



**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**- 15 JANUARY 2018**

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

**QUARTER 2 2017/18 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**Purpose of the 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 Family Services Department at the end of quarter 2 of 2017/18. This is for the period July to September 2017.

**Background**

2. The report is based on the set of performance measures aligned with the current Council Corporate Strategy to 2018. The current Strategy is presently being reviewed and a new Outcomes Framework developed which will guide future reporting to the Committee. The current performance dashboard is attached as Appendix A. Appendix B supports the Early Help indicator "Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact". The data and commentary provided refers to quarter 2 2017/18 (July to September 2017). Any subsequent changes will be notified in future reports.

**Report Changes**

3. Appendix A has been refreshed to concentrate on indicators where new data is available for quarter 2.
4. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.

**Overview**

5. From 30 measures that have been reported: 8 have improved; 14 show no significant change and 3 have declined. 5 further indicators provide information with no polarity.
6. From 16 measures that have a national benchmark: 5 are in the top quartile, 6 are in the second quartile, 4 are in the third quartile and 1 is in the fourth quartile.

## Children and Young People are Safe within Caring Family Homes

### **Social Care**

7. The number of 'Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales' was 97.2%. This has been consistently high over the previous year (10 cases were not reviewed within timescales).
8. The percentage of Child Protection plans lasting 2 years or more that were open at the end of quarter 2 was 1.1% (6 children). This was lower than the end of quarter 1. The percentage of plans that closed during quarter 2 lasting 2 years or more was 3.2%. Although this is higher than quarter 1, this involves very small numbers which can cause the percentage to fluctuate – 4 children on this occasion.
9. The percentage of 'Children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time' rose to 29.4% from 20.8% (a rise of 10 children). This is in the fourth (lowest) quartile of all local authorities. This remains an area of robust management oversight to both understand what is causing this and to ensure that the County Council response is robust. A recent audit undertaken highlighted two contributory factors remain:
  - i. cases where the Child In Need plans are not robust or working effectively after step down from a child protection plan; and
  - ii. change not being sustained by families leading to cases being stepped back up to child protection planning.
10. It is important to note that the majority of cases (67%) were placed on a repeat plan between 2 and 5 years after the initial plan. Whilst still an area of ongoing work, this does mean that children are not being removed from a plan too soon. To develop further understanding, a deep dive audit is now being undertaken to look at themes and common factors that may help the Children and Family Services Department to anticipate future vulnerability, develop better contingency plans with families and target intervention at families that are likely to step-up into the child protection arena.
11. The 'percentage of children with 3 or more placements during the year' was 7.6% (41 children). This is lower than the quarter 1 figure of 8.1% and places Leicestershire in the top quartile nationally. The 'percentage of children in the same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption' was 68.2% (368 children). This is similar to quarter 1 and places Leicestershire in the second quartile by national levels.
12. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 91.8% (139 young people). This is a small rise (1.2%) compared to quarter 1 and places Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
13. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 48.5% (75 young people). This is in the third quartile by comparison with other local authorities but slightly above the statistical neighbour average.

14. There were 67 Child Sexual Exploitation referrals in Leicestershire during quarter 2. This is 8 less than quarter 1.

### **Early Help**

15. A total of 7,245 individuals accessed Early Help services during quarter 2. This is higher than the same time period last year but lower than the previous two quarters.
16. The number of families receiving targeted Early Help during quarter 2 was 835 and the number of individuals was 2,217. Both numbers are similar, but slightly lower, than quarter 1. This includes family members and individuals supported through Supporting Leicestershire Families and the Children's Centre Programme.
17. There was no new Payment By Results (PBR) claim during quarter 2. The most recent claim was in June 2017.
18. 37 Early Help cases were escalated to Social Care in quarter 2. This is lower than quarter 1 when the figure was 50.

