



**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – 4th March 2025**

QUARTER 3 2024/25 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 October to December 2024 (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. 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 nine measures reported that have a national benchmark, one is in the top quartile, four are in the second quartile, three are in the third quartile and one is in the bottom quartile.

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

6. Local Authority comparisons used in this section are most recent figures published by the government for end of year benchmarking of performance in 2023/24.
7. The percentage of Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales was 90.7% at the end of Quarter 3, with 284 of 313 children having all reviews on time within the last 12 months. This is a decrease compared to the Quarter 2 figure of 92.7%

(291 of 314) and continues to place Leicestershire in the third 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 24.5% at the end of Quarter 3 compared to 23.0% at the end of Quarter 2. In this quarter 41 children began a second or subsequent child protection plan, an increase from 28 reported in the preceding quarter. Leicestershire continues to be placed in the second quartile of local authorities compared to most recent national results published for 2023/24. 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 26.2% at the end of Quarter 3 which is similar to 26.3% at the end of the previous quarter; 441 children were '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 85.2%, a slight increase compared to performance at the end Quarter 2 (84.5%). Within Quarter 3, 1,300 assessments were completed, with 1,130 within timescale. Leicestershire continues to be placed in the second quartile of local authorities using most recent comparisons.
11. The percentage of Care Leavers aged up to 21 in Suitable Accommodation was 93.8% at the end of Quarter 3 (288 out of 307 young people). This is an increase from the end of Quarter 2 (92.4%) and now places Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
12. The percentage of Care Leavers aged up to 21 in Education, Employment or Training improved to 59.9% at the end of Quarter 3 (184 out of 307 young people). This is an increase from the end of Quarter 2, 49.3%, and now places Leicestershire in the second quartile at the end of Quarter 3. 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.
13. The percentage of Children in Care at the end of Quarter 3 who had a dental check in the preceding 12 months was 75.0% (546 children), a decrease from 78.9% reported for the previous quarter.
14. The percentage of Children in Care at the end of Quarter 3 who had an annual health assessment within the preceding 12 months was 83.9% (611 children). This is a decrease from 84.4% reported for the previous quarter.

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

15. Due to ongoing work following system changes, specifically relating to Capita/ Synergy, it is not possible to report the total numbers worked with by Targeted Family Help.

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 2,566 at the Autumn term 2024 school census. This is 108 children lower than at the Summer term 2024 school census (2,674). The Autumn term 2024 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.
18. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire without an EHCP but in receipt of SEN Support was 13,165 at the Autumn term 2024 school census. This is 209 lower than the Summer term 2024 school census (13,374). The Autumn term 2024 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

19. Local Youth Justice statistics are regularly reported to the Youth and Justice Management Board. The latest report was presented at the December 2024 board and was reported in the Q2 Scrutiny Report. Local data is currently unavailable for Use of Custody and Re-offending, although Ministry of Justice figures are available in the report.

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 for leadership and management was 92.1% (209 out of 227 inspected schools) at the end of Quarter 3. This represents a 0.5% increase from Quarter 2 2024/25. This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities and is 1% below the England average, which has continued to increase to a new highest ever level (93.1%), and 1.2% lower than the average for Statistical Neighbours (93.3%), which is close to its highest ever level.
21. The percentage of secondary schools rated Good or Outstanding for leadership and management was 90.9% (40 out of 44 inspected schools) at the end of Quarter 3. This represents an increase of 6.8% from Quarter 2 2024/25 and is Leicestershire's highest performance since September 2017. This performance is within the second quartile of local authorities nationally. Leicestershire's performance is 2.3% higher than the average for England, which at 88.6% is a new highest ever level of performance, and 1.1% higher than the average for Statistical Neighbours (89.8%), which is also the highest ever performance figure for this group.

22. The percentage of pupils educated in Good or Outstanding schools for leadership and management was 92.0% at the end of Quarter 3 (approx. 92.5k out of 100.5k pupils). This is an increase of 3.5% from Quarter 2 2024/25 (88.5%) and is Leicestershire's highest level of performance since April 2017. This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities nationally. Leicestershire's performance is 0.5% lower than the average for England (92.5%), and 1% lower than the average for Statistical Neighbours (93.0%). Both the national and the average Statistical Neighbour performance are at new record levels.
23. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 1,178 at the end of Q3 2024/25. This is an increase of 155 students (15.2%) compared to the end of Q3 2023/24 (1,023 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. The percentage of young people (16-17) in Leicestershire not in education, employment, or training (NEET) at the end of Q3 2024/25 was 0.97% (151 students). This rate was a slight increase on the end of Q2 2024/25 (0.92%), but well below the target of less than 2.1%.

Conclusion

26. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of Quarter 3 2024/25, covering the period October to December 2024.
27. Details of all metrics will continue to be monitored on a regular basis throughout the year and any subsequent changes will be notified in future reports.

Background Papers

Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67375fe5ed0fc07b53499a42/Keeping_Children_Safe_Helping_Families_Thrive_.pdf

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Appendix

Children and Family Services Department Performance Dashboard Quarter 3, 2024/25

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