

10 February 2014**Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND
CULTURAL SERVICES****PERFORMANCE REPORTING (2013/14 QUARTER 3) – 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 2013.

Information and Advice**Performance Reporting for 2013/14**

2. This report forms the third quarterly performance report for 2013/14, reporting on performance during 2013/14 Quarter 3 (1 October and 31 December 2013).
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.
4. 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. Although it has been agreed that performance will be reported on a quarterly basis, not all of these KPIs are equally sensitive to quarterly fluctuation. In accepting that KPIs will not always change from one quarter to the next, it was agreed that the most up-to-date information would be provided for each KPI.
5. The KPIs that are reported on within this report are the same as those reported on for 2013/14 Quarter 2.
6. 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. The statistical neighbour local authorities are:
 - Cumbria
 - Derbyshire
 - Dudley

- Kent
- Lancashire
- Lincolnshire
- Northamptonshire
- Nottinghamshire
- Staffordshire
- Swindon
- Wigan

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

Key messages

Children's Social Care

8. In Children's Social Care, performance in the timely completion of initial assessments has continued to improve as has that of core assessments. The rate of re-referrals has increased but this is likely to be related to the reduced number of referrals to Children's Social Care, as a result of changes to the operation of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which have brought social workers closer to initial call handling. In order to provide Members with further detail on performance in Children's Social Care, the Service Director for Children's Social Care will deliver a short presentation to the Committee.

Educational Attainment

9. The Department for Education has now released final data on academic attainment, as reported in **Appendix 1**. The data indicates that, for the 2012/13 academic year, the attainment of pupils in Nottinghamshire schools exceeds the national average at Early Years Foundation Stage, at age 11 years and at age 16 years. Attainment at A level continues to improve in Nottinghamshire. Although performance does not meet the national average, it is improving at a greater rate than nationally.
10. At Early Years Foundation Stage, average performance against the assessment framework was 56.6% in Nottinghamshire compared to 52.0% nationally. At age 11 years, the proportion of pupils achieving level 4 in reading, writing and mathematics was 76.8% in Nottinghamshire schools compared to 76.0% nationally. For both these age groups, the assessment method has changed since 2011/12, so it is not possible to make direct comparison with previous years' results.
11. At age 16 years, 63.4% of pupils in Nottinghamshire schools achieved 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent (including English & mathematics) compared to 59.2% of pupils nationally. This is the second consecutive year that Nottinghamshire pupils have achieved higher results than the national average. It also represents an improvement on performance in Nottinghamshire since last year (63.4% in 2012/13 compared to 60.6% in 2011/12), while nationally there was a slight decline in performance (from 59.4% in 2011/12 to 59.2% in 2012/13).
12. At A level, the performance of young people in Nottinghamshire has improved in 2012/13 compared with 2011/12. In Nottinghamshire, the percentage of A level entries at A*-E

grades was 98.0% in 2012/13, compared to 97.5% in 2011/12, while the percentage of A level entries at A*-B was 46.2% in 2012/13, compared to 43.4% in 2011/12.

13. The data released by the Department for Education also provides information about the achievement gaps between Nottinghamshire pupils who are eligible for free school meals and their peers. At this stage, there is no information available on the average achievement gaps nationally.
14. At age 16 years, the KPI used for national comparison is the attainment gap between those pupils who had been eligible for free school meals at any time in the last six years and those who had never been eligible. Using this measure, in Nottinghamshire this achievement gap has widened very slightly, from 30.7% in 2011/12 to 31.7% in 2013/14. The gap between those who were eligible for free school meals in the year of assessment and their peers has narrowed slightly from 31.8% to 31.7%. Nationally this gap is 26.7%, which represents a slight increase from 26.4% in 2012.
15. At age 11 years, the achievement gap between those pupils who had been eligible for free school meals at any time in the last six years and their peers is 19.9%. It is not possible to directly compare this with the assessment results from 2011/12, due to changes in the assessment process.

Early Help Services

16. A number of KPIs monitor effectiveness across a range of services. The numbers of first time entrants to youth justice services continues to decrease, to 124 in 2012/13 Quarter 2 compared with 292 in 2012/13 Quarter 2 (data for this KPI is always available one quarter in arrears). The numbers of young people engaged in positive activities by the youth have reduced slightly, with 18,525 in 2013/14 Quarter 3, compared with 19,200 in the 2012/13 Quarter 2. There has been a steady increase in the numbers of families from low income areas seen by children's centres throughout 2013/14, but there does appear to be a slight reduction in these numbers compared with the equivalent period in 2012/13 (48% compared to 51%).
17. The proportion of young people who are known not to be in education, employment and training has increased slightly for Quarter 3 but at 3.2% is significantly below the national average of 5.2%. The number of young people who are known to be participating in education, employment and training has also increased, to 89.3% (compared to 81.1% nationally). The number whose destination is unknown has reduced to 6.4%.

Other Options Considered

18. 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

19. 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

20. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service 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 2013.

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (KLA 29/01/14)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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