

22 February 2016**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, POLICY PLANNING AND
CORPORATE SERVICES****PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 3 2015/16) - SERVICES FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a summary of the performance of the Council's services for children and young people between 1 October and 31 December 2015.

Information and Advice**Performance Reporting for 2015/16**

2. This report forms the third quarterly report of 2015/16, reporting on quarterly performance for the 2015/16 financial year.
3. At its meeting on 16 July 2012, the Committee agreed to receive a report each quarter, reviewing performance across the full range of services provided to children and young people. Quarterly reports would be in addition to other reports that might be presented to the Committee from time to time, providing detailed performance-related information about specific initiatives, projects or services. As agreed at this meeting, quantitative performance reporting to the Committee is measured via key performance indicators (KPIs), which cover the full range of services to children and young people.
4. Performance data is set out in the table at **Appendix 1**. For each KPI, current performance is compared to the national average for England, and that of the Council's children's services statistical neighbours, where this data is available. Nottinghamshire's statistical neighbours changed in October 2014 and are:
 1. Derbyshire
 2. Staffordshire
 3. Lancashire
 4. Worcestershire
 5. Cumbria
 6. Northamptonshire
 7. Essex
 8. Kent
 9. Cheshire West and Chester
 10. Warwickshire

5. In addition, for each KPI, the table indicates whether performance has improved (+), declined (-), or remained the same (=) over the current reporting period.

Protecting the most vulnerable and ensuring that children in our care experience high quality and stable support (provisional figures):

6. Within quarter 3, it is positive to note that the rate of initial and core assessments completed within timescales remains higher than the target and the national and statistical neighbour averages despite a slight dip in performance for core assessments when compared to quarter 2.
7. Whilst there has been a slight deterioration in performance for re-referrals compared to the last quarter, current performance is significantly better than the target for this indicator. Performance for quarter 3 has continued to be below the England and statistical neighbour averages. This is the fourth consecutive quarter that this has been the case.
8. At the end of December 2015, there were a total of 745 children subject to a child protection plan. This is a significant decrease from the total number of 829 at the end of September 2015. During this quarter a new process has been introduced where the decision to progress cases to an initial child protection conference has been taken at a more senior level. Consequently there has been a significant reduction in the number of initial child protection conferences being held; 95 conferences (188 children) were held from October to December 2015 compared to 189 conferences (398 children) the previous quarter.
9. As a result 156 children were made subject to a child protection plan, compared to 291 the previous quarter. The number of child protection plans ended this quarter is also slightly higher than previous quarters. At the end of December 2015 the number of children subject to a child protection plan was at the rate of 45.8 per 10,000 children. Despite the significant reduction seen in the number of child protection plans this quarter, this rate still remains higher than both our statistical neighbours and the England average at the end of 2014/15 which was 38.3 and 42.9 respectively.
10. There has been a slight increase in those looked after children with three or more placements, specifically in those who are younger children compared with the previous quarter. A small minority were younger children who had moved into placements with prospective adopters, but the rest have moved to long-term foster carers or had planned moves as part of their care plan. A high proportion of children aged 15 plus continue to move into semi-independent accommodation or transitional living which consistently elevates the figure for this measure.
11. The percentage of children remaining in long-term placements has increased over the last quarter, with almost three-quarters of looked after children residing within the same placement for at least two years. Local authorities are still awaiting the published benchmarking statistics for 2014-15 from the DfE in order to compare each other. However, 2013-14 figures indicate Nottinghamshire continues to be performing well above national and statistical neighbour's figures.
12. For those adopted children, the average number of days between their admission and placement has increased, and is now in line with the three-year average for England. The increase in the average wait for the current quarter is due to a small number of children adopted in quarter 3 (12 children) and of those, 75% (9 children) who waited over 750

days from their admission to placement. The primary reason for this wait was due to complex needs associated with placing larger than average sibling groups and children aged 5 and over.

13. The average number of days taken for the court to grant authority to place the child and to find an appropriate match continues to be consistently high. This seems to be due to a few children who have been waiting a longer period of time because they have proven more difficult to match, which has then affected the average (there have been four children adopted this year who took over two years to find an appropriate match). For both adoption scorecard indicators that measure the average number of days, Nottinghamshire figures tend to be affected by a few children who have waited a longer period of time between stages.

