



**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

18TH NOVEMBER 2020

QUARTER 2 2020/21 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 an update of the Children and Family Services Department's performance for the period July to September 2020 (Quarter 2).

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 and has recently been refreshed. Children and Family Services has also produced a Departmental Plan 2020 -2023 which identifies a number of ambitions and measures to monitor progress. The following report and accompanying dashboard aim to report on priority areas identified by both plans 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 2.
4. Due to the closure of schools, no school inspection data or education outcome data is available.
5. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.

Overview

6. From 20 measures that have been reported, eight have improved, three show no significant change and five have declined. In addition to this, four indicators provide information only with no polarity.

7. From 14 measures that have a national benchmark, three are in the top quartile, six are in the second quartile, three are in the third quartile and two are in the fourth quartile. Quartiles are based on the more stable pre-COVID-19 period so should be treated with caution.

Helping children in Leicestershire live in safe, stable environments and have secure attachments

8. Local Authority comparisons used are figures published by the government for end of year benchmarking. It should be acknowledged that nationally published figures reflect pre-COVID 19 activity.
9. The number of 'Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales' was 94.6% in quarter 2 (1016 children). This is similar to quarter 1 (94.9%) and Leicestershire remains in the second quartile of all local authorities by available comparisons.
10. The percentage of 'Children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time' decreased by 1.1% to 25.3% in quarter 2 (49 children). This would be in the fourth quartile by previously published benchmarks.
11. The percentage of re-referrals to Social Care within 12 months was 23% in quarter 2 (299), a reduction of 3.4% compared to quarter 1. This would move Leicestershire from the fourth to the third quartile by previously published benchmarks.
12. Work to respond to the issue of repeat referrals and repeat plans has been taking place in quarter 2 by audit work. This will inform action to respond to these key performance measures.
13. The percentage of 'single assessments completed within 45 days' was 95.7%. This represents 1791 assessments and is 5.3% higher than quarter 1. This would now place Leicestershire in the top quartile nationally by available comparisons.
14. 11 Child Protection plans lasting two years or more were open at the end of quarter 2, representing 1.7% of cases. This is an increase compared to quarter 1. The current figure places Leicestershire in the second quartile of local authorities and is lower than statistical neighbours using available comparators.
15. The 'percentage of children with three or more placements during the year' was 5.1% (32 children). This is an improvement on quarter 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 60.6%. This is also an improvement on quarter 1 but would remain in the fourth quartile by previously published benchmarks.
16. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 91.2% at the end of quarter 2 (83 young people). This is higher than quarter 1 and would place Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.

17. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 62.6% at the end of quarter 2 (57 young people). This is higher than quarter 1 and Leicestershire remains in the top quartile by comparison with other local authorities.
18. The service provides careful oversight to the care leaver indicator and is driven by a corporate commitment for creating mentoring and apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers.
19. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had a dental check' was 54.3% (360 children). This is lower than quarter 1. However, it should be noted that routine dental treatment was suspended during the period of the Covid-19 lockdown which accounts for the decrease in dental checks for children in care. Full dental provision is still not yet in place.
20. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had an annual health assessment' within the last 12 months was 82.2% (546). This is slightly lower than quarter 1 (86%). 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. Both managers attend quarterly operational and strategic meetings with health partners to discuss and address the health needs of children in care and how best to meet these needs.

Helping children and their families build strength, resilience, confidence and capacity

21. The Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFWS) has refreshed and improved recording of individuals and families using the service.
22. During quarter 2, the CFWS worked with 3,855 individuals and 1,395 families across Leicestershire. This is higher than quarter 1 in both cases when the figures were 3,622 and 1,323 respectively.
23. The Children and Family Services Departmental plan states the intention to support more young people in mainstream Leicestershire schools by increasing the number of children effectively supported by Special Educational Needs Support (SEN Support) and decreasing the number of cases which subsequently require an Education and Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
24. The summer term school census (due in May 2020) was not conducted due to school closures during the national lockdown. Therefore, new figures on children with an EHCP and SEN Support are not available.
25. The school census will resume in October 2020 and figures will be reported in future reports.

People are safe in their daily lives

26. Youth Offending statistics are usually reported one or 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.
27. The Q1 2020/21 figure (latest available) for 'first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17' was 21. This is a decrease of nine compared to the previously reported quarterly figure. The figures for the first-time entrants remain low compared to regional and national data.
28. The rate of re-offending per young offender for quarter 1 2020/21 (latest available) was 0.76 offences per offender. This is a significant decrease in the re-offending rate compared with the same period last year when the rate was 1.37.
29. No young people were sentenced to custody during quarter 1 2020/21 (latest available). This figure is usually low, for example one or two.

Help every child to get the best possible start in life**Early years**

30. The percentage of eligible two-year and three-year olds taking up the Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) is reported termly and latest figures include the summer term up to 31st August 2020.
31. During the summer term, the percentage of eligible 3-year olds taking up their FEEE place was 91.5%. The percentage of eligible 2-year olds was 63.9%. Both figures are lower than usual which are frequently around 99% and 80% respectively.
32. The figures were heavily affected by the Covid-19 disruption which meant that newly eligible children were unable to begin their placement and some parents preferred to keep their children at home. Vulnerable and key worker children were also given priority as capacity was frequently limited.
33. Quartile information has not been provided as valid comparisons are unavailable.

Help every child to have access to good quality education to ensure they achieve their maximum potential

34. No school inspections took place during this period. School inspections are expected to resume in Autumn 2020 to provide support for schools but will not result in a graded judgement of the school.
35. All school examinations and assessments were cancelled for the 2020 academic year. Any data subsequently published by the Department for Education will be reported.
36. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 718 at the end of quarter 2. This is slightly lower than the reported quarter 1 figure of 735.

This figure counts children whose parents have chosen to educate their child at home, rather than the local authority providing home tuition (for example, if a child cannot be in school due to medical reasons). This figure will be monitored on a quarterly basis.

37. Latest NEET data (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training), is for the end of August 2020 and shows a Leicestershire figure of 2.9% representing 380 young people. This is an increase of 9 young people compared to quarter 1 when the figure was 2.8%. This is consistent with increases amongst statistical neighbours where the average is 3%.

Conclusion

38. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of Quarter 2 of 2020/21, covering the period July to September 2020.

39. 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

40. None

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

41. None

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List of Appendices

Appendix A - Children and Family Services Department Performance Dashboard for Quarter 2, 2020/21

Equalities 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