



**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – 2 JUNE 2026**

QUARTER 4 2025/26 PERFORMANCE REPORT

**JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
COMMUNITIES, LAW AND GOVERNANCE AND THE 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 2026 (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 nine measures reported that have a national benchmark, two are in the top quartile, four are in the second quartile, two 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 4 2025/26 there were 548 active Tableau Server users, an increase from quarter 3 (532). Across the department there were 41,511 views, up from 39,683 views in the previous quarter, at a rate of 75.8 views per user, up from the previous quarter (74.6).

7. Across the two main service areas, in quarter 4 2025/26 there were 273 users and 20,567 views in Targeted Early Help and Social Care at a rate of 75.3 views per user, compared with 170 users and 8,420 views in Education and SEND at a rate of 49.5 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 25.4% at the end of Quarter 4 compared to 22.6% at the end of Quarter 3. In the most recent quarter 72 children began a second or subsequent child protection plan. Leicestershire is now placed in the third 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 by Child Protection managers to understand any themes around the circumstances leading to repeat periods of child protection planning. Whilst the majority of repeat plans are beyond 12 months from the previous end date a deep dive is currently taking place to further understand increases in the last quarter
10. The percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within 12 months was 24.7% at the end of Quarter 4 which is an increase compared to 23.2% at the end of the previous quarter; 532 children were 're-referred' within Quarter 4. Leicestershire continues to be placed in the fourth quartile of local authorities. A specific piece of audit work has been undertaken in the First response Duty service which is currently being analysed. A key element of work in Family First programme is to look at strengthening the front door responses with more integration across early help, CSC and partner agencies. A pilot is currently being developed. In April a new Combined Contact form within the Mosaic electronic recording system is being implemented as the first part of the integration process, aiming to improve the processes of screening incoming contacts.
11. The percentage of assessments completed within 45 days to the end of Quarter 4 was 87.5%, similar performance compared to the end Quarter 3 (88.1%). Within Quarter 4, 1,841 assessments were completed, with 1,586 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 95.8% at the end of Quarter 4 (503 out of 525 young people), similar to the end of the previous Quarter (96.2%). 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 was 63.2% at the end of Quarter 4 (332 out of 525 young people),

similar to the end of the previous Quarter (63.3%). 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 4 who had a dental check in the preceding 12 months was 72.1% (549 children), a small increase from 69.8% reported for the previous quarter. For Children in Care aged up to 13 years, the percentage with a dental check is higher at 79.2% compared to 63.2% for young people in care aged 14 years or more.
15. The percentage of Children in Care at the end of Quarter 4 who had an annual health assessment within the preceding 12 months was 86.5% (658 children). This is an increase from 82.9% reported for the previous quarter. For Children in Care aged up to 13 years, the percentage with an annual health check is higher at 88.8% compared to 83.7% for young people in care aged 14 years or more.

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.
17. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) was 4,039 at the Spring term 2026 school census. This is 352 children higher than at the Autumn term 2025 school census (3,687). 92% of the additional EHCP children in mainstream schools at Spring 2026 were on roll at the same school in the previous term. The Spring term 2026 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. 4.07% of all pupils on roll now in Leicestershire mainstream schools have an EHCP. The Service is awaiting the national SEN2 survey results release in June/July which will show EHCP numbers against the national figures.
18. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire without an EHCP but in receipt of SEN Support was 13,108 at the Spring term 2026 school census. This is 194 higher than the Autumn term 2025 school census (12,914). The Spring term 2026 school census SEN support numbers continues the trend first established in the Autumn term 2025 data, which was the numbers recorded are now lower than the same period of the previous academic year. In Spring 2025 the number of SEN Support pupils was 13,429, which was 321 higher than in Spring 2026.

People are safe in their daily lives

19. Local Youth Justice statistics are regularly reported to the Youth and Justice Partnership Board. The latest report was presented at the March 2026 board.
20. The number of First Time Entrants into the Criminal Justice System in Q3 2025/26 (latest data) was 13. This is a decrease of 4 compared to the previous quarter (Q2 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

21. In the Autumn term 2025, 69.9% of eligible two-year-olds took up their Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE). This is an increase from the Summer term 2025 (64.5%). For three-year-olds, the figure was 91.7%, a decrease over the Summer term 2025 (94.6%). Overall, 98.6% of eligible two-year and three-year-olds took up their FEEE in high-quality provision in the Autumn term 2025, compared with 98.5% in the Summer term 2025.
22. Due to issues reporting FEEE, there may be slight inaccuracies in the above figures. This is due to children receiving both working families and Early Learning funding for two-year-olds. Work is ongoing to resolve any issues and figures will be amended accordingly in future reports as needed.
23. Monthly reporting will enable more frequent reporting of take up of cohorts of children accessing their funding entitlements.

