

19 June 2017

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES**PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 4 2016/17) - 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 January and 31 March 2017.

Information and Advice**Performance Reporting for 2016/17**

2. This report forms the fourth quarterly report of 2016/17, reporting on quarterly performance for the 2016/17 financial year. The report now includes performance on services for looked after children and care leavers which was regularly reported to the former Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee.
3. At its meeting in 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 appendices. **Appendix 1** shows those measures which have received updates since the previous quarter. **Appendix 2** shows those measures which have not changed.
5. For each KPI, current performance is compared with the national average for England, and that of the Council's children's services statistical neighbours, where this data is available. Since October 2014, Nottinghamshire's statistical neighbours have been:
 1. Derbyshire
 2. Staffordshire
 3. Lancashire
 4. Worcestershire
 5. Cumbria
 6. Northamptonshire

7. Essex
 8. Kent
 9. Cheshire West and Chester
 10. Warwickshire
6. In addition, for each KPI, the table indicates whether performance has improved (+), declined (-), or remained the same (=) over the current reporting period.
 7. Those KPIs that are aligned against the outcome statements in the [Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18](#) are highlighted (L) in both **Appendices 1 & 2**. This strategy identifies six outcomes to be achieved, as listed below:
 - 1) Looked after children and care leavers are happy and healthy
 - 2) Looked after children and care leavers are safe
 - 3) Looked after children and care leavers achieve their potential
 - 4) Looked after children and care leavers are prepared for adulthood
 - 5) Looked after children and care leavers are listened to
 - 6) Looked after children and care leavers build positive relationships.
 8. Progress is expected across all outcomes over the course of the three years. In order to ensure that the associated planned activity is realistic, deliverable and focused, an Annual Action Plan has been developed by the multi-agency *Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy Group* and progress is regularly monitored. Activity contained within the Annual Action Plan has been informed by the views of children and young people, via bi-annual surveys completed by the Children in Care Council.

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

9. This is the first full year of reporting the percentage of single child and family assessments completed within statutory timescales (45 days) and is positive to note that performance is significantly above target and reached its highest point in the fourth quarter of this financial year.
10. Following the introduction of the single child and family assessment, the indicator measuring those assessments leading onto ongoing children's social care involvement will be reviewed during service planning for 2017-18. Structural changes are also being made which will impact on the usefulness of the data and there are no accurate national comparators.
11. The re-referral rate has slightly increased for this last quarter. However, it is anticipated that the final figure for re-referral into social care will reduce significantly and fall within statistical neighbour and England averages once the data has been cleansed as part of the statutory data collection process.
12. As at the end of March 2017, there were 867 children subject to a child protection plan. This is a further increase from the previous quarter, and a significant increase compared with the figure in March 2016 (703). The rise in the number of plans over the year has been equally due to an increase in the number of new plans and a decrease in the number of plans being ended. Over the year there has only been a small increase in the

number of children being considered at an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC). However, the percentage of children becoming subject to a child protection plan at an ICPC has increased. This may be due to the additional scrutiny provided by the operational service managers who are required to agree the threshold for an ICPC. With regards to the decrease in the number of plans being ended over the year, there has been a significant reduction in the number of plans ended at the first review (3 months) and an increase in plans lasting between 1 and 1½ years. The Council does not have current comparable national or statistical data for this period although it remains an area for scrutiny.

13. During January to March 2017, 215 children had their child protection plan ended. In March there was a significant rise in the number of these plans that has lasted over 2 years; 12 discontinued plans in March had lasted for more than 2 years compared with a total of 27 over the entire year (April 2016 to March 2017). The increase seen in March was due to two large sibling groups of the discontinued plans lasting over 2 years. The large majority of the ceased plans over 2 years had been under the category of neglect, and the cases had predominately been the subject of a legal planning meeting and pre-proceedings process (PLO meetings). Although the percentage of plans ceased in quarter 4 lasting 2 years or more is high, the end of year figure (3.1%) is within target and is lower than both the England average and statistical neighbours as at the end of 2015/16.
14. During January to March 2017, 265 children became subject to a new child protection plan; of these 79 (29.8%) became subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time. This figure remains outside the target and is continuing to receive management scrutiny. Of the total 79 repeat plans this quarter, 37 (17 sibling groups) started within 2 years of the previous plan ending (13.9%). These repeat plans which commenced within 2 years of the previous plan ending were predominately for the same reason as the previous plan; neglect and domestic abuse featured significantly within this. Oversight of these cases is generally good and it was appropriate that these children were made subject to a repeat plan. Consideration is also being given in a timely way to whether legal advice is required. In quarter 4 over half of the children who became subject to a repeat plan within 2 years of the previous plan ending have either been or are due to be considered at a legal planning meeting.
15. During January to March 2017, 644 children had their plans reviewed at a child protection conference with a total of 331 review conferences being held, compared with 298 in Quarter 3 and 271 in Quarter 2. This is a significant increase in the number of review conferences being held but the percentage held in timescale has remained consistent and well above the national and our statistical neighbours. Reasons for reviews not being held in timescale continue to include a lack of child protection co-ordinator, social worker and agency availability or errors in booking arrangements.
16. The latest figure for those children adopted shows a much improved and shorter timescale from a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family. The 445 days for this quarter is very close to the performance threshold of 426 days which was set by the Government for the last 3 year average. Analysis against previous figures shows Nottinghamshire's three year average is gradually reducing, indicating that when the annual figure for 2016-17 is included to calculate the 2014-17 average, the figure should be reduced even further.

