

16 November 2015**Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES****PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 2 2015/16) - 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 2015 and to recommend next steps on the reporting of schools and academies performance data.

Information and Advice**Performance Reporting for 2015/16**

2. This report forms the second quarterly report of 2015/16, reporting on quarterly performance for the 2015/16 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 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. Nottinghamshire's Statistical Neighbours changed in October 2014 and are:
 1. Derbyshire
 2. Staffordshire
 3. Lancashire
 4. Worcestershire
 5. Cumbria
 6. Northamptonshire
 7. Essex
 8. Kent
 9. Cheshire West and Chester
 10. Warwickshire

5. 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):

6. It is positive to note that the rate of initial and core assessments completed within timescales remains higher than the target and the national and statistical neighbour averages.
7. There is a high volume of work leading to no further Children's Social Care (CSC) involvement following assessment. This may suggest that the threshold for assessment into CSC is too low, although at a recent inspection Ofsted were satisfied that thresholds were appropriate. Work is ongoing to look at the quality of referrals and the relationship between the Early Help Unit and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), as well as the step-down processes between CSC and early help services. It is anticipated that the introduction of the Family Service from November 2015 will further improve passage of work between early help and CSC.
8. Current performance is significantly better than the target for the rate of re-referrals. It is positive to note that the performance for quarter 2 has continued to be below the National and statistical neighbours' averages. This is the third consecutive quarter where this has been the case.
9. At the end of September 2015, there were a total of 829 children subject to a Child Protection Plan. This is a further increase from the total number of 796 at the end of June 2015. Over the last quarter there have been 291 children made subject to a plan; this is an increase of 14 from the first quarter, with a slow decrease in the number of Initial Child Protection Conferences taking place with 71 in July to 57 in September. At the end of September 2015 the number of children subject to a child protection plan was at the rate of 51.1 per 10,000 children. The figure is higher than that of our statistical neighbours and England average at the end of 2013/14 which was 40 and 42.1% respectively. Neglect continues to be the most frequent category of harm noted in 48% of Child Protection Plans, with emotional abuse as 34% and 12% as physical.
10. The short-term stability of placements for looked after children is steadily and consistently improving quarter-on-quarter. Of 845 looked after children at the end of September 2015, 73 had experienced 3 or more placements within the last 12 months, with the largest majority of children aged 12 or older. Those young people aged 17 or 18 are consistently being moved into independent supported lodgings, in order to ensure they are adequately supported to live in the community on their own which has affected the figure this period and in previous quarters.
11. For those children remaining in long-term placements, performance continues to be above target and therefore higher than the national average. Those children excluded from this indicator have been in their current placement for less than 2½ years. On further scrutiny of these cases, the majority of looked after children have recently moved into a permanent arrangement and have a care plan which sets out the actions and aims to ensure stability in the child's future.

Educational standards and closing the attainment gap:

12. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, provisional 2015 figures show an increase of 3.6% to 65.3% of pupils achieving a good level of development. Comparisons nationally however show the rate of improvement in Nottinghamshire schools to have slowed as there was an increase of 5.9% (to 66.3%) nationally.
13. At Key Stage 2 provisional figures show a slight increase in the percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or above in combined reading, writing and mathematics. 80.6% of pupils in Nottinghamshire schools achieved this measure compared to 80.0% nationally. Comparisons against our statistical neighbours places Nottinghamshire 4th (out of 11) on this measure, an improvement from 5th in 2014.
14. In secondary schools, outcomes in 5+ A*-C GCSEs including English and mathematics show a fall of 2.6 percentage points to 55.4% of pupils achieving this measure. This is against a national fall of 0.6 percentage points. Although Nottinghamshire still remains above the national average our position in relation to statistical neighbours has fallen from 4th in 2014 to 8th in 2015 placing the LA below the combined average for our statistical neighbours of 56.6%.
15. A more detailed analysis of the provisional performance data for Nottinghamshire schools and academies is included as **Appendix 2**. These figures are provisional awaiting the outcomes of any examination result appeals. The revised data will be published in January 2016 at which time it is recommended that a further report be brought to Children and Young People's Committee to include further analysis and detail steps to be taken to address any performance issues identified.
16. The number of Nottinghamshire primary schools in an Ofsted category (inadequate) has fallen to 2 (as at September 2015) from the 3 reported in March. The number of secondary schools in an Ofsted category has remained static at 2 over the same period.
17. Education Improvement Advisers (EIAs) continue to be deployed to maintained schools at risk of failing to secure good or outstanding at their next Ofsted inspection. EIAs are working closely with Teaching School Alliances (TSAs) and partnership schools to ensure that their support provided to maintained schools impacts on Leadership and the quality of teaching. Some partnerships have now agreed to share data within FFT Aspire Collaborate (a secure on-line system to share and analyse school level performance data across groups of schools or partnerships). These are Cotgrave Candleby Lane TSA, Rushcliffe Learning Alliance and Together for Newark.
18. The gap between pupils eligible for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years (FSM6) and the rest continues to close at the end of primary education. The gap now stands at 16.1% for the percentage achieving level 4 or above in combined reading, writing and mathematics, with FSM6 pupils increasing at a faster rate from 2014 to 2015 than non-FSM6 pupils. Since 2012, the gap has narrowed 6.2%.
19. At secondary, provisional figures suggest a widening of the gap (0.7%) to 29.6%. National data from the NCER (National Consortium for Examination Results) however suggests the gap has widened greater than in Nottinghamshire (a 1.5% increase). The FSM6 gap nationally stands at 27.5%.
20. The Closing the Gap strategy continues to target the work of NCC and other partner support services in working with schools to reduce the FSM / non-FSM educational gap.

This strategy continues to develop with greater inter agency working. A significant achievement has been a partnership with health through speech and language therapists. Approximately 40 primary head teachers from across the County have bought in support from speech and language therapists in 2015-2016 to target those early years' pupils who require the support of a therapist but who do not meet the thresholds for a health referral. This has been developed out of the success of the Closing the Gap Project in Gedling.

Early Help Support:

21. A number of KPIs monitor effectiveness across a range of services that provide early help to children, young people and families.
22. Between April and June there were 48 actual entrants to the youth justice system, equating to 68 per 100,000 population. This compares similarly to the same period in 2014/15 where there were 45 actual or 63 first time entrants (FTEs) per 100,000 population. 41 of the first time entrants were boys, 7 girls. 44 were white or white British, 1 black or black British, 2 mixed heritage and 1 did not have ethnicity details recorded. As would be anticipated the majority of FTEs were dealt with by way of pre court disposals – in the form of youth cautions or youth conditional cautions.

Education Health Care Plan:

23. The Education Health Care (EHC) Plan has been introduced to bring together the families and agencies for children and young people aged 0-25 years with Special Educational Needs and complex disabilities, so that they have coordinated individual support plans across a range of services. Nottinghamshire has been a pathfinder area for this work and had implemented the EHC Plan ahead of it becoming a national requirement in September 2014. There were a total of 69 EHC Plans finalised and issued during quarter 2 in 2015/16, compared with 90 in quarter 1 2015/16. This represents an increase of 10% over the same period the previous year, when there were 63 EHC Plans issued (albeit they were technically classed as non-statutory EHC Plans as they were finalised whilst we were a Pathfinder authority and prior to the new legislation taking effect).

Other Options Considered

24. 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

25. 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

26. 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 only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, 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

That:

- 1) the Committee notes the performance of the Council's services for children and young people during the period 1 July 2015 – 30 September 2015.
- 2) a further report be brought to Children and Young People's Committee once the revised schools performance data is available. This is to include further analysis and to detail steps to be taken to address any performance issues identified.

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (SS 02/11/15)

28. 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 (Quarter 1 2015/16) – services for children and young people – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 21 September 2015.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.
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