

21 November 2016

Agenda Item: 04

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES

PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 2 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 July and 30 September 2016.

Information and Advice

Performance Reporting for 2016/17

2. This report forms the second quarterly report of 2016/17, reporting on quarterly performance for the 2016/17 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 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 to 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.

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

- 7. This is the second quarter of reporting on the single child and family assessments completed within timescales (45 days). The change in reporting this financial year reflects the shift from initial and core assessment to the new child and family assessment. Quarter 2 performance shows good performance in this area with 91.4% of assessments completed in timescale. This is well above the national and statistical neighbour averages of 81.5% and 80.6%.
- 8. The low level of assessments leading onto ongoing children's social care involvement in quarter 1 (26%) and quarter 2 (27.7%) are not comparable to previous quarters as they reflect the change from using initial and core assessment to the child and family assessment. Many assessments will now be referred to other areas, e.g. the Family Service and Early Help so will not be recorded as needing on-going social care involvement. This is an indicator that will require ongoing close scrutiny over time. Work is ongoing with all partner agencies to ensure that they only make good quality and appropriate safeguarding referrals to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), however effecting change in this area is proving difficult.
- 9. The re-referral rate in quarter 2 has deteriorated by 6.7% points from quarter 1 and is now 7.2% points above the target. This indicator is being closely monitored. Historically, evidence shows that when re-referral data is cleansed it reduces.
- 10. At the end of September 2016, there was a total of 790 children subject to a child protection plan. This is an increase from the last quarter. Operational service managers continue to make the decision about progressing cases to an initial case conference. Work undertaken on children being subject to plans suggests there is no evidence to state they should not be. During this same period there were 129 initial child protection conferences held and as a result of this 238 children became subject to a plan.
- 11. With a value of 48.6, the rate of children subject to a child protection plan per 10,000 is higher than both the England average and the Council's statistical neighbours which are currently 42.9 and 38.3 respectively.
- 12. During July, August and September 2016, a total number of 186 children had their child protection plans ended; only 5 of these (2.7%) had been subject to a child protection plan for more than 2 years. This figure continues to remain well within target and is lower than both the England average and the Council's statistical neighbours as at the end of 2014/15 which was 3.7% and 3.8% respectively. This is an area that attracts close management attention from operational service managers and child protection coordinators.
- 13. During this period a total number of 239 children became the subject of a child protection plan; of these 44 (18.4%) had been subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time and 13 (5.4%) of these started within 2 years of the previous plan ending, a slight reduction from

the previous quarter. Of those repeat plans after more than 2 years (which is a higher number than within the two years) 16 children had a repeat plan after 5 years. When looking specifically at the reasons for these repeat plans, domestic violence does feature heavily and some work will be undertaken to explore the causes of this. This will continue to be monitored although recent audits of this area of work have not raised any concerns.

14. Performance on child protection cases reviewed within timescales is good and is showing an improving picture. During quarter 2, 552 children had their plans reviewed at a child protection conference, with a total of 271 conferences being held.
15. For those adopted children, positive progress continues to be made with the average number of days between their admission and placement decreasing further; it has fallen by 58 days this quarter. The Council continues to identify children likely to have a plan of adoption as early as possible and tailor the recruitment of adopters accordingly to ensure efficient and appropriate matching.
16. The average days between a local authority court authority to place and a decision to match also continues to fall and is now half what it was only six months ago. The Council continues to have ambitious plans for harder to place children and thus it takes longer to find these placements. With more straight forward plans, the Council has refined processes to ensure that children are placed with families as soon as possible.
17. The percentage of children waiting less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family has fallen slightly to 64% at the end of September 2016. Sound working arrangements within children's services allow early identification of children with a plan of adoption. The Council is committed to the placement of harder to place children and thus these placements will take longer.
18. At the end of September, there were 792 looked after children which equates to a rate of 48.7 per 10,000; this continues to remain lower than the England average and that of the Council's statistical neighbours, which were 60 and 59.8 respectively. The England average for Nottinghamshire would equate to 975 children, an increase of 183. As there has been a decrease in the number of looked after children since January this will be kept under review by operational colleagues. During this quarter 31% of those no longer being accommodated were young people reaching the age of 18 and progressing onto independent living.
19. The Council continues to work hard to maintain placements and the positive impact of this can be seen in the proportion of looked after children who have had at least three placements which has reduced since quarter 1. The Council provides therapeutic support to young people and their foster carers and is looking at ways to ensure this is always available as and when required. The Council is embarking on a review of Specialist Fostering Schemes to ensure it is meeting the needs of all of Nottinghamshire's Looked After Children (LAC) population.
20. The percentage of looked after children in Nottinghamshire who have remained in the same placement for at least 2 years continues to increase so that now over three quarters of children are residing in the same placement. This is well above the national average and statistical neighbours. The stability of placements has been shown to have a positive impact on the outcomes for young people.

21. The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation has fallen very slightly from 81.8% in quarter 1 to 81% in quarter 2. However, it remains above both the statistical neighbours' average of 75.3% and the national average of 80.7%.

