



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
10 SEPTEMBER 2018

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

QUARTER 1 2018/19 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Committee with an update of the Children and Family Services Department's performance for the period April to June 2018 (Quarter 1).

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The Children and Family Services Department's performance is reported to the Committee in accordance with the Council's corporate performance management arrangements.

Background

3. A new Strategic Plan 2018-2022 has been agreed by the Council and a small number of new indicators have been added to reflect the new Outcomes Framework, including additional Social Care indicators that are monitored on the recommendation of Ofsted. The current performance dashboard is attached as Appendix A, and this has been refreshed to concentrate on indicators where new data is available for Quarter 1, including provisional primary school outcomes. Appendix B supports the Early Help indicator "Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact".
4. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.

Overview

5. From 43 measures that have been reported, 17 have improved, 9 show no significant change and six have declined. In addition to this, nine indicators provide information with no polarity and two are new.
6. From 21 measures that have a national benchmark, seven are in the top quartile, eight are in the second quartile, five are in the third quartile and one is in the fourth quartile.

Children At Most Risk are Kept Safe and Protected from Harm

7. The number of 'Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales' was 95.8% in quarter 1, a similar figure to the previous quarter. This remains high by national levels and in the second quartile of all local authorities. This equates to 11 of 261 cases not being reviewed in the required timescales.
8. The percentage of 'Children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time' reduced from 15% to 12%. This represents 15 children. This is now in the top quartile of local authorities by available comparisons and shows strong improvement over the previous year.
9. The percentage of re-referrals to Social Care within 12 months is reported for the first time in this report. The quarter 1 figure is 29% (415 referrals) which is higher than during the previous year when the figure was between 24% and 27%. The figure is also higher than national and statistical neighbour averages. Monthly audits take place within the service to monitor this. This is linked to ongoing work regarding Children in Need which should see an improving picture over the year.
10. The percentage of 'assessments completed within 45 days' is also new in the report. The quarter 1 figure for Leicestershire was 76% (668). This is similar to figures from the previous year but lower than available national and statistical neighbour comparisons, which are both over 80%. Current work is showing an improving picture against the target.
11. The percentage of Child Protection plans lasting two years or more that were open at the end of quarter 1 was 0.5% (two children). This was a lower number of children than the previous quarter and an improved percentage. The current figure places Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities using available comparators.
12. There were 81 Child Sexual Exploitation referrals in Leicestershire during quarter 1. This is higher than the quarter 4 figure of 68 but close to the same period last year when 75 referrals were made.

Children Are Living In Stable and Secure Environments

13. The 'percentage of children with three or more placements during the year' was 8.3% (48 children). This is six more children than quarter 4 and places Leicestershire in the second quartile nationally (0.3% outside the top quartile). The 'percentage of children in the same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption' was 69.1% (103 of 149 children). This is 2.4% higher than quarter 4 and places Leicestershire in the third quartile by national levels.
14. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 92.1% (35 of 38 young people). This is higher than quarter 3 (88.2%) and places Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
15. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 55.3% (21 of 38 young people). This is 4.6% better than quarter 4 and places Leicestershire into the second quartile by comparison with other local authorities.

Child Health and Wellbeing

16. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had an annual health assessment' within the last 12 months was 74.5% (430 children). This is a similar number to quarter 4 but a slightly lower percentage (78.8% in quarter 4). 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.
17. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had a dental check' was 65.2% (376 children). This is lower than quarter 4 when the percentage was 74.1%.
18. 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 Department for Education (DfE) class a score of 0-13 as 'normal', 14-16 as 'borderline' and 17-40 as 'cause for concern'. The mean score for Leicestershire children was 15 in quarter 1. This figure has been between 14 and 16 in Leicestershire during the past year. A score of 15 for Leicestershire is slightly better than the statistical neighbour average of 15.58. The scores for Leicestershire children range from a low of zero and one to a high of 36 and 37.

Families Are Self-Sufficient and Able to Cope

19. The number of families receiving targeted Early Help during quarter 1 was 829, similar to the previous quarter (831). The number of individuals receiving help was 2,139. This was lower than quarter 4 but similar to previous quarters where the number has been around 2,200. This includes family members and individuals supported through Supporting Leicestershire Families and the Children's Centre Programme.
20. To date, the Supporting Leicestershire Families programme has claimed Payment By Results (PBR) for 1373 families. This represents 50% of the overall target for Leicestershire. Progress towards the target remains strong in Leicestershire compared to available regional comparisons.

