



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
2 SEPTEMBER 2025

QUARTER 1 2025/26 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 April to June 2025 (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. 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 12 measures reported that have a national benchmark, 3 are in the top quartile, 5 are in the second quartile, and 4 are in the third quartile.

Tableau Dashboard Usage

6. Across the Children and Family Services department in Q1 2025/26 there were 521 active Tableau Server users, a decrease from Q4 2024/25 (580). Across the department there were 80,332 views, down from 84,817 views in the previous quarter, at a rate of 154 views per user, up slightly from the previous quarter (146).
7. Across the two main service areas, in Q1 2025/26 there were 289 users and 44,960 views in Targeted Family Help and Social Care at a rate of 156 views per

user, compared with 132 users and 8,884 views in Education and SEND at a rate of 67 views per user.

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

8. 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.
9. The percentage of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time in the year to date decreased to 23.0% at the end of Quarter 1 compared to 24.9% at the end of Quarter 4. In this quarter 35 children began a second or subsequent child protection plan, a decrease from 51 reported in the preceding quarter. Leicestershire is now 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.
10. The percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within 12 months was 22.4% at the end of Quarter 1 which is an improvement compared to 26.4% at the end of the previous quarter; 396 children were 're-referred' within Quarter 1. Leicestershire is now placed in the third quartile of local authorities.
11. The percentage of assessments completed within 45 days to the end of Quarter 1 was 86.8%, an increase compared to performance at the end Quarter 4 (83.6%). Within Quarter 1, 1,550 assessments were completed, with 1,346 within timescale. Leicestershire continues to be placed in the second quartile of local authorities using most recent comparisons.
12. The percentage of Care Leavers aged up to 21 in Suitable Accommodation was 96.0% at the end of Quarter 1 (121 out of 126 young people), an improvement compared to the end of the previous Quarter (94.0%). Leicestershire continues to be in the top quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
13. The percentage of Care Leavers aged up to 21 in Education, Employment or Training improved to 63.5% at the end of Quarter 1 (80 out of 126 young people). This is a further increase from the end of Quarter 4, 62.0% and now places Leicestershire in the first 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.
14. The percentage of Children in Care at the end of Quarter 1 who had a dental check in the preceding 12 months was 74.5% (549 children), a decrease from 76.7% reported for the previous quarter.
15. The percentage of Children in Care at the end of Quarter 1 who had an annual health assessment within the preceding 12 months was 81.8% (603 children). This is a decrease from 86.9% reported for the previous quarter.

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

16. Due to ongoing work following system changes, specifically relating to Capital/Synergy, it is not possible to report the total numbers worked with by Targeted Family Help.
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 3,526 at the Summer term 2025 school census. This is 703 children higher than at the Spring term 2025 school census (2,823), and an increase of 24.9% in a single term. The Summer term 2025 school census EHCP numbers are the highest recorded on a Summer term census date since the phasing in of the 2014 SEN Code of Practice changes were completed. The increase is also the largest ever within year termly increase under the current SEN Code of Practice, with the average increase since the 2020/21 academic being 126 per term. Between Summer Term 2024 and Summer Term 2025 EHCP children numbers in mainstream schools have increased by 852, during the previous 3 academic years the increase totalled 430.
19. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire without an EHCP but in receipt of SEN Support was 13,400 at the Summer term 2025 school census. This is 29 lower than at the Spring term 2025 school census (13,429). This is the first time since the phasing in of the 2014 SEN Code of Practice changes were completed that in academic year SEN support numbers have declined. At Summer term 2025 EHCP and SEN support numbers in mainstream schools, totally 16,926 children. This is the highest ever recorded under the 2014 SEN Code of Practice and is 878 high than at the same period in 2024 (16,048). SEN support children now represent 79.2% of the SEN cohort in mainstream schools compared to 83.3% at the same time last year.

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 March 2025 board and was reported in the Q4 2024/25 performance report.
21. 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 get the best possible start in life

Early years

20. In the Spring term 2025, 66.5% of eligible two-year-olds took up their Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE). This is a decrease from the Autumn term 2024 (71.3%). For three-year-olds, the figure was 95.6%, a slight increase over the Autumn term 2024 (95.1%). Overall, 97.2% of eligible two- and three-year-olds took up their FEEE in high-quality provision in the Spring term 2024, a slight decrease from the Autumn term (97.3%).

