



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

Date/Time: **Tuesday, 7 June 2022 at 2.00 pm**

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

Contact: **Damien Buckley (Tel: 0116 3050183)**

Email: **damien.buckley@leics.gov.uk**

Membership

Mr. M. Frisby CC Mrs. C. Lewis
Mrs. H. J. Fryer CC Mr. N. Lockyer
Mr. L. Hadji-Nikolaou CC Mr. R. Martin
Mr. R. Hills CC Mr. C. A. Smith CC
Mr. Max Hunt CC Mr. G. Welsh CC

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

AGENDA

<u>Item</u>	<u>Report by</u>
1. Appointment of Chairman.	
2. Election of Deputy Chairman.	
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2022.	(Pages 5 - 10)
4. Question Time.	
5. Questions asked by members under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).	
6. To advise of any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent elsewhere on the agenda.	
7. Declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.	
8. Declarations of the Party Whip in accordance	



with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule
16.

9. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order
36.

10. Quarter 4 2021/22 Performance Report. Chief Executive (Pages 11 - 18)
and Director of
Children and
Family Services

11. Impact of Covid-19. Director of (Pages 19 - 30)
Children and
Family Services

12. Leicestershire Music Service. Director of (Pages 31 - 40)
Children and
Family Services

13. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled to take place on 6
September 2022.

14. Any other items which the Chairman has
decided to take as urgent.

QUESTIONING BY MEMBERS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

The ability to ask good, pertinent questions lies at the heart of successful and effective scrutiny. To support members with this, a range of resources, including guides to questioning, are available via the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny website www.cfgs.org.uk. The following questions have been agreed by Scrutiny members as a good starting point for developing questions:

- Who was consulted and what were they consulted on? What is the process for and quality of the consultation?
- How have the voices of local people and frontline staff been heard?
- What does success look like?
- What is the history of the service and what will be different this time?
- What happens once the money is spent?
- If the service model is changing, has the previous service model been evaluated?
- What evaluation arrangements are in place – will there be an annual review?

Members are reminded that, to ensure questioning during meetings remains appropriately focused that:

- (a) they can use the officer contact details at the bottom of each report to ask questions of clarification or raise any related patch issues which might not be best addressed through the formal meeting;
- (b) they must speak only as a County Councillor and not on behalf of any other local authority when considering matters which also affect district or parish/town councils (see Articles 2.03(b) of the Council's Constitution).

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Minutes of a meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at County Hall, Glenfield on Tuesday, 8 March 2022.

PRESENT

Mr. C. A. Smith CC (in the Chair)

Mr. M. Frisby CC

Mr. R. Martin

Mr. L. Hadji-Nikolaou CC

Ms. Betty Newton CC

Mr. N. Lockyer

Mrs. R. Page CC

In Attendance

Mrs. D. Taylor CC – Lead Member for Children and Families

55. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2022 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

56. Question Time.

The following question, received under Standing Order 34 of the County Council's Constitution, was put to the Chairman of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Question asked by Mrs Sue Whiting

“Could the Chair please state:

- a) if the Director/Heads of individual services within the Children's Services department/officers of individual services within the Children's Services will be attending the next meeting of the Leicestershire Dyslexia Association on 16th March at Stoneygate Baptist Church 315 London Road LE5 6GG as the Meeting is entitled Dyslexia and Me with a variety of invited guests who will be sharing their Experiences?
- b) if the Director/Heads of individual services within the Children's Services Department/Officers of individual services within the Children's services department will be attending the Dyslexia Show at the NEC Birmingham on 25th/26th March 2022 where there will be many exhibitors with resources and many Seminars on a variety of topics which are included in Neurodiversity?”

Reply by the Chairman

- a) No, however we shared the details of the event with SENCOs across Leicestershire. Members of the Department do engage with and attend events run by the LDA.

- b) No, however we have committed to other events which we feel are very specific to the projects we are working on presently such as the British Dyslexia Association (BDA) virtual Literacy Conference on Thursday 17th March and we have had recent sessions with relevant commercial exhibitors who attend NEC shows to understand more about services and resources to support our work.

Supplementary Question:

Mrs Whiting asked as supplementary questions on the response to her original question, how the event of Leicestershire Dyslexia Association (LDA) on 16 March had been shared with SENCOs and who had attended events at the LDA since September 2021, who had signed up to attend the BDA virtual Literacy Conference on Thursday 17th March (including which parts of the day) and with which Commercial exhibitors that attend NEC shows had the Department held sessions with?

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of Children and Family Services responded that information regarding the LDA event had been sent out to SENCO's directly. Members of the Specialists Teaching Service had attended LDA events and signed up to attend the BDA virtual literacy conference next week, attending for the whole day.

The Director further confirmed that Members of the Specialist Teaching Service met with a range of exhibitors who attended the NEC show, as well as meeting with other providers throughout the course of the year, to explore a wide range of products and resources that could support children across Leicestershire.

57. 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).

58. Urgent Items.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

59. 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 at this point.

During the meeting, Mrs. Betty Newton CC declared a Non-Registerable Interest in agenda item 9: Young Carers (minute 63 refers), as she was a previous member of Loughborough Young Carers Research Group.

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

There were no declarations of the party whip.

61. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order 36.

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

62. Quarter 3 2021/22 Performance Report.

The Committee considered a joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Children and Family Services which presented an update on the Children and Family Services Department's performance for the period to December 2021 (Quarter 3). A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 8' is filed with these minutes.

