

20 February 2017

Agenda Item:

## **REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES**

### **PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 3 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 October and 31 December 2016.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Performance Reporting for 2016/17**

2. This report forms the third quarterly report of 2016/17, reporting on quarterly performance for the 2016/17 financial year.
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 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 third 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. Performance in quarter 3 remains stable with 90.7% of assessments completed in timescale. This is well above the 2015/16 national and statistical neighbour averages of 83.4% and 85.9%.
- 8. The level of assessments leading onto ongoing children's social care involvement has increased slightly to 31.4%. This indicator will be reviewed during the Service Planning for 2017-18, following the single child and family assessment replacing both initial and core assessments. Structural changes are also being made which will impact on the usefulness of the data and there are no accurate national comparators.
- 9. The re-referral rate has fallen slightly since quarter 2. 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 reviewed at the end of the year as has happened every year for the last seven years. Again, this indicator will be reviewed during the Service Planning process.
- 10. At the end of December 2016, 817 children were subject to a child protection plan. This number has been steadily increasing over the past year and it remains an area of focus. There is evidence that plans are progressing; indeed the number of plans ended this quarter was significantly higher than in the previous two quarters. The decision to progress cases to an initial conference remains with the operational service managers as opposed to the team managers to provide an increased level of scrutiny.
- 11. The rate of children subject to a child protection plan per 10,000 for quarter 3 is 50.2 and remains higher than both the England average and the Council's statistical neighbours which are currently 42.9 and 38.3 respectively.
- 12. During quarter 3, 243 children had their child protection plans ended; only 4 (1.6%) of these had been subject to a plan for more than two years. This figure has consistently remained within our target, and is lower than both the England average and the Council's statistical neighbours as at the end of 2015/16. Child protection coordinators (CPCs) continually review plans to ensure they are meeting the needs of the child at regular intervals. Additionally, CPCs will alert operational service managers at the 15 month stage if it is felt that there has been a lack of progress of the plan.
- 13. During quarter 3, 269 children became the subject of a new child protection plan and of these, 69 (25.7%) became subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time. This clearly remains an area of concern and is continuing to receive management attention as it remains outside the target for England and the Council's statistical neighbours. Of the total 69 repeat

plans this quarter, 32 (14 sibling groups) started within two years of the previous plan ending (11.9%). Of these repeat plans which commenced within two years of the previous plan ending, all were made for the same reason as the previous plan and domestic violence continues to feature significantly within this. Operational service manager oversight is key in these cases so consideration can be given in a timely way to whether legal advice should be sought. In some of the cases care proceedings have subsequently been initiated.

14. Performance on child protection cases reviewed within timescales is good and stable. During quarter 3, 595 children had their plans reviewed at a child protection conference with a total of 298 conferences being held. The percentage of cases reviewed in timescale in the rolling year is 97.5% which is marginally below target, although the figure remains significantly above the England average and the Council's statistical neighbours.
15. For those adopted children, the average number of days between their admission and placement has increased but most of the children who have moved in with their new family this quarter had been in care for over 600 days so it is positive that they have finally been placed. The Council continues to home find for harder to place children and as a result of this ambitious approach, it often takes longer.
16. The average days between a local authority court authority to place and a decision to match has also increased this quarter as some children are taking considerably longer to place. The Council is tenacious in its approach to seek permanence via adoption, hence the longer timescales for some children.
17. The percentage of children waiting less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family has fallen 51% at the end of December 2016. Where placements are straightforward the Council works speedily with partners to ensure children are with permanent families as soon as possible. Children placed in Fostering for Adoption placements contribute to this figure as does the fact that children are tracked and matched as early as possible with adopters in stage 2 of the assessment process.
18. At the end of December, a total of 798 children were looked after by Nottinghamshire which equates to a rate of 49.1 per 10,000 children. This has consistently remained below the Council's national and statistical neighbour comparators, which were 60 and 59.8 respectively. The number of children being admitted into care has remained relatively stable from the previous quarter. However, there has been a slight decrease in the number of discharges from care. Whilst there is no target to increase the LAC numbers in Nottinghamshire to bring it in line with our statistical neighbours, it is crucial to ensure that children in the need of protection continue to be accommodated in a timely way.
19. The Council continues to work hard to improve the stability of placements. Performance in quarter 3 is similar to the previous quarter at 8.8% of looked after children (LAC) having three or more placements in a year. Some children have had planned changes to support preparations towards semi-independence and where older teenagers' placements have been disrupted.
20. The good performance of the percentage of looked after children in Nottinghamshire who have remained in the same placement for at least two years has been maintained in quarter 3, increasing to 78%. This is well above the available benchmark figures for national average and statistical neighbours.

