



**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 6 SEPTEMBER 2022**

QUARTER 1 2022/23 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 to June 2022 (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 was agreed by the Council, setting out priority outcomes for delivery and supporting performance metrics, and this was refreshed in 2020. A new Strategic Plan has been signed off and was agreed by the Cabinet on 18 May 2022. Performance reporting arrangements for 2022/23 will be revised accordingly to reflect these changes.
4. The Children and Family Services Department has also produced a Departmental Plan 2020-2023 which identifies 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 appended and has been refreshed to concentrate on indicators where updated data is available for Quarter 1.
5. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.

Overview

6. From 24 measures that have been reported, five have improved and eight have declined. Ten indicators are provided for information only, with no polarity, with one remaining indicator to be confirmed.
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.

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

8. Local Authority comparisons used are most recent figures published by the government for end of year benchmarking.
9. The percentage of Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales was 76.0% at the end of Quarter 1, a decline on the Quarter 4 figure (86.3%). This continues to place Leicestershire in the fourth 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 decreased slightly to 27.6% at the end of Quarter 1. In this period 37 children began a second or subsequent plan, a decrease from 60 reported in the preceding quarter. Leicestershire remains in the fourth quartile of local authorities compared to most recent national results published for 2020/21. This is an area of focus for the service and regular audits are completed, to understand any themes around the circumstances leading to repeat periods of child protection planning.
11. The percentage of re-referrals to Social Care within 12 months was 23.1% at the end of Quarter 1 compared to 20.1% at the end of the previous quarter, with 316 children 're-referred' within Quarter 1. This places Leicestershire in the third quartile of local authorities.
12. The percentage of single assessments completed within 45 days was 89.1% at the end of Quarter 1, a slight decrease from quarter 4 (90.7%). This represents 802 assessments completed within timescale in Quarter 1 compared to 814 in the preceding quarter. Leicestershire remains in the second quartile of local authorities.
13. Eight Child Protection plans lasting two years or more were open at the end of Quarter 1, representing 1.5% of cases. This is the same number and similar proportion as the end of Quarter 4 (8 children, 1.4%). Leicestershire remains in the second quartile of local authorities.
14. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 85.3% at the end of quarter 1 (52 out of 61 young people). This is a decrease from quarter 4 (92.5%) and places Leicestershire in the third quartile of local authorities using available comparisons. Performance has since improved at the end of July to 90.9%.

15. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 62.3% at the end of Quarter 1 (38 out of 61 young people). This is an improvement from the end of Quarter 4, 58.5%, and continues to place Leicestershire in the top quartile by comparison with other local authorities. The service continues to provide 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 at the end of Quarter 1 was 43.3% (292 children), a slight decrease from 44.3% at the end of the previous quarter. Routine dental treatment has been limited since Covid-19 lockdown began in Spring 2020 and figures are now beginning to rise, increasing to 55.8% at the end of July.
17. The percentage of Children in Care who have had an annual health assessment within the last 12 months was 80.6% (544). This is a decrease compared to the end of the previous quarter (83.6%).
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 Quarter 1 2022/23, the Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFWS) worked with 3,812 individuals and 1,427 families across Leicestershire. This is lower than Quarter 4 2021/22 in both cases when the figures were 4,080 and 1,519, respectively.
20. The Children and Families Services Departmental Plan states the intention to ensure that the needs of young people are identified as early as possible so that timely and appropriate support is provided in the right setting, therefore reducing the risk of needs escalating at the same time as ensuring children and young people's best outcomes are achieved.
21. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) was 2,363 in the Summer 2022 school census. This is 72 higher than the Spring 2022 census (2,291). The Summer term 2022 school census EHCP numbers are the highest recorded and highest proportion of pupils on roll since 2017, when the phasing in of the 2014 SEN Code of Practice changes were completed.
22. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire without an EHCP but in receipt of SEN Support was 12,204 in the Summer 2022 school census. This is 626 higher than the Spring 2022 census (11,578). The Summer 2022 school census SEN support numbers are the highest recorded and highest

proportion of pupils on roll since the completion of the phasing in of the 2014 SEN Code of Practice changes in 2016.