17. As with the average time between entering care and living with their adoptive family, the indicator measuring time between the date court granted authority and finding a match has seen a significant improvement towards the end of the year. However, this indicator has seen a rise when analysing the trend of previous three year averages, with the latest 2013-16 average increasing to 293 days compared with 226 for England. On a positive note, the figures reported for 2016-17 lead to a forecast of a much improved three year average for 2014-17.
18. Quarterly performance has been varied when measuring the % of children who wait less than 14 months between admission into care and moving in with their potential new family. Again, the percentage has positively increased when compared with 53% at the end of 2015/16 and 55% for England.
19. As at the end of March 2017, a total of 782 children were looked after by Nottinghamshire which is a rate of 48 per 10,000 children. This figure continues to remain lower than England and statistical neighbours. Recent work around thresholds when children are accommodated suggests that decisions are appropriate and consistently applied. The role of the Child Protection Coordinator is crucial in alerting their managers if it is deemed that a child is in need of accommodation and the appropriate action is not occurring for this to happen. The number of children being admitted into care has dropped slightly from the last quarter with there being an increase in the number of children being discharged from care. When looking at the figures around discharges, 61% of the total related to children returning to the care of their parents or moving into independent living.
20. Work is continually ongoing in order to decrease the percentage of looked after children who have been in multiple short-term placements. The slight increase this quarter is due to children moving to more appropriate placements that suit their needs and older children moving to placements that aid their independence. Annual performance for this indicator sits at 11% for 2015-16.
21. Performance continues to be consistently high for those children remaining in long-term placements, as Nottinghamshire has a high rate of children placed for adoption and long-term fostering placements compared with other local authorities. The latest national figure shows Nottinghamshire performing at ten percentage points higher if compared with the latest quarter.
22. The percentage of care leavers living in safe, secure and affordable accommodation has increased slightly from 83.2% to 83.8% in quarter 4, indicating more young people are less at risk of becoming homeless or living in unsuitable provision. This measure remains above both the statistical neighbours' average of 79.3% and on a par with the national average of 83%.

Educational standards and closing the attainment gap

23. The percentage of young people qualified to Level 3 (2 or more passes at A-Level or equivalent) has witnessed an increase from the previous academic year. Data for young people aged 19 years at the end of the 2015/16 academic year shows 52.0% of those who attended a Nottinghamshire school at age 16 years attained this compared with

50.5% the previous academic year. Nottinghamshire remains at the bottom of its statistical neighbours on this measure behind Northamptonshire (where 52.2% attained Level 3) although the gap between Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire has narrowed between the two years to now, being 0.2 percentage points behind (was 3 percentage points in 2014/15). Lancashire remains as being placed first (59.4% although a slight fall from 2014/15 of 60.6%), with Derbyshire (closest statistical neighbour) placed 8th at 54.4% (out of 11 local authorities, where 1st is best). Against all authorities nationally Nottinghamshire is placed 116th (out of 151, where 1st is best), which represents an improvement in rank from 129th last year. The statistical neighbour average is 55.8% (a fall from 56.9% from the previous year), while nationally the figure for the state sector is 57.1% (a slight fall of 0.4 percentage points).

