

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
- 13 JUNE 2016

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES

QUARTER 4 2015/16 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Committee with an update of the Children and Families Service performance at the end of quarter 4 of 2015/16.

Background

2. The report is based on the set of performance measures aligned with the Council's Corporate Strategy to 2017/18. The overall performance dashboard is attached as Appendix A.

Report Changes

3. None.

Overview

4. From 24 measures that have new data available: 10 have improved; 9 show no significant change, 4 have declined and 1 has no comparison.
5. From 33 measures that have a national benchmark: 7 are in the top quartile, 10 are in the second quartile, 8 are in the third quartile and 8 are in the fourth quartile.
6. From 38 indicators that have a statistical neighbour benchmark, 18 are better than the statistical neighbour average, 18 are below and 2 are at a similar level.

Year on year change in Leicestershire between 2014/15 and 2015/16

7. Appendix D.1 and D.2 compare 2015/16 performance in Leicestershire to quarter 4 of 2014/15.
8. The report also shows the national top quartiles for each indicator where available. Leicestershire is in the top quartile nationally for 8 indicators using the latest benchmarks available.
9. Of the 45 indicators where it was possible to make a year on year comparison:

- 25 showed improved performance from 2014/15
- 11 showed no change or minor change
- 9 showed a decline in performance when compared to 2014/15

Children and Young People are Safe

10. The number of 'Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales' was 99.1%, slightly above the quarter 3 percentage of 98.7% and on the threshold of top quartile by national standards.
11. The percentage of Child Protection plans lasting 2 years or more that were open at the end of quarter 3 was 0.9% (second quartile by comparison). The percentage of plans lasting 2 years or more that closed during the quarter was 2.1%. This is top quartile by national standards.
12. The percentage of 'Children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time' increased slightly to 30.5%. This places Leicestershire in the fourth quartile of local authorities. This is a key line of enquiry for the Senior Management team. An audit of cases in this category was undertaken in the summer 2015 to understand some of the themes. A staff Practice Summit on child protection was held at the end of 2015 and findings and issues for practice shared with staff. In April, a report on the work undertaken to date was presented to the Local Safeguarding children Board which outlined the work being undertaken and recommended that a multi-agency audit be undertaken. A further audit by the Senior Management team in Children and Families services took place in April and this has resulted in further work in respect of the robustness of key areas including: child in need plans for children stepping down from a child protection plan, core group working and the understanding and approach to the Toxic trio (domestic abuse, parental mental health and parental substance misuse).
13. The 'percentage of children with 3 or more placements during the year' was 13%. This is higher than the quarter 3 figure and would place Leicestershire in the fourth quartile nationally. This has been a key area of focus over the last year as the quarter 1 figure was 15%. On 31 March 2016, there were 466 children in care. Of these 113 children were living in Independent Fostering Agency placements, 216 living with mainstream foster carers (of which 77 are kinship/connected placements) and 60 in residential care. Analysis of these children and young people's profile tells us that placement instability is greater where children are placed with mainstream carers (not connected carers) and young people placed in residential placements. Investigation indicated that a number of processes and issues contribute to placement instability for these two cohorts of children.

For in-house carers, the issue relates primarily to the level of support and type of support we are able to offer foster carers. For young people with complex needs, issues related to match to the appropriate placement, care planning and multiagency joint working to meet these young people's needs.

During 2015, action was taken to improve key processes such as matching of children's needs to carers prior placement, placement monitoring, multiagency

reviewing of care plans of children with complex needs through panel processes. Further work is needed to improve this area, including:

- Increasing supervising social worker capacity to support foster carers;
- Improved focus supporting the foster carers to improve children's outcomes;
- Recruitment of more specialist carers to keep children within Leicestershire and help them return to parental care;
- Consistent health-education-social care joint decision making for children with complex needs.

14. The '% of children in the same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption' was 67.7% and is in the second quartile by national levels.

15. Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 72.2%, another improvement (quarter 2 was 53.9% and quarter 3 66.7%) but still fourth quartile by comparison. Whilst encouraging, there is still some further improvement required here. Members of the Social Care Panel are undertaking an in-depth review of this area to assisting in developing understanding and supporting improved performance. A local detailed definition of "Suitable Accommodation" is being developed to complement more general national guidance. This will provide an enhanced structure for workers to reference when making their judgements which will assist in improving accuracy. There has also been some under reporting by staff via the computer system which is now being addressed by team managers.

