



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE 4 JUNE 2019

QUARTER 4 2018/19 PERFORMANCE REPORT

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

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 January to March 2019 (Quarter 4).

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 for 2018/19 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 4.
4. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.

Overview

5. From 27 measures that have been reported, nine have improved, 14 show no significant change and five have declined. In addition to this, 2 indicators provide information with no polarity.
6. From 19 measures that have a national benchmark, six are in the top quartile, six are in the second quartile, six 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 97.3% in quarter 4, a 0.5% improvement on the quarter 3 figure. This equates to 251 of 258 plans being in time. This remains good by national levels and in the second quartile of all local authorities.
8. The percentage of 'Children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time' decreased from 14.9% to 13.6%. This represents 19 children. This is now in the first quartile of local authorities by available comparisons.
9. The percentage of re-referrals to Social Care within 12 months was 22.3% (257 children), a slightly higher figure than quarter 3 when the figure was 21.6% (273 children). This places Leicestershire in the third quartile of local authorities and better than statistical neighbours. 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 'single assessments completed within 45 days' was 60.3%. This was lower than the quarter 3 figure of 64.4% and represented 631 assessments. This is lower than available national and statistical neighbour comparisons, which are both over 80%.
11. No Child Protection plans lasting two years or more were open at the end of quarter 4. The current figure places Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities using available comparators.
12. There were 95 Child Sexual Exploitation referrals in Leicestershire during quarter 4. This is higher than quarter 3 when 72 referrals were made. This figure includes some children who are victims of criminal exploitation rather than specifically sexual exploitation. The two groups will be reported separately in the future.

Children are living in stable and secure environments

13. The 'percentage of children with three or more placements during the year' was 7.7% (45 children). This is better than quarter 3 and places Leicestershire in the top quartile nationally. The 'percentage of children in the same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption' was 65.7% (139 children). This is lower than quarter 3 and places Leicestershire in the third quartile by national levels.
14. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 89.5% at the end of quarter 4 (204 young people). This is slightly lower than quarter 3 (90.9%) and places Leicestershire in the second quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
15. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 61% at the end of quarter 4 (139 young people). This is a higher, improved figure

compared to quarter 3 and places Leicestershire in the top 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 85.6% (501). This is 9.9% higher than quarter 3. 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 79.5% (465). This is higher than quarter 3 and continues the improvement seen across the year.

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) classes 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 4. 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 one to a high of 31.

Families are self-sufficient and able to cope

19. The number of families receiving targeted Early Help during quarter 4 was 762, this was similar to quarter 3 (757). The number of individuals receiving help was 2,058, which was also similar to quarter 3 (2095). 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 1596 families. This represents 58% of the overall target for Leicestershire. Progress towards the target remains strong in Leicestershire compared to available regional comparisons. A new claim is due during quarter 1 of the 2019/20 financial year.

People are safe in their daily lives

21. The cumulative 2018/19 figure for 'first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17' was 76 at the end of quarter 3 (the latest figure available). This is very close to the 2017/18 figure at a comparative stage of the year.

22. The rate of re-offending per young offender is reported a quarter in arrears and was 0.78 for quarter 2 2018/19. The comparative figure for 2017/18 was 0.48.

23. No young people were sentenced to custody during quarter 3 (latest available). This figure is usually low, for example one or two.

Every child has access to good quality education and achieves their potential

24. The percentage of eligible two year olds taking up the Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) offer was 73% (1,240 children). This is similar to the previous reported figure of 74%. The percentage of eligible 3 year olds taking up the FEEE offer is 99% (7,363 children), this is similar to the previous reported figure of 100%.
25. The percentage of childcare providers in Leicestershire rated as good or outstanding was 95%. This is similar to statistical neighbours and places Leicestershire on the border of second and third quartile of all local authorities. The quartiles are closely bunched with the top quartile only 1.4% higher.
26. The percentage of Leicestershire schools rated as Good or Outstanding and the percentage of pupils in Good or Outstanding schools was the same as quarter 3 at 86% (239 schools). This is in the second quartile of local authorities and similar to statistical neighbours. The proportion of Leicestershire pupils in good or outstanding schools is 84.3%. This is higher than quarter 3 but slightly below the statistical neighbour average.
27. The percentage of primary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 87% at the end of quarter 4 (194 schools). This is similar to the previous quarter and similar to the statistical neighbour average. The equivalent secondary school figure was 79.2% (38 schools). This is higher than the quarter 3 figure and remains in the second quartile of local authorities and above statistical neighbours.
28. The percentage of Good or Outstanding Special Schools remained at 100% (six schools).

Leicestershire has a highly skilled and employable workforce

29. Latest NEET data (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training), is for the end of March 2019 and shows a Leicestershire figure of 2.3% representing 302 young people. Leicestershire is in the second quartile of local authorities for NEET and similar to statistical neighbours.
30. The NEET figure for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities was 4.5% at the end of March 2019. This is a slightly lower percentage than quarter 3 and represents small numbers of young people – 45 in total.

Conclusion

31. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of Quarter 4 of 2018/19, covering the period January to March 2019.
32. 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

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

33. 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.

Officers to Contact

Stewart Smith, Business Partner – Performance and Business Intelligence

Tel: 0116 305 5700

Email: Stewart.smith@leics.gov.uk

Jane Moore, Director – Children and Families Service

Tel: 0116 305 2649

Email: Jane.Moore@leics.gov.uk

Sharon Cooke, Assistant Director – Children’s Social Care

Tel: 0116 305 5479

Email: Sharon.Cooke@leics.gov.uk

List of Appendices

- Appendix A - Children and Family Services Department Performance Dashboard for Quarter 4, 2018/19

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