



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

**1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2021**

**QUARTER 4 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 the Committee with an update of the Children and Family Services Department's performance for the period January to March 2020 (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 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 4.
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, five have improved, five show no significant change and six have declined. In addition to this, four indicators provide information only with no polarity.

7. From 12 measures that have a national benchmark, five are in the top quartile, four are in the second quartile, three are in the third quartile and none are in the fourth quartile.

### **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 many nationally published figures still reflect pre-Covid-19 activity of the 2019-20 period.
9. The number of 'Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales' was 96.3% in quarter 4. This is similar to quarter 3 (96.4%) and Leicestershire remains in the second quartile of all local authorities by published benchmarks.
10. The percentage of 'Children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time' increased to 22.3% in quarter 4 (25 children). This follows a large reduction in quarter 3. The number of children is actually smaller than quarter 3 but the lower number of children with a child protection plan overall makes the percentage of the total slightly higher than quarter 3. Leicestershire remains in the third quartile of local authorities.
11. The percentage of re-referrals to Social Care within 12 months was 18.4% in quarter 4 (236), a reduction of 2.7% compared to quarter 3 and follows a similar reduction in the previous quarter. This improvement moves Leicestershire into the second quartile of local authorities.
12. The percentage of 'single assessments completed within 45 days' was 93.3%. This represents 938 assessments and is 2.7% higher than quarter 3. This would now place Leicestershire in the top quartile nationally by available comparisons.
13. Five Child Protection plans lasting two years or more were open at the end of quarter 4, representing 1% of cases. This is an increase of two children compared to quarter 3. The current figure places Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities and is lower than statistical neighbours using available comparators.
14. The 'percentage of children with three or more placements during the year' was 2.6% (18 children). This is very low by any standard and places Leicestershire in the top quartile nationally. The 'percentage of children in the same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption' was 71% (181). This is an improvement on quarter 3 and Leicestershire would move up to the second quartile by published benchmarks
15. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 92.4% at the end of quarter 4. This is lower than quarter 3 but Leicestershire remains in the top quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
16. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 59.9% at the end of quarter 4 (158 young people). This is lower than quarter 3 but Leicestershire remains in the top quartile by comparison with other local authorities.

17. 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.
18. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had a dental check' was 28.4% (197 children). This is lower than quarter 3. However, it should be noted that routine dental treatment has been limited during the period of the Covid-19 lockdown which accounts for the decrease.
19. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had an annual health assessment' within the last 12 months was 85.5% (594). This is 2.2% 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. 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**

20. During quarter 4, the Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFWS) worked with 4,042 individuals and 1,500 families across Leicestershire. This is higher than quarter 3 in both cases when the figures were 3,744 and 1,303 respectively.

### **People are safe in their daily lives**

21. 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.
22. The Q3 2020/21 figure (latest available) for 'first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17' was 26. This is a rise of 10 compared to the previously reported quarterly figure. Of this group, 21 were previously known to the Children and Families service. The figures for the first-time entrants remain low compared to regional and national data.
23. The rate of re-offending per young offender for quarter 2 2020/21 (latest available) was 0.46 offences per offender. This is similar to the quarter 1 figure of 0.4.
24. Two young people were sentenced to custody during quarter 3 2020/21 (latest available), this is the same number as quarter 2. This figure is usually low, for example one or two.

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

### **Early years**

25. 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 2021 spring term.
26. During the spring term, the percentage of eligible 3 year olds taking up their FEEE place was 93.6% (6,834) a rise of 2.8% from the previous quarter. The percentage of eligible 2 year olds was 63.6% (1,041), a fall from the autumn figure but very similar to spring 2020. Eligibility for 2 year olds is more targeted towards disadvantaged families, hence the smaller number of children.
27. The figures for the past year have been heavily affected by the Covid-19 disruption which has 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.

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

28. No school inspections took place during this period. Graded school inspections are now expected to resume in Autumn 2021 after being delayed by the second national lockdown.
29. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 867 at the end of quarter 4. This is higher than the reported quarter 3 figure of 768. 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).
30. Although the long term national trend has been for a rise in children who are Electively Home Educated (EHE), the Leicestershire figure continues to increase each quarter, indicating a strong long term trend locally. The number was 597 at the end of March 2020. The trend has been driven by two factors during this period: firstly, having experienced a period of enforced home schooling, some parents have opted for EHE as a lifestyle choice and have chosen to continue this even when schools reopened. The second factor has been ongoing health concerns which could be for the child, vulnerable parents or general safety concerns. The numbers will continue to be monitored closely.
31. Latest NEET data (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training), is for the end of March 2021 and shows a Leicestershire figure of 2.5% representing 347 young people. This is an increase of 8 young people compared to quarter 3. The current figure is similar to the statistical neighbour average of 2.6%

**Conclusion**

32. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of quarter 4 of 2020/21, covering the period January to March 2021.
33. 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**

None

**Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

34. None

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**List of Appendices**

Appendix A - Children and Family Services Department Performance Dashboard for Quarter 4, 2020/21

**Equalities and Human Rights Implications**

35. 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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