

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 28TH JUNE 2017

POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

SUPPORTING LEICESTERSHIRE FAMILIES AND YOUTH OFFENDING

My position statement will cover the work of Supporting Leicestershire Families and the Youth Offending Service.

Supporting Leicestershire Families

As Members know the Supporting Leicestershire Families Service was set up in 2013 as Leicestershire's response to the national Troubled families programme. Through the development of a service made up of 51 family support workers based in the seven localities, the programme has had huge successes both nationally and locally.

Following the successful completion of phase one of the programme where Leicestershire was consistently one of the highest performing authorities, we entered phase two of the programme six months early. The new expanded programme requires the Service to demonstrate the families who are supported achieve sustained and significant change across 6 outcome areas; crime and anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, children in need, children in education, progress to work and employment and health.

To date Leicestershire has achieved 25.4% of its target, with a further three years of the current phase remaining until 2020. 386 families had achieved significant and sustained progress across all identified outcome areas and a further 319 are now in continuous employment. This places Leicestershire in the top 5% of the country with only 6 other Local Authorities scoring above 25% of their 2020 target.

Alongside the national evaluation the Supporting Leicestershire Families has undertaken evaluation of its work at a local level to measure the outcomes for the families with whom they have worked through the use of the family star tool that measures change for families across a range of measures. In nine out of the ten assessed criteria, over 60% of families worked with have made positive progress.

Youth Offending

Dealing with young people who are on the cusp of, or enter the youth justice system is challenging, but outcomes for young people across Leicestershire remain exceptionally positive. As members will be aware the response to youth related offending is co-ordinated by the multi-agency YOS.

In addition to case managing young people subject to court orders, Leicestershire YOS provides preventative intervention to young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system. The YOS also deploys the IMPACT team who many Members are aware of. The IMPACT team undertake work in areas with higher levels or spikes in anti-social behaviour, through street level 1 to 1 contact with young people or through introducing group activities in these areas.

Through the local commitment to preventative working results continue to be exceptional when compared with the national picture. During 2016/17 the total number of first time entrants across Leicestershire were at their lowest point since recording began in 2005, following a year on year reduction. Many of the young people are diverted from the criminal justice system through contact with YOS case managers, YOS led programmes, or contact with the IMPACT team.

Nationally there has been a rise in reoffending rates, however in Leicestershire during 2016 reoffending rates began to fall for the first time since 2009 and are now significantly below national rates.

Finally through the work the Youth Offending Service undertakes focused on reducing reoffending and providing courts with credible alternatives to custody, the numbers of young people in custody across Leicestershire remains significantly lower than the national average.