People Are Safe In their Daily Lives

21. The rolling annual figure for 'first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17' was 104 for the period April 2017 to March 2018 (latest available). This is lower than the same period last year when the figure was 126.
22. The rate of re-offending per young offender was 0.71 for 2017/18. This compares to 0.91 in 2016/17.
23. One young person was sentenced to custody during quarter 1. This is similar to previous quarters.

Every Child Has Access to Good Quality Education and Achieves their Potential

24. There was a small decrease in the take-up of Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) for two year olds to 73% - this was due to the number of eligible children increasing but not yet taking up the place. The list of eligible children is supplied periodically by the Department for Work and Pensions. 97% of these children attend a good or outstanding provision. Take up of FEEE for eligible three year olds was once again 100%, and 97% of these children attend a good or outstanding provision.
25. The percentage of Leicestershire schools rated as Good or Outstanding and the percentage of pupils in Good or Outstanding schools have both risen slightly. The current figures are 89.4% and 89.3% respectively, which are similar to national averages and above statistical neighbour levels.
26. The percentage of primary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 89.5% at the end of quarter 1. This is similar to statistical neighbour averages. The secondary school figure was 86.9% which is better than statistical neighbours and in the second quartile of local authorities.
27. The percentage of Good or Outstanding Special Schools remained at 100%.

Provisional 2018 Primary school outcomes

28. The provisional figure for the percentage of children achieving a Good Level of Development in the Reception year of school (aged 5) was 70.8%. This was a 0.7% increase compared to 2017. The national figure is expected to increase by a similar amount, meaning Leicestershire will continue to be slightly behind national levels.
29. There was a 3.9% increase in the percentage of children reaching the expected level in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at the end of Key Stage Two in Leicestershire schools (age 11). Provisional national data suggests that Leicestershire will be at least 1% above the England figure.

Outcomes for Vulnerable Groups

30. The provisional figure for the proportion of children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) achieving a Good Level of Development is higher than the 2017 figure for Leicestershire. Children in receipt of FSM that achieved the expected standard at the age of 11 is expected to be lower than in 2017. National comparisons are not yet available for this group.
31. The proportion of children in receipt of Special Educational Needs Support achieving the expected standard at age 11 is expected to be higher than in 2017. This has previously been identified as an area for improvement in Leicestershire.
32. Outcomes for Children in Care are not yet available.

33. Further details, including national and statistical neighbour comparisons will be available later in the year when the Department for Education (DfE) releases further data.

Special Educational Needs and Disability Support

34. The number of young people with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in Leicestershire rose from 3,350 in 2017 to 3,703 in 2018. This data is taken from a snapshot in January 2018 and published by the DfE in May. All of Leicestershire's statistical neighbours also saw a rise in the number of EHCPs.
35. This increased demand was reflected in a rise in initial requests for an EHCP which were refused. This was 226 during 2017 compared to 36 the previous year. However, of assessments undertaken, an EHCP was issued in 99.5% of cases.
36. The percentage of EHCPs issued within 20 weeks in Leicestershire was 99%. This is in the top quarter of local authorities and very high compared to statistical neighbours, where, on average, fewer than half are issued within timescales .

Leicestershire Has a Highly Skilled and Employable Workforce

37. 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 June 2018 and shows a Leicestershire NEET figure of 2.0% (271 young people), which is slightly lower (better) than quarter 4. Leicestershire has a lower NEET figure than most of the East Midlands and is around the average of statistical neighbours.
38. The NEET figure for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities was 3.0% at the end of June 2018. This represents 16 young people and is 0.5% better than quarter 4, although this does involve small numbers.
39. The percentage of young people in Leicestershire achieving a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19 is 83.2%. This is in the third quartile of local authorities but very close to the national average of 83.6%.

Conclusion

40. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of Quarter 1 of 2018/19, covering the period April – June.
41. Details of all metrics will continue to be monitored on a regular basis throughout the year and any subsequent changes will be notified in future reports.

Background Papers

[Strategic Plan 2018-22 and Outcomes Framework](#)

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List of Appendices

- Appendix A - Children and Family Services Department Performance Dashboard for Quarter 1, 2018/19
- Appendix B - supports the indicator ‘Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact’

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

42. Addressing equalities issues is supported by this report, with a focus on vulnerable groups within Leicestershire, including children in care. Education data relating to different context groups including children with Special Educational Needs and Free School Meals is reported when data becomes available.