21. The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation has increased slightly from 81% to 83.2% in quarter 3. However, it 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**

22. 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.
23. 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.
24. Final published results show 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. 53.8% of pupils achieved this measure compared with 54.0% nationally and 53.3% amongst statistical neighbours. The largest gap between Nottinghamshire and national outcomes was in reading tests where 65.1% achieved this measure compared with 66.0% nationally.
25. Final data shows the Key Stage 2 attainment gap for pupils eligible for free school meals at any point in the past six years (FSM6) attaining the expected standard in each of reading, writing and mathematics stands at 24.2 percentage points. 36.1% of Nottinghamshire FSM6 pupils achieved this standard compared with 60.3% of non-FSM6 pupils. Comparisons to provisional national data show the equivalent figures to be 38.7% and 59.5% respectively giving a national gap of 20.8 percentage points, 3.4 percentage points lower than Nottinghamshire. Due to the change in reporting at Key Stage 2 this year it is not possible to make comparisons to previous years on whether the gap has narrowed.
26. The difference in the gap is due to attainment of FSM6 pupils in Nottinghamshire being 2.6 percentage points lower than the equivalent group nationally (38.7% provisional). The non-FSM6 group performs slightly higher in Nottinghamshire with 60.3% achieving the expected standard compared with 59.5% (provisional) nationally.
27. Outcomes by district show the FSM6 gap to be widest in Rushcliffe at 28.3 percentage points. However overall outcomes for these two pupil groups are the highest of all districts at 42.1% for FSM6 pupils and 70.4% non-FSM6 reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics. This level of attainment for FSM6 pupils is almost 10 percentage points higher than those witnessed in the lowest performing districts (33.4% in Mansfield and 34.2% in Ashfield). Similarly the non-FSM6 group in Rushcliffe is almost 15 percentage points higher than these areas (56.3% and 55.7% respectively).

28. Key Stage 2 outcomes for those achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics by free school meal at any point in the past six years (FSM6) eligibility and the associated gap:

District	FSM6 eligible	2016		
		Pupils	% Exp. Standard (R,W & M)	GAP
Ashfield	Yes	489	34.2	21.5
	No	845	55.7	
Bassetlaw	Yes	348	36.5	20.7
	No	827	57.2	
Broxtowe	Yes	253	41.5	20.0
	No	820	61.5	
Gedling	Yes	328	35.4	22.7
	No	936	58.1	
Mansfield	Yes	371	33.4	22.9
	No	768	56.3	
Newark	Yes	294	35.0	24.7
	No	861	59.7	
Rushcliffe	Yes	178	42.1	28.3
	No	1,092	70.4	
LA	Yes	2,261	36.1	24.2
	No	6,149	60.3	
National (Provisional)	Yes	--	38.7	20.8
	No	--	59.5	

29. At Key Stage 4 (typically for 16 year olds) the measure of five or more A\*-C grades including GCSE English and mathematics is no longer the main measure used for accountability purposes. A measure for English and mathematics remains (A\*-C grades 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.

30. Final results for 2016 show 65.9% of pupils achieved A\*-C grades in both GCSE English and mathematics. This represents an increase of 6.2 percentage points from 2015. Nationally over the same period 63.3% of state funded schools achieved this measure, an increase of 4.1 percentage points. Nottinghamshire is placed 41<sup>st</sup> out of 151 local authorities for this measure (an improvement from 72<sup>nd</sup> in 2015). Comparisons to statistical neighbours shows

the average for this measure to be 63.3%. 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 62.3% in 2016, a 12.1 percentage point increase.

