



**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 6 JUNE 2023**

QUARTER 4 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 January to March 2023 (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 and Overview

3. The Children and Family Services Department has produced a Departmental Plan 2020-2023 which identifies ambitions and measures to monitor progress. The following report and accompanying data aim to report on the priority areas identified by both plans and monitor performance of key indicators on a quarterly basis. The current performance data is appended and has been refreshed to concentrate on indicators where updated data is available for quarter 4.
4. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.
5. Of the 18 indicators presented, 10 have a national benchmark. Of these, three are in the top quartile, two are in the second quartile, and four are in the third quartile, and one is in the fourth quartile.

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

6. Local Authority comparisons used are most recent figures published by the Government for end of year benchmarking.
7. As a result of improvements made to the Mosaic case management system in December, the number of social care performance indicators available is

temporarily reduced while reporting systems are updated.

8. The percentage of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time remained similar at 23.0% at the end of quarter 4 compared to 22.9% at the end of quarter 3. In this period 29 children began a second or subsequent child protection plan, a decrease from 39 reported in the preceding quarter. Leicestershire remains placed in the third quartile of local authorities compared to most recent national results published for 2021/22. 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.
9. The percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within 12 months during 2022/23 was 23.5% at the end of quarter 4 compared to 22.8% at the end of the previous quarter, with 347 children 're-referred' within quarter 4. This is against a target of 22% Leicestershire is placed in the fourth quartile of local authorities. More recent analysis, however, shows a decrease in the rate of re-referrals to 21.9% which succeeds our target.
10. The percentage of single assessments completed within 45 days during 2022/23 was 80.9% at the end of quarter 4, a decrease from quarter 3 (82.5%). Within quarter 4, 784 of 1029 assessments were completed within timescale. Leicestershire is placed in the third quartile of local authorities using most recent comparisons.
11. Seven Child Protection plans lasting two years or more were open at the end of quarter 4, representing 1.4% of cases. This is a small decrease compared with the end of quarter 3 (ten children, 1.8%), and now places Leicestershire in the first quartile of local authorities.
12. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 95.8% at the end of quarter 4 (344 out of 359 young people). This is a small increase from the end of quarter 3 (94.0%) and continues to place Leicestershire in the first quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
13. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 64.1% at the end of quarter 4 (230 out of 359 young people). This is a similar position to the end of quarter 3, 64.5%, 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.

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

14. Due to ongoing system changes, specifically relating to Capita and Synergy, it is not possible to report a total 'Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFWS) worked with' figure for Q4 at this time. During quarter 3 2022/23 (the last available reporting period), the CFWS worked with 3,489 individuals and 1,435 families across Leicestershire.

15. 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.
16. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) was 2,392 in the Spring 2023 School Census. This is 140 more than the Autumn 2022 School Census (2,252). The Spring term 2023 School Census EHCP numbers are the highest for a Spring term since 2017, when the phasing in of the 2014 SEN Code of Practice changes was completed.
17. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire without an EHCP but in receipt of SEN Support was 12,392 in the Spring 2023 School Census. This is 315 higher than the Autumn 2022 census (12,077). The Spring term 2023 School Census SEN support numbers are the highest for an Autumn term since the completion of the phasing in of the 2014 SEN Code of Practice changes in 2016.

People are safe in their daily lives

18. Local Youth Justice statistics are regularly reported to the Youth and Justice Management Board. The latest report was presented at the March 2023 board. However, due to ongoing system changes, only national indicators could be reported.

Help every child to get the best possible start in life

Early years

19. In the Spring Term 2023, 90.1% of eligible two-year-olds took up their Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE). This is a decrease from the Autumn Term (92.2%). For three-year-olds, the figure was 92%, a decrease over the previous term (94.5%). Overall, 96.3% of eligible two- and three-year-olds took up their FEEE in high-quality provision, a slight decrease on the Autumn Term (96.5%).

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

20. The percentage of primary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 91.6% at the end of quarter 4. This is 0.9% higher than quarter 3 (90.7%). This figure is within the second quartile of local authorities.
21. The percentage of secondary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 73.3% at the end of quarter 4. This is 2.2% lower than quarter 3 (75.6%). This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities (bottom 28th percentile). This is 7.9% lower than the average for England, and 10.6% lower than the average for Statistical Neighbours. The size of the negative gap to the average for England

has never been wider since the regular publication by Ofsted of each school's latest inspection outcome as a statistical dataset (started in 2011).

22. The percentage of pupils educated in Good or Outstanding schools was 84.9% at the end of quarter 4. This is 0.3% lower than quarter 3 (85.2%). This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities (bottom 31st percentile), and 3.1% lower than the average for England, and 4.4% lower than the average for Statistical Neighbours.
23. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 1,017 at the end of Q4 2022/23. This is an increase of 274 students (37%) compared to the end of Q4 2021/22 (743 students).
24. The trend has been driven by two factors: firstly, having experienced a period of enforced home schooling during the pandemic, 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.
25. At the end of quarter 4 (March 2023) 1% of young people (16-17) in Leicestershire were not in education, employment or training (NEET). This is an increase over the end of the previous quarter (0.7%, December 2022).
26. The number of permanent exclusions as a percentage of School population in the 2021/22 academic year was 0.02. This is 0.01 higher than the last academic year (0.01). The annual number of permanent exclusions is similar to the annual numbers occurring before 2020/21. The national data for benchmarking is not available yet.
27. The number of children receiving at least one fixed term suspension as a percentage of School population in the 2021/22 academic year was 2.45. This is 0.83 or just over 50% higher than the last academic year (1.62). This is the highest number of children, and highest rate as a percentage of School population, receiving at least one fixed term suspension since 2006/07. The national data for benchmarking is not available yet.

Conclusion

28. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of quarter 4 2022/23, covering the period January to March 2023.
29. Details of all metrics (reflecting any changes in indicators for 2023/24) 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 Implications

30. 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.

Human Rights Implications

31. There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

Appendix

Children and Family Services Department Performance data for Quarter 4, 2022/23

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