisation. Proposals are currently being firmed up and will relate to staffing and changes to the balance of grant funding to revenue budget largely as a result of the receipt of a school improvement grant.

#### \*\*CF2 / CF3 Eff – Internal Foster Carer Growth: -£700,000 in 2018/19 rising to -£2,900,000 in 2021/22

The fostering service has targets for the net increase in mainstream foster carers of 25 per year, this increase is delivered within the service as business as usual activity which includes a potential revision to the carer allowances paid, and this is expected to deliver savings of £300,000 in 2018/19 rising to £1,800,000 in 2021/22. Additionally a target of 20 has been set for the recruitment of specialist carers delivering savings of £400,000 in 2018/19 rising to £1,100,000 in 2021/22. Recruitment of internal foster carers will ensure that children's needs can be met a lower cost but is unlikely to be sufficient to keep pace with the projected increase in the number of children in care. Recruitment has been buoyant through 2017/18 and is expected to continue over the term of the MTFS. Changes in working practices and marketing activity should allow for the progress achieved in 2017/18 to continue on an annual basis.

#### CF4 Eff - Develop Wrap Around Therapeutic Support Services: -£700,000 2020/21

The development of a wraparound multi systemic therapy team will provide a therapeutic support service for Looked After Children (LAC) aged between 8 and 18 years old. The service will aim to rehabilitate those young people living in residential care, who with therapeutic support can live in family based or independent provision. This could be fostering, a move home, supported lodgings or 16+ accommodation all of which would reduce high cost placements.

#### \*CF5 Eff / SR – Admin / Business Support Review: -£150,000 2018/19

This target is unchanged for 2018/19. Administration and business support functions across the department have been reviewed. An action plan is due to be launched which will standardise a business support offer targeted at need and ensure that functions are carried out at appropriate grades.

#### \*\*CF6 Eff /SR – Early Help Review: - £1,500,000 2019/20

The 2017/18 MTFS review included savings for CF4 – Children's Centre Review of £1m in 2019/20 and CF12 – Early Help Review of £0.5m in 2018/19, These savings have been combined to create one saving of £1.5m which will be delivered in 2019/20. The Early Help review will also consider the additional savings of £2.3 million that would be

required as the earmarked fund is fully utilised and if the partnership funding and DCLG grant ends. Cabinet will receive a report in January 2018 which will set out the future of the early help programme which will include a reconfiguration of some children's centres and the integration of all Early Help Services into a single model.

CF7 Eff - Disabled Children's Respite Care: -£100,000 2019/20

The 2017/18 MTFS included a Saving Under Development in relation to the contract for the provision of short break / respite care for children with disabilities. An outline business case has been developed which widens the approach to consider service for disabled children across the department. Proposals are in the early stages of development and will focus upon efficiency and value for money.

CF 8 Eff – Review of Staff Absence: -£80,000 2019/20 rising to -£150,000 in 2020/21

To reflect the support being put in place to reduce staff absence a financial target has been allocated to all departments. This reflects the intention to meet or exceed the County Council's target of 7.5 days per FTE. The target is phased 50% in 2019/20 and 100% in 2020/21 to allow time for improvement to take effect. This is the savings total for the whole department

Departmental

\*CF9 Eff / Inc Review Educational Psychology Service: - £125,000 in 2018/19 rising to - £225,000 in 2019/20

This saving is unchanged from the 2017/18 MTFS. The saving for 2018/19 will be achieved through the generation of additional traded income. The additional saving for 2019/20 is being developed and will be a mixture of additional income and staffing changes.

\*\* CF10 / CF13 SR –Re-procurement of contract for Careers Information, Advice and Guidance: £700,000 in 2018/19

This saving combines two previous elements of the 2017/18 MTFS. The contract was subject to a temporary extension at a reduced sum from October 2017 and is subject to full retendering from July 2018.

\*\* CF11 / Inc – Charge for Academy Conversion: +£40,000 in 2018/19 rising to +£70,000 in 2021/22

A saving was included in the 2017/18 MTFS at £70,000 with the expectation that as a result of the White Paper – Educational Excellence Everywhere proposing that all schools should be progressing academy status by 2020. There appears to be a national policy void in this area and the savings target has been reduced accordingly and removed in full in 2020/21, reflecting the slower rate of academy conversion.

CF12 Eff - Education of Children in Care: -£200,000 2019/20

A review of the service is underway, this has identified potential areas where efficiency savings could be realised. The saving is challenging given the statutory nature of the service changed as a result of the introduction of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. This expanded the remit of the service to include the provision of advice to previously looked after children and their families particularly with regard to adopted children.

Dedicated Schools Grant

18. For 2018/19 the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) structure has changed and is now calculated in four separate blocks as set out below;

<b>Funding Block</b>	<b>Areas Funded</b>	<b>Basis for Settlement</b>
Schools Block £380.144m	<p>Individual budgets for maintained schools and academies.</p> <p>DSG is notionally allocated to Leicestershire for all maintained schools and academies. A locally agreed funding formula is applied to this to determine school budgets, for maintained schools these are allocated directly by the local authority, for academies the funding is recouped from the settlement by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) who then directly fund academies.</p>	<p>2018/19 sees the implementation of the National Funding Formula for schools which attributes units of funding to pupil characteristics. The grant settlement is based on the aggregate of pupil led characteristics for each individual school plus an allocation for school led factors based on 2017/18 expenditure.</p> <p>Overall this allocation is increased by 3% per pupil for 2018/19.</p>
Central School Services Block £3.284m	<p>This is a separate block for the first time in 2018/19. It funds historic financial commitments related to schools such as premature retirement costs, some budgets related to schools that are centrally retained e.g. admissions, servicing the Schools Forum and school copyright licences. This block now includes funding from the retained duties element of the former Education Services Grant for the responsibilities that local authorities have for all pupils such as school place planning and asset management.</p>	<p>90% is distributed through a per pupil allocation based on previous expenditure and the former rate of the Education Services Grant plus an element based on actual 2017/18 expenditure.</p> <p>Overall this is an increase of 1.8% over the 2017/18 baseline.</p>
High Needs Block  Est £65.980	<p>Funds special schools and other specialist providers for high needs pupils and students, the pupil referral unit and support services for</p>	<p>This DSG Block moves to a formulaic allocation for the first time in 2018/19. The formula is based upon population of 0 -19 year olds</p>

	<p>high needs pupils including high needs students in further education provision.</p> <p>As with the Schools Block this includes funding for special academies and post 16 providers which is recouped by the ESFA who then directly fund academies.</p> <p>Confirmation of the 2018/19 grant is not expected until March 2018.</p>	<p>and proxy indicators for additional educational need including deprivation, ill health, disability and low attainment. Also included is an element based on historic spend. The formula also includes a funding floor to ensure that local authorities do not receive a funding reduction as a result of the introduction of the formula, Leicestershire receives £3.98m through this element.</p>
<p>Early Years est £30.917m ( 3 &amp; 4 year olds)</p> <p>2 year old disadvantaged places £3.428m (est)</p>	<p>Funds the Free Entitlement to Early Education (FEEE) for 2, 3 and 4 year olds and an element of the early learning and childcare service.</p> <p>The grant is based on the universal hourly base rate plus additional needs measured with reference to free school meals, disability living allowance and english as an additional language. The factors as recorded on the early years census in January 2018 and updated for the January 2019 census, final grant is not expected to be confirmed until May 2019.</p>	<p>The allocation is based on individual pupil characteristics and converted to a rate per hour of participation. Leicestershire receives the lowest rate of £4.30 per hour for 3 and 4 year olds and the lowest rate of £5.20 per hour for disadvantaged 2 year olds.</p>
<b>£483.753m</b>	<b>2018/19 Estimated DSG</b>	

19. The 2018/19 MTFS sets the overall Schools at the level of DSG received and is therefore shown as a net nil budget at local authority level.