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

24. The Department for Education (DfE) released in February 2026 revised assessment outcomes for Secondary schools in 2025. This is the earliest opportunity to provide these details.
25. 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. The revised 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 an improvement to 46.0 from 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 0.1 higher than the average for its new set of Statistical Neighbours.
26. For Free School Meal (FSM) 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 increased by 0.4 from the previous year. Leicestershire's performance was 0.1 lower than the average for its new set of

Statistical Neighbours. The FSM cohort now represents 17.4% of pupils in Leicestershire at the end of Key Stage 4, the highest pre 2022 cohort proportion size was 8.2% in 2019.

27. 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 0.2 lower, nationally a 0.7 improvement was seen to 33.8. Leicestershire's performance was 0.5 higher than the average for its new set of Statistical Neighbours. The Attainment 8 score for Education, Health and Care Plan pupils (EHCP) was 16.7 (386 pupils). This represents an increase of 1.0 on the previous year, and is now 1.9 higher than the national average, which increased by 0.6 to 14.8. Leicestershire's performance was 0.8 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 positioning.
28. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 1,404 at the end of Q4 2025/26. This is an increase of 84 students since the end of Q3 2025/26 (1,320 students), and an increase of 141 students (12%) compared to the end of Q4 2024/25 (1,263 students),
29. Between August 2025 and March 2026 there have been 394 young people join the EHE cohort for some time period, 212 of these young people (54%) were aged between 12 and 15 years of age, 217 (55%) were female, 127 (32%) had identified Special Educational Needs (either SEN Support or an Education, Health and Care Plan), and 169 were eligible for a Free School Meal (43%). Each of these groups are overrepresented compared to the general population profile of Leicestershire residents attending Leicestershire state funded schools, which at the Spring Term 2026 recorded 34% aged between 12 and 15, 49% as female, 20% with Special Educational Needs, and 18% as Free School Meal eligible. During this period there have also been 212 young people that left the EHE cohort, with 159 (75%) of these young people returning to school or an alternative provision.
30. The main reasons for young people joining the EHE cohort between 1st August 2025 and 31st March 2026 (394 young people) were:

Reason	Total Young People	% of Total
Mental health	85	21.6%
Other	80	20.3%
No reason given	75	19.0%
Difficulty in accessing a school place	57	14.5%
School provision not meeting need	56	14.2%
Cultural/Life choice	39	9.9%

31. Following the submission of the Spring School Census by Schools to the Department for Education in March 2026, the validated permanent exclusions and suspensions data for the 2024/25 academic year is now available for Leicestershire, national data for benchmarking is not available yet.
32. The number of permanent exclusions from Leicestershire schools as a percentage of the school population in the 2024/25 academic year was 0.09%. This rate is 30% higher than last year, 0.07% in 2023/24, and almost 400% higher than in 2018/19, which was a rate of 0.02%. The number of permanent exclusions increased to 94 in 2024/25, from 72 in 2023/24, and 19 in 2018/19. 2024/25 saw the highest number of permanent exclusions from Leicestershire schools since 2006/07, when there were 108. Unvalidated data up to the end of December 2025 for the 2025/26 academic year is showing permanent exclusion numbers to be higher than for the same period last year, 32 compared to 26.
33. The number of children receiving at least one fixed term suspension from Leicestershire schools as a percentage of the school population in the 2024/25 academic year was 3.41% (3,431 children). This rate is 6% lower than for the last academic year (3.62% and 3,654 children), and 79% higher than the rate for 2018/19 academic year (1.9% and 1,860 children). The 2024/25 performance represents the first academic year after 2019/20 to see a fall in the number and rate of pupils suspended from the previous academic year, although the performance remains the second highest since collection of this data began by the Department of Education (DfE) in 2005/06. Unvalidated data up to the end of December 2025 for the 2025/26 academic year is showing the number of children suspended to have continued to reduce, 1,622 compared to 1,884 for the same period in last year. This is the lowest number for this time period since 2022/23, when the number was 1,485.
34. The percentage of young people (16-17) in Leicestershire not in education, employment, or training (NEET) at the end of Q4 2025/26 was 1.3%. This rate was 0.1% higher than at the end of Q3 2025/26 but remains below the target of less than 2.1%.

Conclusion

35. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of Quarter 4 2025/26, covering the period January to March 2026.
36. 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 4, 2025/26

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