



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3
NOVEMBER 2014

QUARTER 2 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 2 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 1 of 2014/15.

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 2014.
4. 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

Changes to the report

5. Statistical neighbour benchmarks have changed marginally in most cases due to an update of the statistical neighbour group. Dorset has replaced Kent as one of the 11 areas judged as similar to Leicestershire.

Performance Summary

6. From 21 measures that have new data available, 9 have improved since Q1, 7 show no significant change and 5 show negative movement.

Children and Young People are Safe

7. Indicators in the section 'Children and Young People are Safe' saw little movement from Quarter 1 with the exception of two measures. The number of 'Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more' decreased to 0.6% (i.e. improved performance), which would be top quartile performance by the 2013/14 measures available. This measure involves small numbers of children and 0.6% represents 3 children. The percentage of 'Children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time' increased and would now be higher than the national average (worsening performance).

Children and Young People Achieve their Potential

8. The number of eligible families taking up Free Early Education Entitlement for 2 year olds and 3 year olds increased for both age groups.
9. The 'inequality gap in achievement across all early learning goals' is now available and shows a narrowing of the gap by 2.8% to 30.8%. This would be top quartile performance in 2013 but 2014 comparisons are not yet available.
10. Provisional GCSE and A Level data is newly available. Leicestershire compares favourably with national averages for 5 A*-C GCSEs and A Level average point scores have increased.
11. A full suite of 2014 education data will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny committee in a separate report.

Ofsted outcomes

12. At the time of writing, all Ofsted school inspections in Leicestershire since the new academic year began have returned an outcome of Good or Outstanding. This has had a positive impact on both the percentage of schools rated as Good or better and the percentage of pupils in Good or better schools. Both measures are above the national average.

Economy/Employment and Skills

13. The latest data shows a Leicestershire NEET figure of 3%. This is the lowest amongst statistical neighbours.

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

14. Data for the average waiting time for CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service) assessment has now been received. Latest data shows a small decrease in waiting times compared to the 2013/14 end of year figure (9.1 weeks reducing to 8.7 weeks).
15. Breast feeding at 6-8 weeks data has been received for quarter 1 and shows an increase in prevalence. This was an area of targeted work for district health services. Quarter 2 data is not yet available.

Thriving Communities

16. Supporting Leicestershire Families is currently supporting 373 families, an increase of 74 when compared to the previous quarter. This number includes a turnover of families as some families have their needs met and new families are identified and worked with.
17. New Youth Offending data for Quarter 1 has become available. This shows very little movement overall although the number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system rose over a rolling 12 month period.

County Council Annual Performance Report

18. The County Council's Annual Report is due to be published later in the year. This will provide a comprehensive list of indicators relevant to the Children and Families department along with final 2013/14 performance. 46 indicators relevant to Children and Families are included of which 24 saw an improving trend; 5 had no significant movement; 8 had a declining trend; and 9 were not comparable.

Conclusion

19. This report provides an update on Children and Families performance at the end of quarter 2, 2014/15. Progress will continue to be monitored in all outcome areas, with a particular focus on indicators with declining performance.

Recommendation

That the Committee note performance at quarter 2 and comment on any significant performance issues.

Background Papers

None.

Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

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List of Appendices

Appendix A - Children and Family Services performance dashboard for quarter 2, 2014/15

Equality and Human Rights Implications

20. Addressing equalities issues is supported by this report. The education of vulnerable groups is reported on directly to the relevant Assistant Director and will be covered in a specific education report.