16. Care Leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) was 35.9%, second quartile by comparison.

Children and Young People Achieve their Potential

Early Years Foundation Stage

17. The percentage of Childminders rated as Good or Outstanding rose by 1.3% to 81.3% whilst the percentage of Private Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers rated as Good or Outstanding also rose – by 1.9% to 94.1%. The rise in the percentage of good childminders follows three consecutive small falls. A rise in both figures contributed to a higher 'All childcare' figure of 85.3% which was higher than quarter 3 (83.7%) but slightly behind the most recent statistical neighbour figure (85.6%).

18. The proportion of eligible families taking up Free Early Education Entitlement remained the same for both 2 year olds and eligible 3 and 4 year olds – 79.2% and 100% respectively.

Ofsted outcomes

19. The percentage of Leicestershire schools rated as Good or Outstanding and the percentage of pupils in Good or Outstanding schools both rose again and remain above national averages. Both are in the second quartile of local authorities. The current figures stand at 86.6% and 83.9% respectively. The percentage of good or outstanding Special Schools remained at 100%.

20. The 1.5% rise in the percentage of pupils in Good or Outstanding schools was influenced by a positive inspection of Shepshed High School, which has approximately 800 pupils and moved from 'requires improvement' to 'good'.

Key Stages – Attainment and Progress

21. Data from Summer 2015 indicated performance could be improved for progress between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2; Key Stage 2 attainment for pupils entitled to Free School Meals; and Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 progress for English

22. For progress between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, School Effectiveness officers have visited schools with low progress and these schools are being supported by teaching schools alliances commissioned by the Local Authority.

23. Key Stage 2 attainment for pupils entitled to Free School Meals is a Leicestershire Excellence in Education Partnership (LEEP) project led by National Pupil Premium Champions at Ashmount Teaching School.

24. Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 progress largely sits with Academies, although the two maintained schools in this sector (Hind Leys and Shepshed) have been supported to improve their outcomes.

Economy/Employment and Skills

25. Data has been published for attainment of Level 2 qualifications by age 19. Leicestershire is similar to 2014 at 85.4% (a small 0.1% rise) but is below the national average and statistical neighbours by 0.6% and 0.9% respectively. However, Leicestershire is 1.1% above the East Midlands average.

26. The percentage of 19 year olds in Leicestershire who achieve Level 2 including English and Maths rose by 1.9% and is now 69.7%. This above all benchmarks: 1.8% above the England level; 1.2% above statistical neighbours; and 2.6% above the East Midlands average.

27. The percentage of those attaining Level 3 by age 19 in Leicestershire decreased by 1.3% to 56.4%. This is below the national level of 57.4% but 3.2% above the East Midlands average.

28. The latest data from Prospects is for the end of March 2016 and shows a Leicestershire NEET figure of 2.9% (598 young people) for young people aged 16-18. This is similar to the quarter 3 figure of 3.0% and shows a decrease of 25 young people.

29. Prospects have also provided data for participation in education and learning for year 12 aged young people (the first year after leaving school). This is currently 95.9%. The Leicestershire level has been around 96% over the past year. Participation excludes some categories that could be classed as EET such as part time learning and employment without training.

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

30. New data has been released for the indicator 'Under 18 conceptions'. A full report for Leicestershire is attached as Appendix B. Headlines from the report include:
31. Leicestershire's rolling annual rate has decreased to 18.5 per 1,000 15-17 aged females, significantly better than the 2013 rate of 20.9.
32. This rate remains below (i.e. better than) the East Midland and England annual rate of 21.6 and 22.8 per 1,000 respectively and Leicestershire is statistically significantly lower than both.
33. The number of under 18 conceptions (defined as females 15-17) has decreased to 213 conceptions in 2014. This is a 10.9% decrease on counts from the previous year (239) and a 47.8% reduction from 1998 (408).
34. The number of conceptions for under 16s (13-15 aged females) was at 43. This represents 3.9 per 1000 females in the age group (the 2013 rate was 3.9).

Thriving Communities

35. Appendix C contains comments from users of the Supporting Leicestershire Families (SLF) service in relation to the indicator 'Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact'.
36. The number of assessments conducted by the new SLF service during quarter 4 was 2016. This is lower than quarter 3 but similar to other quarters in the year.
37. The number of Payment by Results (PBR) claims was 147 during the quarter and gives a total of 244 claims during Phase 2 of the SLF programme.

Circulation Under Local Issues Alert Procedures

None.

List of Appendices

Appendix A - Children and Families Department performance dashboard for quarter 4, 2015/16.

Appendix B – Leicestershire Teenage Conception Statistics 2014.

Appendix C - supports the indicator 'Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact'

Appendix D.1 and D.2 compare 2015/16 quarter 4 figures with 2014/15 quarter 4 figures. The report also shows national benchmarks where available.

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Equality and Human Rights Implications

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