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

22. The percentage of primary schools rated Good or Outstanding for leadership and management was 93.0% (212 out of 228 inspected schools) at the end of Quarter 1. This represents a 0.5% increase from Quarter 4 2024/25 and is the highest performance since April 2017. This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities and is 0.3% below the England average, which continues to be at a record level (93.3%), and 2.2% higher than the average for Leicestershire's new set of Statistical Neighbours (90.8%), whose performance has been on a recent downwards trend.
23. The percentage of secondary schools rated Good or Outstanding for leadership and management was 88.6% (39 out of 44 inspected schools) at the end of Quarter 4. This represents a reduction of 2.3% from Quarter 4 2024/25. This performance is within the third quartile of local authorities nationally, a decline from the second quartile last quarter when performance was at a record high. Leicestershire's performance is 1.1% lower than the average for England, which at 89.7% is a new highest ever level of performance, and 0.7% lower than the average for Leicestershire's new set of Statistical Neighbours (89.3%), which is also the highest ever performance figure for this group.
24. The percentage of pupils educated in Good or Outstanding schools for leadership and management was 91.5% at the end of Quarter 1 (approx. 92k out of 100.6k pupils). This is a decline of 0.7% from Quarter 4 2024/25 (92.2%), when performance was at a joint record high level. This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities nationally. Leicestershire's performance is 1.4% lower than the average for England (92.9%), and equal to the average for Leicestershire's new set of Statistical Neighbours (91.5%). Both the national and the average Statistical Neighbour performance are at new record levels.
25. The official benchmarking data has been made available by the Department for Education (DfE) for offers relating to primary and secondary school entry in September 2025.
26. The percentage of applicants obtaining their first preference for first time admission to Primary school in 2025 was 95.4% (approx. 6.5k out of 6.8k applicants). This is 0.4% higher than in 2024 (95%). This figure is within the second quartile of local authorities, and 1.8% higher than the average for Leicestershire's new set of Statistical Neighbours (93.6%).

27. The percentage of applicants obtaining their first preference for Secondary school transfer in 2025 was 92.0% (approx. 6.8k out of 7.4k applicants). This is with rounding is 0.4% higher than in 2024 (91.5%). This figure is within the first quartile of local authorities, and 1.6% higher (with rounding) than the average for Leicestershire's new set of Statistical Neighbours (90.3%).
28. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 1,461 at the end of Q1 2025/26. This is an increase of 182 students (14%) compared to the end of Q1 2024/25 (1,279 students).
29. Trends show an increase since 2023/2024 in the number of young people with who have attendance difficulties due to mental health difficulties, school anxiety and/or relationship breakdowns with their education setting. This, coupled with a high number of young people who go down the EHE route due to their existing school being unable to meet their needs points towards there now being increasing group of families who feel like their school setting is not the best place for their children. This fits with the trends being seen nationally with increasing EHE figures within most local authorities.
30. The percentage of young people (16-17) in Leicestershire not in education, employment, or training (NEET) at the end of Q1 2025/26 was 1.5% (240 students). This rate remained the same as at the end of Q4 2024/25 and remains below the target of less than 2.1%.
31. The official benchmarking data has been made available by the Department for Education (DfE) for suspensions and permanent exclusions during the 2023/24 academic year.
32. 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 proportionately the same as for the previous academic, 2022/23, but a rate that is 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. This places Leicestershire in the second quartile of performance nationally. The national benchmark was 0.13%, an increase from 0.11% in 2022/23. The national rise was due to an annual increase of 1,509 permanent exclusions, to 10,885 in total. This is the highest national number and proportionality of permanent exclusions since the data collection started in its present form in 2006/07. The average for Leicestershire's new set of Statistical Neighbours was 0.12%, which is 0.05% higher than the average for Leicestershire. This group of Local Authorities saw a 0.02% annual increase in rate, from 0.10% in 2022/23.
33. The most recent locally validated data for Leicestershire in relation to permanent exclusions is showing 62 for the period September to end of March of the 2024/25 academic year, compared to 52 for the same period of the previous academic year.

34. 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 2006/07. Leicestershire's performance is in the second quartile nationally, and is both below the national performance, which increased by 12% to a rate of 4.04%, and Leicestershire's new set of Statistical Neighbours, who saw a 14% increase to a rate of 4.14%.
35. The most recent locally validated data for Leicestershire in relation to the numbers of children with a least one suspension shows 2,791 for the period September to end of March of the 2024/25 academic year, compared to 2,866 for the same period of the previous academic year.

Conclusion

36. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of Quarter 1 2025/26, covering the period April to March 2025.
37. 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 1, 2025/26

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