

19 September 2016**Agenda Item: 04****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES****PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 1 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 April and 30 June 2016.

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

2. This report forms the first 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. There has been one change to the indicator set this quarter with the replacement of 'Initial assessments for Children's Social Care carried out within timescales' and 'Core assessments for Children's Social Care carried out within timescales' with 'Child and Family Assessments completed with statutory timescales'.
6. 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

7. 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)

8. In the first quarter of reporting on the new single child and family assessments completed within timescales (45 days), it is positive to note that performance is significantly better than England and statistical neighbours' averages.
9. There has been a sharp drop in the percentage of assessments leading to on-going children's social care involvement, from 55% in the final quarter of 2015/16 to 26% in the first quarter of 2016/17. This is due to the change in recording as a result of the move to the single child and family assessment. Previously this measure captured initial assessments which progressed to a core assessment even when the core assessment resulted in no further action. This measure will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure the threshold remains appropriate.
10. Re-referral rate in quarter one is only 0.50% points above the target and will be closely monitored. Historically evidence shows that when re-referral data is cleansed it reduces significantly; the ACTUAL re-referral rate for 2015-16 was 14%.
11. At the end of June 2016, there were a total of 737 children subject to a child protection plan. This is an increase from the total of 703 at the end of March 2016. The number of initial child protection conferences has steadily increased over the quarter. The decision to progress cases to an initial conference has remained with the operational service managers and indeed they are consistently recording their agreement and oversight of the cases progressing to an initial conference.
12. At the end of June 2016 the number of children subject to a child protection plan was at the rate of 45.3 per 10,000 children. This figure is higher than both the England and statistical neighbours' averages at the end of 2014/15 which was 42.9 and 38.3 respectively. Although the number of children subject to a child protection plan is high, it is worth noting that it remains significantly lower than the 859 figure which was reached at the end of August 2015.
13. During April to June 2016, a total number of 212 children had their child protection plans ended and only 2 of these (0.9%) had been subject to a child protection plan for more than 2 years. This figure has consistently remained within target, and is also lower than both the England and statistical neighbours' averages as at the end of 2014/15 which was 3.7% and 3.8% respectively. Child Protection Coordinators continue to monitor plans over 15 months and will initiate alerts at the 15 month stage if it is felt that there has been a lack of progress with the plan. These alerts are sent directly to operational service managers requesting their oversight of the cases.

14. During April to June 2016, a total number of 244 children became the subject of a child protection plan and of these, 71 (29.1%) had been subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time. This figure remains higher than the target and is an increase from the previous quarter. It is noted that the figure in April was distorted by a number of large sibling groups. The independent chair service is continuing to monitor this area.
15. The independent chair service specifically audit those repeat plans which have started within 2 years of the previous plan ending. Operational service managers are also required to record their management oversight on these cases. Of the total 71 repeat plans this quarter, 31 started within 2 years of the previous plan ending. The large majority of these repeat plans were for the same reason, and domestic violence continues to feature significantly within this. Substance misuse has also been a common theme this quarter. Operational service managers' oversight is key in these cases so if necessary swift action can be identified and taken.
16. During April to June 2016 a total number of 568 children had their plans reviewed at a child protection conference, with a total of 301 conferences being held. During this quarter, two review child protection conferences were held out of timescale. The percentage of cases reviewed in timescale in the rolling year is 98% which meets the required target. There were some data errors which have since been rectified and this will further improve the percentage in timescale, with only 4 review conferences being held out of timescale over the past 12 months.
17. For those adopted children, positive progress has been made with the average number of days between their admission and placement decreasing again. The Council continues to place children via Fostering for Adoption and this enables us to place children in a timely manner. Good processes in relation to tracking of children's plans and home finding enables us to identify children with an adoption plan and match appropriately and efficiently.
18. The average days between a local authority court authority to place and a decision to match has also fallen again this quarter, showing good progress against this measure. The Council continues to be ambitious for all children with an adoption plan and are successful in placing older children, large sibling groups and children with disabilities. Placing such children does take longer. The Council have had children whose placement has disrupted pre order and have subsequently placed with a second family and again this takes us longer - for example 434 days for one child who is now settled and stable in his second adoptive home.
19. It is positive to note that the percentage of children waiting less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family has increased to 73% at the end of June 2016. The Council has sound processes to ensure that it knows its cohort of children and recruit adopters based on need and this in turn ensures swift and appropriate matching. The Council have made good use of the Department for Education (DfE) interagency fee for harder to place children.
20. As at the end of June 2016, a total of 798 children were looked after by Nottinghamshire which is a rate of 49.1 per 10,000 children. The volume of looked after children has been steadily declining over the last six months and is now at its lowest level since February 2012. The rate per 10,000 remains lower than the England and statistical neighbours' averages, which were 60 and 57.8 respectively. There was a significant percentage of young people reaching the

age of 18 and progressing onto independent living, and children returning home to live with parents over the quarter.