24. The percentage of young people not achieving a Level 2 (A*-C or equivalent) qualification in English and mathematics in a Nottinghamshire school at age 16 years who go on to achieve this by age 19 years has seen an increase of 2.9 percentage points to 19.8% (from 16.9% in 2014/15). Nationally over the same period there has been an increase of 1.7 percentage points to 24.1% of pupils achieving this threshold. Nottinghamshire is placed 9th (out of 11 local authorities) amongst its statistical neighbours in this measure and 119th nationally (out of 151, where 1st is best). This represents an improvement on national rankings compared with last year when Nottinghamshire was placed 134th. This cohort would have completed key stage 4 in 2013 and with improvements in English and mathematics outcomes in Nottinghamshire schools, it could be argued, make it more challenging to perform well on this measure as more pupils achieve the threshold at age 16 years. However, amongst statistical neighbours, Warwickshire (34.5%) and Worcestershire (36.5%) had the closest proportion of pupils at 16 years who failed to achieve A*-C grades in English and mathematics when compared with Nottinghamshire (36.3%) and both of these areas witnessed a greater proportion of pupils achieve A*-C grades in English and mathematics by the time these young people turned 19 years (21.4% and 24.3% respectively compared with 19.8% for Nottinghamshire).
25. The number of primary schools in an Ofsted category (inadequate) remains static since the previous quarter with two Nottinghamshire primary schools judged inadequate as at the end of March 2017. William Gladstone CofE Primary (Newark district, a sponsored academy which converted January 2017 under the leadership of the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham) is now considered a new school due to its recent sponsored academy conversion and no longer inadequate. Netherfield Primary (Gedling district, LA maintained school) remains inadequate from the last quarter. Arnbrook Primary (Gedling district, a sponsored academy which converted April 2014 under the leadership of Southwark Primary Academy - Nottingham LA) became inadequate in February. This was their first inspection as an academy.
26. The number of secondary academies in an Ofsted category has fallen from three to one since the previous quarter. Queen Elizabeth (Mansfield district; a sponsored academy which originally converted January 2012 under the leadership of School Partnership Trust) which was judged inadequate in the last quarter is now under the leadership of Diverse Academies Trust (as at 1st September 2016). Newark Academy (Newark district, a sponsored academy which originally converted November 2012 under the leadership of Lincoln College) also judged inadequate in the last quarter is now under the leadership of Torch Academy Gateway Trust (as at 1st October 2016). Both schools are considered

new schools and are therefore no longer inadequate. Manor (Mansfield district; a convertor academy which converted August 2011) remains inadequate.

27. The percentage of young people aged 16-17 years who are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) has increased in quarter 4 from the same quarter last year. 96.9% of young people are now in EET, an increase of 3 percentage points. Improvements have also been seen in the proportion of young people whose activity is unknown. Quarter 4 data shows this has fallen to 1.7% (from 4.4% the same quarter last year). Those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) has also witnessed improvements, with only 1.5% of 16-17 year olds falling into this classification (from 1.8%), and the best performance to date. Futures has also recently been graded as Outstanding in their latest inspection in providing jobs and skills advice, training and apprenticeships to support young people and adults into work and training.
28. The number of two year olds taking up their free entitlement has witnessed an increase in the spring 2017 term. 75.0% of eligible two year olds are attending providers, an increase of 9 percentage points (from 66.0%) from the same term last year. Analysis by district shows all eligible Rushcliffe district children are accessing their entitlement whereas the equivalent figure for Newark and Sherwood district is 62.1%. All districts however witnessed an increase from this quarter last year.
29. The percentage of sessions missed in all Nottinghamshire schools (primary, secondary and special schools) due to overall (authorised and unauthorised) absence has witnessed a slight fall from the last academic year. Figures for the year 2015/16 show 4.4% of sessions were missed, a fall of 0.1 percentage points from 2014/15. Nationally over the same period there has been no change with 4.6% of sessions missed, a similar picture amongst statistical neighbour averages with no change at 4.5%. Comparisons by type of Nottinghamshire school show primary and special phase schools have both witnessed a 0.1 percentage point drop to 3.9% and 8.7% respectively. Secondary has witnessed a fall of 0.2 percentage points to 5.0% of sessions missed. All phases are below the equivalent national averages (4.0% for primary, 5.2% secondary and 9.1% for special).

Youth Offending & Early Help Support

30. First time entrants to the youth justice system is reported a quarter in arrears. The target is to remain below the national average which on latest data, released in February 2017, is 346 per 100,000. The new national benchmark for First Time Entrants has fallen by 12%. Despite this Nottinghamshire remains on target to remain well below the average in terms of numbers per 100,000 of youth population. Quarter and year-to-date figures are broadly in line with the previous year.
31. Children's Centre registrations performance remains high with 100% of all children under 5 years who live in low income areas registered with a Children's Centre at the end of quarter 4. The number of these who had been seen at a Children's Centre remains comparable to the same quarter last year. At the end of quarter 4, 73.4% of children living in low income areas were seen in Children's Centres.

Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans

32. Since 1st April 2014, children with statements of special educational needs and young people with Learning Difficulty Assessments have been transitioning to Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. Completing this transition is a duty on the Local Authority and all children must be transitioned by 1 April 2018. In quarter 4 2016-17 there was a total of 39 EHC Plans finalised, giving a total of 242 plans confirmed during the year.

Other Options Considered

33. 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

34. 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

35. 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 services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, 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.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

36. 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/S

- 1) That the Committee notes the performance of the Council's services for children and young people during the period 1 January – 31 March 2017.

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (SS 12/05/17)

38. 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 – services for children and young people – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 20 February 2017.

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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