#### Schools Block

20. For 2018/19 and 2019/20 a 'soft' formula will be in place. A soft formula is the terminology to describe a situation whereby notional school allocations are calculated at a national level based upon pupil characteristics. Local authorities will then apply their own local funding formula to generate individual school budgets.
21. The 2018/19 Schools Block DSG settlement to local authorities will be a value per primary and secondary pupil based upon pupil characteristics recorded within the October 2016 school census plus a fixed sum for school led factors. The figures confirmed for Leicestershire are:

<b>2018/19 DSG</b>	
Number of Primary Pupils x	£3,811
+	
Number of Secondary Pupils x	£4,930
+	
Funding for school led factors – Rent / Rates / New School Growth	Per 2017/18 expenditure
<b>Total Schools Block DSG</b>	
<b>£380.144m</b>	

22. However school budgets are required to be calculated on the October 2017 census, pupil characteristic changes and increases in the cost of school led factors will mean that some adjustment to locally set formula factors will be required to keep the total schools budget within the overall Schools Block DSG, the consultation on the 2018/19 school funding formula considered how this would operate.
23. The illustrative figures issued by the DfE in September estimate the following increases compared to 2017-18. DfE published the total Schools Block allocation in December but not individual school NFF allocations. Overall DSG increased by c£6m as a result of increase pupil numbers which will increase the overall gains represented below;

	<b>2018/19</b>		<b>2019/20</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>%</b>
Primary	+£3.2m	2%	£5.8m	3%
Secondary	+£7.5m	5%	£13.3m	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>+£10.7m</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>+£19.1m</b>	<b>5%</b>

24. Despite the overall increase in budget, at individual school level a number of schools are on the funding floor with an increase of 0.5% per pupil for these schools despite additional funding they will experience a real term decrease in funding. The Cabinet will receive a report in January, detailing the proposals for the school funding formula following consultation with schools and Schools Forum. It is expected that responsibilities for setting a school funding formula will be removed from local authorities at some point in the future with all school budgets being calculated nationally by the ESFA. It was expected that this change would be implemented in 2020/21 although there is growing uncertainty on whether this can be achieved.
25. The County Council has worked with a group of school representatives and the Schools Forum to develop a formula which has been subject to consultation with all maintained schools and academies. The formula was presented to Cabinet on 9 January for decision prior to submission to the Department for Education (DfE) by 19 January 2018. The Cabinet report sets out the full detail of the process followed to establish the 2018/19 school funding formula with a recommendation of moving as close to the NFF as possible for both primary and secondary schools but with the exclusion of the sparsity factor and the methodology to be used to ensure that the formula does not exceed the level of DSG received.



High Needs

26. The High Needs formula allocates funding according to a basket of pupil related indicators but also includes an allocation based on current spend. For Leicestershire this results in a minor increase in funding for 2018/19 but includes c£4 million of protection funding, this protection is not guaranteed in the long term. The December 2017 consultation set out that the formula would be reviewed in 4 years and DfE officials have informally stated that the formula, including the protection, will remain until such point it is reviewed. It is however essential that a financial strategy, including the development of a contingency, is established.
27. The following table sets out the summarised income and expenditure position based on current estimated service demand;

	<b>2017/18</b> <b>£,000</b>	<b>2018/19</b> <b>£,000</b>	<b>2019/20</b> <b>£,000</b>	<b>2020/21</b> <b>£,000</b>
High Needs Placements	60,213	60,448	61,192	61,622
Other High Needs Costs	6,051	6,211	6,211	6,211
<b>Total High Needs Expenditure</b>	<b>66,265</b>	<b>66,659</b>	<b>67,403</b>	<b>67,833</b>
High Needs Grant	-65,301	*-64,844	-65,146	-65,146
<b>Projected Overspend</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>2,257</b>	<b>2,687</b>

\* The introduction of the High Needs Funding Formula for 2018/19 introduced a baseline change. The DfE have transferred element 1 funding for SEN Units in mainstream schools from the High Needs Block to the Schools Block

28. The High Needs Inclusion Project is charged with identifying long term and sustainable solutions that ensure that the level of expenditure is able to be contained within the High Needs Grant both in the short term, whilst the grant is relatively stable, and in the longer term should the level of protection within the current system be reduced. The loss of protection would increase the savings requirement from £2.7 million to £6.7 million.

The project has a number of workstreams that include the development of a financial strategy to address fluctuations in both expenditure and grant. This will allow the creation of a contingency, allowing the service to manage financial issues in a planned way.

29. The High Needs Project Board has already implemented a number of changes leading to a reduction in the overspend on the High Needs Block. These include more robust assessment of need, leading to children being placed in appropriate more cost effective provision, and the development of local lower cost autism provision within mainstream schools.
30. The SEND Strategy will be considered by Cabinet early in 2018 and will set out a number of areas of development. A key area of this that will contribute to the savings and a robust financial strategy for the High Needs block is improving the quality and sufficiency of SEND education provision and services. This will be through supporting mainstream schools and settings to develop their SEN provision alongside developing local specialist services to ensure sufficiency of places across a continuum of needs.
31. Savings proposals are being developed and will include:

- The development further autism provision. Additional enhances resource bases place within mainstream schools at two secondary academies and at one maintained primary school will become available from September 2018 for pupils with autism. The cost avoidance per pupil of this type of provision, as opposed to independent provision, is in the region of £20,000 per pupil per year.
  - The department is currently reviewing the structure and service offer within Specialist Teaching Services, which will also consider the future model for early years' provision including the delivery of the Free Entitlement to Early Education (FEEE) and for pre-school children with special educational needs and disability. An action plan is due to launch in February.
  - Options are being developed to reduce the cost of supporting children and young people unable to attend schools as a result of medical conditions. This is an area where expenditure has been growing over recent years and alternative service options that will decrease cost and increase pupil outcomes are being investigated.
32. The County Council has a statutory responsibility to support children and young people with special educational needs (SEN). The direct consequence of this is that if expenditure cannot be contained within the available grant, including earmarked funds, and if the Schools Forum do not approve a carry forward of a DSG deficit, then other resources will need to be diverted to fund the shortfall. For 2017/18 the projected overspend on the High Needs Block is c£1.0m and DSG earmarked funds are available to fund the forecast overspend. It is estimated that the DSG earmarked fund will total £1.7m at the end of the current financial year, however this will be required to fund any costs reverting to the local authority at the point maintained schools converting to academies under sponsored arrangements meaning that this will not be possible to fund any DSG overspend in future years

#### Central Services Block

33. A Central Service Block is introduced in 2018/19. This block funds a number of school related expenditure items such as existing school based premature retirement costs, copyright licences under a national DfE contract for all schools and other historic school related costs.
34. For 2018/19 this block also includes funding for the retained duties that local authorities have for its statutory duties for all schools such as ensuring sufficient supply of school places and asset management previously funded through the retained duties element of the former Education Services Grant..