31. 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. Final 2016 data shows that 42.8% of FSM6 pupils achieved A\*-C grades in both GCSE English and mathematics compared with 73.0% who were not FSM6. The FSM6 gap for the County is 30.2 percentage points which represents a widening of the gap compared to 29.4 percentage points reported in 2015. Nationally the attainment gap in this measure stands at 26.9 percentage points (43.4% of FSM6 pupils achieving this measure compared with 70.3% 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 5.7 percentage points from 2015 compared with a national increase for this cohort of 3.8 percentage points. For FSM6 pupils Nottinghamshire is now 0.6 percentage points below the national average for this group compared with 2.5 the year before.

32. Key Stage 4 outcomes for those achieving A\*-C grades in both English and mathematics by free school meal at any point in the past six years (FSM6) eligibility and the associated gap are as follows:

District	FSM6 eligible	2015			2016			Increase from 2015	GAP change
		Pupils	% A*-C E&M	GAP	Pupils	% A*-C E&M	GAP		
Ashfield	Yes	409	35.0	27.2	378	33.9	30.5	-1.1	3.3
	No	958	62.2		887	64.4		2.2	
Bassetlaw	Yes	266	46.2	28.0	261	59.0	16.0	12.8	-12.0
	No	903	74.2		865	75.0		0.8	
Broxtowe	Yes	204	37.7	26.5	178	44.4	28.6	6.7	2.1
	No	746	64.2		740	73.0		8.8	
Gedling	Yes	262	45.0	21.9	239	44.8	27.9	-0.2	6.0
	No	985	66.9		925	72.7		5.8	
Mansfield	Yes	369	32.5	27.7	390	34.6	33.7	2.1	6.0
	No	835	60.2		814	68.3		8.1	
Newark	Yes	229	24.0	34.2	223	38.1	32.0	14.1	-2.2
	No	746	58.2		692	70.1		11.9	
Rushcliffe	Yes	154	42.9	32.5	169	58.6	24.8	15.7	-7.7
	No	1,127	75.4		1,130	83.4		8.0	
LA	Yes	1,893	37.1	29.4	1,838	42.8	30.2	5.7	0.8
	No	6,300	66.5		6,053	73.0		6.5	
National	Yes	--	39.6	26.8	--	43.4	26.9	3.8	0.1
	No	--	66.4		--	70.3		3.9	

33. The Early Years Foundation Stage attainment gap for pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) attaining a good level of development (GLD) and those not eligible has narrowed.

The Nottinghamshire gap now stands at 22.6 percentage points which is a 5 percentage point fall from the 27.6 reported in 2015. This remains above the 18 percentage point gap reported nationally. Most districts witnessed a fall in the gap, some quite sharp falls. Rushcliffe and Broxtowe for example have seen sharp increases in their FSM attainment levels (21.4 and 19.8 percentage points respectively) having a dramatic impact on the gap in these areas. The gap for Rushcliffe and Broxtowe now stand at 19.1 and 14.9 percentage points respectively which are now two of the lowest gap areas (including Mansfield where the gap now stands at 18.6).

34. Gedling district was the only area to witness an increase in the gap. Attainment for FSM pupils fell 12.7 percentage points between 2015 and 2016 in this district resulting in a widening of the gap. This has had the effect on Gedling district having the lowest gap of all districts in 2015 to now having the highest gap in 2016. The gap stands at 31.2 percentage points.

35. Good Level of Development (GLD) outcomes by free school meal (FSM) eligibility and the associated gap are as follows:

