



**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 2 NOVEMBER 2021**

QUARTER 2 2021/22 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 on the Children and Family Services Department's performance for the period July to September 2021 (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 setting out its priority outcomes for delivery and supporting performance metrics, and this was refreshed last year. The Children and Family Services Department has also produced a Departmental Plan 2020-2023 which identifies a number of other ambitions and measures to monitor progress. The following report and accompanying dashboard aim to report on the 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 has been refreshed to concentrate on indicators where new data is available for Quarter 2.
4. Due to the impact of Covid-19 on school operations and examination processes, no new school inspection data or education outcome data is currently available. The Committee will be updated once data is released for this area.

5. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.

Overview

6. From 19 measures that have been reported, two have improved, six show no significant change and four have declined. In addition to this, six indicators provide information only with no polarity. Data for one indicator is unavailable at the time of writing.
7. From 12 measures that have a national benchmark, two are in the top quartile, six are in the second quartile, one is in the third quartile and two are in the fourth quartile. Data for one indicator is unavailable at the time of writing.

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.
9. The percentage of 'Children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time' increased to 28.4% in quarter 2 (47 children). This is a rise of eight children compared to Q1. Leicestershire is now in the fourth quartile of local authorities compared to most recent national results published for 2019/20.
10. The percentage of re-referrals to Social Care within 12 months was 19.3% in Q2 (234), a small decrease of 0.4% compared to Q1 and a similar number of children. Leicestershire remains in the second quartile of local authorities.
11. The percentage of single assessments completed within 45 days was 91.6%. This represents 847 assessments and is similar performance to Q1 (91.5%), continuing to place Leicestershire high in the second quartile of local authorities.
12. Ten Child Protection plans lasting two years or more were open at the end of Q2, representing 2.1% of cases. This is an increase from five plans at the end of Q1. The current figure moves Leicestershire into the second quartile of local authorities.
13. The 'percentage of children with three or more placements during the year' was 2.1% (20 children). This is very low and continues to place Leicestershire in the top quartile nationally. The 'percentage of children in the same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption' was 67.2% (174 children). This represents an improvement from 63.9% (161 children) at Q1 and would move Leicestershire up into the third quartile of local authorities.

14. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 95.4% at the end of Q2 (125 young people). This is small decrease from 97.9% at the end of Q1 and places Leicestershire high in the third quartile of local authorities.
15. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 62.6% at the end of Q2 (82 young people). This is a small decrease from 64.6% at the end of Q1 although it continues to place Leicestershire in the first quartile of local authorities. The service provides careful oversight to the care leaver indicators and is driven by a corporate commitment for creating mentoring and apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers.
16. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had a dental check' was 42.8% (291 children). This is higher than Q1 (240 children). Routine dental treatment has been limited during the period of the Covid-19 lockdown and figures are continuing to rise.
17. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had an annual health assessment' within the last 12 months was 86.3% (587). This is 1.9% lower than Q1.
18. 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

19. During 2021/22 Q2, the Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFWS) worked with 3,972 individuals and 1,505 families across Leicestershire. This is a decrease compared with Q1 (4,183 and 1,601 respectively).
20. 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).
21. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire with an EHCP was 2,244 in the Summer 2021 school census. This is the latest data available and is 128 higher than the Spring 2021 census.
22. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire without an EHCP but in receipt of SEN Support was 11,371 in the Summer 2021 school

census. This is the latest data available and is 512 higher than the Spring 2021 census.

People are safe in their daily lives

23. Youth Offending statistics are usually reported one or two quarters in arrears. This is because data must be produced and validated by legal bodies such as the Police and courts before being released to local authorities. No update on the last quarter is currently available.
24. The Youth Justice Service were notified of the HMIP Inspection on 9 July and this commenced on 9 August for one week. The Board was due to take place in early September, and the formal agenda was stood down to undertake a reflection on the HMIP Inspection with Board Members who were interviewed as part of the Inspection. The focus was on developing a forward plan for Partnership Board reporting and to identify additional KPI's for Board oversight.

Help every child to get the best possible start in life

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 summer term.
26. In the Summer Term 2021, 68.5% of eligible 2-year-olds took up their entitled FEEE. This is an increase from 63.6% in Spring 2021.
27. In the Summer Term 2021, 93.5% of eligible 3-year-olds took up their entitled FEEE. This is a slight decrease from 93.6% in Spring 2021.

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

28. No routine full school inspections took place during this period. Routine graded full school inspections have now resumed after being suspended since the beginning of the first COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020.
29. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 749 at the end of Q2. There has been a reduction in the number of cases since the end of Q1 (839 students), although this is to be expected as many cases close during the summer holiday due to the Year 11 cohort coming to the end of their time being monitored by the Inclusion Service. Compared to the end of Q2 2020 (666 students) and Q2 2019 (553 students), there has continued to be an increase in the number of students being registered as Home Educated. As well as this being driven by the impact of the period of enforced home schooling and parents opting to continue Home Educating as a lifestyle choice, this also continues to follow the trend of increasing EHE numbers nationally which all Local Authorities have been experiencing during the last 5+ years. 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 August 2021 and shows a Leicestershire figure of 3% representing 420 young people. This is the same number of young people compared to Q1. The statistical neighbour average experienced a small decrease from 3.7% to 3.5% in the same period.

Conclusion

32. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of Q2 of 2021/22, covering the period July to September 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

34. None

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

35. None

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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Children and Family Services Department Performance Dashboard, Quarter 2, 2021/22

Equalities and Human Rights Implications

36. Addressing equalities issues is supported by this report, with a focus on vulnerable groups within Leicestershire, including children in care. Education data relating to performance for different context groups including children with Special Educational Needs and Free School Meals is reported when data becomes available.