



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3RD MARCH 2020

QUARTER 3 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 October to December 2019 (Quarter 3).

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 following report and accompanying dashboard aim to report on priority areas identified by the plan and monitor performance of key indicators on a quarterly basis. 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 3.
4. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.

Overview

5. From 29 measures that have been reported, 18 have improved, 8 show no significant change and three have declined. In addition to this, 1 indicator provides information with no polarity.
6. From 21 measures that have a national benchmark, five are in the top quartile, ten are in the second quartile, four are in the third quartile and two 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 93% in quarter 3. This is 2.1% lower than quarter 2 and moves Leicestershire into the third quartile of all local authorities.
8. The percentage of 'Children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time' decreased by 8% to 15.2% (28 children) in quarter 3. This improvement moves Leicestershire into the third quartile of local authorities by available comparisons.
9. The percentage of re-referrals to Social Care within 12 months was 20.4% (280 children), a reduction from quarter 2. This moves Leicestershire into the second 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 87.6%. This continues the improvement seen in quarter 2 and represents 1160 assessments. This has increased significantly over the past three quarters and the figure stood at 631 in quarter 4 of last year. The Leicestershire figure is in the second quartile nationally and better than statistical neighbour comparisons.
11. Two Child Protection plans lasting two years or more were open at the end of quarter 2, representing 0.4% of cases. This is the same as quarter 2. The current figure places Leicestershire in the second quartile of local authorities using available comparators.

Children are living in stable and secure environments

12. The 'percentage of children with three or more placements during the year' was 8.6% (54 children). This is lower (better) than quarter 2 and places Leicestershire in the second quartile nationally. The 'percentage of children in the same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption' was 58.6% (126 children). This is lower than quarter 2 (63%) and Leicestershire remains in the fourth quartile by national levels.
13. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 93.8% at the end of quarter 3 (151 young people). This places Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
14. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 64.6% at the end of quarter 3 (104 young people). This also places Leicestershire in the top quartile by comparison with other local authorities.

Child Health and Wellbeing

15. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had an annual health assessment' within the last 12 months was 86.2% (540). This is slightly lower than quarter 2 (88%) in percentage terms but only represents one less young person. 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.

16. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had a dental check' was 74.9% (469). This is slightly lower than quarter 2 as a percentage (75.5%) but actually represents five more children.
17. 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 average score for Leicestershire children was 14 in quarter 3. A score of 14 for Leicestershire is similar to the statistical neighbour average of 14.2 and places Leicestershire in the second quartile of all local authorities. The scores for Leicestershire children range from a low of zero and one to a high of 30.

Families are self-sufficient and able to cope

18. The new Children and Family Wellbeing service has now been established and new reporting is currently being developed. New figures to reflect the activity of the service have been produced which aim to take into account the work of Childrens Centres, a significant part of the new service. As a result, reported figures are higher than those previously reported. The figures show that the service worked with 4,210 individuals during the period and 1,749 families.
19. At the end of Quarter 3, the Supporting Leicestershire Families programme had claimed Payment by Results (PBR) for 2205 families. This represents 80% of the overall target for Leicestershire. Progress towards the April 2020 target remains strong in Leicestershire compared to available regional comparisons.

People are safe in their daily lives

20. Youth Offending statistics are usually reported one of two quarters in arrears. This is because data has to be produced and validated by legal bodies such as the Police and courts before being released to local authorities.
21. The Q2 figure (latest available) for 'first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17' was 18. This annual figure for 2018/19 was 100. Therefore, the single quarter figure is below the average quarterly figure for last year.
22. The rate of re-offending per young offender for quarter 2 was 0.18 offences per offender. This is lower than the quarterly average for 2018/19 when the end of year figure was 1.37.
23. One young people was sentenced to custody during quarter 2 (latest available). This figure is usually low, for example one or two.

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

Early years

24. The percentage of eligible two year olds taking up the Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) offer was 81%. This is higher than the previous reported figure of 72% 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 was 100%, this is higher than the previous reported figure of 98% and places Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities.
25. The percentage of childcare providers in Leicestershire rated as good or outstanding was 95.7%. This was slightly higher than the previous quarter and places Leicestershire in the third quartile of local authorities according to latest comparisons.

Primary school outcomes – SEN and FSM

26. More detailed national data is now available at Key Stage Two to identify performance of characteristic groups.
27. At the end of Key Stage Two (age 11), 7% of children in Leicestershire with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) reached the expected level in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. This is the same as the previous two years and below the statistical neighbour average of 7.9%. The score places Leicestershire in the third quartile of local authorities.
28. 40% of children in Leicestershire who are eligible for Free School Meals reached the expected level in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 2 (aged 11). This is better than 2018 when 37% of the group reached the threshold. Leicestershire is close to the statistical neighbour average of 42% but remains in the fourth quartile of local authorities.
29. Key Stage Four performance for the same groups had not been published at the time of writing.

Ofsted school inspections

30. The percentage of Leicestershire schools rated as Good or Outstanding was 87.5%. This was an improvement on the previous figure of 86% (244 schools) and places Leicestershire in the second quartile of local authorities. The proportion of Leicestershire pupils in good or outstanding schools is 83.7% (80,910 pupils). This is slightly lower than previous, and places Leicestershire in the third quartile.
31. The percentage of primary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 89.3% at the end of quarter 3 (200 schools). This is higher than quarter 2 and moves Leicestershire into the second quartile of local authorities. The equivalent secondary school figure was 76.1% (35 schools). This is lower than the quarter 2 figure but remains in the second quartile of local authorities.

32. The percentage of Good or Outstanding Special Schools remained at 100% (six schools).

Leicestershire has a highly skilled and employable workforce

33. Latest NEET data (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training), is for the end of December 2019 and shows a Leicestershire figure of 1.9% representing 249 young people. This figure is similar to the statistical neighbour average of 2%.

34. The NEET figure for young people with Special Educational Needs was 4.2% (45 young people) at the end of December 2019. This is better than Q2 when 56 young people with SEN were NEET (4.7%).

Conclusion

35. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of Quarter 3 of 2019/20, covering the period October to December 2019

36. 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

37. 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.

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List of Appendices

- Appendix A - Children and Family Services Department Performance Dashboard for Quarter 3, 2019/20