



**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**9 JUNE 2014**

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

**QUARTER 4 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 4 of 2013/14.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. Children and Families performance is reported on a quarterly basis to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The previous report covered performance to quarter 3 of 2013/14.

**Background**

3. The report is based on the set of performance measures aligned with the current Enhancing Children's Lives outcome area of the Sustainable Community Strategy. There is a need to refresh this in the light of the new Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 – 2017/18 (MTFS) and work on a new Council Corporate Strategy to 2017/18. It may also usefully include the Supporting Leicestershire Families and Youth Offending Services and priorities.

**Report Changes**

4. The figure for Care Leavers in Employment, Education or Training (EET) is an in-year figure provided by Prospects. The Prospects figure is always likely to be higher than the end-of-year Social Care figure due to different counting criteria and should be viewed only as a guide.
5. New statistical neighbour and quartile data has been released for several Social Care indicators. This may change Leicestershire's relative position in some cases.
6. An additional school measure has been included – the percentage of Leicestershire pupils in a school rated as Good or Outstanding.
7. Notes have been added to highlight significant changes in performance between the end of Q4 2013 and end of Q4 2014.

8. A report has been added to consider the educational performance of Children in Care (Appendix B)

### **Overview**

9. From 11 measures that have updated figures, 5 have an upward trend, 2 have a downward trend and 4 have no significant change.
10. From 20 measures that have a national benchmark, 2 are in the top quartile, 7 are in the second quartile, 4 are in the third quartile and 7 are in the bottom quartile.
11. From 21 measures that have a statistical neighbour benchmark, 8 are above the statistical neighbour average, 11 are below and 2 are equal. The most recent Statistical Neighbour data has been used in all cases.

### **Children in Leicestershire are Safe**

12. 'Core assessments for children's social care carried out within 35 working days...' fell from 71% to 68%. This would place Leicestershire in the fourth quartile of all local authorities.
13. 'Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more' decreased (improved) to 4.8%. This places Leicestershire in the second quartile of local authorities.
14. 'Children becoming subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time' decreased (improved) for the third consecutive quarter. This places Leicestershire in the second quartile of local authorities and better than the statistical neighbour average according to newly updated figures.

### **Children in Leicestershire Achieve (vulnerable children)**

15. 'Stability of Placements – number of moves' rose again from 7% to 9%. However, this remains better than statistical neighbours and national averages and Leicestershire would remain in the top quartile.
16. The number of Care Leavers in Employment, Education or Training according to the Prospects criteria is 70.7%. This is a decrease compared to Q3 (75%). However, the figure remains high and the change represents only 2 young people due to the small cohort size.
17. The number of referrals to Children's Social Care going on to initial assessment is a significantly higher figure of 94% compared to the Q3 figure of 80%.

### **Children in Leicestershire Achieve (all children)**

18. The percentage of Leicestershire schools rated as Good or Outstanding is currently 82%, which is above both national and statistical neighbour comparisons.
19. The percentage of Leicestershire pupils attending a Good or Outstanding school is currently 75%. This is below both the national and statistical

neighbour averages. This figure is heavily affected by three all-through secondary schools that are not rated as Good or Outstanding and contain approximately 3,000 pupils in total.

20. 'Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19' has risen to 85% in Leicestershire compared to 83.7% the previous year. This places Leicestershire in the second quartile of local authorities and above the national average.

### **Young People in Leicestershire enjoy high morale and self esteem**

21. A well-being survey of 2,500 Leicestershire school children was conducted by the Children's Society. It concluded that the majority of Leicestershire children are satisfied with their lives, proportionally similar to England as a whole.
22. Data has been gathered from the Leicester-Shire and Rutland Sport 'Me and My Lifestyle' survey. 25 Leicestershire schools have registered for the survey (3 Secondary and 22 Primary). A total of 712 young people responded across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, but there is no further breakdown of location or age.
23. The three questions selected and responses for Leicestershire young people were:
- Do you consider yourself to eat a healthy diet?  
Yes = 86% / No = 14%
  - On a typical night, do you get at least 8 hours of sleep a night?  
Yes = 67% / No = 33%
  - Are you stressed with your school life?  
Yes = 67% / No = 33%

### **Significant changes from Q4 2013 to Q4 2014**

24. Changes greater than 2% between the years have been noted below.
25. 'Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales' fell from 100% to 97.9%. This was due to a recording error in calculating timescales and not an operational practice issue.
26. 'Initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 10 working days of referral' was 55% compared to 58% the previous year. This figure has been affected by technology issues during the year, as well as rising demand. The work included Frameworki preparation for the new Single Assessment where 850 assessments were completed during Q4. Audits have shown that children and young people were safe and received a timely service.
27. 'Stability of placements' both in terms of number of moves and length of placement, show a negative change from 2013. This is due in part to

improved data quality and accuracy of recording. 'Number of moves' remains in the top quartile of local authorities, whilst 'length of placement' has moved from first to third quartile.

28. Achievement of 5 GCSEs A\*-C (inc. Maths and English) increased by 2.5% and moved Leicestershire closer to the national average.
29. Performance of pupils eligible for Free School Meals at Key Stage 2 fell by 5% and is an area currently being addressed by the Leicestershire Education Excellence Partnership (LEEP).

### **Education of Children in Care**

30. Appendix B is a summary of the 'Education of Children in Care - Self Evaluation 2013'. The report includes the progress and attainment at each of the main Key Stages used for Department for Education reporting.

### **Conclusion**

31. This report provides an update on Children and Families performance at the end of quarter 4, 2013/14. Progress will continue to be monitored with particular focus on statutory social care indicators.

### **Recommendation**

32. That the Committee note performance at quarter 4 and comment on any significant performance issues.

### **Equal Opportunities Implications**

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

### **Background papers**

None

### **Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure**

None

### **Officers to Contact**

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**Appendices**

- Appendix A - Children and Families Department performance dashboard for quarter 4, 2013/14
- Appendix B - Education of Children in Care 2013 report

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