



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
3 JUNE 2025

QUARTER 4 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 January to March 2025 (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 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 4.
4. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.
5. From 13 measures reported that have a national benchmark, one is in the top quartile, four are in the second quartile, seven 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 88.0% at the end of Quarter 4, with 294 of 334 children having all reviews on time within the last 12 months. This is a decrease compared to the Quarter 3 figure of

90.7% (284 of 313) 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 24.9% at the end of Quarter 4 compared to 24.5% at the end of Quarter 3. In this quarter 51 children began a second or subsequent child protection plan, an increase from 41 reported in the preceding quarter. Leicestershire is now placed in the third 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 26.4% at the end of Quarter 4 which is similar to 26.2% at the end of the previous quarter; 444 children were 're-referred' within Quarter 4. 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 4 was 83.6%, a slight decrease compared to performance at the end Quarter 3 (85.2%). Within Quarter 4, 1,608 assessments were completed, with 1,268 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 94.0% at the end of Quarter 4 (453 out of 482 young people), similar to the end of the previous Quarter (93.8%). Leicestershire continues to be 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 62.0% at the end of Quarter 4 (299 out of 482 young people). This is a further increase from the end of Quarter 3, 59.9% and continues to place Leicestershire in the second quartile using available comparisons. 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 4 who had a dental check in the preceding 12 months was 76.7% (537 children), an increase from 75.0% reported for the previous quarter.
14. The percentage of Children in Care at the end of Quarter 4 who had an annual health assessment within the preceding 12 months was 86.9% (608 children). This is an increase from 83.9% 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 2,823 at the Spring term 2025 school census. This is 257 children higher than at the Autumn term 2024 school census (2,566). The Spring term 2025 school census EHCP numbers are the highest recorded on a Spring term census date 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 13,429 at the Spring term 2025 school census. This is 264 higher than the Autumn term 2024 school census (13,165). The Spring term 2025 school census SEN support numbers are the highest recorded on a Spring term census date 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 March 2025 board and reported that in Q4 2024/25 there were 17 first time entrants into the criminal justice system. This is a small increase from Q3 2024/25 (14).
20. 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

21. The percentage of primary schools rated Good or Outstanding for leadership and management was 92.5% (210 out of 227 inspected schools) at the end of Quarter 4. This represents a 0.4% increase from Quarter 3 2024/25 and is the highest performance since September 2022. This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities and is 0.6% below the England average, which continues to be at a record level (93.1%), and 0.8% lower than the average for Statistical Neighbours (93.3%), which is close to its highest ever level.
22. 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 4. This represents no change from Quarter 3 2024/25, and it remains Leicestershire's highest performance since September 2017. This performance is within the second quartile of local authorities nationally. Leicestershire's performance is 2% higher than the average for England, which at 88.9% is a new highest ever level of performance, and 1.2% higher than the average for Statistical Neighbours (89.7%), which is also the highest ever performance figure for this group.

23. The percentage of pupils educated in Good or Outstanding schools for leadership and management was 92.2% at the end of Quarter 4 (approx. 92.7k out of 100.5k pupils). This is an increase of 0.2% from Quarter 3 2024/25 (92%) and is Leicestershire's joint highest ever level. This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities nationally. Leicestershire's performance is 0.4% lower than the average for England (92.6%), and 0.7% lower than the average for Statistical Neighbours (92.9%). Both the national and the average Statistical Neighbour performance continue to be at record levels.
24. The Department for Education (DfE) has released the final assessment outcomes for the Secondary school phase of education in 2024. At Key Stage 4 (16-year-olds) the average Progress 8 score for all pupils (7,678 pupils) was -0.10. This performance is within the third quartile of Local Authorities nationally, this represents the second lowest National percentile ranking since 2017. For Free School Meal eligible pupils (1,256 pupils) the average Progress 8 score was -0.76, this performance is within the third quartile nationally. Leicestershire's 2024 National percentile performance for Free School Meal eligible pupils remains above all years previously, except 2019 and 2022.
25. The Progress 8 score for SEN support was -0.51 (992 pupils), and Education and Health Care Plan pupils (EHCP), -0.94 (336 pupils). In comparison to the performance of other local authorities nationally the SEN support performance is within the third quartile, a drop from the second quartile in the previous academic year. The EHCP performance has improved to the second quartile from the third quartile in the previous academic year.
26. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 1,247 at the end of Q4 2024/25. This is an increase of 71 students (6%) compared to the end of Q4 2023/24 (1,176 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. The percentage of young people (16-17) in Leicestershire not in education, employment, or training (NEET) at the end of Q4 2024/25 was 1.5% (235 students). This rate was an increase on the end of Q3 2024/25 (1%), but still below the target of less than 2.1%.
29. The number of permanent exclusions from Leicestershire schools as a percentage of the school population in the 2023/24 academic year was 0.07%. This is the proportionately the same as the previous academic, 2022/23, but over 250% higher than in 2018/19. The number of permanent exclusions increased to 72 in 2023/24, from 67 in 2022/23, and 19 in 2018/19. 2023/24 saw the highest number of permanent exclusions from Leicestershire schools since 2008/09. The national data for benchmarking is not available yet.

30. The number of children receiving at least one fixed term suspension from Leicestershire schools as a percentage of school population in the 2023/24 academic year was 3.62% (3,654 children). This rate is 15% higher than for the last academic year (3.16% and 3,186 children), and 90% higher than the rate for 2018/19 academic year (1.9% and 1,860 children). The 2023/24 performance represents both the highest number of children and highest rate, as a percentage of school population, receiving at least one fixed term suspension since collection of this data began by the Department of Education (DfE) in 2005/06. The national data for benchmarking is not available yet.

Conclusion

31. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of Quarter 4 2024/25, covering the period January to March 2024.
32. 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

33. None.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

34. None.

Appendix

Children and Family Services Department Performance Dashboard Quarter 4, 2024/25

Officers to Contact

Jane Moore, Director – Children and Family Services

Tel: 0116 305 2649

Email: Jane.Moore@leics.gov.uk

Sharon Cooke, Assistant Director – Children's Social Care and Targeted Early Help

Tel: 0116 305 5479

Email: Sharon.Cooke@leics.gov.uk

Tim Browne, Assistant Director – Education, SEND and Inclusion

Tel: 0116 305 7429

Email: Tim.Browne@leics.gov.uk

Emma Jones, Business Partner – Business Intelligence Service

Tel: 0116 305 7526

Email: Emma.j.Jones@leics.gov.uk

Alex Lea, Business Partner – Business Intelligence Service

Tel: 0116 305 6803

Email: Alex.Lea@leics.gov.uk

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