



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 SEPTEMBER 2017

QUARTER 1 2017/18 PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Purpose of 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 Families Service at the end of quarter 1 of 2017/18. This is for the period April – June 2017.

Background

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 at Appendix A. Appendix B details information which supports the indicator “Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact”.

Report Changes

3. Appendix A has been refreshed to concentrate on indicators where new data is available for quarter 1.
4. Quartile positions are added where national data has been released. National comparisons are not yet available for 2017 education data.

Overview

5. From 45 measures that have been reported: 12 have improved; 19 show no significant change and 2 have declined. 12 further indicators provide information with no polarity.
6. From 19 measures that have a national benchmark: 8 are in the top quartile, 7 are in the second quartile, 2 are in the third quartile and 2 are in the fourth quartile.

Performance

Children and young people are safe within caring family homes

Social Care

7. The number of 'Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales' was 99% .This places Leicestershire in the top quartile nationally.
8. The percentage of Child Protection plans lasting 2 years or more that were open at the end of quarter 1 was 1.8%. This was similar to the end of quarter 4. The majority of Child Protection Plans have ended within 9 months of the plan starting. A new process to systematically consider exit plans for cases of children subject to Child Protection Plans for over 9 months is planned. The percentage of plans that closed during quarter 4 lasting 2 years or more was 1.57%, approximately 1% lower than Quarter 4 2016/17, which reflects recent improved performance.
9. The percentage of 'Children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time' rose to 20.8% from 13.8%. This moves Leicestershire from the top quartile of all local authorities to the bottom quartile using available comparisons. (The top quartile boundary is 13.8% or lower, the bottom quartile is 20.7% or above). This has been identified as a key area of work in Leicestershire over the past year and the service frequently review the individual cases involved. For quarter 1, unlike in previous reporting periods, the rise is not due to children immediately returning to a plan soon after closure and may have been affected by large family groups featuring in this cohort. Further analysis of the specific cases is being undertaken.
10. The 'percentage of children with 3 or more placements during the year' was 8.1%. This is similar to the figure for Quarter 4 2016/17 and places Leicestershire in the second quartile nationally (only 0.1% outside the top quartile). The '% of children in the same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption' was 69.3%. This places Leicestershire in the second quartile by national levels.
11. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 90.6%. This places Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
12. Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 46.9%. This is in the third quartile by comparison but slightly above the statistical neighbour average. The Ofsted Inspection highlighted a lack of focus in Care Leavers' provision. This resulted in the Service reopening a number of cases for those older than 21, where the young person was deemed to be vulnerable because of a disability or mental health need and those who were still in education. This resulted in an increase in the number of Care Leavers open to the service and on the number deemed vulnerable, thereby impacting on the Service's capacity and overall performance. A multi-agency panel has now been established to consider the needs of the more vulnerable care leavers and a cross service EET Improvement Plan is in place. The Head Teacher for the Virtual School will be responsible for leading on partner contribution to and engagement with this plan.

13. The Service Manager for Children in Care is responsible for restructuring the Service to include a dedicated Care Leavers Team. This will improve focus on outcomes for our young people.
14. The percentage of 'children waiting less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with adoptive parents is in the second quartile of local authorities. Until summer 2016, Leicestershire County Council had more adopters than children waiting for adoption, so early profiling was completed before Placement Orders were granted in the majority of cases. This has continued despite the recent shortfall of adopters as interagency placements have been used. There was also a drop in the amount of children waiting for adoption meaning that those that were allocated for family finding were also identified promptly.
15. There were 75 Child Sexual Exploitation referrals in Leicestershire during Quarter 1. This is 5 more than in Quarter 4 2016/17.

Early Help

16. A total of 7,470 individuals accessed Early Help services during Quarter 1. Although this is less than the previous quarter, the numbers are 300 to 400 higher than in Quarters 2 and 3 of 2016/17 and follow a general upward trend across the year.
17. The number of families receiving targeted Early Help during Quarter 1 was 881 and the number of individuals was 2,282. Both numbers are similar to levels in Quarter 4 2016/17. This includes family members and individuals supported through Supporting Leicestershire Families and the Children's Centre Programme.
18. The Payment By Results (PBR) claim increased to 927, 33% of the overall target. The PBR target runs over four years until 2020. Progress will not be linear due to claim periods and long term work yielding results later.
19. 50 Early Help cases were escalated to Social Care. This is higher than Quarter 4 2016/17 when the figure was 20.

Children and young people have their health, wellbeing and life chances improved

Health and wellbeing

20. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had an annual health assessment' within the last 12 months was 80.6%. This is higher than quarter 4 when the level was 67.3%.
21. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had a dental check' is 74.3%. This is similar to the performance for Quarter 4 2016/17. An internal target of 70% was set with a commitment to implement a business support offer to drive forward improvement through support to social workers and foster carers to prompt recording of dental checks. This has proved affective and the target has already been reached.

