



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

7 NOVEMBER 2023

QUARTER 2 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 July to September 2023 (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. 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 2.
4. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.
5. From ten measures reported that have a national benchmark, two are in the top quartile, three are in the second quartile, two are in the third quartile and three 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 continues to be 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 increased to 26.1% at the end of quarter 2 compared to 22.8% at the end of quarter 1. In this period 38 children began a second or subsequent child protection plan, an increase from 28 reported in the preceding quarter. Leicestershire is now 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 twelve months was 23.5% at the end of quarter 1 compared to 23.2% at the end of the previous quarter, with 317 children being 're-referred' within quarter 2. Leicestershire continues to be placed in the fourth quartile of local authorities.
10. The percentage of assessments completed within 45 days to the end of quarter 2 was 88.2%, an increase from quarter 1 (84.4%). Within quarter 2, 892 of 973 assessments were completed within timescale. Leicestershire is now placed in the second quartile of local authorities using most recent comparisons.
11. Six Child Protection plans lasting two years or more were open at the end of quarter 2, representing 1.3% of cases. This is a decrease compared with the end of quarter 1 (13 children, 2.8%), and now places Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities.
12. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 94.7% at the end of quarter 2 (161 out of 170 young people). This is an increase from the end of quarter 1 (92.0%), and now places Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
13. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 58.8% at the end of quarter 2 (100 out of 170 young people). This is an increase from the end of quarter 1, 56.0%, and continues to place 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 Children in Care who have had a dental check at the end of Quarter 2 was 66.5% (470 children), an increase from 54.2% reported for the same quarter last year.
15. The percentage of Children in Care who have had an annual health assessment within the last twelve months at the end of quarter 2 was 66.5% (470 children). This is a decrease compared to the same quarter last year (75.9%).

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

16. Due to ongoing system changes, specifically relating to Capita/ Synergy, it is not possible to report a total CFWS worked with figure for q2 2023/24 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.
17. 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

18. Local Youth Justice statistics are regularly reported to the Youth and Justice Management Board. The latest report was presented at the June 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. The last available FEEE data was for the Summer Term 2023. Data for Autumn 2023 will be available in early 2024. 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

20. The percentage of primary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 90.2% (203 out of 225 inspected schools) at the end of quarter 2. This represents a decline of 1.4% from quarter 1. This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities, and is equal to the England average, 90.2%, which is at its highest level in six years.
21. The percentage of secondary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 73.3% (33 out of 45 inspected schools) at the end of quarter 2. This represents no change from quarter 1 and continues to be the lowest proportion of schools reported for this measure since 2015. This figure is now within the fourth quartile of local authorities nationally, a decline from the third quartile at the end of the last quarter. Leicestershire's performance is 8.4% lower than the average for England, which at 81.7% is the highest national level performance in history, and 9.1% lower than the average for Statistical Neighbours. Since 2011 when Ofsted began the regular publication of each school's latest inspection outcome as a

statistical dataset the size of Leicestershire's negative gap to the average for England has never been wider, and it is the first time that Leicestershire's performance in relation to this measure has been within the bottom quartile.

22. The percentage of pupils educated in Good or Outstanding schools was 84.1% at the end of quarter 2 (approx. 84.2k out of 100.1k pupils). This is 1.2% lower than quarter 1 (85.3%) and is the lowest performance in three years. This figure is within the fourth quartile of local authorities nationally, a decline from the third quartile last quarter, and is 4.3% lower than the average for England, and 4.4% lower than the average for Statistical Neighbours. The England average which is currently at 88.4% is the highest national level performance in history. Since 2011 when Ofsted began the regular publication of each school's latest inspection outcome as a statistical dataset the size of Leicestershire's negative gap to the average for England has never been wider, and it is the first time that performance in relation to this measure has been with the bottom quartile nationally.
23. The Department for Education (DfE) has begun to release the assessment outcomes for Primary and Secondary schools in 2023. Beginning with Key Stage Two (eleven year olds) at the all pupils level, the percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard or higher in Reading, Writing and Mathematics is provisionally 61.8% (4,990 out of 8,072 pupils). This is currently a slight decline on the previous year, 62.1%, and places Leicestershire in the second quartile nationally, a decline from the top quartile last year.
24. Leicestershire's performance is 2.4% higher than the national performance, provisionally 59.4% (0.7% higher than the previous year), and 3.9% higher than the average for Statistical Neighbours, 58.2% (a decline of 0.2% on the previous year).
25. The provisional 2023 performance for Leicestershire is above the performance of 2017, but still 5.3% lower than the performance achieved in 2019. Nationally the provisional 2023 performance is lower than in 2017, and 5.5% below that achieved in 2019.
26. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 999 at the end of quarter 2 2023/24. This is an increase of 145 students (16.9%) compared to the end of quarter 2 2022/23 (854 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. End of quarter data (September 2023) for the percentage of young people (16-17) in Leicestershire not in education, employment or training (NEET) is not currently available. Furthermore, given the early point in the school year, the September data would not be considered an accurate reflection of the NEET position, as the destination of a high proportion of students would still be

unknown. End of q3 data (December 2023) will provide a more reliable picture and will be reported in January 2024. Going forward, it is proposed that the NEET indicator is omitted from the q2 reporting for this reason.

Conclusion

29. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of quarter 2 2023/24, covering the period July to September 2023.
30. 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

Quarter 2 2023/24 CFS Performance Data (Excel Spreadsheet)

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