



**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE - 5 MARCH 2024**

**QUARTER 3 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 December 2023 (quarter 3).

**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 3.
4. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.
5. From 22 measures reported that have a national benchmark, three are in the top quartile, six are in the second quartile, nine are in the third quartile and four 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 of performance in 2022/23.
7. The percentage of Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales was 82.6% at the end of quarter 3, with 266 of 322 children having all reviews on time within the last 12 months. This is an improvement on the quarter 4 figure of 75.7% (293 of 387). Leicestershire continues to be placed in the fourth quartile of all local

authorities by published benchmarks.

8. The percentage of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time in the year to date increased to 28.7% at the end of quarter 3 compared to 26.1% at the end of quarter 2. In this quarter, 50 children began a second or subsequent child protection plan, an increase from 40 reported in the preceding quarter. Leicestershire is now placed in the fourth quartile of local authorities compared to most recent national results published for 2022/23. 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 24.1% at the end of quarter 3 compared to 23.5% at the end of the previous quarter, with 369 children being 're-referred' within quarter 3. 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 3 was 88.9%, an increase from quarter 2 (88.2%). Within quarter 3, 1216 of 1352 assessments were completed within timescale. Leicestershire continues to be placed in the second quartile of local authorities using most recent comparisons.
11. Five Child Protection plans lasting two years or more were open at the end of quarter 3, representing 1.1% of cases. This is a decrease compared with the end of quarter 2 (6 children, 1.3%), and continues to place Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities.
12. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 95.8% at the end of quarter 3 (252 out of 263 young people). This is an increase from the end of quarter 2 (94.7%) and continues to place Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
13. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 61.6% at the end of quarter 3 (162 out of 263 young people). This is an increase from the end of quarter 2, 58.8%, and now places 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.
14. The percentage of Children in Care who have had a dental check at the end of quarter 3 was 65.4% (483 children), a decrease from 66.5% reported for the previous quarter.
15. The percentage of Children in Care who have had an annual health assessment within the last 12 months at the end of quarter 3 was 62.1% (459 children). This is a decrease from 66.5% reported for the previous quarter.

**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 Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFWS) worked with figure for quarter 3 2023/24 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.
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.
18. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) was 2,446 at the Autumn term 2023 school census. This is 37 children lower than at the summer term 2023 school census (2,483). The Autumn term 2023 school census EHCP numbers are the highest recorded for this school census term since the phasing in of the 2014 SEN Code of Practice changes were completed.
19. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire without an EHCP but in receipt of SEN Support was 12,579 at the Autumn term 2023 school census. This is 222 lower than the summer term 2023 school census (12,801). The Autumn term 2023 school census SEN support numbers are the highest recorded for this school census term since the phasing in of the 2014 SEN Code of Practice changes were completed.

### **People are safe in their daily lives**

20. Local Youth Justice statistics are regularly reported to the Youth and Justice Management Board. The latest report was presented at the December 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**

21. In the Autumn term 2023, 79.4% of eligible two-year-olds took up their Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE). This is an increase from the summer term 2023 (74.6%). For three-year-olds, the figure was 93.6%, also an increase over the summer term (91.6%). Overall, 97.1% of eligible two- and three-year-olds took up their FEEE in high-quality provision in the Autumn term, unchanged from the previous term.
22. Between Q2 2023/24 and Q3, the underlying denominator used to calculate FEEE percentages was changed from ONS (Office for National Statistics) mid-year population estimates to GP registrations. This was due to the time-lag in the release of ONS estimates, compared with GP registration data. As such, figures recorded may not correspond with figures reported in previous periods.

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

23. The percentage of primary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 90.3% (204 out of 226 inspected schools) at the end of quarter 3. This represents an increase of 0.1% from quarter 2. This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities and is 0.6% below the England average which is at its highest level in over 6 years (90.8%).
24. The percentage of secondary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 77.8% (35 out of 45 inspected schools) at the end of quarter 3. This represents a 4.5% increase from quarter 2. This performance is now within the third quartile of local authorities nationally, having been within the fourth quartile last quarter. Leicestershire's performance is 4.9% lower than the average for England, which at 82.7% surpasses the previous highest ever national level of performance, which was set in the previous quarter, and 5.2% lower than the average for Statistical Neighbours.
25. The percentage of pupils educated in Good or Outstanding schools was 85.7% at the end of quarter 3 (approx. 86k out of 100.4k pupils). This is an increase of 1.6% from quarter 2 (84.1%). This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities nationally, an improvement from fourth quartile performance last quarter. Leicestershire's performance is 3.7% lower than the average for England, and 3.6% lower than the average for Statistical Neighbours. The England average which is currently at 89.4% continues to represent the highest ever national performance.
26. The DfE has released the final assessment outcomes for Primary and Secondary schools in 2023. The percentage of children in 2023 with a good level of development at the end of the early year's foundation stage (EYFS – 5-year-olds) was 69.1% (of 7,746 children), an increase from 67.6% in 2022 which was the first year of formal assessments under the current assessment framework. This performance is within the second quartile of local authorities nationally, and is 1.9% above the England average, and 0.3% above the average for Statistical Neighbours.