Educational standards and closing the attainment gap

22. Results for Key Stage 2, 4 and 5 are provisional and subject to change. Final results are expected early next year.
23. The percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile has increased by 1.8 percentage points to 67.1% in 2016. Figures from the National Consortium for Examination Results suggest nationally 69.3% of pupils achieved this measure which is a 3 percentage point increase from 2015. Bassetlaw district witnessed the largest increase in this measure, an increase of 5.1 percentage points to 66.8%. Newark and Gedling districts were the only two districts to witness a fall by 0.7 (to 65.0%) and 1.5 (to 68.6%) respectively.
24. 2016 represents the first year of new testing arrangements at Key Stage 2 (typically for 11 year olds). The assessments are the first which assess the new, more challenging national curriculum (introduced in 2014). Results are no longer reported as levels, and each pupil will now receive their test results (in reading; grammar, punctuation and spelling; and mathematics) as a scaled score and teacher assessments (in writing and other subjects) based on the standards in the interim framework. Because of these changes, figures for 2016 are not comparable to those for earlier years.
25. Pupils at the end of Key Stage 2 are expected to achieve in test subjects a scaled score of 100 (which represents the expected standard), to achieve a teacher assessment judgement of 'working at the expected standard' or 'working at greater depth in the expected standard' (in writing) and to have made progress between their prior attainment at Key Stage 1 (typically aged 7 years) and Key Stage 2 outcomes.
26. For the first year of these new assessments provisional data shows Nottinghamshire is in-line with the national average for the percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics combined at the end of primary education. 53.3% of pupils achieved this measure compared with 53.0% nationally and 52.2% amongst statistical neighbours. The largest gap between Nottinghamshire and national outcomes was in reading tests where 64.5% achieved this measure compared with 66.0% nationally.
27. There have been similar changes at Key Stage 4 (typically for 16 year olds) with the removal of the measure five or more A*-C grades including GCSE English and mathematics. This is no longer the main measure used for accountability purposes. A measure for English and mathematics remains (A*-C in both English and mathematics, known as the basics), as well as the English Baccalaureate (A*-C grades in English, mathematics, two sciences, a language, and a humanities of either history or geography). Attainment 8, a measure which schools could opt-in early last year, will now be reported for all schools. Attainment 8 is the average attainment across eight subjects (English, mathematics, any three English Baccalaureate subjects and any three other approved qualifications which can include non-GCSEs). A new measure of progress will also be used based on Attainment 8. Progress 8 compares the difference between a student's Attainment 8 score and the average Attainment 8 score nationally for pupils with the same level of attainment at the end of

primary school (Key Stage 2). The new floor standard / coasting schools measure will be based on the average Progress 8 score across the school.

28. Provisional results for 2016 show 65.6% of pupils achieved A*-C grades in both GCSE English and mathematics. This represents an increase of 5.9 percentage points from 2015. Nationally over the same period 62.6% of state funded schools achieved this measure, an increase of 3.4 percentage points. Nottinghamshire is placed 40th for this measure nationally against all other LAs (an improvement from 72nd in 2015). Comparisons to statistical neighbours shows the average for this measure to be 63.1%. All districts witnessed an increase in the percentage of pupils achieving this measure but Newark district schools witnessed the greatest increase from 50.2% in 2015 to 62.0% in 2016, an 11.8 percentage point increase.
29. The percentage of A-Level entries in Nottinghamshire sixth forms awarded a pass grade at A*-E has increased to 99.7%, an increase of 1.3 percentage points from 2015. Comparisons nationally show no change from 2015 remaining at 98.8%.
30. The percentage of A-Level entries in Nottinghamshire sixth forms awarded a pass grade at A*-B has increased to 48.9%, an increase of 2.4 percentage points from 2015. Comparisons nationally show a slight increase to 53.5% (from 53.4% in 2015).
31. Although there have been increases in 2016 provisional results in sixth forms there remain challenges at Key Stage 5 and overall performance is still below average.
32. There has been a widening of the A*-C grades in both English and mathematics attainment gap for pupils who are eligible for free school meals at any point in the past six years (FSM6; deprivation element of the pupil premium funding) against those who are not eligible. In 2016 42.2% of FSM6 pupils achieved A*-C grades in both GCSE English and mathematics compared to 72.6% who were not FSM6. The FSM6 gap for the County is 30.4 percentage points which represents a widening of the gap compared to 29.4 percentage points reported in 2015. Figures from the National Consortium for Examination Results suggest that nationally the attainment gap in this measure stands at 26.8 percentage points (43.0% of FSM6 pupils achieving this measure compared with 69.8% of non-FSM6) for state funded schools. Although figures for Nottinghamshire show a widening of the gap, the performance of FSM6 pupils has increased at a faster rate than witnessed nationally in 2016. For FSM6 pupils the cohort increased 5.1 percentage points from 2015 compared with a national increase for this cohort of 3.4 percentage points. For FSM6 pupils Nottinghamshire is now 0.8 percentage points below the national average for this group compared with 2.5 the year before.

Youth Offending & Early Help Support

33. During quarter 1 there were 49 actual first time entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice System (or 70 per 100,000 10-17 population). This is similar to the same period last year (48 actual entrants or 68 per 100,000 10-17 population). This places Nottinghamshire to be on target to be below the national average (393 per 100,000) by year end. Violence makes up the largest proportion of the FTE offence type, as has been consistent with all previous quarters, at 40%. The majority of FTEs were dealt with by way of pre-court disposals – in the form of youth cautions or youth conditional cautions (67%).

Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans

34. EHC Plans bring together a child's education, health and social care needs into a single, legal document. The document sets out what extra support they will get to meet those needs. From 1 September 2014 EHC Plans started to replace statements of special educational needs as part of a major transformation of the way services for children and young people (0-25 years) with special educational needs and/or disabilities are delivered. Nottinghamshire was a pathfinder for this area of work and implemented the EHC Plan ahead of it becoming a national requirement. There was a total of 65 EHC Plans finalised during quarter 1 2016/17, compared with 85 in quarter 4 2015/16.

Other Options Considered

35. 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

36. 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

37. 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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee notes the performance of the Council's services for children and young people during the period 1 July – 30 September 2016.

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (TMR 09/11/16)

39. As this report is for noting only, no Financial Comments are required.

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 2016/17) – services for children and young people – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 19 September 2016.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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