



## **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**24 MARCH 2014**

### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

#### **QUARTER 3 2013/14 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

##### **Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update of Children and Families performance at the end of quarter 3 of 2013/14.

##### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. Children and Families performance is reported on a quarterly basis to members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The previous report covered performance to quarter 2 of 2013/14.

##### **Background**

3. The report includes performance commentary on the department's key priorities, which are aligned with the current Enhancing Children's Lives outcome area of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Departmental Service Plan.
4. A new Leicestershire County Council Strategic Plan is currently being prepared in light of the recent Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2014-18 changes. It is intended that a draft will be presented to the Scrutiny Commission on 30 April and then to County Council for approval in May. The approach to performance reporting will be revised following the agreement of the Strategic Plan, and the key priorities and targets up to 2018.
5. The performance dashboard (attached as Appendix A) is based on the key performance measures for Children and Families for 2013/14. These are reviewed annually against the Departmental Service Plan and the Council's strategic priorities to ensure the key priorities of both the Department and Council are reflected.
6. The dashboard includes a mixture of national and statistical neighbour measures.
7. The report aims to focus on new and changed data relevant to the Children and Young Peoples Service. Some indicators which will not change until 2015 have been omitted, whilst new relevant data has been included. Therefore, previously reported Education performance data has been omitted and replaced by new data regarding children eligible for Free School Meals and School Inspection data.

8. The format of the current Children and Young People's Service performance dashboard is unaltered for Quarter 3, as conversations continue in regards to future reporting. This will be influenced by the development of Children and Young People's Service Business Plans and Strategic Plans that is currently taking place.
9. The figure for Care Leavers in Employment, Education or Training (EET) is an in-year figure as provided by Prospects. This is taken from the Prospects database, a different source to the official end-of-year figure submitted by Social Care (which is taken from Framework-I or other Social Care records). Therefore, a comparison between the two sources may not be like-for-like.
10. Work is also underway to develop the Early Help performance framework which is planned to be implemented for Quarter 1 2014/15.
11. Other performance work is focussed on providing greater business intelligence to support the work of the Leicestershire Education Excellence Partnership (LEEP). Current work includes children eligible for free school meals (at Key Stage 2 and 4) and post-16 performance.

### **Performance Update**

12. From 4 sub-outcome areas, 2 are green and 2 are amber.
13. The sub-outcome area '*Young People in Leicestershire enjoy high morale and self-esteem*' has moved to green to reflect the positive picture presented by a recent Children's Society wellbeing report.
14. From 8 measures that have quarterly figures, 2 have an upward trend, 4 have declined, 1 has no significant change and 1 has no performance ranking. The measures with a declining trend are as follows:
  - '*Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more*' has increased to 5.7% from 4.3% in Q2;
  - '*Child protection cases reviewed within timescales*' has fallen from 100% to 98%. However, this is due to 5 cases being recorded 1 day outside the time scales, as is seen as an administrative issue rather than a reflection of practice;
  - '*Stability of placements*' – number of moves rose to 7% from 5.3%, but remains comfortably below available comparisons;
  - '*Initial assessments for children's social care carried out within timescales*' declined to 55% from 57% and remains in the bottom quartile of local authorities.
15. From 12 measures that have a national benchmark, 1 is in the top quartile, 5 are in the second quartile, 5 are in the third quartile and 1 is in the bottom quartile.
16. From 17 measures that have a statistical neighbour benchmark, 9 are above the statistical neighbour average, 7 are below and 1 is equal. The most recent statistical neighbour data has been used in all cases.
17. New education data for Children in Care and children eligible for free school meals (FSM) was made available during quarter 3.

### Children in Leicestershire are Safe

18. There was little movement of data in the Social Care and Safeguarding indicators. The only movement of note was a rise in the number of Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more. The figure rose from 4.3% to 5.7% and would move Leicestershire down from the 1<sup>st</sup> quartile to the 2<sup>nd</sup> by the 2012 national comparisons available during Q3.

### Children in Leicestershire Achieve (vulnerable children)

19. Key Stage 2 achievement for Children in Care is similar to 2012 when numbers are considered. 8 out of 13 children achieved L4 in Maths, compared to 9 out of 14 in 2012. Achievement of L4 in Reading, Writing and Maths was 6 out of 14. No comparable figure exists for 2012 due to English now being split into Reading and Writing.
20. The number of Children in Care achieving 5 GCSEs (inc. English and Maths) was 3 from a cohort of 33. This represents 9.09%. By comparison, the 2012 figure was 4 from a cohort of 30. Achievement of any 5 GCSEs A\*-C was 21.2% (7 young people) and 5 A\*-G 69.7% (23 young people).

### Children in Leicestershire Achieve (all children)

21. For Free School Meal eligible children - achievement of 5 or more A\*- C grades at GCSE (inc. English and Maths) is 32.7% compared to 41.2% nationally. This is an increase on the 2012 figure of 29.4% for Leicestershire.
22. For Free School Meal eligible children - achievement of Level 4 or above in Reading, Writing and Maths at Key Stage 2 is 57.2% compared to the national average of 64%. This is 2.3% lower than the 2012 figure of 59.5%.
23. The corporate performance team are currently supporting the Department by analysing FSM attainment and achievement. This considers if the expected progress is made, the composition of the group and how children in Leicestershire compare to national performance.
24. The '*secondary school persistent absence rate*' figure for all pupils is 7.3%. This is a 0.9% improvement compared to 2012 (pupils who have missed 46 or more half days).

### Young people in Leicestershire enjoy high morale and self esteem

25. The Children's Society visited County Hall to provide additional commentary to their wellbeing survey of Leicestershire children and young people. The results of a Children's Society survey of 2,500 young people in Leicestershire showed that children in Leicestershire have similar levels of well-being to the national picture and the majority of Leicestershire children are satisfied with their lives.

**Conclusion**

26. This report provides an update on Children and Families performance as at the end of quarter 3 of 2013/14. Progress will continue to be monitored with particular focus on statutory social care indicators.

**Equal Opportunities Implications**

27. There are no specific equal opportunities implications to note as part of this performance report.

**Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure**

28. None.

**Background papers**

None.

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**Appendices**

Appendix A – Children and Families Department performance dashboard for quarter 3, 2013/14