<b>Year</b>	<b>Historic commitments</b>	<b>On-going Functions</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Overall Change</b>
2017/18	£1.0m	£2.1m	£3.1m	
2018/19	£1.0m	£2.2m	£3.3m	+ 1.8%
2019/20	£1.0m	£2.3m	£3.3m	+ 3.4%

Early Years Block

35. There are no changes to the Early Years Block. Grant remains determined by the number of children participating in early years' education. The funding will support the first full year of the 30 hours FEEE which was introduced nationally in September 2017 (April 2017 in Leicestershire) for eligible parents and continued delivery of the early years offer for disadvantaged two year olds. Of the grant at least 95% must be delegated to providers.

Savings Under Development

36. The MTFS is balanced in 2018/19 and 2019/20 and shows shortfall of £9m in 2020/21 rising to £18m in 2021/22. To help bridge the gap a number of initiatives are under development to generate further savings. Once business cases have been completed savings will be confirmed and included in a future MTFS. Due to the focus on reducing the cost of placements no new savings initiatives have been identified for the department but this position may change during the year.

Other Funding Sources

37. The specific grants for the department are;

- Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (£483.75m est). The purpose of this grant is detailed in the other sections of this report.
- Maintained School sixth forms (£0.7m est). This funding is paid to the local authority by ESFA) for maintained school sixth forms. The allocations are made according to a national formula and paid over to school in full. Academies with sixth forms receive this funding directly from the ESFA.
- Pupil Premium (£ 5.6m est). Passported to schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils. This figure excludes academy allocations with are paid directly by the ESFA. Funding rates for free school meal and service children are unchanged from 2017/18, funding rates for looked after children and children adopted from care will increase by £400 to £2,300 per pupil. The DfE have stated they will continue the grant for the term of the current Parliament.
- Universal Infant Free School Meals (£3.8m est). The Children and Families Act 2014 placed a legal duty on all state-funded schools in England to offer a free school lunch to all pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 from September 2014. This grant is fully passported to schools to fund this responsibility. This figure excludes academy allocations with are paid directly by the ESFA. The grant has not been confirmed and is assumed to be at the same level as 2017/18.
- PE and Sports Grant (£1.8m est). The grant is passported to schools to deliver additional and sustainable improvements to the provision of PE and sport for the benefit of all pupils to encourage the development of healthy, active lifestyles. This figure excludes academy allocations with are paid directly by the ESFA. The grant has not been confirmed and is assumed to be at the same level as 2017/18.
- Asylum Seekers (£0.35m est). This supports the cost of supporting unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The grant is variable and dependent upon the number and age of children supported.

- Staying Put Implementation Grant (£0.08m est). The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced a new duty on local authorities to support young people to continue to live with their former foster carers once they turn 18 (the 'Staying Put' duty). This duty came into force on 13 May 2014. The grant has not been confirmed and is assumed to be at the same level as 2017/18.
- Youth Justice Good Practice (£0.5m). The purpose of the Youth Justice Good Practice Grant is to develop good practice and commission research, with a view to achieving the a reduction in youth re-offending, reduction in the numbers of first time entrants to the justice system and reduction in the use of youth custody. The grant has not been confirmed and is assumed to be at the same level as 2017/18.
- Remand Reform (£0.4m). Local authorities became responsible for remands to youth detention in April 2013. The grant has not been confirmed but is assumed to be at the same level of that for 2017/18.
- SEND Reform Grant (£0.3m est). The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced significant changes in respect of supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) including the introduction of Education, Health and Care Plans, publication of the local offer of support services and the introduction of personal budgets. Changes have been supported by specific grant allocations by the Department for Education (DfE) and a further grant for 2018/19 has been confirmed nationally, it is assumed that Leicestershire will receive the same proportion of the national funding as for 2017/18.
- Troubled Families Programme (£0.9m est). Three elements of grant are received from the Government for this national programme, the first for engaging families within the programme, the second is payment for results for meeting the Governments targets and the third to fund service development. The grant has not been confirmed and is assumed to be at the same level as 2017/18.
- School Improvement Grant (£0.1m est). This was a new grant from September 2017 for local authorities to co-ordinate school improvement activity in mainstream schools. The DfE have confirmed that the grant will continue into the 2018/19 academic year but have not confirmed how much this will be.
- Early Years Disability Access Grant (£0.106 est). Supports access for children with disabilities to attend nursery providers

### **Capital Programme**

38. The draft Children and Family Services capital programme totals £43.460m over the next four years including £17.3m in 2018/19. The draft programme and funding are outlined below and summarised in Appendix C. The programme for 2018/19 is set out in more detail than that for future years where both the need for school places and the grant funding from the DfE is less certain. It is envisaged that over the four years of the MTFS that an additional 2,500 school places will be created.
39. The programme is fully funded by external grant and developer S106 contributions:

**Basic Need Grant** - is received from the DfE based upon the need to create additional school places, grant of £16.939m is confirmed for 2018/19 and £11.516m for 2019/20,

announcements of grant for the latter two years of the MTFs are expected in early 2018 and 2019. The grant reflects the overall place need across the County and will be in both maintained schools and academies. The programme is being delivered ahead of schedule in 2017/18. This has allowed £6m of Basic Needs grant for 2018/19 to be accelerated into the 2017/18 capital programme.

Strategic Maintenance Grant – is received from the DfE for the maintenance of maintained schools only. Grant is based on a formula that considers pupil numbers and overall condition of the school estate. Allocations for the MTFs period are yet to be confirmed. It is expected that the grant will reduce as schools convert to academies.

S106 Contributions – it is estimated that a total of £1.818m of S106 contributions will be received in 2018/19 rising to £7.801m in 2019/20. This estimate is based on the current estimates of developer activity for the first two years of the MTFs only, estimates will be revised in the light of actual development rates over the MTFs period.

SEND Provision Capital Grant – this grant was announced during 2017/18 by the DfE and in response to the introduction of the National Funding formula for High Needs to provide local authorities with capital to develop cost effective SEN provision and is confirmed at £0.709m for the first three years of the MTFs. Release of the grant is dependent upon the approval of a SEN Strategy which was considered by Cabinet on 9 January.

#### Draft Capital Programme 2018-22

	2018/19 £,000	2019/20 £,000	2020/21 £,000	Total
Provision of Primary Places	12,390	19,120	TBC	31,510
Address structural changes to the pattern of education – 10+ retention	300	0	0	300
DDA Compliance / Schools Access / Safeguarding	200	200	TBC	400
SEND Programme	1,230	710	710	2,650
Strategic Capital Maintenance (Est)	2,500	2,300	2,000	6,800
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>16,620</b>	<b>22,330</b>	<b>2,710</b>	<b>41,660</b>
Schools Devolved Formula Capital (Est)	700	600	500	1,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,320</b>	<b>22,930</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>43,460</b>

40. The draft programme has been developed on a priority basis and within that schemes are at different stages of development. For some schemes contractors' prices have been obtained for others costs are indicative and based on exemplar and / or similar schemes. In order to minimise risk where contractors prices have not yet been obtained contingency is held to mitigate against any increase in cost, as prices are confirmed schemes will be re-evaluated and re-prioritised as necessary.
41. Anticipated S106 contributions have been included in the capital programme for 2018/19 and 2019/20 and based upon expected developer build rates and the number of additional pupils expected within those developments and as such may be subject to change.

42. The programme is largely focused upon the need to provide additional primary school places based on the assessed need through the annual school capacity assessment which also provides the basis for the Basic Need capital grant. It is estimated that 2,500 additional places will be delivered over the MTFS period, the location and number of the additional places can only be confirmed following the confirmation of school admissions.

#### 2018/19 Capital Programme

Schemes are focused on the need to develop additional primary school places. Significant schemes include primary provision in the Barwell area at Burbage Sketchley Hill, Shepshed Newcroft and a contingency for funding to address any unforeseen issues arising from September 18 admissions data.

