



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
3 SEPTEMBER 2019

QUARTER 1 2019/20 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 April to June 2019 (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 Strategic Plan 2018-2022 has been agreed by the Council. 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 education data for 2019 and annual statistics for pupils with Special Educational Needs.
4. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.

Overview

5. From 42 measures that have been reported, 12 have improved, 11 show no significant change and nine have declined. In addition to this, ten indicators provide information with no polarity (for example SEND activity and CSE referrals).

6. From 20 measures that have a national benchmark, six are in the top quartile, six are in the second quartile, four are in the third quartile and four are 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 94.7% in quarter 1. This equates to 373 of 394 plans being reviewed in time, showing an increase in volume compared to quarter 4 (2018/19) when 97.3% (251 out of 258) plans were reviewed in time. This is a lower percentage than quarter 4 but 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' increased from 13.6% to 14.8%. This represents 19 children. Despite this small rise, this remains in the first quartile of local authorities by available comparisons.
9. The percentage of re-referrals to Social Care within 12 months was 21.7% (297 children); this was a slightly lower percentage than quarter 4 but more children, reflecting a higher volume of cases. (The quarter 4 figure was 22.3% (257 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.
10. The percentage of 'single assessments completed within 45 days' was 71.8%. This was a large improvement compared to the quarter 4 figure of 60.3% and represented 924 assessments (compared to 631 in quarter 4). This is lower than available national and statistical neighbour comparisons, which are both over 80%. The service has run an assessment campaign over the last six months as part of the continuous improvement plan, the focus of which has been on improving the quality of assessments as well as timeliness. Month on month timeliness figures are improving.
11. Five Child Protection plans lasting two years or more were open at the end of quarter 1, representing 1.1% of cases. The current figure places Leicestershire in the second quartile of local authorities using available comparators.
12. There were 67 Child Sexual Exploitation and 22 Child Criminal Exploitation referrals in Leicestershire during quarter 1.

Children are living in stable and secure environments

13. The 'percentage of children with three or more placements during the year' was 8% (48 children). This is similar to quarter 4 and Leicestershire remains in the top quartile nationally. The 'percentage of children in the same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption' was 61.6% (117 children). This is lower than quarter 4 (65.7%) and takes Leicestershire in the fourth quartile by national

levels. The Service Manager for Fostering is leading on an audit that will consider all children impacted in quarter 1 (placement moves and placed for adoption) to determine what the cause is and what can be done in the future.

14. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 93.0% at the end of quarter 1 (53 young people). This is higher than quarter 4 (89.5%) and better than the statistical neighbour average of 83.8%.
15. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 59.6% at the end of quarter 1 (34 young people). This is similar to quarter 4 (61%) and above the statistical neighbour average of 53.2%.

Child Health and Wellbeing

16. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had an annual health assessment' within the last 12 months was 89.3% (535 children). This is 4.3% higher than 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 77.6% (465 children). This is slightly lower than quarter 4 as a percentage (79.5%) but represents the same number of children within a larger cohort.
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 1. This figure has been between 14 and 16 in Leicestershire during the past year. A score of 15 for Leicestershire is slightly higher than the statistical neighbour average of 14.66 and on the border of the first and second quartile of all local authorities. The scores for Leicestershire children range from a low of zero and one to a high of 31.

Families are self-sufficient and able to cope

19. The new Children and Family Wellbeing service has now been established and new reporting is currently being developed. Therefore quarter 1 results are not directly comparable with 2018/19 data.
20. The number of families recorded as receiving targeted Early Help during quarter 1 was 566, which was lower than quarter 4 (762). The number of individuals recorded as receiving help was 1,491, which was also lower than quarter 4 (2058). These indicators could be affected by reporting changes and will be monitored in future quarters.
21. To date, the Supporting Leicestershire Families programme has claimed Payment By Results (PBR) for 1884 families. This represents 68% of the

overall target for Leicestershire. Progress towards the 100% target by March 2020 remains strong.

People are safe in their daily lives

22. Youth Offending statistics are usually reported one or two quarters in arrears as data has to be produced and validated by legal bodies such as the Police and courts before being released to local authorities.
23. The cumulative 2018/19 figure for 'first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17' was 100 at the end of quarter 4. This is lower than 2018 end of year figure of 104.
24. The rate of re-offending per young offender is reported two quarters in arrears and was 1.1 offences per offender for quarter 3 2018/19. This is higher than the end of year figure for 2017/18 of 0.71.
25. Two young people were sentenced to custody during quarter 4.