Arising from the discussion, the following comments were raised:

- i. Members raised concerns about the number of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time. The Director provided some reassurance that there were usually gaps between plans of two years or more, indicating that there are periods of improvement and stability. However, factors such as domestic abuse, substance misuse and parental health problems meant that there could be setbacks in such periods of stability. This had been made worse during the pandemic when some universal services that would have otherwise provided support to such children and their families had not been accessible or put under additional pressure.
- ii. In response to questions raised the Director advised that pre-Covid, for outstanding Shires, the rate of repeat child protection plans was approximately 23%. The Service was seeking to achieve similar rates, but this would likely take time as Covid impacts were still being managed.
- iii. The Service had provided support to partner agencies to help strengthen their processes around decision making and to ensure that when a child ceased to be on a child protection plan, arrangements for ongoing support were sustainable, reducing the risk of a repeat plan. To strengthen work within the Service, training workshops for staff had also been provided. These centred around early intervention and the de-escalation of risks to children by addressing issues such as domestic abuse, substance misuse and parental mental health. Cross agency working with the Police, health, schools and other partner organisations had also been strengthened to ensure risk factors were properly alerted and shared, something that had been affected by the Pandemic.
- iv. It was recognised that circumstances around a child on a child protection plan were often complex and that usually both they and their family required support. By way of example, members welcomed the joint work of the Children and Family Wellbeing Service and Community Safety Team that helped families to understand the impact of domestic abuse on all family members. Members noted that a pilot had been undertaken to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse and this had shown positive results both in improving individuals' home situations and deescalating the need for child protection plans.
- v. A member raised a question regarding the percentage difference in the number of primary schools and secondary schools rated as being Good or Outstanding, primary schools often achieving outstanding. It was noted that generally performance remained lower in secondary schools and that a contributing factor was that almost all Leicestershire secondary schools were now academies. Admissions performance was also lower in secondary schools, however, the Service would work on improving processes to ensure that children could access one of three preferred schools.

RESOLVED:

That the report on the Children and Family Services Department's performance for the period to December 2021 (Quarter 3) and further information now provided be noted.

63. Young Carers.

The Committee received a report of the Director of Children and Family Services on Young Carers which outlined the work taking place to identify, assess and support young carers across Leicestershire. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 9' is filed with these minutes.

At this point of the meeting, Mrs. M. E. Newton CC declared a non-registerable interest in this item as she had historically been a member of the Loughborough Young Carers Research Group.

Arising from the discussion, the following points were made:

- i. A member raised concerns about the impact of caring for a family member on a young person's health and, in particular, their mental health. A member sought reassurance that the Service was confident it was doing enough to support them and to encourage them to come forward. Members agreed that young carers were often the hidden face of community care and that the pandemic had made the position more difficult. The Director assured members that good support was provided to those known to the Service. However, it was recognised that many remained unidentified and there were some who did not wish to be identified.
- ii. The Service relied on schools to report early indications that a young person might be caring for a family member. Members were pleased to hear that schools were proactive in making referrals, and that each school across Leicestershire had a Young Carers Champion.
- iii. It was suggested that young carers often did not consider themselves to be a 'young carer', or they or their family may be apprehensive of assessment and unsure of the support available. The Lead Member said it was well recognised within the Service that young carers were often anxious and sometimes scared that they might be taken into care if they came forward. A whole family approach was therefore critical. The Director emphasised that there were a range of support options that could be delivered but a key role of the Service was to help young people understand their position and identify what their needs might be.
- iv. Encouraging unknown carers to come forward was a challenge. However, the Director explained that work was being undertaken with the Council's communications team to target young people to make themselves known to the Service or in school, for example. It would also continue to work closely with schools, partners and the community.
- v. A member suggested that further consideration should be given to how the Council might better incentivise young people to engage with the Service. Members noted that respite services were offered to young carers whereby they could engage with one another and take part in enjoyable activities outside of the home. Some young carers within the Youth and Justice Service had assisted in recruitment panels to contribute their influence in the Service and had helped them to gain skills from preparing questions and activities for the panel. The Director undertook to consider

how these and other incentives could be promoted and the benefits of the support packages available for young carers that came forward.

- vi. It was noted that young carers would be supported through the Children and Family Wellbeing Service which would carry out an initial assessment to produce a support package which addressed the specific needs of the young person and their family, subject to any safeguarding issues being identified. A Section 20 agreement, whereby a child would be brought into Local Authority care, would only be considered if it was deemed necessary for the welfare of the child. Usually, a family centred approach would be used. However, a group work offer would be considered and could include access to other universal services.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report and details of the work taking place to identify, assess and support young carers across Leicestershire be noted and welcomed.
- (b) That the Director of Children and Family Services be requested to consider how the Service might better incentivise currently unidentified young carers to come forward, engage with the Service and make use of the support available to them.

64. Written Statement of Action.

The Committee received a report of the Director of Children and Family Services which provided an update on progress being made against the Written Statement of Action and set out the findings of the Leicestershire local area SEND Peer Challenge. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 10' is filed with these minutes.

The Director advised the Committee that since the circulation of the report:

- To address weaknesses in the quality of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) further support had been secured so the Service would now be able to audit and provide greater assurance on the quality of those plans going forward.
- All vacancies within the Service had now been filled following a recent restructure. This would be critical in improving the support that could be provided.
- Additional resources had been secured to clear the backlog of work which had resulted from those vacancies. Caseloads were identified as an issue, but these were now much smaller and manageable. It was hoped this would improve the recruitment and retention of staff in this field.
- A new case system had been introduced which had gone live the previous day. This would make recording and managing case records easier and more efficient.

In response to a question from a member, the Director confirmed that around 80% of actions set out in the inspection report had been completed and that the Service would be on track to meet all targets in time for its next inspection which was expected imminently. All areas would continue to be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure the Service was fully supporting children and young people with special educational needs.

RESOLVED:

That the update now provided on progress against the Written Statement of Action be noted.

65. Report on the Outcome of the Ofsted Focused Visit January 2022.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children and Family Services which outlined the outcome of the recent Ofsted Focused Visit. A copy of the Ofsted report had been circulated to all Members by way of a supplementary paper. A copy of the report and supplementary report marked 'Agenda Item 11' are filed with these minutes.

Members noted and welcomed the positive feedback received following the focussed visit. Members noted the two areas for improvement which were already being addressed as detailed in the update on progress against the Written Statement of Actions. The Director thanked staff within the Department for their unwavering focus on children and their steady drive for improvement over the last two years. The Committee also expressed its thanks to the Director and her team.

The Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Family Services praised strong leadership within the department and also thanked staff for their hard work, notably during the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic.

RESOLVED:

That the Ofsted report following its focused visit to Leicestershire County Council Children's Services be noted and welcomed.

66. Date of next meeting.

RESOLVED:

It was noted that the next meeting of the Commission would be held on 7 June 2022 at 2.00pm.

2.00 - 2.55 pm
08 March 2022

CHAIRMAN



**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

7 JUNE 2022

QUARTER 4 2021/22 PERFORMANCE REPORT

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

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Committee with an update on the Children and Family Services Department's performance for the period to March 2022 (Quarter 4).

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The Children and Family Services Department's performance is reported to the Committee in accordance with the Council's corporate performance management arrangements.

