



**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE - 8 NOVEMBER 2022**

QUARTER 2 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 September 2022 (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 and Overview

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 2.
5. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.
6. From 15 measures that have a national benchmark, three are in the top quartile, five are in the second quartile, five 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

7. Local Authority comparisons used are most recent figures published by the government for end of year benchmarking.
8. The percentage of Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales was 77.6% at the end of quarter 2, with 309 of 398 children having all reviews on time within the last 12 months. This is an improvement on the quarter 1 figure of 76.0% (304 of 400). Leicestershire continues to be placed in the fourth quartile of all local authorities by published benchmarks.
9. The percentage of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time decreased to 22.6% at the end of quarter 2 compared to 27.6% at the end of quarter 1. In this period 33 children began a second or subsequent child protection plan, a decrease from 37 reported in the preceding quarter. Leicestershire is now placed in the third quartile of local authorities compared to most recent national results published for 2020/21. This continues to be 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.
10. The percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within 12 months was 22.4% at the end of quarter 2 compared to 23.1% at the end of the previous quarter, with 292 children 're-referred' within quarter 2. This continues to place Leicestershire in the third quartile of local authorities.
11. The percentage of single assessments completed within 45 days was 84.0% at the end of quarter 2, a decrease from quarter 1 (89.8%). This represents 853 of 1071 assessments completed within timescale in quarter 2 compared to 826 of 927 assessments in the preceding quarter, showing an increase in the number of assessments completed. Leicestershire is now in the fourth quartile of local authorities.
12. Eight Child Protection plans lasting two years or more were open at the end of quarter 2, representing 1.4% of cases. This is the same number and similar proportion as the end of quarter 1 (8 children, 1.5%). Leicestershire remains in the second quartile of local authorities.
13. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 93.3% at the end of quarter 2 (140 out of 150 young people). This is an increase from the end of quarter 1 (85.3%) and now places Leicestershire in the first quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
14. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 61.3% at the end of quarter 2 (91 out of 150 young people). This is a slight decline from the end of quarter 1, 62.3%, however 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.

15. The percentage of Children in Care who have had a dental check at the end of quarter 2 was 54.2% (378 children), a significant increase from 43.3% at the end of the previous quarter. Routine dental treatment was limited during the period of the Covid-19 lockdown and figures are beginning to rise.
16. The percentage of Children in Care who have had an annual health assessment within the last 12 months at the end of quarter 2 was 75.9% (529 children). This is a decrease compared to the end of the previous quarter (80.6%).
17. 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

18. During quarter 2 2022/23, the Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFWS) worked with 2,873 individuals and 1,106 families across Leicestershire. This is lower than quarter 1 2022/23 in both cases when the figures were 3,812 and 1,427, respectively.
19. 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.

People are safe in their daily lives

20. Youth Justice statistics are regularly reported to the Youth and Justice Management Board and can be viewed at the link below:
21. <https://leics.sharepoint.com/sites/childrenandfamilyservices/SitePages/youth-and-justice-management-board.aspx>
22. The number of first-time entrants to the criminal justice system (aged 10-17) for quarter 1 2022/23 was 29. This is an increase on the same period the previous year (20).
23. The reoffending rate for young offenders per 1,000 population for the year-to-date quarter 1 2020/21 was 2.27. This is an increase on the same period the previous year (1.86). However, performance continues to remain ahead, when compared to that of Regional and National performance, 2.91 and 3.44 respectively.
24. The use of custody rate for young people (10-17) per 1,000 population for the year-to-date quarter 4 2021/22 was 0.1. This is an increase on the same period

the previous year (0.06), though remains ahead of Regional (0.15) and National (0.12) performance, and of average YOTs (0.16).

Help every child to get the best possible start in life

Early years

25. Autumn term data on FEEE take-up had not been released at time of publication. The latest data is for Summer 2022, as previously reported.

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

26. The percentage of primary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 91.6% at the end of quarter 2. This is unchanged since quarter 1 2022. This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities.
27. The percentage of secondary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 75.6% at the end of quarter 2. This is unchanged since quarter 1 2022. This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities.
28. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 855 at the end of quarter 2. There has been a reduction (6.5%) in the number of cases since the end of quarter 1 (913 students), although, this is to be expected as a number of 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.
29. Compared to the end of quarter 2 2021 (749 students), there has been a 13.2% increase and a 24.8% increase since quarter 2 2020 (666 students).
30. The overall increase on numbers 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.
31. Leicestershire figures closely follow the national trend since 2019 with its cohort at the end of quarter 2 2022/23 increasing by 24.9% since quarter 2 2020/21.¹
32. 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

¹ Report available online at:

https://adcs.org.uk/assets/documentation/ADCS_EHE_Survey_2021_Report_FINAL.pdf

continue to be monitored closely.

33. Provisional 2022 School educational performance outcomes that enable benchmarking are beginning to be released by the Department for Education. Only those measures and pupil groups where benchmarking against all other English local authorities is possible are included in the Performance Report. Due to the disruption to the standard performance reporting between the 2020 and 2021 exam years, comparisons to a previous period will be made against 2019 performance data.
34. The provisional Key Stage 2 performance data for 2022 was released by the Department for Education on 6 September 2022. Currently, only comparisons at the 'all pupil' and gender levels are possible. The percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard or above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics in 2022 (62%) was 5.7% lower than in 2019 (67.1%). This performance is within the first quartile nationally.
35. The provisional Key Stage 4 performance data for 2022 was released by the Department for Education on 20 October 2022. The Progress 8 performance for all pupils, Free School Meal eligible, SEN support and SEN EHCP pupils is within the second quartile nationally. This represents an improvement in the relative performance, since comparable performance was last reported in 2019.
36. End of quarter data for young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) had not been released at time of publication. The latest data is for August 2022 (1.4%).

Conclusion

37. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of quarter 2 2022/23, covering the period July to September 2022.
38. 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

39. None.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

40. None.

Equalities and Human Rights Implications

41. 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.

Appendix

Children and Family Services Department Performance Dashboard for Quarter 2, 2022/23

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 performance for different context groups including children with Special Educational Needs and Free School Meals is reported when data becomes available.

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