21. The proportion of looked after children who have had at least three placements has fallen slightly since last quarter, showing good progress. Fewer babies (under 1) have had three or more placements and also fewer 17 year olds have too. There has been a fall in the number of 16 and 17 year olds entering independent living (from 16 to 7). Three 17 year olds have been taken into custody in a young offenders' institution or prison this quarter, when there were none in quarter 4. Fewer children were placed for adoption with a placement order this quarter.
22. The percentage of looked after children who have remained in the same placement for at least two years has increased so that now over three quarters of children are residing in the same placement. This is well above the national and statistical neighbours' averages.
23. The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation has seen another increase this quarter to 81.8% which is a positive increase and performance is now above both the statistical neighbours' average and the national average of 80.7%.

Educational standards and closing the attainment gap

24. The number of primary schools in an Ofsted category (as at the end of June 2016) shows a fall since the previous quarter. No Nottinghamshire primary schools are currently judged inadequate (reduction from one last quarter). Wainwright Primary (Mansfield district; a sponsored academy which converted September 2012 under the leadership of School Partnership Trust) which was inadequate at the end of the previous quarter is now judged to require improvement. The sponsorship of the academy is set to transfer to Diverse Academy Trust on 1st September 2016.
25. The number of secondary academies in an Ofsted category has increased to two (from one in the previous quarter). 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 convertor academy which converted August 2011) previously judged as requiring improvement is now inadequate. There are currently no Local Authority maintained secondary schools judged to be either inadequate or requiring improvement.
26. The percentage of young people aged 16-17 who are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) has increased in quarter 1 from the same quarter the previous year. 96.0% of young people are now in EET, an increase of 2.9 percentage points. Improvements have also been seen in the proportion of young people whose activity is unknown. Quarter 1 data shows this has fallen to 2.8% (from 5.7% this quarter last year). Those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) has witnessed a slight increase to 1.6% (from 1.2% this quarter last year).
27. The number of two year olds accessing their free entitlement has witnessed an increase in the summer 2016 term. 70.7% of eligible two year olds are attending providers, an increase of 6.9 percentage points (from 63.8%) from the same term last year. Analysis by district shows all eligible Rushcliffe district children are accessing their entitlement whereas the equivalent figure for Ashfield district is 61.8% (an increase of 6.6 percentage points from 55.2% reported this term last year).

28. Latest data on permanent exclusions for the 2014/15 academic year from all schools (maintained, academy and special schools) shows Nottinghamshire continues to remain below both national and statistical neighbour averages. 0.03% of the overall Nottinghamshire school population were excluded in 2014/15, a fall from 0.04% reported in 2013/14. The national figure for the same period is 0.07% which represents an increase from 0.06% reported in 2014/15. A similar increase was witnessed amongst statistical neighbours to 0.08% (from 0.07% reported the previous year). On this measure Nottinghamshire is now placed joint first with Essex LA. Comparisons for the Council's closest statistical neighbour, Derbyshire was 0.09% (a fall from 0.10% the previous year).

Youth Offending & Early Help Support

29. Full year figures for 2015/16 show that there were 209 actual first time entrants (FTEs) or 295 per 100,000 10-17 population. Whilst this is slightly higher than last year's performance of 193 actual or 269 per 100,000 (where performance was particularly strong), it is lower than previous years and the second lowest FTE rate to date.

30. Children's Centre registrations performance remains high with 99.5% of all children under 5 who live in low income areas registered with a Children's Centre at the end of quarter 1. 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 1, 35.3% of children living in low income areas were seen in Children's Centres.

Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans

31. 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 70 EHC Plans finalised during quarter 4 2015/16, compared with 46 in quarter 3 2015/16.

Other Options Considered

32. 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

33. 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

34. 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 April – 30 June 2016.

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (TMR 17/08/16)

36. 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 4 2015/16) – services for children and young people – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 23 May 2016.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

C0871