District	FSM eligible	2015			2016			Increase from 2015	GAP change
		Pupils	% GLD	GAP	Pupils	% GLD	GAP		
Ashfield	Yes	277	40.1	<b>25.1</b>	260	42.7	<b>22.5</b>	2.6	-2.6
	No	1,194	65.2		1,286	65.2		0.0	
Bassetlaw	Yes	182	38.5	<b>27.0</b>	147	48.3	<b>20.9</b>	9.8	-6.1
	No	1,103	65.5		1,147	69.2		3.7	
Broxtowe	Yes	125	34.4	<b>33.8</b>	168	54.2	<b>14.9</b>	19.8	-18.9
	No	1,168	68.2		1,170	69.1		0.9	
Gedling	Yes	134	53.0	<b>19.1</b>	124	40.3	<b>31.2</b>	-12.7	12.1
	No	1,171	72.1		1,217	71.5		-0.6	
Mansfield	Yes	193	42.5	<b>22.4</b>	203	50.2	<b>18.6</b>	7.8	-3.8
	No	1,159	64.9		1,184	68.8		3.9	
Newark	Yes	151	40.4	<b>28.5</b>	150	43.3	<b>24.5</b>	2.9	-4.0
	No	1,185	68.9		1,197	67.8		-1.2	
Rushcliffe	Yes	56	35.7	<b>38.7</b>	56	57.1	<b>19.1</b>	21.4	-19.6
	No	1,308	74.4		1,324	76.2		1.8	
LA	Yes	1,118	41.0	<b>27.6</b>	1,108	47.1	<b>22.6</b>	6.1	-5.0
	No	8,288	68.6		8,525	69.7		1.2	
National	Yes	--	51.0	<b>18.0</b>	--	54.0	<b>18.0</b>	3.0	0.0
	No	--	69.0		--	72.0		3.0	

36. The number of primary schools in an Ofsted category shows an increase since the previous quarter. Two Nottinghamshire primary schools were judged inadequate (an increase from one last quarter) as at the end of December 2016. William Gladstone CofE Primary (Newark district, a recent sponsored academy conversion January 2017 under the leadership of the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham) was inadequate the previous quarter after a May 2016 inspection. This school is now however considered a new school due to its recent sponsored academy conversion and therefore at the time of writing this report is no longer

inadequate. Netherfield Primary (Gedling district, LA maintained school) became inadequate in September 2016 after being previously outstanding.

37. The number of secondary academies in an Ofsted category has remained static since the previous quarter at three schools. Queen Elizabeth (Mansfield district; a sponsored academy which converted January 2012 under the leadership of School Partnership Trust) remains inadequate from the previous quarter. Manor (Mansfield district; a converter academy which converted August 2011) remains inadequate as does Newark Academy (Newark district, a sponsored academy who transferred leadership from Lincoln College to the Torch Academy Gateway Trust in September 2016). There are currently no Local Authority maintained secondary schools judged to be either inadequate or requiring improvement.
38. The number of two year olds accessing their free entitlement has witnessed an increase in the autumn 2016 term. 75.1% of eligible two year olds are attending providers, an increase of 2.3 percentage points (from 72.8%) 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 65.9%. This represents a fall of 5 percentage points from 70.9% reported this term last year and was the only district to witness a fall.
39. The percentage of young people aged 16-17 years who are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) has increased in quarter 3 from quarter 1. 96.6% of young people are now in EET, an increase of 3.5 percentage points. Improvements have also been seen in the proportion of young people whose activity is unknown. Quarter 3 data shows this has fallen to 1.9% (from 2.8% in quarter 1). Those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) has witnessed a slight increase to 1.7% (from 1.6%).

### **Youth Offending & Early Help Support**

40. First time entrants to the youth justice system is reported a quarter in arrears. Figures for the most recent quarter (quarter 2) show there were 53 actual first time entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System. This quarter, which covers summer when there is normally a rise in offending levels, is significantly lower than the same period last year. Of note in terms of these figures is that Mansfield has a significantly higher percentage of FTEs as a proportion of its general population and Broxtowe has a significantly lower rate. This is not an unusual situation for Mansfield but marks a significant change in terms of Broxtowe. The reasons behind this low total number are not yet clear. Boys are over represented, just 23% of first time entrants were female; 6% were from a Black or Minority Ethnic group which is in line with the general population.
41. Children's Centre registrations performance remains high with 100% of all children under 5 who live in low income areas registered with a Children's Centre at the end of quarter 2. 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 2, 52.2% of children living in low income areas were seen in Children's Centres.

### **Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans**



42. Since 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3 2016-17 there was a total of 47 EHC Plans finalised, slightly down from 69 plans in quarter 2.

### **Other Options Considered**

43. 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**

44. 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**

45. 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 October – 31 December 2016.

**Jayne Francis-Ward**  
**Corporate Director for Resources Department**

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### **Constitutional Comments**

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

### **Financial Comments (TMR 30/01/17)**

47. There are no financial implications arising 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 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

C0939