



CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 20 JANUARY 2026

QUARTER 2 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 July to September 2025 (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. 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 19 measures reported that have a national benchmark, three are in the top quartile, eight are in the second quartile, seven are in the third quartile and one is in the bottom quartile.

Tableau Dashboard usage

6. Across the Children and Family Services department, in quarter 2 2025/26 there were 614 active Tableau Server users, an increase from quarter 1 (508). Across the Department there were 42,413 views, up from 39,788 views in the previous quarter, at a rate of 69 views per user, down from the previous quarter (78).
7. Across the two main service areas, in quarter 2 2025/26 there were 352 users and 21,929 views in Targeted Early Help and Social Care at a rate of 62 views

per user, and 146 users and 5,468 views in Education and SEND at a rate of 37 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 2024/25.
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 20.2% at the end of Quarter 2 compared to 23.0% at the end of Quarter 1. In this quarter, 38 children began a second or subsequent child protection plan, a small increase from 35 reported in the preceding quarter. Leicestershire is now placed close to the top of second quartile of local authorities compared to most recent national results published for 2024/25. 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 23.0% at the end of Quarter 2 which is similar to 22.4% at the end of the previous quarter; 423 children were 're-referred' within Quarter 2. Leicestershire continues to be placed in the third quartile of local authorities.
11. The percentage of assessments completed within 45 days to the end of Quarter 2 was 87.9%, an increase compared to performance at the end Quarter 1 (86.8%). Within Quarter 2, 1,619 assessments were completed, with 1,440 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 96.3% at the end of Quarter 2 (206 out of 214 young people), similar to the end of the previous Quarter (96.0%). 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 63.6% at the end of Quarter 2 (136 out of 214 young people), similar to the end of the previous Quarter (63.5%). Leicestershire continues to be placed 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 2 who had a dental check in the preceding 12 months was 71.7% (554 children), a decrease from 74.5% reported for the previous quarter.
15. The percentage of Children in Care at the end of Quarter 2 who had an annual health assessment within the preceding 12 months was 81.1% (627 children). This is a small decrease from 81.8% 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 Capita/Synergy, it is not possible to report the total numbers worked with by Targeted Family Help.
17. The Children and Families Services Departmental Plan outlines 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 3,687 at the Autumn term 2025 school census. This is 161 children higher than at the Summer term 2025 school census (3,526). The Autumn term 2025 school census EHCP numbers, and the proportion of the pupil population it represents, are the highest recorded for any school census term since the phasing in of the 2014 SEN Code of Practice changes were completed. Of all pupils on roll now in Leicestershire Mainstream Schools, 3.7% have an EHCP.
19. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire without an EHCP but in receipt of SEN Support was 12,914 at the Autumn term 2025 school census. This is 486 lower than the Summer term 2025 school census (13,400). This mirrors the historical pattern of a drop in numbers between the end of one academic year and the beginning of a new one. Although the Autumn term 2025 school census SEN support numbers represents the first time since 2017 where the numbers recorded have been lower than for the same period of the previous academic year. In Autumn 2024, the number of SEN Support pupils was 13,165.

People are safe in their daily lives

20. Local Youth Justice statistics are regularly reported to the Youth and Justice Partnership Board. The latest report was presented at the December 2025 board.
21. The number of First Time Entrants into the Criminal Justice System in Q2 2025/26 was 17. This is unchanged from the last figure reported to Scrutiny (Q3 2024/25) and an increase of five on the previous quarter (Q1 2025/26). 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 Summer term 2025, 64.5% of eligible two-year-olds took up their Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE). This is a decrease from the Spring term 2025 (66.5%). For three-year-olds, the figure was 94.6%, a slight decrease over the Spring term 2025 (95.6%). Overall, 98.2% of eligible two- and three-year-olds

took up their FEEE in high-quality provision in the Summer term 2025, an increase from the Spring term 2025 (97.2%).