The percentage of children eligible for Free School Meals with a good level of development was 45.7% (of 792 children) in 2023, a decrease of 1.4% (47.1%) from 2022. This performance was within the fourth quartile of local authorities nationally, and 5.8% lower than the England average, and it is 1.3% below the average for Statistical Neighbours.

The percentage of children with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) and assessed with a good level of development was 2.5% (of 201 children) in 2023, a decrease of 1.9% (4.4%) from 2022. This performance was within the third quartile of local authorities nationally, and 1.3% lower than the England average, and it is 1.5% below the average for Statistical Neighbours.

27. At Key Stage 2 (11-year-olds) the percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard or higher in Reading, Writing and Mathematics was 62.1% (of 8,054 pupils). This is the same percentage as 2022 and places Leicestershire in the

second quartile nationally. Leicestershire's performance is 2.5% higher than the national performance, and 3.3% higher than the average for Statistical Neighbours.

28. The 2023 performance for Leicestershire is above the performance of 2017, but still 5% lower than the performance achieved in 2019. Nationally the 2023 performance is lower than in 2017, and 5.3% below that achieved in 2019.
29. The percentage of Free School Meal (FSM) eligible pupils achieving the expected standard or higher in Reading, Writing and Mathematics was 42.1% (of 1341 pupils). This is 1.9% higher than in 2022 and places Leicestershire in the third quartile nationally. The 2023 performance of Leicestershire is the highest ever performance for FSM pupils under the current assessment framework. At 43.4% the National performance is still lower than in 2018, but 1.8% higher than in 2022.
30. The percentage of SEN support pupils achieving the expected standard or higher in Reading, Writing and Mathematics was 23% (of 1265 pupils), third quartile nationally, and for Education and Health Care Plan pupils (EHCP) it was 10.6% (of 349 pupils), second quartile nationally. Both performances were higher than in 2022. Leicestershire's SEN support pupils' performance was 0.6% below the National average, but on par with the highest levels in history under the current assessment framework, whereas the latest national performance remains below 2018 levels. Leicestershire's EHCP pupil performance was above the national average by 2.2%, and at the highest level in history for the current assessment framework, whereas the National performance remains below 2018 levels.
31. At Key Stage 4 (16-year-olds) the average Progress 8 scores for all pupils (7586 pupils) was  $-0.09$ . This performance is within the third quartile of Local authorities nationally, a decline from the second quartile in 2022, and the lowest National percentile ranking since 2017. For Free School Meal eligible pupils (1088 pupils) the average Progress 8 was  $-0.76$ , this performance is within the third quartile nationally, and a decline from the second quartile in 2022. Leicestershire's 2023 National percentile performance remains above all years previously except 2019 and 2022.
32. The Progress 8 score for SEN support  $-0.38$  (864 pupils), and Education and Health Care Plan pupils (EHCP),  $-1.11$  (308 pupils), have both improved from 2022. In comparison to the performance of other local authorities nationally the SEN support performance remains within the second quartile, and for the first time Leicestershire has performed above the national average ( $-0.45$ ). It is also the highest national percentile ranking performance achieved under the current assessment framework. The EHCP performance has dropped from the second quartile in 2022 to the third quartile in 2023. Whilst still being in line with the national average ( $-1.12$ ), it is Leicestershire's second lowest national percentile ranking performance since the introduction of the current assessment framework in 2016.
33. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 1023 at the end of Q3 2023/24. This is an increase of 77 students (8.1%) compared to the end of Q3 2022/23 (946 students).

34. 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.
35. The percentage of young people (16-17) in Leicestershire not in education, employment, or training (NEET) at the end of Q3 2023/24 was 0.7% (100 students). This rate was unchanged compared to the end of Q3 2022/23.

### **Conclusion**

36. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of quarter 3 2023/24, covering the period October to December 2023.
37. 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 3, 2023/24

### **Officers to Contact**

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