Background

3. A Strategic Plan 2018-2022 was agreed by the Council setting out priority outcomes for delivery and supporting performance metrics, and this was refreshed in 2020. A new Strategic Plan has been signed off and is due to be agreed by Cabinet on 18 May 2022. Performance reporting arrangements for 2022/23 will be revised accordingly to reflect these changes.
4. The Children and Family Services Department has also produced a Departmental Plan 2020-2023 which identifies ambitions and measures to monitor progress. The following report and accompanying dashboard aim to report on the priority areas identified by both plans and monitor performance of key indicators on a quarterly basis. The current performance dashboard is appended and has been refreshed to concentrate on indicators where updated data is available for Quarter 4.
5. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.

Overview

6. From 23 measures that have been reported, six have improved and 12 have declined. Five indicators are provided for information only, with no polarity.
7. From 10 measures that have a national benchmark, one is in the top quartile, six are in the second quartile, one is in the third quartile and two are in the fourth quartile.

Helping children in Leicestershire live in safe, stable environments and have secure attachments

8. Local authority comparisons used are most recent figures published by the government for end of year benchmarking.
9. The percentage of Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales was 86.3% at the end of Quarter 4, a decline on the Quarter 3 figure (94.2%). This places Leicestershire in the fourth quartile of all local authorities by published benchmarks. This may reflect the implementation of additional standards to underpin the Child Protection process and more specifically some of the staffing pressures experienced in Quarter 4 across both Intensive Referral Order (IRO) teams and Locality teams.
10. The percentage of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time decreased to 28.0% at the end of Quarter 4. In this period 60 children began a second or subsequent plan, an increase from 47 reported in the preceding quarter. Leicestershire remains in the fourth quartile of local authorities compared to most recent national results published for 2020/21. This is an area of focus for the service and regular audits are completed, to understand any themes around the circumstances leading to repeat periods of child protection planning and to inform actions in response. Most recent findings suggest that Domestic Abuse remains a factor in some repeat plans and the implementation of the Domestic Abuse toolkit aims to strengthen exit planning. Consideration has been given to the timescales for a repeat plan starting and this has shown that for the majority, there has been a gap in excess of two years
11. The percentage of re-referrals to Social Care within 12 months was 20.1% at the end of Quarter 4 compared to 19.6% at the end of the previous quarter, with 262 children 're-referred' within Quarter 4. Leicestershire remains in the second quartile of local authorities.
12. The percentage of single assessments completed within 45 days was 90.7% at the end of Quarter 4, a slight decrease from Quarter 3 (91.0%). This represents 958 assessments completed within timescale in Quarter 4 compared to 925 in the preceding quarter. Leicestershire remains in the second quartile of local authorities.
13. Eight Child Protection plans lasting two years or more were open at the end of Quarter 4, representing 1.4% of cases. This is a similar number and proportion as the end of Quarter 3 (9 children, 1.7%). Leicestershire remains in the second quartile of local authorities.

14. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 92.5% at the end of Quarter 4 (283 young people). This is a decrease from Quarter 3 (95.8%) and places Leicestershire in the second quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
15. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 58.5% at the end of Quarter 4 (179 young people). This is a small decrease from 62.1% at the end of Quarter 3. However, it continues to place Leicestershire in the top quartile by comparison with other local authorities. The Service continues to provide careful oversight to the care leaver indicators and is driven by a corporate commitment for creating mentoring and apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers.
16. The percentage of Children in Care who have had a dental check was 44.3% (308 children), a slight decrease from 44.7% (301 children) at the end of the previous quarter. Routine dental treatment has been limited during the period of the Covid-19 lockdown and figures are now beginning to rise.
17. The percentage of Children in Care who have had an annual health assessment within the last 12 months was 83.6% (581). This is an increase compared to the end of the previous quarter (80.9%).
18. Completion of health assessments continue 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. Both managers attend quarterly operational and strategic meetings with health partners to discuss and address the health needs of children in care and how best to meet these needs.

Helping children and their families build strength, resilience, confidence, and capacity

19. During Quarter 4, the Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFWS) worked with 3,055 individuals and 1,149 families across Leicestershire. This is slightly lower than Quarter 3 in both cases when the figures were 3,797 and 1,417, respectively. Over the whole of 2021/22 CFWS worked with 6,631 individuals and 2,406 families.
20. The Children and Families Services Departmental Plan states the intention to ensure that the needs of young people are identified as early as possible so that timely and appropriate support is provided in the right setting, therefore reducing the risk of needs escalating at the same time as ensuring children and young people's best outcomes are achieved.
21. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) was 2,291 in the Spring 2022 school census. This is 122 higher than the Autumn 2021 census (2,169). The Spring term 2022 school census EHCP numbers and proportion of pupils on roll are the highest recorded on a school census since 2017, when the phasing in of the 2014 Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice changes were completed.

22. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire without an EHCP but in receipt of SEN Support was 11,578 in the Spring 2022 school census. This is 254 higher than the Autumn 2021 census (11,324). The Spring 2022 school census SEN support numbers are the highest recorded and highest proportion of pupils on roll since the completion of the phasing in of the 2014 SEN Code of Practice changes in 2016.

People are safe in their daily lives

23. Youth Offending statistics are usually reported one or two quarters in arrears because data must be produced and validated by legal bodies such as the Police and courts before being released to local authorities.
24. The Leicestershire Quarter 3 2021/22 figure (latest available) for 'first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17' was 16. This is compared to 17 for Quarter 2 2021/22. In Quarter 3, five children were previously known to the Children and Families Service (Youth Justice Team). The figures for the first-time entrants remain low compared to regional and national data.
25. The rate of re-offending for Quarter 4 2019/20 (latest available) was 4.19%. This is an increase when compared to the previous year, Quarter 4 2018/19 (2.68%). Leicestershire's performance remains ahead, when compared to that of regional and national performance, 3.69% and 3.61% respectively.
26. Instances of the use of custody for young people for the year January-December 2021 were 0.1 per 1,000 10-17 population. This is compared with 0.09 for the same period in the preceding year. The use of custody performance continues to remain ahead of the regional (0.14) and national (0.11) performance, and the same when compared against average Youth Offending Teams (0.10).

