

16 September 2019**Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, FINANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE &
IMPROVEMENT****CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CORE DATA SET - PERFORMANCE FOR
QUARTER 1****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides the Committee with a summary of the performance of the Council's services for children and young people for quarter 1 of 2019/20 (1st April to 30th June 2019).

Information

2. The Council's Planning and Performance Framework establishes the approach that the Council takes to planning and managing its performance to deliver effective and responsive services.
3. The Council has agreed that the key measures of its performance will be defined through a number of core data sets which are detailed in its Council Plan and each of its Departmental Strategies.
4. Performance against these core data sets is reported to Committee every three months (quarterly) to support the performance management of the delivery of services.

Performance Reporting for 2019/20

5. This report provides a summary of the quarter 1 position for the Children's Social Care and Education Core Data Set performance measures that fall within the responsibility of the Children and Young People's Committee. The full Core Data Set is included in **Appendices 1 and 2**. **Appendix 1** shows those measures which have received updates since the previous quarter. **Appendix 2** shows those measures which have not changed.
6. For each measure, the following information is provided:
 - Current performance and whether a high or low value is regarded as 'good'.
 - The period this current value relates to.

- An indication of whether performance has improved (+), declined (-), or remained the same (=) over the current reporting period. The most recently available annual performance and which year this relates to.
- The underlying numbers used to calculate the % for some measures is provided within the measure description.
- If a measure is cumulative, this is stated in the measure description.
- Comparator data of the national average for England, and that of the Council's children's services statistical neighbours, where this data is available.

Child and Family Assessments

7. The percentage of Child and Family Assessments completed within timescale has decreased from 98.2% in quarter 4 of 2018/19 to 97.7% in quarter 1 of 2019/20. This remains well above the target of 85% and above the Council's statistical neighbours and national averages. This has been delivered while focussing on proportionate and timely assessments being undertaken. Assessment Service principles and guidance alongside the SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely) allocation system ensures that staff are able to meet this timescale consistently.

Child protection

8. The rate of children subject to a child protection plan (CPP) continues to be above the England and statistical neighbour averages for 2017/18; the current value is 52.1 per 10,000. Managers audit conference minutes intermittently to ensure that the threshold is being met for cases coming to conference and any cases found not to be appropriate are raised with operational Service Managers. However, plans are only made where appropriate and quality assurance (QA) to date has indicated that the correct thresholds are being applied. This receives ongoing management attention.
9. The percentage of CPPs lasting two years or more this quarter has decreased since quarter 4 which is positive. However, the Council remains above national and statistical neighbour percentages so this is an area for continued attention. The figures relate to 24 children in 11 families. These represent the most difficult cases and have been escalated for management oversight as required after 15 months subject to a plan. Operational managers document an analysis of the cases in respect to making progress, whether that be through legal planning meetings/ Public Law Outline and court applications.
10. There has been an increase in the proportion of children becoming the subject of a CPP for a second or subsequent time this quarter. The largest category of registration for children on repeat plans is neglect followed by emotional abuse which is not dissimilar to the previous quarter. They are complex cases and they continue to receive close management attention. Given that the Council is above national and statistical neighbour percentages, this will receive focussed attention from the Chairs service and operational colleagues.
11. The percentage of CP cases reviewed within timescales is calculated on a rolling basis for the previous 12 months; management continue to monitor the performance in this area in order to meet Nottinghamshire targets. The current value is 94.8%. This continues to be above the England average and has increased from the last quarter, which was 91.5%.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing

12. There has been a decline in the numbers of CSE cases coming through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and a consequent decrease in subsequent activity. The figures do match quarter 1 last year, but this will receive further management attention to ensure figures represent the scale of the issue in Nottinghamshire. This will be picked up by the cross authority strategic group.
13. The picture across these measures remains similar to last year's figures with seasonal variations showing in quarter 1, including a slight increase in missing incidents during light nights and good weather. The progress on completion of Return Interviews within timescale (seen in quarter 4) has not been maintained. The figure is impacted by a variety of factors including resistance from young people and families. However, targeted work is underway to further support improvement, including the planned introduction of a new Mosaic step that will aid accurate reporting of completed work in a timely way.

Looked After Children

14. This measure considers Looked After Children (LAC) who have had more than three placements during the previous 12 months as a proportion of all LAC. This has remained stable over the last 12 months, with a variance of just 0.2 percentage points.
15. Caution should be exercised when benchmarking against national data because the current Nottinghamshire figure is calculated in a different way to the most recently published national average (2017/18). Nottinghamshire data includes each and every placement move a young person experiences whereas the national data counts only those moves to a different provider. Thus, the Nottinghamshire figure is over-inflated by comparison. The fact that the comparator national data is two years old also masks the fact that this performance indicator has presented an increasing challenge for all authorities over the past two years.
16. In addition, whilst the general rule of fewer placement moves resulting in better outcomes prevails for the majority of cases, the computation of this specific performance indicator works against the otherwise excellent work done within children's social care to transition 16/17 year old LAC into a number of discrete supported placements that provide this group of older young people with the necessary life skills to equip them for independence into adulthood. Almost 40% of the young people who experience multiple placement moves are over 16 years of age. Nevertheless, it remains a challenge to minimise placement moves for younger children too, and a programme of focused case audits is currently being undertaken to better understand the underlying cause of the rise in the number of LAC who experience multiple placement moves and to prevent unplanned disruption to the lives of Looked After Children.
17. Despite the continuing challenge posed by multiple placement moves for some young people, the Council's continued strong performance in relation to this performance indicator (in which it out-performs national and statistical neighbours benchmarks), indicates that the vast majority of children and Looked After Children experience very stable placements over the longer term. The recent marginal decrease in absolute performance may well be due in part to the planned placement moves into semi-independent accommodation for older young people, though the data serves to confirm

that these do not compromise the overall objective of achieving placement stability over the longer term.