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

19. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had an annual health assessment' within the last 12 months was 76.3% (411 children). This is lower than quarter 1 (80.6%). Completion of health assessments continues 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.
20. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had a dental check' is 56.4% (304 children). This is lower than the quarter 1 figure of 74.3% and below the internal target of 70%. Children in Care Head of Service and Service Manager have engaged in a period of data cleansing with business partners which includes a specific focus on recording of dental checks on Mosaic. This does not allow for the isolation of data related to very young children and those refusing dental checks.
21. 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. The mean score for Leicestershire children was 14 in Quarter 2. The Department for Education (DfE) class 0-13 as 'normal', 14-16 as 'borderline' and 17- 40 as 'cause for concern'. A score of 14 places Leicestershire in the second quartile of local authorities.

### Children and Young People and their Families live within Thriving Communities

22. In quarter 1 (latest figures available) there were 32 'first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17'. This is lower than quarter 4 (43) but slightly higher than previous quarters when the figure was less than 30.

23. The rate of re-offending per young offender was 0.91 for quarter 4 (the most recent available). This was higher than the previous quarter but similar to the overall 2016/17 figure.
24. Custody was used for 2 young people during quarter 1 (the most recent available data). This involves small numbers and is similar to the previous quarter (3 young people).

### Education Quality

25. 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 are 89.6% and 90.2% respectively. The percentage of good or outstanding Special Schools remained at 100%.
26. Key Stage Four data (pupils aged 16) has now been released. Progress 8 is now the key measure for this age group and considers the progress made between the age of 11 and 16 by each pupil in 8 subject areas.
27. Leicestershire pupils overall made similar progress to last year with a score of -0.1. This is below the expected score of '0' but the same level as statistical neighbours. This places Leicestershire in the third quartile of all local authorities.
28. Girls made better progress than boys overall with a score of 0.13, which exceeded the expected levels for the group.
29. Boys made stronger progress in Mathematics, with both boys and girls recording a positive progress score. Girls were strong in English, with progress significantly better than boys.
30. The average point score for pupils taking A Levels was higher than 2016. However, there have been some changes to the assessment process which could also have a similarly positive impact on the national data when released.

### Vulnerable Groups - Education

31. Provisional data for Children in Care achieving expected standards at the end of Key Stage Two (aged 11) show an improvement compared to 2016, with 22.2% achieving the standard. However, this is low compared to 2016 national averages. Key Stage Four data for the group is not yet available.
32. Progress for pupils eligible for Free School Meals was -0.71. This was similar to 2016 when Leicestershire was ranked in the fourth quartile of Local Authorities. National data comparisons are not yet available.
33. Progress for pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health Care Plan was also similar to 2016 when Leicestershire was ranked in the top quartile of local authorities.

## Economy/Employment and Skills

34. The latest data from Prospects, commissioned by Leicestershire County Council to work with those not in education, employment or training (NEET), is for the end of August 2017 and shows a Leicestershire NEET figure of 2.2% (299 young people), a similar figure to quarter 1. Leicestershire has a lower NEET figure than most of the East Midlands and is around the average of statistical neighbours.
35. The NEET figure for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities was 3.8% for August 2017. This represents 20 young people compared to 19 at the end of quarter 1.

## Officers to Contact

Stewart Smith, Business Partner – Performance and Business Intelligence

Tel: 0116 305 5700

Email: [Stewart.smith@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Stewart.smith@leics.gov.uk)

Jane Moore, Assistant Director – Education and Early Help

Tel: 0116 305 2649

Email: [Jane.Moore@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.Moore@leics.gov.uk)

Sharon Cooke, Assistant Director – Children’s Social Care

Tel: 0116 305 5479

Email: [Sharon.Cooke@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Sharon.Cooke@leics.gov.uk)

## List of Appendices

- Appendix A - Children and Family Services Department Performance Dashboard for Quarter 2, 2017/18
- Appendix B - supports the indicator ‘Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact’

## Equal Opportunities and Human Rights Implications

36. 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.

This page is intentionally left blank