Help every child to get the best possible start in life

Early years

27. The percentage of eligible two-year and three-year olds taking up the Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) is reported termly, and latest figures include the 2022 Spring term.
28. During the Spring term, the percentage of eligible three-year-olds taking up their FEEE place was 93.9% (7,018), a decrease on the previous term (95.8%). The percentage of eligible two-year-olds was 76.5% (1,239), a decline on the Autumn term (77.6%). Eligibility for two-year-olds is more targeted towards disadvantaged families, hence the smaller number of children.
29. In the Spring term, the percentage of all two and three-year-olds accessing their FEEE in Good or Outstanding settings was 95.1%, a decline compared with 97% in the Autumn term.

30. The figures for the past year have been heavily affected by the Covid-19 disruption which has meant that newly eligible children were unable to begin their placement and some parents preferred to keep their children at home. However, recent figures are now approaching pre-pandemic levels.

Help every child to have access to good quality education to ensure they achieve their maximum potential

31. The percentage of primary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 91.5% at the end of Quarter 4. This is 0.4% higher than the Quarter 3 figure (90.6%). This figure is within the second quartile of local authorities.
32. The percentage of secondary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 75.6% at the end of Quarter 4. This is unchanged since Quarter 2, 2022. This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities.
33. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 883 at the end of Quarter 4, an increase of 54 since Quarter 3. This was also an increase of 59 students (7.15%) in comparison to the end of quarter 4 2020/21.
34. This follows the national trend of an increasing EHE population. The Association of Directors of Children's Services complete an annual survey which includes 124 of the 152 local authorities nationally responding with data on their EHE cohort. In November 2021, they published their latest findings which suggested that the EHE population in the UK had increased by 7% in comparison to October 2020 and an increase of 34% since October 2019.
35. Leicestershire figures closely follow the national trend since 2019 with its cohort at the end of Quarter 4 2021/22 increasing by 29.3% since Quarter 4 2019/20.¹
36. The trend has been driven by two factors during this period: firstly, having experienced a period of enforced home schooling, some parents have opted for EHE as a lifestyle choice and have chosen to continue this even when schools reopened. The second factor has been ongoing health concerns which could be for the child, vulnerable parents, or general safety concerns. The numbers will continue to be monitored closely.
37. Latest Leicestershire NEET data (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training) for the end of Quarter 4 (March 2022) shows a rate of 1.2%. This is a decrease on the end of Quarter 3 rate (December 2021) of 1.4%.

Conclusion

38. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of Quarter 4 of 2021/22, covering the period January-March 2022.

¹ Report available online at:
https://adcs.org.uk/assets/documentation/ADCS_EHE_Survey_2021_Report_FINAL.pdf

39. Details of all metrics (reflecting any changes in indicators for 2022/23) will continue to be monitored on a regular basis throughout the year and any subsequent changes will be notified in future reports.

Equalities and Human Rights Implications

40. Addressing equalities issues is supported by this report, with a focus on vulnerable groups within Leicestershire, including children in care. Education data relating to performance for different context groups including children with Special Educational Needs and Free School Meals is reported when data becomes available.

Background Papers

None

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Officers to Contact

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Appendix

Children and Family Services Department Performance Dashboard for Quarter 4, 2021/22

APPENDIX

Topic	Theme	Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Previous Period	Previous Value		Latest Value	Trend	Change	Target	Status RAG	National benchmark (quartile 1 = top)	Most recent Statistical Neighbour average
					Value	Latest Period							
Help children and their families build strength, resilience, confidence and capacity	CFWS	Individuals worked with by CFWS during period	Quarter	Q3 2021/22	3797	Q4 2021/22	3055	Decrease	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	CFWS	Families worked with by CFWS during period	Quarter	Q3 2021/22	1417	Q4 2021/22	1149	Decrease	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	SEND	Children in mainstream schools with EHCP	Term	Autumn 2021	2169	Spring 2022	2291	Increase	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	SEND	Children in mainstream schools in receipt of SEN Support (without EHCP)	Term	Autumn 2021	11324	Spring 2022	11578	Increase	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Help children in Leicestershire to live in safe, stable environments and have secure attachments	Social Care	Child protection cases which were reviewed within timescales	Quarter	Q3 2021/22	94.2%	Q4 2021/22	86.3%	Decrease	Negative	>97.2%	Red	4	92.3%
	Social Care	Children becoming subject to a CPP for second or subsequent time	Quarter	Q3 2021/22	27.5%	Q4 2021/22	28.0%	Increase	Positive	<20.8%	Red	4	24.3%
	Social Care	Re-referrals to CSC within 12 mths	Quarter	Q3 2021/22	19.6%	Q4 2021/22	20.1%	Increase	Negative	<18.7%	Amber	2	21.3%
	Social Care	Single Assessments completed within 45 days	Quarter	Q3 2021/22	91.0%	Q4 2021/22	90.7%	Decrease	Negative	>90.3%	Green	2	86.7%
	Social Care	CPP lasting 2 yrs or more open at the end of the quarter	Quarter	Q3 2021/22	1.7%	Q4 2021/22	1.4%	Decrease	Positive	<3.0%	Green	2	2.5%
	Social Care	Care leavers in suitable accommodation	Quarter	Q3 2021/22	95.8%	Q4 2021/22	92.5%	Decrease	Negative	>92.0%	Green	2	88.7%
	Social Care	Care leavers EET	Quarter	Q3 2021/22	62.1%	Q4 2021/22	58.5%	Decrease	Negative	>54.0%	Green	1	50.6%
	Social Care	Children in care who have had dental checks within last 12 months (at end of	Quarter	Q3 2021/22	44.7%	Q4 2021/22	44.3%	Decrease	Negative	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Social Care	Children in care who have their annual health assessment within last 12	Quarter	Q3 2021/22	80.9%	Q4 2021/22	83.6%	Increase	Positive	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Help every child to get the best possible start in life	Early Years	Eligible 2 year olds taking up their FEEE	Term	Autumn 2021	77.60	Spring 2022	76.50	Decrease	Negative	N/A	N/A	N/A
Early Years		Eligible 3 year olds taking up their FEEE	Term	Autumn 2021	95.80	Spring 2022	93.9	Decrease	Negative	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Early Years		Eligible 2 and 3-year olds taking up their FEEE in a high-quality provision	Term	Autumn 2021	97.00	Spring 2022	95.1	Decrease	Negative	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Education		Primary schools rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding'	Quarter	Q3 2021/22	90.6%	Q4 2021/22	91.5%	Increase	Positive	N/A	Amber	2	88.2%
Education		Secondary schools rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding'	Quarter	Q3 2021/22	75.6%	Q4 2021/22	75.6%	Increase	Positive	N/A	Amber	3	81.6%
Help every child to have access to good quality education to ensure they	Education	Children Electively Educated at Home	Quarter	Q3 2021/22	829.0	Q4 2021/22	883.0	Increase	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Education	NEET young people aged 16-17	Last Mth of Qtr	Dec 2021/22	1.2	Mar 2021/22	1.4	Increase	Negative	<2.1%	Amber	2	3.5%
People are safe in their daily lives	Youth Justice	No. of first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17 (year to	Quarter	Q2 2021/22	17	Q3 2021/22	16	Decrease	Positive	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Youth Justice	Re-offending by young offenders	YTD	Q4 2018/19	2.68	Q4 2019/20	4.2	Increase	Negative	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Youth Justice	Instances of the use of custody for young people (per 1,000 10-17 pop)	YTD	Dec 2020	0.09	Dec 2021	0.10	Increase	Negative	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