Adoption

18. The average length of time between a child's admission into care and placement has decreased this quarter to 304 days. This figure is encouraging as it indicates that the Council's processes for identifying children in need of an adoption plan and planning to home find early are successful and children are being placed with their adopters without delay.
19. The average number of days between placement order and deciding on an appropriate family for a child or children has also decreased and is now at 168 days. This measure is lower than statistical neighbours and national figures. It is likely that the timescales are impacted by the time it can take to identify a suitable match for harder to place children.

Care leavers

20. The percentage of care leavers aged 19-21 years currently classed as in education, employment and training, has remained at 49.8% this quarter, which is above the target of 49%. Nottinghamshire remains slightly above statistical neighbours but slightly below the national average. The Leaving Care Service is currently undertaking a review of all care leavers' employment statuses to ensure these are up to date and accurate.
21. The percentage of care leavers aged 19-21 years living in suitable accommodation has decreased slightly from 87.4% to 85.6% in quarter 1. This remains slightly above statistical neighbour and national averages. The Leaving Care Service is currently undertaking a review of all care leavers' accommodation statuses to ensure these are up to date and accurate.

Educational standards

Ofsted inspections

22. The following paragraphs on Ofsted inspections are based on the current inspections of schools and do not take into account the former judgement of schools which have closed and re-opened as a sponsored academy (current Ofsted reporting arrangements include former judgements of closed schools until they are re-inspected). Numbers on roll are as at May 2019.
23. The number of primary schools in an Ofsted category (Inadequate) has decreased to two schools from three at the last quarter. Langold Dyscarr (Bassetlaw district, LA maintained school; 280 pupils on roll) closed and re-opened in April as a sponsor led academy under the leadership of Shine Multi Academy Trust. The other two schools from the last quarter remain. These are Hillocks Primary (Ashfield district, LA maintained school; 332 pupils on roll) and Haggonfields Primary (Bassetlaw district, LA maintained school with 107 pupils on roll).
24. The number of secondary schools in an Ofsted category has increased to two schools from one at the last quarter. Sutton Community Academy (Ashfield district, a sponsor led

academy which converted January 2013 under the leadership of Academy Transformation Trust; 692 pupils on roll) became Inadequate in May (previously judged as Good). Kirkby College (Ashfield district; a convertor academy which converted August 2012 with 434 pupils on roll) remains Inadequate since the last quarter.

School exclusions

25. Latest data on permanent exclusions for the 2017/18 academic year from all schools (primary, secondary and special schools including academies) shows Nottinghamshire continues to remain below both national and statistical neighbour averages. 0.04% (48 pupils) of the overall Nottinghamshire school population were excluded in 2017/18, this rate remains unchanged from the previous academic year, however the number of pupils permanently excluded fell from 53 (in 2016/17) to 48 this period.
26. The national and statistical neighbour figure for the same period remains unchanged at 0.10% from the previous year. On this measure Nottinghamshire is placed 2nd (out of 11 LAs; no change in rank from last year) with Kent LA placed first (exclusion rate of 0.02%). Comparisons with Nottinghamshire's closest statistical neighbour, Derbyshire, was 0.17% (an increase from 0.12% the previous year).

Two-year-old take up

27. The number of 2-year olds taking up their free entitlement in the summer 2019 term shows a slight decrease from the same period last year. 72.1% of eligible 2 year olds are attending providers, a 0.7 percentage point decrease (from 72.8%) from the same term last year. Rushcliffe district continues to have the highest proportion of eligible 2 year olds accessing their entitlement whereas Bassetlaw district has the lowest at 62.7%. Comparisons with the same term last year show Broxtowe district witnessed a fall (down 7.0 percentage points from summer 2018 to 74.6%) followed by Ashfield district with a fall of 6.2 percentage points to 63.2% and Bassetlaw district with a fall of 3.4 percentage points to 62.7% over the same period. All other districts witnessed increases in take up. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for 2019 identified that there are areas in Bassetlaw with poor take up linked to reduced access to provision across large geographical areas, as well as insufficient childcare places for eligible 2 year olds.

Youth Offending & Early Help Support

28. The rate (per 100,000 population) of First Time Entrants (FTEs) for the full year to March 2019 has seen a drop from 322 to 251. The focus on reducing FTEs within the Youth Justice Service (YJS) is believed to be significant and it seems that the impact of changes with frontline Police and YJS staff are now being seen.

Other Options Considered

29. This report is provided as part of the Committee's constitutional requirement to consider performance of all areas within its terms of reference on a quarterly basis. The departmental strategy was agreed on 24 January 2018 and the format and frequency of performance reporting were agreed by the Improvement and Change Sub-Committee on 12 March 2018. Due to the nature of the report no other options were considered appropriate.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

30. This report is provided as part of the Committee's constitutional requirement to consider performance of areas within its terms of reference on a quarterly basis.

Statutory and Policy Implications

31. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

32. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

33. Reporting on the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers will better enable the Council to ensure that children are effectively safeguarded.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That Committee considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the performance information on the Council's services for children and young people for the period 1st April to 30th June 2019.

Nigel Stevenson

Service Director for Finance, Infrastructure & Improvement

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Matthew Garrard

Team Manager – Performance, Intelligence and Policy

T: 0115 9772892

E: matthew.garrard@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (EP 22/08/19)

34. The Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report. If Committee resolves that any actions are required, it must be satisfied that such actions are within the Committee's terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SAS 27/08/19)

35. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Performance reporting (Quarter 4 2018/19) – services for children and young people – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 17th June 2019.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1277