22. 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. Looked After Children experience significantly worse mental health than their peers. An estimated 45% of Looked After Children have mental health problems, over 4 times higher than all children.
23. If the total score is within the high risk category of 17 and above, a referral to Children and Adolescents Mental Health Service (CAMHS) will be discussed and made as necessary. Leicestershire's average score is 16, although this score is not yet considered reliable. In order to be in the 3rd quartile of performance, the average SDQ score needs to be 15 and below; which is the current benchmark for Leicestershire County Council.
24. Statutory Guidance advocates that both local authorities and health trusts ensure that SDQ's are built into the annual health assessments for Looked After Children. At present Leicestershire County Council has a 55% completion rate of SDQs. Whilst this is an improvement on the previous year's completion of 17.5%, it is not yet a sufficiently large sample size to use the average score to inform service provision and commissioning.
25. Statistics for the number of young people with a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) have been released. 375 young people were assessed for an EHCP in 2016; the figure for 2015 was 360. 36 Initial requests for assessment were refused compared to 10 in 2015.
26. Of the children assessed for an EHCP, 98.4% had a plan issued. In 2015, 100% of children assessed were issued with an EHCP.
27. There were 3350* young people in Leicestershire with a statement or EHCP in 2016 compared to 2995 in 2015. (*this figure is the number on a given census day).

Children and young people and their families live within thriving communities

28. End of year figures for the 'number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17' show 126 young people were first time entrants. This is similar to the previous year's figure of 124 and Leicestershire's rate per 100,000 is in the top quartile of all authorities.
29. The rate of re-offending per young offender was 0.58 for 2016/17. This is a reduction on the previous year's figure of 0.82.
30. Custody was used for 3 young people during Quarter 4 2016/17 (the most recent available data). Although this involves small numbers, it is higher than previous quarters which are rarely above 1.

Children and young people achieve their potential

Early years

31. The percentage of eligible 2 year olds accessing their Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) was 80%; the same as the reported figure for Quarter 4 2016/17. Two year olds accessing the FEEE includes Leicestershire and out of

county children in Leicestershire provision. The headcount data and impact of 30 hours entitlement is not reflected in this dataset.

32. The percentage of eligible 3 and 4 year olds was 95%; the same as the reported figure for Quarter 4 2016/17. As the population census data has been updated, this reflects a shift in the percentage of 3 and 4 year olds taking up their FEEE but not a decline in the number of children.
33. The percentage of all childcare providers in Leicestershire rated as good or outstanding is 94%; the same as the reported figure for Quarter 4 2016/17. The number of providers rated as good or better by Ofsted continues to rise; due to more childminders getting a good or better first inspection.

Ofsted outcomes

34. 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 both stand at 89.5%. The percentage of good or outstanding Special Schools remained at 100%.

Education data

35. Provisional education data is available for Primary school aged children. National data is still awaiting validation so should only be used as a guide at this stage. Statistical neighbour comparisons are not yet available.
36. The percentage of children achieving a 'Good level of development' at the end of reception year (age 5) has risen by 2.7% to 70.2%. This is expected to be below the national average of local authorities. However, the gap between Leicestershire performance and national scores is expected to narrow to 0.5% after being 1.8% in 2016 and 2.8% in 2015. Leicestershire outcomes have improved in each early learning goal and by 2.2% in writing.
37. The percentage of children achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Mathematics also improved, rising to 61.4% compared to 52.4% in 2016. However, national levels are expected to improve by a similar amount, meaning that Leicestershire and national percentages will again be similar. This is an area of focus for the re-established Leicestershire Education Excellence Partnership.

Vulnerable Groups

38. National data for comparison is not yet available for vulnerable groups.
39. The percentage of children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) achieving a Good Level of Development rose by 2% to 46%.
40. More Leicestershire children who are eligible for FSM reached the expected standard for reading, writing and mathematics at Key Stage Two. 37.9% compared to 29% in 2016. The percentage of children with a Statement of SEN or an EHCP reaching the same threshold was 6.8% compared to 5% last year.

Economy/Employment and Skills

41. The latest data from Prospects* is for the end of June 2017 and shows a Leicestershire NEET** figure of 2% (279 young people), a similar figure to Quarter 4 2016/17. Leicestershire has a lower NEET figure than most of the East Midlands and is around the average of statistical neighbours.

* Prospects are commissioned by Leicestershire County Council to work with the NEET group.

** Not in Education, Employment or Training

42. The NEET figure for SEND young people was 3.4% for March 2017. This is the similar to the figure reported in Quarter 4 2016/17.

Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

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List of Appendices

- Appendix A - Children and Families Department performance dashboard for Quarter 1 2017/18.
- Appendix B - supports the indicator ‘Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact’.

Equal Opportunities and Human Rights Implications

43. 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.