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

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

26. The Department for Education's annual dataset 'Statements of SEN and Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans, England, 2018' was released during Q1. This contains data about young people with Special Educational Needs with a Statement or EHCP.
27. The data is taken from a census date in January 2019 and shows that 4,222 children and young people in Leicestershire had a statement or Education Health and Care plan on this date. This is an increase of 14% from the January 2018 figure of 3,703.
28. The number of 'initial requests for assessments' for a plan in 2018 increased to 936 from 683 in 2017. Of these requests in 2018, 176 were refused (18.5%) compared to 226 being refused the previous year (34%).
29. The number of EHCPs issued in 2018 was 635, a 63.7% increase compared to 2017 when 388 plans were issued. An EHC plan was not issued in 24 cases (3.6%) which is a significant increase compared to the previous year when a plan was not issued in only 2 cases.

Early years

30. In quarter 1 The percentage of eligible two year olds taking up the Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) offer was 72% (1,168 children). This is similar to the previous reported figure of 73% and places Leicestershire in the second quartile of all local authorities by available comparisons. The percentage of

eligible 3 and 4 year olds taking up the FEEE offer is 98% (11,382 children), which is similar to the previous reported figure of 99% and places Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities.

31. The percentage of childcare providers in Leicestershire rated as good or outstanding remained at 95%. This is slightly lower than statistical neighbours (96.6%) and places Leicestershire in the third quartile of local authorities.

Primary school outcomes

32. Provisional 2019 data for primary school outcomes is now available. Historically, provisional data for Leicestershire has proven to be very close to the final validated data (for example within 0.1%). National data is not yet published although some unvalidated benchmarking figures are available internally.
33. Provisional data indicates that the percentage of children reaching a 'good level of development' at the end of the reception year (5 year old children) is 72.1%. This is a rise of 1.3% compared to 2018. This figure has risen every year in Leicestershire since the measure began in 2013, when a score of 46.3% was recorded. A 'good level of development' covers Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Physical Development; Communication and Language Development; Literacy and Mathematics.
34. Early indications are that the national figure is likely to be slightly lower this year. If this is the case, Leicestershire will be above the national level for the first time since the measure was introduced. Provisional data also indicates that Leicestershire performance is likely to be above national levels in each of the development areas listed in paragraph 33.
35. At the end of Key Stage Two (11 year olds leaving primary school), provisional data shows that 66.8% of Leicestershire children reached the expected standard for Reading, Writing and Mathematics. This is an improvement on the 2018 figure of 65.6%. Unvalidated data suggests that Leicestershire performance is likely to be higher than the national figure by around 2%.
36. Progress between Key Stages One and Two is measured against a benchmark of '0' being expected progress. This has traditionally been an area with room for improvement in Leicestershire. Provisional data suggests that progress between the key stages has improved in the county in each core subject of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, with positive progress in Mathematics and Writing; and a slight minus figure of -0.01 in Reading (improved from -0.27 in 2018).

Outcomes for vulnerable groups

37. Provisional data indicates that the percentage of children eligible for Free School Meals achieving a Good Level of Development is slightly higher than 2018 with a rise of 0.3% to 48.7%. No national data is yet available for comparison.

38. Data for pupils eligible for Free School Meals at Key Stage Two suggests an increase of 2.9% to 39.8% in children achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics compared to 2018. No national data is yet available for comparison.

Ofsted

39. The percentage of Leicestershire schools rated as Good or Outstanding was the same as quarter 4 at 86% (240 schools). Due to a slight rise in the national figure, Leicestershire is now in the third quartile by 0.1% but very close to the middle point. The proportion of Leicestershire pupils in good or outstanding schools is 84.1% (81,012). This is similar to quarter 4 and in the second quartile of local authorities.
40. The percentage of primary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 87% at the end of quarter 1 (195 schools). This is the same as quarter 4 and in the third quartile of local authorities. The equivalent secondary school figure was 79.2% (38 schools). This is also the same as the quarter 4 figure and remains in the second quartile of local authorities.
41. The percentage of Good or Outstanding Special Schools remained at 100% (six schools).

Leicestershire has a highly skilled and employable workforce

42. Latest NEET data (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training) is for the end of June 2019 and shows a Leicestershire figure of 2.1%, representing 281 young people. This is lower than Q4 (i.e. better) when the figure was 2.3% (302 young people). Leicestershire is in the second quartile of local authorities for NEET and similar to statistical neighbours.
43. The NEET figure for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities was 4.9% (52 young people) at the end of June 2019. This is higher than quarter 4 and represents a rise of seven young people.

Conclusion

44. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of Quarter 1 of 2019/20, covering the period April to June 2019.
45. 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

46. 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.

List of Appendices

Appendix A - Children and Family Services Department Performance Dashboard for Quarter 1, 2019/20

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