

18 May 2015**Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, POLICY, PLANNING AND
CORPORATE SERVICES****PERFORMANCE REPORTING (2014/15) – 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 2014 and 31 March 2015.

Information and Advice**Performance Reporting for 2014/15**

2. This report forms the annual performance report for 2014/15, reporting on performance for the 2014/15 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. The rate of initial assessments completed within timescale improved for the last quarter of the year, most noticeably in the months of February and March, although there has been a reduced volume of assessments in these months. The final provisional figure for 2014/15 (79.4%) is an improvement on the previous year's figure by nearly five percentage points and nearly ten percentage points higher than the 2013/14 national average (69.6%). The final data will be derived from the annual statutory data collections and published nationally in late autumn. This indicator will change in the next financial year when there is the move towards the continuous single assessment.
7. For those core assessments completed within timescale, three out of four of the quarters within the financial year show performance has been continuously strong and just below 90%. Similar to initial assessments, this is an improvement on last year's final percentage by nearly 5%, despite seeing a surge in the volume of core assessments and those resulting in a Child in Need Plan in the latter months of the year.
8. In the final quarter of the year, progress has been made towards the target for re-referrals (the percentage of referrals made within 12 months of a previous referral). The provisional end of year figure shows an initial decline in performance compared with last year. However, it is expected that data cleansing activity to remove inappropriate referrals on cases that are already open to Children's Social Care will reduce the final figure. Further analysis will be carried out on performance against this measure following completion of the data cleansing activity, including targeted work to help ensure that the in-year data is more accurate.
9. During January to March 2015, a total number of 246 children became subject to a child protection plan; of these 63 had been subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time - a percentage of 25.6%. The provisional end of year figure is 27% and a significant increase on the previous year. Further work has been done to investigate into this increase by carrying out a social care Quality Management Framework audit at the end of quarter 3. Findings show that in approximately half of the cases, the second or subsequent plan was initiated in relation to the same concerns as before, however, the decision to close plans had been felt to be appropriate.
10. The number of children with three or more placements during the year is at the lowest level for 2014/15, with a slight decrease last quarter and a significant decrease for this final quarter. There were only 83 children identified with three or more placements within the last 12 months compared with 97 children in Quarter 3 and 107 children in Quarter 2, an overall reduction of 22%. Over a quarter of children have recently moved into long-term positive arrangements, that were planned moves, and part of the child's existing Care Plan. The remaining amount of children continue to be aged over 16 and can have unpredictable effect on this measure due to a lot of placement moves into independent living, secure units or other residential settings.

Educational standards and closing the attainment gap:

11. There have been significant and multiple changes to how the performance at Key Stage 4 is assessed in 2014. Changes include the grade for the first entry in English, mathematics, science, history, geography and language subjects being counted in performance measures as opposed to best grade which was used historically.
12. There have also been changes to vocational qualifications in both the number of courses included in performance measures and their qualification weighting / value. Qualifications are now capped at a maximum size of one GCSE and only two vocational qualifications can be counted in performance measures where previously this was not restricted.
13. At the same time, there have also been syllabus and assessment changes with exams now at the end of the course rather than a modular based assessment. Also subjects such as GCSE English / English Language have seen changes to the weighting of coursework with written exams now counting for 60% (previously this was 40%).
14. The education attainment data reflects outcomes achieved by young people at the end of the academic year 2013/14. Committee members will recall that reports providing a detailed analysis of these outcomes have been presented to previous meetings of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Early Help Support:

15. A number of KPIs monitor effectiveness across a range of services that provide early help to children, young people and families.
16. As a County 100% of all children under 5 who live in low income areas are now registered with a Children's Centre. This exceeds the 80% target for 2014/15 with all districts exceeding their registration targets. This is a marked improvement from 77% at the end of the financial year 2012/13 and reflects improved systems in place for gaining consent by health visitors in registering children with their local Children's Centre. Over the last two years there has also been a noticed improvement in the consistency and number of children seen at Children's Centres in all districts down to the hard work and plans put in place by the District Managers. At the end of 2014/15, 71% of children were seen, in comparison to both 2012/13 and 2013/14 when the figure was just 57%. All districts have exceeded their target set for 2014/15 and have increased the percentage considerably from the end of the last financial year, with the biggest increase at 31% for Rushcliffe.
17. First time entrants to the youth justice system continue to be low and stable in overall countywide terms. Within this context, there were 6 less actual first time entrants to the youth justice system than during the corresponding period last year. The three main offence types within these small overall numbers were violence, theft and criminal damage, which between them accounted for a little over 60% of all offences. Crime prevention re-offending data shows that for those who started a crime prevention intervention during quarter 4 (Oct – Dec) of 2013, only 4% went on to offend during the next 12 months.

Education Health Care Plan:

18. 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 has implemented the EHC Plan ahead of it becoming a national requirement in September 2014. There were a total of 71 EHC Plans finalised and issued during Quarter 4 in 2014/15, compared with 29 in Quarter 3. For comparison, there were 62 EHC Plans (and 9 Statements of SEN) issued during the same period the previous year.
19. The increase in EHC Plans issued from Quarter 3 to Quarter 4 is considered to be reflective of the implementation of a new process and will be analysed following a full year of assessments. The increase from 29 in Quarter 3 to 71 in Quarter 4 is mainly due to the change in the assessment time line, which has reduced from 26 to 20 weeks and reduced the amount of assessments which could have been completed due to the summer holiday period. The figure reported for Quarter 4 is likely to be a more accurate reflection of the number of assessments which we would normally expect to be completed and is in line with the figure for the same period in the previous year.

Other Options Considered

20. 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

21. 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

22. 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

- 1) That the Committee notes the performance of the Council's services for children and young people during the period 1 April 2014 - 31 March 2015.

Jayne Francis-Ward

Corporate Director for Policy Planning and Corporate Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Matthew Garrard
Team Manager, Performance, Intelligence and Policy
T: 0115 9772892
E: matthew.garrard@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (SS 27/04/15)

24. 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 (2013/14) – services for children and young people – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 19 May 2014

Performance figures for Nottinghamshire schools and academies – academic year 2013/14 – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 9 March 2015

Key Stage 2 performance – analysis and actions - report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 9 March 2015

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0627