

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE: 7 SEPTEMBER 2015**

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

QUARTER 1 2015/16 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update of the Children and Families Service performance at the end of quarter 1 of 2015/16.

Policy Framework and previous decisions

2. The report is based on the set of performance measures aligned with the Council Corporate Strategy to 2017/18. The overall performance dashboard is attached as Appendix A. Appendix B supports the indicator 'Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact'

Report Changes

3. The Quarter 1 report contains the first set of 2015 education data. This is available for Good Level of Development, Phonics, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Some provisional national data is available as a guide but is subject to change.
4. All 2014 Education data has been removed from the Appendix A dashboard, including 2014 benchmarks and quartile positions. This is to avoid any confusion between old and new data where comparisons may be misleading. New Key Stage Four data will not be available until Quarter 2.

Overview

5. From 32 measures that have new data available: 19 have improved; 5 show no significant change and 8 have declined.
6. From 17 measures that have a national benchmark: 6 are in the top quartile, 4 are in the second quartile, 4 are in the third quartile and 3 are in the fourth quartile.
7. From 24 indicators that have a statistical neighbour benchmark, 16 are better than the statistical neighbour average, 5 are below and 3 have no significant difference.

New 2015 academic data summary

8. 2015 data for Leicestershire has now been received and processed for Good Level of Development, Phonics, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Overall, performance in Leicestershire was above 2014 levels. In summary:
 - i. More 5 year olds achieved a Good Level of Development, although Leicestershire is likely to remain below national levels.
 - ii. Strong Key Stage One performance was maintained with higher attainment levels in all subject areas.
 - iii. Key Stage Two performance improved in all subject areas for pupils achieving Level 4. However, progress rates improved in only one of the three key areas (writing).
 - iv. Achievement of pupils eligible for Free School Meals improved more than the non-FSM group, meaning a slightly smaller attainment gap compared to 2014.
 - v. Further details are contained in this report under the heading 'Children and Young People Achieve their Potential'

Children and Young People are Safe

9. The number of 'Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales' was 97.3%, 0.6% lower than Q4.
10. The 'percentage of children with 3 or more placements during the year' increased to 14.75% and the '% of children in the same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption' decreased by 0.7%. Both measures would be below national averages
11. The percentage of 'Child Protection plans lasting 2 years or more' remained low at 0.70% and is in the top quartile nationally. The percentage of 'Children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time' increased to 34.1% and would place Leicestershire in the lowest quartile.
12. A quarterly figure for Care Leavers in suitable accommodation has been calculated for in-year tracking. This is currently 75%, which puts Leicestershire at a similar level to statistical neighbours.
13. A quarterly figure has also been calculated for Care Leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). The quarter 1 figure is 33.3% which would place Leicestershire in the second quartile of all local authorities.

Action Taken since quarter 4 performance report:

14. In view of the continuing concerns about three key areas of performance in the section – Children and Young People are Safe, further analysis and action has taken place. In particular this has comprised two performance summit meetings with managers and front line staff across Targeted Early Help and Children's Social Care services. This was followed up with deep dive audit work in relation to

the red rated areas, placement stability and second and subsequent child protection plans.

Analysis and Action: Placement Stability (three or more placements and long term stability of placement)

15. Analysis of placement stability has shown that:

- i. In one third of cases analysed in detail the child's placement arrangements in Frameworki were not recorded correctly or consistently. This confirms the analysis presented to Overview and Scrutiny in June that data quality problems are distorting the reported performance.
- ii. In 44% of cases analysed the initial placement the child had as they came into care was for a very short period of time in response to an emergency. This means that as their case progressed it was very likely they would go on to have at least two placement moves and sometimes three. This is because either the plan will be to re-unify the child back home or within its extended family network or place the child permanently. Thus the case was progressing in accordance with the child's agreed care plan.
- iii. In just less than 20% of cases the child moved because the foster carer had difficulties with the child's challenging behaviour.

16. Action is now being taken to improve and maintain data quality. This is expected to ensure a more accurate report of the performance indicators.

17. Work is underway to ensure that the first placement that a child has on coming into care is more successful.

Analysis and Action: second and subsequent Child Protection plans

18. Analysis of second and subsequent child protection plans has shown that:

- i. In half of the cases that were analysed (11 of 22) there were elements of previous child protection plans that had not been fully addressed.
- ii. The analysis indicated that some child protection plans were being stepped down too early, after three months.
- iii. There was a significant theme concerning children becoming subject of second child protection plans because of repeated occurrence of domestic abuse between the adults in the household.