People are safe in their daily lives

23. No updated Youth Offending statistics are available for Q1 2022/23. The latest Youth and Justice Management Board reports can be viewed at the link below:
24. <https://leics.sharepoint.com/sites/childrenandfamilyservices/SitePages/youth-and-justice-management-board.aspx>

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 2022 Summer term.
26. During the Summer term, the percentage of eligible three-year-olds taking up their FEEE place was 92.6% (6,922), a slight decrease on the Spring term (93,9%). The percentage of eligible two-year-olds was 80.7% (1,235), an increase on the Spring term (76.5%). Eligibility for two-year-olds is more targeted towards disadvantaged families, hence the smaller number of children.
27. In the Summer term, the percentage of all two and three-year-olds accessing their FEEE in Good or Outstanding settings was 95.6%, a slight increase compared with 95.1% in the Spring term.
28. The figures for the past year have been heavily affected by Covid-19 restrictions which has meant that newly eligible children were unable to begin their placement and some parents preferred to keep their children at home. However, recent figures are now approaching pre-pandemic levels.

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

29. The percentage of primary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 91.6% at the end of Quarter 1. This is 0.1% higher than the Quarter 4 figure (90.5%). This figure is within the second quartile of local authorities.
30. The percentage of secondary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 75.6% at the end of Quarter 1. This is unchanged since Quarter 2 2022. This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities.
31. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 883 at the end of Quarter 4, an increase of 54 since Quarter 3. This was also an increase of 59 students (7.15%) in comparison to the end of Quarter 4 2020/21.
32. This follows the national trend of an increasing EHE population. The Association of Directors of Children's Services complete an annual survey which includes 124

of the 152 local authorities nationally responding with data on their EHE cohort. In November 2021, they published their latest findings which suggested that the EHE population in the UK had increased by 7% in comparison to October 2020 and an increase of 34% since October 2019.

33. Leicestershire figures closely follow the national trend since 2019 with its cohort at the end of Quarter 4 2021/22 increasing by 29.3% since Quarter 4 2019/20.¹
34. 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.
35. The percentage of applicants obtaining their first preferences for first time admission to Primary school in 2022/23 was 93%. This is the same as last academic year. This figure is within the second quartile of local authorities.
36. The percentage of secondary pupils achieving their first preference for Secondary transfer in 2022/23 was 84.8%. This is 4.2% lower than the last academic year (89%). This figure is within the second quartile of local authorities.
37. The number of permanent exclusions as a percentage of School population in 2020/21 academic year was 0.01. This is 0.01 lower than the last academic year (0.02). This figure is within the first quartile of local authorities.
38. The number of children receiving at least one day of fixed term suspension as a percentage of School population was 1.62. This is 0.18 higher than the last academic year (1.44). This figure is within the first quartile of local authorities.
39. The suspensions and permanent exclusions data for 2020/21 and the previous academic years should be treated with caution when making comparison between the periods because both periods were affected by Covid-19 restrictions at different points in time that impacted on on-site attendance.
40. Primary Key Stage assessments outcomes for Leicestershire Schools in 2022 will be included in the next report to allow comparison to the relevant national benchmarking data to contextualise results.
41. Latest Leicestershire NEET data (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training) for the end of Quarter 1 (June 2022) shows a rate of 1.4%. This is unchanged since the end of Quarter 4 2021/22 (March 2022).

Conclusion

42. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of Quarter 1 2022/23, covering the period April-June 2022.

¹ Report available online at:
https://adcs.org.uk/assets/documentation/ADCS_EHE_Survey_2021_Report_FINAL.pdf

43. Details of all metrics (reflecting any changes in indicators for 2022/23) 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

None.

Equalities and Human Rights Implications

44. 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.

Appendices

Appendix A - Children and Family Services Department Performance Dashboard for Quarter 4, 2021/22

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