Provision is also made for the completion of works in the Oadby area from the change in the 10+ pattern of education, provisions for capital works to support the schools developing enhanced resource bases for children with autism.

The programme also allocates the first tranche of the capital grant for SEND initiatives, the use of this funding will be confirmed following approval of the SEND strategy and after consultation with schools and parents.

#### 2019/20 Capital Programme

The programme for 2019/20 is subject to change as the pattern of future admissions becomes known but also in respect of S106 schemes which are subject to sufficient housing growth to generate the additional pupils but also in regard to developments triggering payment. Schemes will remain focused upon the provision of additional primary school places which will be delivered from the Basic Need grant and from specific s106 schemes including a potential new school at Ashby and major developments at Hugglescote.

The programme also includes the second tranche of the SEND Initiatives capital, schemes will be defined in line with the SEND strategy.

### **Background Papers**

Cabinet 12 December 2017 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 to 2021/22  
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=4866&Ver=4>

### **Circulation under local issues alert procedure**

None.

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## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Revenue Budget 2018/19  
Appendix B – Growth and Savings  
Appendix C – Capital Programme 2018/19 – 2021/22

## **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

43. Public authorities are required by law to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not;  
and
  - Foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not.
44. Many aspects of the County Council's MTFs may affect service users who have a protected characteristic under equalities legislation. An assessment of the impact of the proposals on the protected groups must be undertaken at a formative stage prior to any final decisions being made. Such assessments will be undertaken in light of the potential impact of proposals and the timing of any proposed changes. Those assessments will be revised as the proposals are developed to ensure decision makers have information to understand the effect of any service change, policy or practice on people who have a protected characteristic.
45. Proposals in relation to savings arising out of a reduction in posts will be subject to the County Council Organisational Change policy which requires an Equality Impact Assessment to be undertaken as part of the action plan.

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## CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## APPENDIX A

## REVENUE BUDGET 2018/19

Budget 17/18		Employees £	Running Expenses £	Internal Income £	Gross Budget	External Income £	Net Total 18/19 £	Movements	Schools	Early Years	High Needs	Dedicated Schools Grant	LA Block
832,407	<b>C&amp;FS Directorate</b>	1,033,897	133,768	0	1,167,665	0	1,167,665	335,258	18,499	44,230	153,947	216,676	950,989
1,969,267	C&FS Safeguarding	2,056,057	247,660	-48,700	2,255,017	-130,000	2,125,017	155,750	0	0	0	0	2,125,017
136,962	LSCB	263,854	138,336	-53,100	349,090	-212,128	136,962	0	0	0	0	0	136,962
<b>2,106,229</b>	<b>Total Safeguarding, Improvement &amp; QA</b>	<b>2,319,911</b>	<b>385,996</b>	<b>-101,800</b>	<b>2,604,107</b>	<b>-342,128</b>	<b>2,261,979</b>	<b>155,750</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,261,979</b>
320,525	Asylum Seekers	267,567	802,958	0	1,070,525	-750,000	320,525	0	0	0	0	0	320,525
2,498,518	C&FS Fostering & Adoption	2,609,325	342,440	0	2,951,765	-49,950	2,901,815	403,297	0	0	0	0	2,901,815
1,527,762	Childrens Management	2,945,096	35,300	0	2,980,396	-63,000	2,917,396	1,389,634	0	0	0	0	2,917,396
23,289,837	C&FS Operational Placements	28,421,057	68,780	0	28,489,837	0	28,489,837	5,200,000	0	0	0	0	28,489,837
2,521,763	Children in Care Service	2,277,734	634,541	-104,500	2,807,775	-500	2,807,275	285,512	0	0	0	0	2,807,275
<b>30,158,405</b>	<b>Total Children in Care</b>	<b>36,520,779</b>	<b>1,884,019</b>	<b>-104,500</b>	<b>38,300,298</b>	<b>-863,450</b>	<b>37,436,848</b>	<b>7,278,443</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37,436,848</b>
1,493,178	CPS North	1,492,573	174,125	0	1,666,698	0	1,666,698	173,520	0	0	0	0	1,666,698
1,103,080	CPS South	1,069,680	139,160	0	1,208,840	0	1,208,840	105,760	0	0	0	0	1,208,840
2,517,598	First Response	2,380,561	48,830	0	2,429,391	-29,000	2,400,391	-117,207	0	0	0	0	2,400,391
1,541,731	CPS North/South	1,509,823	161,668	0	1,671,491	0	1,671,491	129,760	0	0	0	0	1,671,491
1,667,557	Strengthening Families	1,906,083	117,190	0	2,023,273	0	2,023,273	355,716	0	0	0	0	2,023,273
574,185	CSE	510,575	63,610	0	574,185	0	574,185	0	0	0	0	0	574,185
<b>8,897,329</b>	<b>Field Social Work</b>	<b>8,869,295</b>	<b>704,583</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,573,878</b>	<b>-29,000</b>	<b>9,544,878</b>	<b>647,549</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,544,878</b>
<b>41,161,963</b>	<b>TOTAL CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE</b>	<b>47,709,985</b>	<b>2,974,598</b>	<b>-206,300</b>	<b>50,478,283</b>	<b>-1,234,578</b>	<b>49,243,705</b>	<b>8,081,742</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49,243,705</b>
3,863,999	Children's Centre	2,731,786	1,137,080	0	3,868,866	0	3,868,866	4,867	0	0	0	0	3,868,866
2,006,625	Early Help Support Services	2,232,785	414,886	-591,828	2,055,842	-275	2,055,567	48,942	0	0	0	0	2,055,567
2,384,806	SLF Pooled Budget	3,484,419	815,325	-1,085,021	3,214,723	-1,129,917	2,084,806	-300,000	0	0	0	0	2,084,806
1,720,111	Youth Offending Service	2,064,301	592,621	-168,100	2,488,822	-768,711	1,720,111	0	0	0	0	0	1,720,111
482,010	Community Safety	192,025	324,771	0	516,796	-36,000	480,796	-1,214	0	0	0	0	480,796
<b>10,457,551</b>	<b>Total Targeted Early Help</b>	<b>10,705,315</b>	<b>3,284,683</b>	<b>-1,844,949</b>	<b>12,145,049</b>	<b>-1,934,903</b>	<b>10,210,146</b>	<b>-247,405</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,210,146</b>
<b>1,203,560</b>	<b>Education Sufficiency</b>	<b>1,140,740</b>	<b>538,720</b>	<b>-224,900</b>	<b>1,454,560</b>	<b>-211,000</b>	<b>1,243,560</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>341,742</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>621,290</b>	<b>963,032</b>	<b>280,528</b>
34,366,715	C&FS 0-5 Learning	1,475,160	33,255,086	0	34,730,246	-297,382	34,432,864	66,149	0	34,090,489	0	34,090,489	342,375
2,079,983	C&FS 5-19 Learning	464,075	1,233,225	-114,780	1,582,520	-488,690	1,093,830	-986,153	248,000	0	0	248,000	845,830
2,148,407	C&FS Education of Vulnerable Groups	0	2,204,407	0	2,204,407	-62,641	2,141,766	-6,641	0	0	1,991,766	1,991,766	150,000
<b>38,595,105</b>	<b>Total Education</b>	<b>1,939,235</b>	<b>36,692,718</b>	<b>-114,780</b>	<b>38,517,173</b>	<b>-848,713</b>	<b>37,668,460</b>	<b>-926,645</b>	<b>248,000</b>	<b>34,090,489</b>	<b>1,991,766</b>	<b>36,330,255</b>	<b>1,338,205</b>
58,112,795	C&FS SEN	704,483	57,340,944	-56,715	57,988,712	-356,101	57,632,611	-480,184	0	0	57,005,397	57,005,397	627,214
3,404,304	C&FS Specialist Services to Vulnerable Groups	3,258,006	1,222,639	-336,591	4,144,054	-447,800	3,696,254	291,950	0	0	3,696,254	3,696,254	0
889,443	C&FS Psychology Service	1,061,873	56,180	-154,610	963,443	-199,000	764,443	-125,000	0	0	0	0	764,443
2,676,541	C&FS Disabled Children Service	1,089,614	1,454,506	0	2,544,120	0	2,544,120	-132,421	0	0	0	0	2,544,120
<b>65,083,083</b>	<b>Total SEND &amp; Children with Disabilities</b>	<b>6,113,976</b>	<b>60,074,269</b>	<b>-547,916</b>	<b>65,640,329</b>	<b>-1,002,901</b>	<b>64,637,428</b>	<b>-445,655</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60,701,651</b>	<b>60,701,651</b>	<b>3,935,777</b>
1,157,205	C&FS Admin & Committees	844,756	573,049	0	1,417,805	0	1,417,805	260,600	8,570	0	0	8,570	1,409,235
636,095	Commissioning	694,994	43,640	-47,243	691,391	-55,296	636,095	0	0	0	0	0	636,095
467,875	C&FS Finance	0	484,124	0	484,124	0	484,124	16,249	484,124	0	0	484,124	0
1,519,910	C&FS Human Resources	0	1,567,400	0	1,567,400	-47,500	1,519,900	-10	674,900	0	0	674,900	845,000
4,185	C&FS Sub Transformation	96,017	63,500	-159,517	0	0	0	-4,185	0	0	0	0	0
<b>3,785,270</b>	<b>Total Business Support and Commissioning</b>	<b>1,635,767</b>	<b>2,731,713</b>	<b>-206,760</b>	<b>4,160,720</b>	<b>-102,796</b>	<b>4,057,924</b>	<b>272,654</b>	<b>1,167,594</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,167,594</b>	<b>2,890,330</b>
<b>119,124,569</b>	<b>TOTAL EDUCATION &amp; EARLY HELP</b>	<b>21,535,033</b>	<b>103,322,103</b>	<b>-2,939,305</b>	<b>121,917,831</b>	<b>-4,100,313</b>	<b>117,817,518</b>	<b>-1,307,051</b>	<b>1,757,336</b>	<b>34,090,489</b>	<b>63,314,707</b>	<b>99,162,532</b>	<b>18,654,986</b>
362,201,826	Total Individual Schools Budget	0	393,669,420	0	393,669,420	-13,465,315	380,204,105	18,002,279	380,144,213	0	59,892	380,204,105	0
1,694,000	Dedicated Schools Grant Recoupment	0	-263,693,425	0	-263,693,425	265,485,425	1,792,000	98,000	0	0	1,792,000	1,792,000	0
2,378,699	Central Charges	0	2,378,699	0	2,378,699	0	2,378,699	0	1,508,418	210,848	659,433	2,378,699	0
-465,778,782	Dedicated Schools Grant	0	0	0	0	-483,754,012	-483,754,012	-17,975,230	-383,428,466	-34,345,567	-65,979,979	-483,754,012	0
<b>-99,504,257</b>	<b>TOTAL DSG ITEMS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>132,354,694</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>132,354,694</b>	<b>-231,733,902</b>	<b>-99,379,208</b>	<b>125,049</b>	<b>-1,775,835</b>	<b>-34,134,719</b>	<b>-63,468,654</b>	<b>-99,379,208</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>61,614,682</b>	<b>TOTAL CHILDREN &amp; FAMILY SERVICES</b>	<b>70,278,915</b>	<b>238,785,163</b>	<b>-3,145,605</b>	<b>305,918,473</b>	<b>-237,068,793</b>	<b>68,849,680</b>	<b>7,234,998</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>68,849,680</b>