19. The action taken to address the sudden increase in the number of children being subject to second or subsequent child protection plans has been to strengthen the oversight of such cases by service managers. In particular any child's case where the child is subject to a child protection plan progressing to a first review meeting at three months requires Service Manager sign off if the recommendation is to end the plan. That oversight would include action to ensure that fathers or mother's partners are properly considered and that all parts of a child protection plan have been addressed.

20. Similarly if a child previously subject of a child protection plan is progressing to a further child protection plan the Service Manager must take oversight and approve the progress of the case. It is important to note that the decision to make a child subject to a child protection plan is made in a multi-agency forum, the child protection conference.

Children and Young People Achieve their Potential

Early Years Foundation Stage

21. The percentage of Childminders rated as Good or Outstanding fell by 0.9% and the percentage of Private Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers rated as Good or Outstanding improved by 0.8%. The All childcare figure was 85.2%, 0.7% lower than the previous quarter.

22. The number of eligible families taking up Free Early Education Entitlement for 3 year olds increased by 2.2% to 92.5%. Take up for eligible 2 year olds was static at 66.1%.

23. The percentage of Leicestershire children with a Good Level of Development is 63.7% for 2015. This is an improvement of 5.7% compared to the 2014 figure. National levels are also expected to rise and provisional data suggests that a similar gap will exist between Leicestershire and national levels (approximately 2.4%).

24. A provisional figure for ‘% inequality gap in achievement across all early learning goals’ suggests that the gap in Leicestershire will reduce by 0.8% to 30.3%.

Key Stage One

25. Leicestershire’s Year One Phonics result was 0.4% lower than 2014. Phonics performance has previously been above the national average but provisional data suggests the national level will be around 1% higher for 2015.

26. Leicestershire has achieved improved scores in 9 of the 10 end of Key Stage One measures available, with one score remaining the same. The 10 areas cover:

- i. Speaking and Listening (Level 2+ and Level 3+)
- ii. Reading (Level 2+ and Level 3+)
- iii. Writing (Level 2+ and Level 3+)
- iv. Science (Level 2+ and Level 3+)

27. Provisional data suggests that Leicestershire will be above national levels in 7 of the 10 measures currently available at Key Stage One.

Key Stage Two

28. Leicestershire has seen an increase in the number of pupils achieving the headline Key Stage Two measure of Level 4+ in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. The 2015 figure is 80.3%, an increase of 1.7% from 2014. National data is not yet available but is anticipated to be similar to Leicestershire levels.

29. Overall, 7 of the 10 Key Stage Two attainment measures have seen improved scores.

30. Pupils achieving two levels progress between Key Stage One and Two improved in only one of three possible areas. Writing improved by 1.4% whilst Reading and Mathematics fell by 1.1% and 0.3% respectively.

Ofsted outcomes

31. The percentage of Leicestershire schools rated as Good or Outstanding has risen by 1.7% to 86.4%. This is above the latest statistical neighbour figure of 83.5% and continues the steady improvement across the year.

32. The percentage of Leicestershire pupils attending a Good or Outstanding school has seen a larger rise of 3.3% and now stands at 83.8%. This now places Leicestershire ahead of the statistical neighbour average.

33. The number of Special Schools rated as good or outstanding is once again 100% after Birkett House special school was rated as 'outstanding' in a recent Ofsted inspection.

Economy/Employment and Skills

34. The latest data from Prospects shows a Leicestershire NEET figure of 2.8%. This is the same as Q4 and represents 575 young people. The Participation rate as reported by Prospects is 95.5%, 0.4% lower than Q4.

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

35. Breast feeding at 6-8 weeks prevalence in Leicestershire is 47.4%. This is an increase of 0.9% compared to Q4 and follows a similar increase from Q3 to Q4.

Thriving Communities

36. The criteria for the 'number of families supported through the SLF service' has now changed to include a wider range of support services for children and families. The number of assessments conducted by the new SLF service during quarter 1 was 1734.

Background Papers

None.

Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Performance Dashboard for Quarter 1 2015/16

Appendix B – Feedback from Children and Families

Equality and Human Right Implications

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