Educational standards and closing the attainment gap:

14. Final Key Stage 2 figures (for pupils typically aged 11) show there was a slight increase from the provisional value in the percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or above in combined reading, writing and mathematics. 80.8% of pupils in Nottinghamshire schools achieved this measure (an increase of 0.2% from provisional data) compared to 80.0% nationally. Comparisons against our statistical neighbours places Nottinghamshire joint 4th (out of 11th) on this measure, an improvement from 5th in 2014.
15. The gap between pupils eligible for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years (FSM6) and the rest continues to close at the end of primary education. The gap now stands at 16.8% for the percentage achieving level 4 or above in combined reading, writing and mathematics, with FSM6 pupils increasing at a faster rate from 2014 to 2015 than non-FSM6 pupils (an increase of 2.4% to 68.4% and 1.8% to 85.2% respectively). Since 2012, the gap has narrowed 5.5%.
16. Final Key Stage 4 figures (for pupils typically aged 16) show that 57.0% of Nottinghamshire pupils achieved 5+ A*-C including English and mathematics compared to 53.8% nationally (57.3% in state funded schools). This places the Local Authority broadly in line with all state funded schools nationally. Comparisons to provisional data (released last October) show an increase for Nottinghamshire of 1.6 percentage points on this measure whereas the increase for all schools nationally was 1 percentage point.
17. Comparisons against our statistical neighbours places Nottinghamshire 7th (out of 11th) on this headline measure which is an improvement from a provisional rank of 8th but a fall from the position of 4th on 2014 final data (using new statistical neighbours).
18. Final data for Nottinghamshire schools show there are 8 schools below the government's minimum performance floor standards (all of which are academies). This is where fewer than 40% of pupils achieve 5+ A*-C GCSEs including English and mathematics and below the national medians in pupils making the expected levels of progress in English and mathematics.
19. Performance indicators around closing the attainment gap (for pupils taking free school meals and the rest) and post-16 outcomes (A level entries at A*-E / A*-B grades) are yet to be updated as they are not readily available at the time of writing and require further analysis of the student level information to update these measures.
20. The figures for those 16 and 17 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) at the end of quarter 2 (September 2015) show a lower level of Status Not

Known and a higher proportion in Education, Employment or Training (EET) compared to September 2014. This reflects some improvements made in the arrangements for tracking young people post 16. However, it is important to note that the authority was still chasing destinations at the end of September so the figures will not represent a final or settled picture at this point.

Youth Offending & Early Help Support:

21. A number of KPIs monitor effectiveness across a range of services that provide early help to children, young people and families.
22. During quarter 2 there were 73 actual first time entrants to the Youth Justice System (or 100 per 100,000 of the 10-17 population). The year to date figure (up to the end of quarter 2) now stands at 171 first time entrants to the youth justice system per 100,000 population; this is higher than for the same period last year where there were 131 first time entrants to the youth justice system per 100,000 population.

Education Health Care Plan:

23. The Education Health Care (EHC) Plan has been introduced to bring together the families and agencies for children and young people aged 0-25 years with Special Educational Needs and complex disabilities, so that they have coordinated individual support plans across a range of services. Nottinghamshire has been a pathfinder area for this work and implemented the EHC Plan ahead of it becoming a national requirement in September 2014. There was a total of 45 EHC Plans finalised during quarter 3 in 2015/16, compared with 69 in quarter 2 2015/16.

Other Options Considered

24. The process for presenting performance information set out in this report is in line with corporate guidance, which has itself been established following an appropriate analysis of alternative options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

25. The recommendation for quarterly reporting to Committee, and the KPIs that will form the basis of the report, is in line with the established processes of reporting and publishing performance information across all of the services within the Children, Families and Cultural Services department.

Statutory and Policy Implications

26. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee notes the performance of the Council's services for children and young people during the period 1 October 2015 – 31 December 2015.

Jayne Francis-Ward
Corporate Director for Resources Department

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

27. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SS 28/01/16)

28. 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 2 2015/16) – services for children and young people – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 16 November 2015.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0769

