



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
- 1 SEPTEMBER 2014

QUARTER 1 2014/15 PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES

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 1 of 2014/15.

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 4 of 2013/14.

Background

3. The report is based on the set of performance measures aligned with the priorities set in the new County Council Corporate Strategy to 2017/18, agreed by the Council in May. This has increased the number of indicators reported from 28 to 54. However, data is not yet available for all 54 indicators listed.
4. Full year data and comparative information is still being collated and these will be reported in a more comprehensive annual report and performance compendium later in the Autumn. The Annual Report will be presented to the full Council.
5. The report is now divided into the four key priority areas identified by the Children and Families department:
 - Children and Young People are Safe;
 - Children and Young People achieve their potential;
 - Children and Young People have their Health and Wellbeing and Life Chances Improved;
 - Thriving Communities.

Performance Summary

6. From 29 measures that have data available, 19 have improved since 2013/14 year end. Of 10 measures that have a national benchmark, 1 is in the top quartile, 2 are in the second quartile, 5 are in the third quartile and 2 are in the fourth quartile.

Children and Young People are Safe

7. Indicators in the section 'Children and Young People are Safe' were generally similar in Quarter 1 when compared to 2013/14 Quarter 4, with some downward movement. Where national comparisons were available, indicators were in the 3rd quartile in all cases. No indicators in the outcome area 'Children and Young People are Safe' were in the top or bottom quartiles using the comparative figures available.
8. 'Care Leavers in Suitable accommodation' and the 'Care leavers in education, employment or training' figure are now both measured using different government criteria. Therefore no comparative figures are available.

Children and Young People Achieve their Potential

9. The number of eligible families taking up Free Early Education Entitlement for 2 year olds increased by 9.6% to 74.6%
10. The early indications are that education performance in Leicestershire at Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 is much improved compared to 2013 with notable improvements at Key Stage 2. Key Stage 2 was highlighted as an area of underachievement for Leicestershire in 2013. Provisional data is included on the performance dashboard Appendix A.
11. A full suite of 2014 education data will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November.

Ofsted outcomes

12. The percentage of Leicestershire schools rated as Good or Outstanding is currently 83.2%. This is above the national figure of 80%.
13. The percentage of Leicestershire pupils attending a Good or Outstanding school is currently 78%. This is 0.1% above the national figure. The Leicestershire percentage has been broadly in line with the national figure over the past year, being slightly above or below in equal measure.
14. The number of Special Schools rated as Good or Outstanding is currently bottom quartile. However, it should be noted that 5 out of 6 are rated as Good or Outstanding and each school represents 16.7% of the total.

Economy/Employment and Skills

15. NEET in Leicestershire reached a record low of 2.8% by the end of Q1.

Children and Young People have their Health and Wellbeing and Life Chances Improved

16. The Harborough cluster of Children's Centres was recently inspected and judged to be 'Good'. Five of the six clusters in Leicestershire have now been inspected with all receiving a 'good' rating from Ofsted.
17. The 2014 Children's Centres Satisfaction Survey took place between April and May 2014. A county headline summary report has been produced showing

analyses of the 1,769 parents who responded. Initial results have found that 91% would recommend their centre.

18. Health indicators provided by Public Health are generally positive. Of the 5 indicators with national comparisons, 4 are 'better'.
19. The percentage of Looked After Children having health checks increased by 0.9% 2013 to 2014 and is now 74.2%. The percentage of Looked After Children having dental checks increased by 0.2% from 2013 to 2014 and is now 73.5%. The percentage of Looked After Children up to date with immunisations increased by 5.9% from 2013 to 2014 and is now 86.4%.

Thriving Communities

20. Supporting Leicestershire Families is working with 299 families. This is at the target number of 6 families per support worker. The number of cases closed because the intended outcomes for the family have been met is increasing and is the most common reason for case closure.
21. Feedback and evaluation from families has been collated from all Early Help and family support services. This includes Children's Centres, Family Steps, Youth Service, Supporting Leicestershire Families and the Youth Offending Service. High satisfaction rates were reported in all individual areas without exception.
22. Two Youth Offending targets – to reduce youth offending and to reduce first time entrants - showed improved performance for the most recent figures.

Conclusion

23. This report provides an update on Children and Families performance at the end of quarter 1, 2014/15. The first set of education data for 2014 is included in this report with Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 expected during Q2. Progress will continue to be monitored in other outcome areas, with a particular focus on indicators with declining performance.

Recommendation

That the Committee note performance at Quarter 1 and comment on any significant performance issues.

Background papers

None.

Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

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Appendices

Appendix A - Children and Families Department performance dashboard for quarter 1, 2014/15

Equality and Human Rights Implications

24. Addressing equalities issues is supported by this report. The corporate dashboard highlights a number of elements of performance on equalities issues. The education of pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium is recorded in this report with other pupil groups reported on directly to the relevant Assistant Director.