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**References used in the following tables**

\* items unchanged from previous Medium Term Financial Strategy

\*\* items included in the previous Medium Term Financial Strategy which have been amended

Eff - Efficiency saving

SR - Service reduction

Inc - Income

		2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	
<b><u>GROWTH</u></b>						
**	G1					
		Demographic Growth - Social Care Placements	5,900	8,700	11,500	14,700
	G2	Social Worker Agency Premia / Recruitment and Retention	500	500	500	500
	G3	Turnover factor - Social workers	580	580	580	580
	G4	Post Ofsted Improvement Plan	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
*	G5	Removal of time limited Growth - One off Contribution to Supporting Leicestershire Families	-300	-300	-300	-300
			<b>8,680</b>	<b>11,480</b>	<b>14,280</b>	<b>17,480</b>

**SAVINGS**

<b><u>Transformation</u></b>							
**	CF1	Eff	New Departmental Operating Model	190	190	90	90
	CF2	Eff	Growing Mainstream Internal Foster Carer Provision	-300	-800	-1,300	-1,800
	CF3	Eff	Growing Specialist Internal Foster Carer Provision	-400	-600	-900	-1,100
	CF4	Eff	Develop Wrap Around Therapeutic Support Services			-700	-700
*	CF5	Eff/SR	Admin / Business Support Review	-150	-150	-150	-150
**	CF6	Eff/SR	Early Help Review		-1,500	-1,500	-1,500
	CF7	Eff	Disabled Children's Respite Care		-100	-100	-100
	CF8	Eff	Review of staff absence		-75	-150	-150
			<b>Total</b>	<b>-660</b>	<b>-3,035</b>	<b>-4,710</b>	<b>-5,410</b>
<b><u>Departmental</u></b>							
*	CF9	Eff/Inc	Review the Educational Psychology Service	-125	-225	-225	-225
**	CF10	SR	Reprocurement of Contract for Careers Information, Advice & Guidance	-700	-700	-700	-700
**	CF11	Inc	Academy conversion (reduced numbers)	40	40	40	70
	CF12	Eff	Education of Children in Care		-200	-200	-200
				<b>-785</b>	<b>-1,085</b>	<b>-1,085</b>	<b>-1,055</b>
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-1,445</b>	<b>-4,120</b>	<b>-5,795</b>	<b>-6,465</b>

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**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT****DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19 TO 2021/22**

	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	Total £000
Provision of Additional Primary Places:					
Barwell Area Places	2,890				2,890
Burbage Sketchley Hill Primary	1,700				1,700
Shepshed Newcroft Primary	2,140				2,140
Hinckley Richmond Primary	610				610
Anstey Latimer Primary	760				760
Barrow Hall Orchard CE Primary	500				500
Ashby - Potential New School	0	4,160			4,160
Hugglescote Community Primary	0	2,200			2,200
Thurnby CE Primary	0	620			620
Broughton Astley CE Primary	0	630			630
Admission Requirements / Minor Schemes to be defined	3,790	11,510			15,300
<b>Sub Total - Provision of Primary Places</b>	<b>12,390</b>	<b>19,120</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31,510</b>
To seek opportunities to address structural changes to the pattern of education - 10+ retention	300				300
DDA / Schools Access / Safeguarding	200	200			400
SEND Programme	1,230	710	710		2,650
Strategic Capital Maintenance*	2,500	2,300	2,000		6,800
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>4,230</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>2,710</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,150</b>
Schools Devolved Formula Capital *	700	600	500		1,800
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>17,320</b>	<b>22,930</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43,460</b>

\* - awaiting Government announcement.