7 JUNE 2022

IMPACT OF COVID-19

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

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an overview of how COVID-19 has impacted and continues to impact key aspects of service delivery across the Children and Family Services Department. It provides an overview of:
 - i) Performance in key areas – including increasing demand upon Children and Family Services.
 - ii) Impact on service delivery to vulnerable groups, including those supported by Children’s Social Care.
 - iii) Impact on Targeted Early Help (Children and Families Wellbeing Service).
 - iv) Schools.
 - v) Workforce and recovery planning.

Background

2. The COVID-19 pandemic emerged in early 2020 with the first national lockdown being put in place in March 2020. This and subsequent periods of national restrictions until late 2021 had a significant impact on family life and the way in which services could be delivered.
3. Given that the Children and Family Services Department is key to delivering statutory responsibilities, it was necessary to develop new and innovative ways of working that evolved over time and became responsive to the different phases of the pandemic, enabling key business functions to be maintained.
4. The Department responded quickly at the start of the pandemic to adapt its ways of working. Key to the initial stages was the prioritisation of responses

so that oversight to the most vulnerable children was in place. This provided a framework for responses against the threat of high levels of staff sickness at a time when family stressors were likely to increase, and families' own resources and relationships were placed under significant strain.

5. Activities over the course of the pandemic included:
 - i) Quickly enabling remote working for most staff with support from ICT to facilitate the provision of equipment and software to allow easy virtual contact with children and families when required.
 - ii) Development of safe office spaces to provide opportunities for collaboration and maintaining a high priority response to Child Protection referrals.
 - iii) Roll out of technical solutions to allow collaboration using Skype, WhatsApp, and Microsoft Teams over initial weeks and months to support virtual meetings both internally within the Council and with professional partners.
 - iv) Establishing high level communication and coordination of responses across the safeguarding partnership – linking to emerging Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) strategic priorities and cross cutting issues including children, families, health, adult services, education..
 - vi) Reviewing and developing practice guidance to prioritise and manage how contact would be maintained with key groups of vulnerable children by use of both virtual and face to face visits.
 - vii) Accessing suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and guidance to protect the workforce, including completing risk assessments to respond to the needs of specific groups of workers. As more became known about the impact of the virus on specific groups and risk criteria emerged, these informed expectations of staff and managers including shielding arrangements.
 - viii) Creating strong communication and support to local Schools, tracking attendance of vulnerable children and providing regular support and information.
 - ix) Planning new ways of working as the pandemic continued into 2021/22 including workforce and wellbeing strategies and adapting ways of working for the future.
 - x) Maintaining a strong focus on early offers of support to respond to emerging needs such as Domestic Abuse and children's mental health.
 - xi) Developing a strong virtual training offer to continue to support improvement activity.

Overview of demand for Children's Social Care (CSC) and Early Help Services

6. It is now possible to track the impact of COVID-19 on demand during 2020 to date. The data below provides an overview of contacts and referrals made to both Children's Social Care (CSC) and the Children and Families Wellbeing Service (CFWS), comparing the same period in 2019 (pre-pandemic), with data collected during 2020, 2021 and 2022 as restrictions were removed.

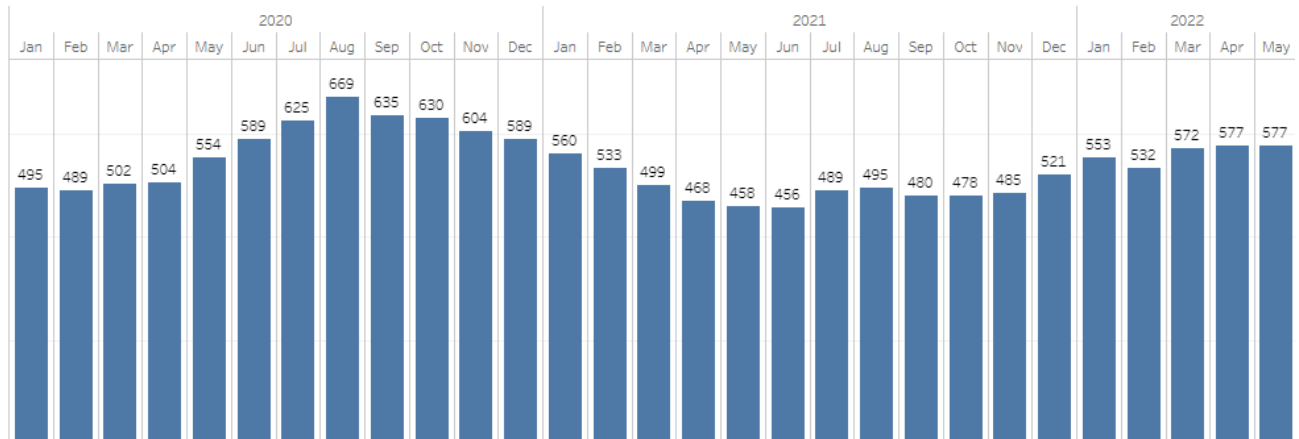
Contact Analysis: January to March 2019 to 2022

