



**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**  
**3 MARCH 2026**

**QUARTER 3 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 October to December 2025 (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 5 measures reported that have a national benchmark, 2 are in the top quartile, 2 are in the second quartile, and 1 is in the bottom quartile.

**Tableau Dashboard Usage**

6. Across the Children and Family Services department in Quarter 3 2025/26 there were 547 active Tableau Server users, a decrease from Quarter 2 (609). Across the department there were 40,601 views, down from 42,314 views in the previous quarter, at a rate of 74 views per user, up from the previous quarter (70).
7. Across the two main service areas, in Quarter 2 2025/26 there were 284 users and 21,453 views in Targeted Early Help and Social Care at a rate of 76 views

per user. In Education, Inclusion and Additional needs there were 158 users and 7,783 views at a rate of 49 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 increased to 22.6% at the end of Quarter 3 compared to 20.2% at the end of Quarter 2. In the most recent quarter 70 children began a second or subsequent child protection plan. Leicestershire continues to be placed in the 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 23.2% at the end of Quarter 3 which is a small increase compared to 23.0% at the end of the previous quarter; 489 children were 're-referred' within Quarter 3. Leicestershire is now placed in the fourth quartile of local authorities. Work continues to further enhance the Front Door process to reduce repeat referrals and streamline work across Children's Social Care and Targeted Early help. Work with partner agencies is advancing to design a more integrated front door which aims to further strengthen multiagency information sharing and link more closely with community resources as part of the Family First reform programme.
11. The percentage of assessments completed within 45 days to the end of Quarter 3 was 88.1%, similar performance compared to the end Quarter 2 (87.9%). Within Quarter 3, 1,714 assessments were completed, with 1,517 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 96.2% at the end of Quarter 3 (354 out of 368 young people), similar to the end of the previous Quarter (96.3%). Leicestershire continues to be in the top quartile of local authorities using available comparisons with consistently strong performance embedded.
13. The percentage of Care Leavers aged up to 21 in Education, Employment or Training improved to 63.3% at the end of Quarter 3 (233 out of 368 young people), similar to the end of the previous Quarter (63.6%). 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 3 who had a dental check in the preceding 12 months was 69.8% (542 children), a decrease from 71.7% reported for the previous quarter. Work with health partners continues with oversight of the Corporate parenting board to bring improvements.
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 82.9% (644 children). This is a small increase from 81.1% reported for the previous quarter.

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

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.

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

17. Local Youth Justice statistics are regularly reported to the Youth and Justice Partnership Board. The latest report was presented at the December 2025 board and the figures presented were included in the Q2 2025/26 Performance Report.

### **Help every child to get the best possible start in life**

#### **Early years**

18. The latest figures on Free Early Years Entitlement (FEEE, Summer term 2025) were presented in the Q2 2025/26 Performance Report. Updated figures will be available later in the year.

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

19. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 1,320 at the end of Q3 2025/26. This is an increase of 142 students (12%) compared to the end of Q3 2024/25 (1,178 students).
20. Between August 2025 and December 2025 there have been 276 young people join the EHE cohort, 131 of these young people (47%) were aged between 12 and 15 years of age. There have also been 138 that left the EHE cohort, with 111 (80%) of these young people returning to school or an alternative provision. The average length of EHE for these young people returning to school or an alternative provision was 389 days, with the median length 231 days.
21. Trends show an increase since 2023/2024 in the number of young people with who have attendance difficulties due to mental health and social anxiety, changing cultural lifestyle choices and for some, a feeling that a traditional school does not meet their child's needs. This, coupled with the number of families and young people electing to access their education outside of a traditional school

setting due to their individual needs being met in a more bespoke manner, points to an increasing number of families choosing a more flexible approach to learning. This fits with the trends being seen nationally with increasing EHE figures within most Local Authorities.

22. The percentage of young people (16-17) in Leicestershire not in education, employment, or training (NEET) at the end of Q3 2025/26 was 1.2%. This rate was 0.4 points higher than at the end of Q2 2025/26 but remains below the target of less than 2.1%.

### **Conclusion**

23. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of Quarter 3 2025/26, covering the period October to December 2025.
24. 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](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, 2025/26

### **Officers to Contact**

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