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

22. From the end of the Summer term 2025, routine Ofsted inspections had been paused until November 2025. At which point a new inspection framework was introduced. The data provided in this report reflects the final outcome of the previous Ofsted Inspection framework.
23. The percentage of primary schools rated Good or Outstanding for leadership and management was 93.4% (213 out of 228 inspected schools) at the end of Quarter 2. This represents a 0.4% increase from Quarter 1 2025/26 and is a record level of performance for Leicestershire. 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 (93.7%), and 2.3% higher than the average for Leicestershire's new set of Statistical Neighbours (91.1%).
24. 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 2. This represents no change in performance from Quarter 1 2025/26. This performance is within the third quartile of local authorities nationally. Leicestershire's performance is 1.5% lower than the average for England, which at 90.1% is a new highest ever level of performance, and 2.1% lower than the average for Leicestershire's new set of Statistical Neighbours, 90.7%, which is also the highest ever performance figure for this group.
25. The percentage of pupils educated in Good or Outstanding schools for leadership and management was 91.9% at the end of Quarter 2 (approx. 92.1k out of 100.2k pupils). This is an increase of 0.4% from Quarter 1 2025/26 (91.5%). This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities nationally. Leicestershire's performance is 1.5% lower than the average for England (93.4%), and 0.7% lower than the average for Leicestershire's new set of Statistical Neighbours (92.6%). Both the national and the average Statistical Neighbour performance are at new record levels.
26. The Department for Education (DfE) has released final and provisional assessment outcomes for Primary and Secondary schools in 2025.
27. The final 2025 Key Stage 2 (11 year olds) outcomes for the percentage of all pupils achieving the expected standard or higher in Reading, Writing and Mathematics was 63.0% (4,976 out of 7,894 pupils). This is an increase on the previous year of 1.6% from 61.4%. Leicestershire performance remains in the second quartile nationally.
28. Leicestershire's performance was 0.7% higher than the national performance, which at 62.3% was a 1.6% increase on the previous year, and 2.3% higher than the average for Leicestershire's new set of Statistical Neighbours, which at 60.7% represented an increase of 1.8% on the previous year.

29. The 2025 performance for Leicestershire is the highest performance since the return of formal assessments in 2022, but still 4.1% lower than the performance achieved in 2019, which was the highest performance under the current assessment framework. Nationally, the provisional 2025 performance has followed the same trend as Leicestershire, and remains 2.6% below that achieved in 2019, which was the highest performance under the current assessment framework.
30. The percentage of Free School Meal (FSM) eligible pupils achieving the expected standard or higher in Reading, Writing and Mathematics was 43.0% (of 1491 pupils). This is 2% higher than in 2024 and places Leicestershire in the third quartile nationally. The 2025 performance of Leicestershire is the highest ever performance for FSM pupils under the current assessment framework. The cohort now represents 18.9% of pupils, the highest pre 2022 cohort proportion size was 9.8% in 2019. At 47.5%, National performance is also the highest performance under the current assessment framework; this is an increase of 2.1% on the previous year. Leicestershire's performance is 4.5% lower than the National performance, whilst compared to the new set of Statistical Neighbours Leicestershire's performance is 2.4% higher. This groups performance at 40.6% was an increase of 3.2% on 2024, but still 1.2% below the highest pre 2022 performance of 41.8%.
31. The percentage of SEN support pupils achieving the expected standard or higher in Reading, Writing and Mathematics was 25.6% (of 1304 pupils). This performance is placed within the third quartile nationally. For Education and Health Care Plan pupils (EHCP) it was 11.8% (of 373 pupils), this performance is placed within the first quartile nationally, a change from the third quartile last year. Both performance measures are at the highest levels under the current assessment framework, which is also the case for the National performance.
32. Leicestershire's SEN support pupils' performance was 3.1% below the National average in 2025. 16.5% of Leicestershire pupils are represented by this cohort, a rise from 14.4% in 2019, which was the highest proportion under the current assessment framework prior to the return of assessments in 2022. Leicestershire's EHCP pupil performance was above the national average by 2.5% in 2025. The cohort represents 4.7% of pupils, this compares to 2.9% in 2019, which was the highest proportion under the current assessment framework prior to the return of assessments in 2022. Leicestershire's comparisons to their new set of statistical neighbours shows SEN Support performance to be 0.7% higher, and EHCP performance to be 3.5% higher.
33. The percentage of children in 2025 with a good level of development at the end of the early year's foundation stage (EYFS – 5-year-olds) was 70.4% (of 7,423 children), an increase from 69.6% in 2024. This performance is within the second quartile of local authorities nationally, 2.1% above the England average, and 0.2% above the average for Leicestershire's new Statistical Neighbours. Since formal assessments under the current assessment framework began in 2022 each year has seen improvement in performance at the National, Statistical Neighbour, and Leicestershire level.