	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22
Total Contacts	1743	1667	1945	1969	1667	1643	2154	1976	2538	2186	2302	2792
Contacts going to CFWS	411	421	538	539	317	299	404	366	505	542	662	822
Contacts going to Social Care Referral	380	424	448	414	469	371	385	446	468	397	423	403
Percentage Contacts to Referral	21.8%	25.4%	23.0%	21.0%	28.1%	22.6%	17.9%	22.6%	18.4%	18.2%	18.4%	14.4%
Contact Source: Police												
Total Contacts	588	506	579	607	518	593	681	584	898	600	711	860
Contacts going to CFWS	26	26	49	45	28	50	64	38	93	123	167	220
Contacts going to Social Care Referral	131	137	125	132	148	138	149	169	136	110	151	138
Percentage Contacts to Referral	22.3%	27.1%	21.6%	21.7%	28.6%	23.3%	21.9%	28.9%	15.1%	18.3%	21.2%	16.0%
Contact Source: Education												
Total Contacts	297	304	387	399	258	285	252	277	463	481	461	665
Contacts going to CFWS	167	151	208	223	101	104	88	98	154	172	214	284
Contacts going to Social Care Referral	40	65	90	62	49	77	36	49	80	69	52	47
Percentage Contacts to Referral	13.5%	21.4%	23.3%	15.5%	19.0%	27.0%	14.3%	17.7%	17.3%	14.3%	11.3%	7.1%
Contact Source: Health												
Total Contacts	271	270	329	290	328	226	389	400	389	363	379	500
Contacts going to CFWS	71	79	91	96	71	57	87	82	72	97	106	130
Contacts going to Social Care Referral	50	51	71	57	98	46	64	76	68	45	65	64
Percentage Contacts to Referral	18.5%	18.9%	21.6%	19.7%	29.9%	20.4%	16.5%	19.0%	17.5%	12.4%	17.2%	12.8%

7. Analysis of this data shows that the volume of contacts whilst fluctuated, significantly increased over the period. This is likely to be the result of periods of lockdown, in particular schools not being fully open at some times, and pressure on health services. Contacts range from simple information sharing and requests for early help, to reporting high risk and complex child protection concerns.
8. Despite increased contacts, referrals for CSC remained similar over the period with no reduction in core processes such as child protection responses. A referral defines information that meets the threshold for statutory social work intervention.
9. The number of contacts progressing to Targeted Early Help through the CFWS reduced significantly in the early period of lockdown, when school closures were in place – schools are a key agency when identifying early signs of vulnerability for children. Over time, however, these have significantly increased, accounting for the lower percentage of contacts progressing to CSC. The increase in requests for support from the CFWS appears to demonstrate the needs of children being more appropriately identified as school attendance has normalised, and the impact of lockdown on school aged children has become clearer.
10. Despite health and education pressures, contacts from both agencies are now relatively comparable with pre-COVID levels. When compared with Leicester City and Rutland, there appears to be similar patterns in relation to the increase in contacts, with stable referral numbers and increased demand on Early Help services. The reduced percentage of contacts progressing to CSC

is also similar in all three local authorities which helps when considering local performance.

11. In addition to the impact on demand for services, the initial stages of the pandemic saw significant increases in the number of children subject to Child Protection Plans, which can be seen in the graphic below.



12. August 2020 saw the highest number of children subject to Child Protection Plans. This was as a result of both an increase in the number of referrals in response to child protection concerns, as well as a slow down of plans ending, perhaps linked to the effect on professional confidence in new ways of working and the need to maintain oversight of children during school closures.
13. Audit work documented the increase in complex child and family cases emerging, likely linked to evidence of families affected by domestic abuse and the reduction in family support available due to them being separated by lockdown restrictions. Work to support vulnerable children maintain their school attendance became key to sustaining oversight and support to this group. Strong connections were therefore established between the Service and schools to ensure regular communication around attendance reporting.
14. Professional employees became increasingly confident at using virtual meetings and childcare practitioners became more used to doorstep visits, the use of PPE and managing the risk of infection alongside business as usual planning in response to assessed child protection risk.

Impact on Service Delivery

15. Services have continued to be delivered throughout the pandemic, ensuring that the most vulnerable children and families have continued to be supported. Initial COVID-19 risk assessment processes were implemented to assist the prioritisation of both timescales and type of visits for each child. This focused on the level and type of risk assessed to the child, available family and professional support and vulnerabilities specific to the child. As a result of this, children in more stable circumstances may have had virtual

visits put in place allowing face-to-face visits to continue for those most vulnerable children, including those subject to child protection planning, some children in care and many care leavers.

16. From June 2021, COVID-19 was considered to become a feature of our business as usual operations. Guidance was updated so that face to face visits for all children again became expected and virtual visits used to create additional contact with children rather than relied on as the primary means of contact. By September 2021, all statutory visits and timescales relied on face-to-face visits for all children.

Corporate parenting responsibilities and children in care

17. Throughout the period of the pandemic, a key responsibility has been the Council's role as a corporate parent which has continued to underpin services provided to children in our care and care leavers. All children in care were subject to a COVID-19 risk assessment process to inform both the type and frequency of visits put in place in the early stages of the pandemic. For many children living with foster carers and in residential placements, the support of carers was significant.
18. For care leavers, particularly those who live on their own, the Service ensured that this group were offered increased levels of contact including a delay in transitioning to alternative provision where appropriate. The Service has provided targeted services for some young people by providing funding for mental health support and counselling where they did not meet the formal threshold of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) or adult services.
19. The Service has provided laptops and other IT equipment to ensure all of its children and young people have the digital support they need to enable them to access school or college remotely when appropriate.
20. Looked after children, as a vulnerable group, have been able to continue to attend school with social worker support, throughout the pandemic. The Service has also ensured that children have been able to continue to see their families, where it is safe to do so, through managed contact arrangements which included the use of virtual contact. Where children are very young and are therefore unable to socially distance, the Service introduced contact methods such as virtual story telling or games. As the pandemic continued, safe contact spaces allowed some face to face contact to continue safely, subject to rules on capacity, face masks and cleaning regimes.
21. For unaccompanied young people seeking asylum, a resource was identified which allowed a fourteen-day quarantine period for those coming into the Council's services. Demand for support for this group of vulnerable children has continued to increase over the period of the pandemic with additional capacity having to be built into the Service to respond.