<b><u>Future Developments - subject to further detail and approved business case</u></b>					
S106 Schemes - externally funded					

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**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**- 15 JANUARY 2018**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF**  
**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

**QUARTER 2 2017/18 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the performance of the Children and Family Services Department at the end of quarter 2 of 2017/18. This is for the period July to September 2017.

**Background**

2. The report is based on the set of performance measures aligned with the current Council Corporate Strategy to 2018. The current Strategy is presently being reviewed and a new Outcomes Framework developed which will guide future reporting to the Committee. The current performance dashboard is attached as Appendix A. Appendix B supports the Early Help indicator "Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact". The data and commentary provided refers to quarter 2 2017/18 (July to September 2017). Any subsequent changes will be notified in future reports.

**Report Changes**

3. Appendix A has been refreshed to concentrate on indicators where new data is available for quarter 2.
4. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.

**Overview**

5. From 30 measures that have been reported: 8 have improved; 14 show no significant change and 3 have declined. 5 further indicators provide information with no polarity.
6. From 16 measures that have a national benchmark: 5 are in the top quartile, 6 are in the second quartile, 4 are in the third quartile and 1 is in the fourth quartile.

## Children and Young People are Safe within Caring Family Homes

### **Social Care**

7. The number of 'Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales' was 97.2%. This has been consistently high over the previous year (10 cases were not reviewed within timescales).
8. The percentage of Child Protection plans lasting 2 years or more that were open at the end of quarter 2 was 1.1% (6 children). This was lower than the end of quarter 1. The percentage of plans that closed during quarter 2 lasting 2 years or more was 3.2%. Although this is higher than quarter 1, this involves very small numbers which can cause the percentage to fluctuate – 4 children on this occasion.
9. The percentage of 'Children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time' rose to 29.4% from 20.8% (a rise of 10 children). This is in the fourth (lowest) quartile of all local authorities. This remains an area of robust management oversight to both understand what is causing this and to ensure that the County Council response is robust. A recent audit undertaken highlighted two contributory factors remain:
  - i. cases where the Child In Need plans are not robust or working effectively after step down from a child protection plan; and
  - ii. change not being sustained by families leading to cases being stepped back up to child protection planning.
10. It is important to note that the majority of cases (67%) were placed on a repeat plan between 2 and 5 years after the initial plan. Whilst still an area of ongoing work, this does mean that children are not being removed from a plan too soon. To develop further understanding, a deep dive audit is now being undertaken to look at themes and common factors that may help the Children and Family Services Department to anticipate future vulnerability, develop better contingency plans with families and target intervention at families that are likely to step-up into the child protection arena.
11. The 'percentage of children with 3 or more placements during the year' was 7.6% (41 children). This is lower than the quarter 1 figure of 8.1% and places Leicestershire in the top quartile nationally. The 'percentage of children in the same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption' was 68.2% (368 children). This is similar to quarter 1 and places Leicestershire in the second quartile by national levels.
12. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 91.8% (139 young people). This is a small rise (1.2%) compared to quarter 1 and places Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
13. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 48.5% (75 young people). This is in the third quartile by comparison with other local authorities but slightly above the statistical neighbour average.



14. There were 67 Child Sexual Exploitation referrals in Leicestershire during quarter 2. This is 8 less than quarter 1.

### **Early Help**

15. A total of 7,245 individuals accessed Early Help services during quarter 2. This is higher than the same time period last year but lower than the previous two quarters.
16. The number of families receiving targeted Early Help during quarter 2 was 835 and the number of individuals was 2,217. Both numbers are similar, but slightly lower, than quarter 1. This includes family members and individuals supported through Supporting Leicestershire Families and the Children's Centre Programme.
17. There was no new Payment By Results (PBR) claim during quarter 2. The most recent claim was in June 2017.
18. 37 Early Help cases were escalated to Social Care in quarter 2. This is lower than quarter 1 when the figure was 50.

### Children and Young People have their Health, Wellbeing and Life Chances Improved

19. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had an annual health assessment' within the last 12 months was 76.3% (411 children). This is lower than quarter 1 (80.6%). Completion of health assessments continues to be overseen by the Children in Care Head of Service and Service Manager, with specific actions identified to address delays and barriers including systems support, processes and staffing pressures.
20. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had a dental check' is 56.4% (304 children). This is lower than the quarter 1 figure of 74.3% and below the internal target of 70%. Children in Care Head of Service and Service Manager have engaged in a period of data cleansing with business partners which includes a specific focus on recording of dental checks on Mosaic. This does not allow for the isolation of data related to very young children and those refusing dental checks.
21. The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) is a tool which is used to identify Looked after Children who are at risk of developing emotional and behavioural difficulties. The mean score for Leicestershire children was 14 in Quarter 2. The Department for Education (DfE) class 0-13 as 'normal', 14-16 as 'borderline' and 17- 40 as 'cause for concern'. A score of 14 places Leicestershire in the second quartile of local authorities.

### Children and Young People and their Families live within Thriving Communities

22. In quarter 1 (latest figures available) there were 32 'first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17'. This is lower than quarter 4 (43) but slightly higher than previous quarters when the figure was less than 30.

23. The rate of re-offending per young offender was 0.91 for quarter 4 (the most recent available). This was higher than the previous quarter but similar to the overall 2016/17 figure.
24. Custody was used for 2 young people during quarter 1 (the most recent available data). This involves small numbers and is similar to the previous quarter (3 young people).

### Education Quality

25. 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 are 89.6% and 90.2% respectively. The percentage of good or outstanding Special Schools remained at 100%.
26. Key Stage Four data (pupils aged 16) has now been released. Progress 8 is now the key measure for this age group and considers the progress made between the age of 11 and 16 by each pupil in 8 subject areas.
27. Leicestershire pupils overall made similar progress to last year with a score of -0.1. This is below the expected score of '0' but the same level as statistical neighbours. This places Leicestershire in the third quartile of all local authorities.
28. Girls made better progress than boys overall with a score of 0.13, which exceeded the expected levels for the group.
29. Boys made stronger progress in Mathematics, with both boys and girls recording a positive progress score. Girls were strong in English, with progress significantly better than boys.
30. The average point score for pupils taking A Levels was higher than 2016. However, there have been some changes to the assessment process which could also have a similarly positive impact on the national data when released.

### Vulnerable Groups - Education

31. Provisional data for Children in Care achieving expected standards at the end of Key Stage Two (aged 11) show an improvement compared to 2016, with 22.2% achieving the standard. However, this is low compared to 2016 national averages. Key Stage Four data for the group is not yet available.
32. Progress for pupils eligible for Free School Meals was -0.71. This was similar to 2016 when Leicestershire was ranked in the fourth quartile of Local Authorities. National data comparisons are not yet available.
33. Progress for pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health Care Plan was also similar to 2016 when Leicestershire was ranked in the top quartile of local authorities.

Economy/Employment and Skills

34. The latest data from Prospects, commissioned by Leicestershire County Council to work with those not in education, employment or training (NEET), is for the end of August 2017 and shows a Leicestershire NEET figure of 2.2% (299 young people), a similar figure to quarter 1. Leicestershire has a lower NEET figure than most of the East Midlands and is around the average of statistical neighbours.
35. The NEET figure for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities was 3.8% for August 2017. This represents 20 young people compared to 19 at the end of quarter 1.

