



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

**5 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**QUARTER 1 2023/24 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 2023 (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 and Overview**

3. The following report and accompanying data aim to report on the priority areas identified by the Children and Family Services Departmental Plan 2020-2023. The plan identifies ambitions and measures to monitor progress. The current performance data is appended and has been refreshed to concentrate on indicators where updated data is available for quarter 1.
4. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.
5. From 15 measures reported that have a national benchmark, three are in the top quartile, six are in the second quartile, four are in the third quartile and two are in the bottom 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 2022, the number of social care performance indicators available is temporarily reduced while reporting systems continue to be updated.
8. The percentage of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time remained similar at 22.8% at the end of quarter 1 compared to 23.0% at the end of quarter 4. In this period 28 children began a second or subsequent child protection plan, similar to 29 reported in the preceding quarter. Leicestershire is now placed in the second 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 was 23.2% at the end of quarter 1 compared to 23.5% at the end of the previous quarter, with 317 children 're-referred' within quarter 1. Leicestershire continues to be placed in the fourth quartile of local authorities.
10. The percentage of assessments completed within 45 days during quarter 1 was 84.4%, an increase from quarter 4 (80.9%). Within quarter 1, 755 of 895 assessments were completed within timescale. Leicestershire continues to be placed in the third quartile of local authorities, although close to the threshold of the second quartile, using most recent comparisons.
11. Thirteen Child Protection plans lasting two years or more were open at the end of quarter 1, representing 2.8% of cases. This is a small increase compared with the end of quarter 4 (7 children, 1.4%), and now places Leicestershire in the third quartile of local authorities.
12. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 92.0% at the end of quarter 1 (69 out of 75 young people). This is a small decrease from the end of quarter 4 (95.8%), although remains within target and places Leicestershire in the second quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
13. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 56.0% at the end of quarter 1 (42 out of 75 young people). This is a decrease from the end of quarter 4, 64.1%, although remains within target and places Leicestershire in the second 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.
14. The percentage of Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales was last reported at the end of quarter 4 at 75.7%, with 293 of 387 children having all reviews on time within the last 12 months. Leicestershire continues to be placed in the fourth quartile of all local authorities by published benchmarks.

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

15. Due to ongoing system changes, specifically relating to Capita/ Synergy, it is not possible to report a total CFWS worked with figure for Q4 at this time. During quarter 3 2022/23 (the last available reporting period), the Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFWS) worked with 3,489 individuals and 1,435 families across Leicestershire.
16. 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.
17. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) was 2,483 in the Summer 2023 School Census. This is 91 more than the Spring 2023 School Census (2,392). The Summer term 2023 School Census EHCP numbers are the highest for a Summer term since 2017, when the phasing in of the 2014 SEN Code of Practice changes were completed.
18. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire without an EHCP but in receipt of SEN Support was 12,801 in the Summer 2023 School Census. This is 409 higher than the Spring 2023 census (12,392). The Summer term 2023 School Census SEN support numbers are the highest for a summer 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**

19. 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**

20. In the Summer Term 2023, 74.6% of eligible two-year-olds took up their Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE). This is a decrease from the Spring Term (90.1%). For three-year-olds, the figure was 101.2%, an increase over the previous term (91.9). Overall, 97.2% of eligible two- and three-year-olds took up their FEEE in high-quality provision, an increase on the Spring Term (96.3%).

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

21. The percentage of primary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 91.6% at the end of quarter 1. This represents no change from quarter 4. This figure is within the second quartile of local authorities, and 1.8% higher than the England average.
22. The percentage of secondary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 73.3% at the end of quarter 4. This represents no change from quarter 4. This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities (bottom 26<sup>th</sup> percentile). This is 8.1% lower than the average for England, and 9.5% 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).
23. The percentage of pupils educated in Good or Outstanding schools was 85.3% at the end of quarter 1. This is 0.4% higher than quarter 4 (84.9%). This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities (bottom 35<sup>th</sup> percentile), and 2.8% lower than the average for England, and 3.4% lower than the average for Statistical Neighbours.
24. The percentage of applicants obtaining their first preference for first time admission to Primary school in 2023 was 94.3%. This is 1.3% higher than in 2022 (93%). This figure is within the second quartile of local authorities.
25. The percentage of applicants obtaining their first preference for Secondary school transfer in 2023 was 90.7%. This is 5.9% higher than in 2022 (84.8%). This figure is within the first quartile of local authorities.
26. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 1,128 at the end of Q1 2023/24. This is an increase of 215 students (23.5%) compared to the end of Q1 2022/23 (913 students).
27. 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.
28. At the end of Quarter 1 (June 2023) 1% of young people (16-17) in Leicestershire were not in education, employment or training (NEET). This is a decrease over the end of the Quarter 1 2022/23 (1.4%, June 2022).
29. 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). This figure is within the first quartile of local authorities. The annual number of permanent exclusions is similar to the annual numbers occurring before 2020/21.
30. The number of children receiving at least one fixed term suspension as a percentage of School population in the 2021/22 academic year was 2.47. This is 0.85, or just over 50% higher than the last academic year (1.62), and represents the highest number of children, and highest rate as a percentage of School

population, receiving at least one fixed term suspension since 2006/07. This figure is within the first quartile of local authorities.

### **Conclusion**

31. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of quarter 1 2023/24, covering the period April to June 2023.
32. 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.

### **Appendix**

Children and Family Services Department Performance Dashboard for Quarter 1, 2022/23

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