Corporate Parenting Team – keeping in touch

22. During lockdowns, a key priority of the workers within the Corporate Parenting Team, including the Children's Rights Officers and Participation Officers, was to make contact with all children and young people either in residential placement and 16+ accommodation to check on their well-being to ensure they were receiving the support they needed and to offer any additional support around advocacy. Each contact led to the worker completing a short questionnaire on the young person's experiences since lockdown, specifically around how they felt they had been coping and the support they had received or needed. This information was then recorded on their file and any significant issues raised with their social worker, with visiting patterns updated to respond.
23. Overall, feedback received confirmed that young people felt they were receiving a good level of support from social care, often reporting having a greater frequency of contact with their social worker or personal advisor than before lockdown. Some young people did take up the offer of advocacy, for example, to support them in arranging contact with their family, or to ensure they were getting the correct allowances.
24. The Participation Officer led on Leicestershire's contribution to the LLR 'Coronavirus Health and Wellbeing Conversation for Young People June 2020'. This was developed following the Barnardo's 'Big Barnardo's Conversation' campaign in May 2020 to highlight the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people across the UK. This report highlights a number of positives that children and young people experienced during lockdown, as well as the significant number of challenges, most notably practical issues such as accessing dentists and other services, the impact of feelings of isolation and increased concerns about mental health.
25. The Children in Care Council was initially paused at the start of lockdown but has taken place virtually each month since July 2020 with the exception of the usual summer break. The meetings have been well attended and the feedback has been very positive.
26. Supporting Young People After Care (SYPAC) was also initially paused and then moved to virtual meetings, which was valued by care leavers. SYPAC had its first face to face meeting just before Christmas; 15 young people attended a socially distanced meeting to undertake a range of activities and welcomed being in a room together. Both the Children in Care Council and SYPAC intend to move to face to face meetings more frequently as restrictions allow and all safety measures will be taken.
27. The Children in Care Choir has continued to meet virtually throughout the lockdown period and although it has not been possible to arrange for everyone to sing together, they have been meeting each week for quizzes and other activities to keep the cohesion of the group together.

28. The Corporate Parenting Board has continued to meet virtually throughout the year. This has continued to be well represented by partner agencies, and the children and young people members have continued to attend and take a lead role in these meetings.
29. Participation Officers arranged a Leicestershire's Got Talent event in 2020 whereby any looked after young person could submit a three minute video to showcase their talents. This was judged in three age categories and was felt to be a successful event.
30. Participation Officers also arranged an interactive online art class for the October half term; each participant received paints, a canvas and an easel, and were given an online lesson on how to paint a lion. The Fostering Service undertook a Christmas Card competition and the five entries were sent to all carers, children and young people.
31. COVID-19 has impacted on the availability of County Council apprenticeships and other work opportunities for care leavers. Working from home and new pay arrangements for County Council apprentices (paid at grade of post) have led to fewer apprenticeships being available or being taken up by people already in post with the County Council. The Service continues to implement Independent Living ASDAN courses with care leavers to support transitions into independence.
32. The Looked after Children's Nursing service (provided by Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT)), in line with national guidance '*NHS Covid 19 Prioritisation of Community Services*', has continued to maintain a service to the most vulnerable cohort of children/young people in Leicestershire throughout the pandemic.
33. Although the pandemic has been a considerable challenge, the health and welfare of looked after children has remained a key priority and alternative solutions have been applied to the provision of Review Health Assessments (RHAs) in order to continue meeting the needs of looked after children.
34. The virtual telehealth platform has worked effectively for the service, where it has been possible to reach previously hard to reach young people. However, the risk imposed by the pandemic to children, young people and carers was carefully balanced against the health needs of looked after children and the COVID-19 risk assessment enabled the service to identify the most vulnerable children and young people, for example those at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation, going missing, unaccompanied asylum seeking children, and those with complex needs or who have poor engagement with the Service.
35. All Review Health Assessments have been assessed and triaged on an individual basis with regard to the need to offer either a face to face contact or telephone/video contact. This is supported by a robust risk criteria framework and the individual professional judgement of the child's nurse.

36. LPT has also worked closely with local authority partners to ensure that all looked after children and young people who have an Education, Health and Care Plan and, or as well as, SEND are able to continue accessing support to meet their essential health needs during the COVID-19 response.

Service Improvement Activity

37. Despite the operational challenges faced during the pandemic, the Department has continued its focus on service improvement. This has meant that all aspects of the Quality Assurance Framework have been maintained. Examples of key areas of improvement include:
- i) Monthly performance meetings to maintain oversight of services to children including overview of the Covid-19 risk assessment process.
 - ii) Launch of a learning brief Think Practice to provide thematic learning to all practitioners via a regular email covering topics significant to the continuous improvement plan.
 - iii) Further enhancement to the Writing to the Child process and embedding this approach across all roles so that children can understand their journey.
 - iv) Development of online virtual training – small bite size learning sessions delivered by the Practice Excellence Team.
 - v) Delivery of the Defining Children’s Services for the Future programme to enhance cost effective service delivery using innovation and targeted interventions.
 - vi) Continued implementation of the thematic audit process.
 - vii) Launch of the commitment to becoming a trauma informed organisation
 - viii) Development and Launch of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion guidance for practitioners.

Fostering Service

38. The Fostering Service has continued to support carers through both virtual and face to face visits throughout the Pandemic. It has developed additional support opportunities through the creation of a Facebook page specifically for our carer’s, which has been well utilised to share news, key messages and offers of support. The Service has sent thank you hampers and gifts to recognise the security and stability that foster carers have offered our children during incredibly challenging times.
39. Despite the difficulties faced, the Service has continued to have positive placement stability for children and also stability in the retention of carers. Throughout the pandemic, a number of carers went on ‘hold’ due to shielding or other reasons. Whilst this was understandable, a process was developed setting out how to manage and progress foster carers on hold to provide a full understanding of their needs and prevent drift and delay in them returning to being able to care for children.
40. In terms of recruitment, there have been peaks and troughs in Enquiries and Request For Information (RFI). Nationally, foster carer agencies have seen a

reduction in the number of Enquiries. However, despite this, the Council has continued to develop its Communications Strategy, and although Enquiries remain low, the conversion rate for RFI's to Assessment remains high, allowing the opportunity for developing the in house offer.