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List of Appendices







- Appendix A - Children and Family Services Department Performance Dashboard for Quarter 2, 2017/18
- Appendix B - supports the indicator ‘Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact’

Equal Opportunities and Human Rights Implications

36. Addressing equalities issues is supported by this report, with a focus on vulnerable groups within Leicestershire. The education of pupils eligible for free school meals is recorded in this report with other pupil groups reported on directly to the relevant Heads of Strategy and Assistant Director.

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Children and Families Performance FY2017/18 Q2		Latest update	Current Performance	Better or worse than previous data point <sup>A</sup>	Trend Charts	Status RAG	National benchmark (quartile 1 = top)	Most recent Statistical Neighbour average
<b>Children and young people are safe within caring family homes</b>								
<b>Social Care</b>								
% child protection cases which were reviewed within timescales (Year to date)	Q2	97.2% (364)	Similar		A	2	94.0%	
% of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for second or subsequent time	Q2	29.4% (50)	Worse		R	4	18.1%	
% of Child Protection plans lasting 2 years or more open at the end of the quarter (low = good)	Q2	1.1% (6)	Better		G	1	1.7%	
% of Child Protection plans lasting 2 years or more that cease during the quarter	Q2	3.2% (4)	Similar		A	2	3.4%	
Placement stability - % children with 3 or more placements during a year (low = good)	Q2	7.6% (41)	Better		G	1	12.4%	
Placement stability - % children in same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption	Q2	68.2% (368)	Similar		A	3	68.00%	
% of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation (end of quarter)	Q2	91.8% (139)	Better		G	1	80.8%	
The % of Care leavers in education, employment and training (EET) (end of quarter)	Q2	48.5% (75)	Better		A	3	48.1%	
CSE referrals	Q2	67	Lower - no polarity		n/a	n/a	n/a	
<b>Early Help</b>								
No. of individuals open to Early Help services	Q2	7,245	Lower		n/a	n/a	n/a	
No. of individuals with an Early Help Assessment	Q2	2,217	Similar		n/a	n/a	n/a	
No. of families with an Early Help assessment	Q2	835	Similar		n/a	n/a	n/a	
No. of SLF families claimed for as a % of overall payment by results target	Q1	927 (33%)	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	
Number of Early Help stepped up to Social Care	Q2	37	Lower		n/a	n/a	n/a	
Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact	See Appendix						n/a	

<b>Children and young people have their health, wellbeing and life chances improved</b>									
The % of children in care who have had dental checks within last 12 months (at end of period)	Q2	56.4% (304)	Worse		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
The % of children in care who have their annual health assessment within last 12 months (at end of period)	Q2	76.3% (411)	Worse		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
The average emotional health strengths/difficulties score for children in care. (low = good)	Q2	14	Better		A			2	14.63
<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 (low = good, quarter in arrears)	Q1	32	Similar		G			1	n/a
Rate of re-offending by young offenders (low = good)	Q4 (2016/17)	0.91	Similar		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of instances of the use of custody for young people (low = good, quarter in arrears)	Q1	2	Higher		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

<b>Education Quality</b>									
The % of schools rated Good or Outstanding.	Aug-17	89.6%	Similar		A	2	89.5%		
The % of Special Schools rated Good or Outstanding	Aug-17	100% (6)	Same		G	1	95.3%		
The % of pupils in Good or Outstanding schools	Aug-17	90.2%	Similar		A	2	86.9%		
Key Stage 4 - Progress 8	2017	-0.10	Similar		A	3	-0.10		
A Level average points score (per entry)	2017	209.46	Better		A	3	210.06		
<b>Vulnerable groups - Education</b>									
Key Stage 2 - % of Children in Care achieving expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths	2017	22.2%	Better		n/a	n/a	n/a		
Key Stage 4 - % of pupils eligible for Free School Meals achieving Progress 8	2017	-0.71	Similar		n/a	n/a	n/a		
Key Stage 4 - % of SEN statement/EHCP pupils achieving Progress 8	2017	-0.75	Similar		n/a	n/a	n/a		
% of NEET 16-17 for children with SEN and disability (low = good)	Aug-17	3.8% (20)	Similar		n/a	n/a	n/a		
NEET young people aged 16-17 (low = good)	Aug-17	2.2% (299)	Similar		G	2	2.2%		

<b>The following indicators will be available in a future report. Data for 2017 is not yet available</b>									
Key Stage 4 - % of Children in Care achieving Progress 8	2017				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

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## Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact

### UK Youth Parliament:

In July the two Members of Youth Parliament and one Deputy Member attended the UK Youth Parliament Annual Sitting at Hope University in Liverpool, where they debated issues to be included in the UK Youth Parliament Manifesto. Then MYPs voted for the 10 topics to be included in this year's Make Your Mark Ballot.

In August a DMYP launched the Make Your Mark Ballot for Leicestershire at the Oadby and Wigston Youth Council Event – Supersonic Boom held on Blaby Road Park in South Wigston.

In September the three MYPs and four DMYPs were very busy getting the young people of Leicestershire to complete the UK Youth Parliament 'Make Your Mark' Ballots. The results will be available in October.

## **Children in Care council**

There have been two CiC Council meetings in Q2 (July and September). Key agenda items included:-

- Members overseeing monthly allocation of T2S Funding.
- Completing consultation work with Fostering and Adoption Service colleagues regarding Foster Carer recruitment and training. This resulted in junior / senior members beginning work on a recruitment video seeking to deliver key messages to new and prospective Carers, e.g. what makes a good Carer and what makes a new placement work well etc.
- Dissemination of the Children and Young People's Ofsted Summary. CiC Council recommendations included that the summary should be distributed to children and young people via Social Workers and Carers in order to provide context and explanation. Senior members also stated that they would value meeting with senior managers in order to fully discuss the document and contained recommendations.

Over the course of two Narrowboat days held in the Summer, junior members were consulted by Virtual School colleagues regarding the PEP process e.g. what works well and what could be improved etc. As an outcome, updating of the paperwork has since taken place.

CiC Council members have also continued to be involved in staff recruitment and selection. In Q2, this included appointment to Head of Service and Service Manager posts across Children and Family Services.

Junior and Senior members also attended September's meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board. This included co-chairing of the meeting, as well as providing broader CiC Council feedback and overview.

CiC Council members have also continued to deliver training workshops to Foster Carers nearing completion of their Skills to Foster Care Training.

**CYCLE** (County Youth Council for Leicestershire):

Donna Worship, LCC Policy Manager attended the July CYCLE meeting with a colleague to get CYCLE's thoughts on the proposed 'Draft Outcomes' for LCC and the 'Approach and Measuring Outcomes'.

There was no CYCLE meeting in August due to the summer holidays, however the CYCLE Don't Hate Educate Sub Group did meet once in August and twice in September for ongoing organisation for a Conference on October 13<sup>th</sup> 2017, the focus for this year is SEND.

In September CYCLE met to plan their special meeting for young people attending LCC SEND Groups as part of Voice Festival Week. This meeting was planned as the fourth session in a programme of four sessions designed to:

- Explore who they are and celebrate difference
- Enable them to identify hate crime and how to speak out about it
- Explore who it is safe to talk to and when is the right time
- Experience the bigger picture of Voice by having the opportunity to take part in the UK Youth Parliament 'Make your mark Ballot' at a CYCLE meeting at County Hall.

Cycle members ran the event and the outcomes were that the young people took part in the Make Your Mark Ballot, which they will keep updated on and that they had five requests from the young people attending to attend the next CYCLE meeting.

### **Family Voice and EH Support Services:**

Young people were invited to a Pop Up held at Brocks Hill Nature Park visitors Centre in August to work with the three new Early Help Service wellbeing practitioners to design what their service would look like. There were arts and crafts activities linked to emotional wellbeing, a session of Tai Chi and a logo competition. The winner was delighted to see her artwork on the practitioner's leaflets.