34. The percentage of children eligible for Free School Meals with a good level of development was 46.1% (of 789 children) in 2025, an increase of 1.8% (44.3%) from 2024. This performance was within the fourth quartile of local authorities nationally. It stands 5.1% lower than the England average, and 0.3% lower than the average for Leicestershire's new Statistical Neighbours.
35. The percentage of children with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) and assessed with a good level of development was 3.5% (of 256 children) in 2025, which was similar to the performance in 2024, 3.7%. This performance was within the second quartile of local authorities nationally, 0.5% lower than the England average, and 0.8% below the average for Statistical Neighbours.
36. At Key Stage 4 (16-year-olds), due to the cancellation of formal Key Stage 2 assessments in 2020, Progress 8 scores are not available, the replacement main accountability measure is the Attainment 8 score. Progress 8 is a value-added measure that shows how much progress pupils make from the end of primary school (Key Stage 2) to the end of secondary school (Key Stage 4), compared to pupils nationally with similar starting points. Attainment 8 shows the average academic achievement of pupils across eight qualifications at the end of Key Stage 4 (GCSE level).
37. The provisional average Attainment 8 score for all pupils (7,862 pupils) was 46.2, which was an increase of 0.3 on the previous year. Nationally, the performance has shown no improvement, 45.9. This has resulted in Leicestershire's performance representing only for the second time since the performance measure was introduced in 2016 being higher than the National average. The performance remains within the second quartile of Local Authorities nationally. Leicestershire's performance was 0.2 higher than the average for its new set of Statistical Neighbours.
38. For Free School Meal eligible pupils (1,369 pupils) the average Attainment 8 score was 32.2, this performance is within the third quartile nationally. This performance represents a 0.1 increase on the previous year, and is 2.8 lower than the National average, 35.0, which in contrast increased by 0.4 from the previous year. Leicestershire's performance was the same as the average for its new set of Statistical Neighbours. The cohort now represents 17.4% of pupils in Leicestershire, the highest pre 2022 cohort proportion size was 8.2% in 2019.
39. The Attainment 8 score for SEN support pupils was 33.6 (1,119 pupils), an increase of 1.9 on the previous year. Compared to the National average this performance is now 0.1 lower, nationally a 0.6 improvement was seen to 33.7. Leicestershire's performance was 0.5 higher than the average for its new set of Statistical Neighbours. The Attainment 8 score for Education and Health Care Plan pupils (EHCP) was 16.6 (386 pupils). This represents an increase of 0.9 on the previous year, and is now 1.8 higher than the national average, which increased by 0.6 to 14.8. Leicestershire's performance was 0.7 higher than the average for its new set of Statistical Neighbours. In comparison to the performance of other local authorities nationally both cohort's performances are within the second quartile. This is the first time the SEN Support performance for Leicestershire has been higher than the third quartile since the performance

measure was introduced in 2016, for the EHCP cohort it presents no change in quartile.

40. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 1,263 at the end of Q2 2025/26. This is an increase of 144 students (13%) compared to the end of Q2 2024/25 (1,119 students).
41. 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 an increase in the number families citing their existing school is unable to meet need as the reason for EHE there now being increasing group of families who feel their school setting is not the best place for their children. This reflects trends being seen nationally with increasing EHE figures within most Local Authorities.
42. The percentage of young people (16-17) in Leicestershire not in education, employment, or training (NEET) at the end of Q2 2025/26 was 0.8%. This rate was 0.7% lower than at the end of Q1 2025/26 and remains below the target of less than 2.1%.

Conclusion

43. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of Quarter 2 2025/26, covering the period July to September 2025.
44. 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 2, 2025/26

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