Education

41. All phases of the education sector, from Early Years to Further and Higher Education settings have been deeply impacted. The first 1001 days of a child's life are a crucial foundation for a lifetime and fewer children spent these in pre-school than usual. School leaders have faced multiple challenges, adapting quickly to changes in regulations, and this situation led to a significant role for the Departments Education Effectiveness to co-ordinate a response and to facilitate the wider Leicestershire Education Effectiveness partnership. Communications between the Council and schools, by briefing e-mails and Teams meetings, have improved but also have become more focused on schools under Local Authority control. School attendance was irregular during the lockdown periods where at some times, only vulnerable children still attended. Attendance following the re-opening of schools to all children is now approaching pre-pandemic levels but schools are struggling with increased numbers of persistently absent children.
42. There is a sense that the gap between disadvantaged and other children is widening and this may be evident in primary SATs results in July 2022 and GCSE results which will be available in the autumn of 2022. Progress indicators at both stages are challenging to predict as these depend on relative performance compared to national performance when external assessment has not taken place for three years. Schools are having to address learning gaps which are inconsistent; some pupils are reportedly keen to be sitting external exams again whereas others are extremely anxious.
43. Many children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan have been adversely affected through discontinuity of support, whether with regards to their learning or wider needs. For children such as those with autism, for example, the change in routine has led to increased levels of anxiety. Since schools have re-opened the Service has also seen an increase in the number of referrals for EHC Needs Assessment.
44. Additional challenges such as funding, staff recruitment and absence management, budget and the impact of price rises, a perception of increased complex needs to meet, incoming Ukrainian pupils alongside the pressure of OFSTED and associated expectations are having an impact on morale. Some smaller schools, in particular, are struggling to find the capacity to meet these needs. There are concerns around wellbeing of staff and pupils, as well as the retention of staff.

Workforce

45. The pandemic has brought significant challenges for the workforce across the Department with previously unseen demands on staff both at home and in the workplace. It has been increasingly evident that some changes to the workplace are likely to remain and exploration of new ways of using office spaces, developing the capacity to collaborate and use virtual tools effectively have become central to strategic planning.
46. Some periods of the pandemic have seen significant staff absences, both directly associated with the virus but also linked to the increased pressure on staff wellbeing, the added pressures experienced by staff through covid and adaptation to new ways of working. The Department has responded proactively to support the workforce with increased staffing in some key areas to respond to demand and continued use of agency cover where sickness has emerged. Work has been carried out with HR to adapt recruitment processes to new virtual interviews and proactive offers of wellbeing support.
47. Current planning for recovery continues to build on learning from experiences throughout the pandemic and aims to achieve an effective balance with maintaining services creatively whilst ensuring staff are well supported both in terms of opportunities for support, manager oversight and peer relationships. This includes the launch of the 'We Care' race equality strategy, the embodiment of the Department's vision to support confident staff who feel valued for their diversity and feel they are supported to seek opportunities to make the greatest contribution to the lives of children and families and as leaders.

Summary

48. COVID-19 has brought real challenges to service delivery both in terms of the logistical challenges of maintaining the Council's statutory duties, as well as supporting and protecting the workforce. This report demonstrates the key achievements such as maintaining contact with vulnerable children, adapting to new ways of working and continuing to maintain and increase the pace of improvement work throughout the period.
49. The impact of the pandemic, however, is clear and continues to affect service operations and it is likely that the challenges that families have faced will continue to underpin requests for help for some time to come. Whilst the Department continues to recover, there remains an element of uncertainty in relation to expectations in a post pandemic environment, the lasting impact on families, the community challenges and workforce pressures.
50. The Department's current priority is to continue to work towards a strong balance for staff based on flexible working with a strong focus on manager oversight and staff support from an office base whilst having opportunities to use time working from home to compliment that professional support and effective time to deliver services effectively and build relationships with children and families.

Conclusion

51. The Committee is asked to note the update on how the COVID-19 pandemic has and continues to impact on service delivery across the Children and Family Services Department.

Background Papers

Report to Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1 June 2021 regarding the Wider Impact of COVID-19:

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1043&MIId=6514&Ver=4>

Equalities and Human Rights Implications

52. All services are offered in line with the Council's equalities and human rights obligations. Services are provided to more vulnerable children and families and therefore it has been important to ensure access to services throughout the national pandemic.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None

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LEICESTERSHIRE MUSIC

CFS Overview and Scrutiny

Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



We are Leicestershire Music



Background and context



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Vision and Big Audacious Goal:

Enriching & connecting your world through life-changing musical experiences

By 2026 we will increase participation of young people from Leicester and Leicestershire in activities funded by LM & the Hub to 20%, of which 25% should be from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Core and extension roles

Core roles:

- ensure that every child aged five to 18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument
- provide opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform
- ensure that clear progression routes are available
- develop a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil is singing regularly



Core and extension roles

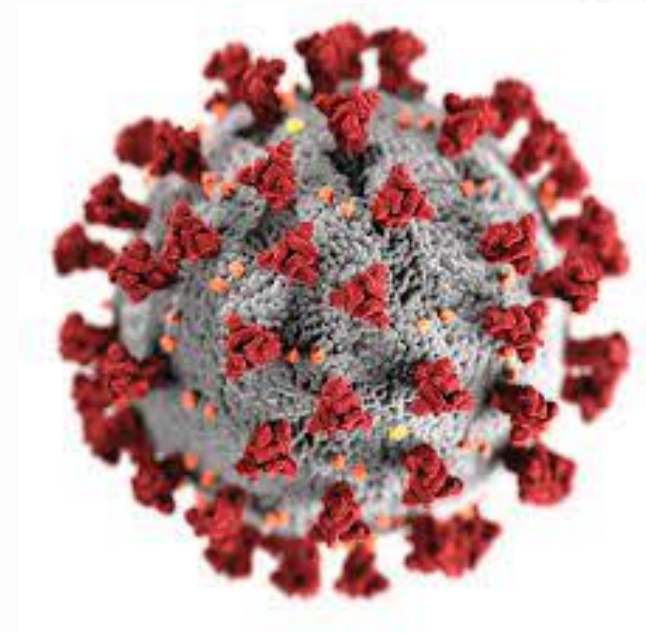
Extension roles:

- offer continuous professional development
- provide an instrument loan service, with discounts or free provision for those on low incomes
- provide access to large scale and/or high-quality music experiences for pupils



Our focus moving forward

- Covid recovery
- Recruitment of new teachers and new pupils
- Music technology
- Primary development
- Secondary strategy
- EDI



Future events



Connect with Leicestershire Music

All Leicestershire Music social media accounts can be found **@leicsmakemusic**



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