25<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of September was Voice Festival week, which had the focus of SEND. This started with the launch at Beaumanor Hall with professionals listening to parents experiences of life with children who have special needs. This was followed by two workshops, the first on how to capture the voice of very young children and the second facilitated by the Autism Outreach Service.

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September there was a lunch at Beaumanor Hall for parents and volunteers who have been involved with LCC Services and contributed to the evaluation and development of services by talking about their experiences and supporting others to do so.

The Voice Box project committee completed and disseminated their Jenga Cards, which are an addition to resources box for SEND young people and vulnerable teenagers.

**SEND:**

A new SEND Voice Worker began in May 2017 and during the last quarter they have met with over 200 individuals, both children and young people and parent carers. They have visited several groups and schools and are preparing a report to help shape the SEND Strategy using what families have told her. The role works closely with the Parent Carer Forum and they have successfully organised their first joint event in the Summer which had a great turn out. Throughout the summer a short film was created using the views of families and also the professionals supporting them. There are ongoing sessions and opportunities planned for further engagement with families around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

## Q2 SLF Feedback from parents and carers

“As parents we work together more and back each other up, this was not happening before and we would end up arguing about the children. We enjoy being parents more.”

“We were more able to cope. This summer has been the best we have ever had with the children, normally I don't want school holidays to come.”

“After sessions with you we understood that we were not making the children happy by letting them do as they wanted. I had a hard childhood and wanted everything to be really good for them. This was not working. By [Partner] and I working together and understanding what we needed to do.”

“I had brilliant support from SLF and the youth workers really understood me and what I needed, I got my English & Maths qualification.”

“I'm not right yet but I'm better than I was thanks to them.”

“The support and help the youth workers gave me who I will never forget; she understood what I was going through and was the best person to talk to.”

“I think our worker has been amazing support and if we didn't have her, things would have just got worse.”

“There are no more arguments around the children. The household is at peace and can focus on moving forward.”

“[young person] has started a new college, which he enjoys and is doing very well. He does not appear to have the anger problems he used to have.”

“My worker has been really great and has helped me so much. [SLF worker] has helped me get into contact with ADHD Solutions.”

“My children's behaviour has really improved since having a support worker, she helped and guided with behaviour strategies and routines. I think that she's also helped me gain confidence I needed to help my children.”

“My children are now attending school regularly and they now have very good attendance. I now understand the importance of regular school attendance.”

“Massive thank you for everything. The woman shadowing you today is in good hands, even if she becomes half the person you are she's going to be amazing. You have helped us more than everyone put together in the last 4 years. You've given me hope again and I am so thankful.”



**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE - 15 JANUARY 2018**

**OFSTED INSPECTION FRAMEWORK: INSPECTION OF LOCAL  
AUTHORITY CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

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

**Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to explain to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee details of the new Ofsted Inspection Framework: Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) which was published in November 2017. The Committee is asked to note the detail of the Inspection Framework.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. There are no specific corporate policies and plans which are relevant however the Ofsted Continuous Improvement Action Plan reviewed by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee will inform the new self-evaluation component of the inspection framework. The previous judgement of 'requires improvement' determines that Leicestershire will be subject to a standard 2 week inspection as well as the other components identified within the ILACS system.
3. The Committee has continued to have oversight of the Continuous Improvement Action Plan based on the 17 recommendations arising from the Single Inspection Framework (SIF) November 2016.

**Background**

4. The Inspection of Local Authorities is a new system for ensuring more regular contact with Local Authorities and comprises an inspection framework, self-evaluation, annual conversation and focussed visits.
5. The new inspection process will mean that Local Authorities have more regular contact with Ofsted giving opportunity to identify any issues of concern and action being taken in a more timely way. The Ofsted grade awarded determines the type of inspection at the next visit and what support is required before a visit.
6. Principles of the inspection framework are:-
  - i. A focus on practice and timely reflection on the experience of children in the area;
  - ii. A system that is proportionate, flexible and bespoke;
  - iii. Actions prioritised where improvement is needed the most.

7. The 'whole system' approach is informed by:-
  - i. An annual self-evaluation submission by the Local Authority;
  - ii. An annual review of the self-evaluation with an Ofsted regional representative;
  - iii. Ofsted's intelligence.
8. There will be a three yearly inspection cycle of 'Standard Inspections' for local authorities that 'Requires Improvement' or 'Short Inspections' for local authorities rated Good or Outstanding. Local Authorities judged to be 'requires improvement' will receive two focussed visits in the three year cycle and, for those rated Good/outstanding at least one visit.
9. 5 days' notice of a standard inspection will be given and the inspection will last for 2 weeks. Information and data is submitted to the inspection team in the 5 days' notice period, which is akin to Joint Targeted Area Inspection.
10. The standard inspection will evaluate experience and progress of:-
  - i. Children in need of help and protection including early help;
  - ii. Children in care and achieving permanence;
  - iii. Care leavers and transition;
  - iv. Effectiveness of leaders, managers and local governance;
  - v. The authority's own evaluation of the quality and impact of its performance and practice is accurate and to be reliable.
11. Judgements will be on:-
  - i. Children in need of help and protection including early help;
  - ii. Children in care and Care leavers;
  - iii. Impact of leaders;
  - iv. Overall effectiveness.
12. Short inspections will be carried out over 1 week and cover the same areas, but will focus on 'non-deterioration' and any improvements needed. Both standard and short inspections will require the development of an action plan.
13. Focus visits are thematic and will look at one or more aspect of the service, will be contained within 1 week and result in narrative findings. Concerns from a focus visit will not usually result in an inspection, as the expectation is that the local authority will respond to the narrative letter, although an action plan is not required.
14. The annual self-evaluation should address:
  - i. What is known about the quality and impact of social work practice;
  - ii. How it is known;
  - iii. What the improvement plans are for the next 12 months to maintain or improve practice.
15. The self-assessment should be submitted 1 month before meeting with the Ofsted representative.



16. Evaluative areas are similar to SIF, such as thresholds, decision making, multi-agency working, having a learning culture and being able to respond to specific vulnerabilities (e.g. Children with Disabilities and Child Protection) seem to be more explicit requirements.
17. Auditing of cases for the inspection is no longer required. The local authority will provide a list of audited cases (within a 6 months' timeframe) and the inspection team will review a selection of these audits and have follow-up conversations with the relevant children/families.

### Joint Targeted Inspections

18. Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAs) were introduced in early 2016. They essentially combine the principles used in previous Ofsted thematic inspections with a range of proposed frameworks that sought to inspect multiple agencies that deliver services in a Local Authority area.
19. As an area inspection involving a number of agencies, JTAs bring together Ofsted, CQC, HMIC and HMIP. The scope of an inspection will always cover multi-agency arrangements in respect of a particular 'deep dive' theme. To date, two themes have been completed (Child Sexual Exploitation and, Children Living with Domestic Abuse and Neglect). It is understood that the theme for January 2018 will return to Child Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Abuse.

### Resource Implications

20. There is no additional resource requirement arising from the new framework other than those normally anticipated as part of the inspection process. The self-assessment is being completed in preparation for the Leicestershire County Council annual Ofsted conversation that is due to take place on 7 March 2018.

### Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

21. None.

### Officer to Contact

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### Equality and Human Rights Implications

The new Inspection Framework system will consider these aspects as has happened under previous inspection frameworks. An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) is not required in relation to the new inspection system.

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