

9 February 2015**Agenda Item: 04****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR , POLICY PLANNING AND
CORPORATE SERVICES****PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 3 – 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 October and 31 December 2014.

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

2. This report forms the third quarterly 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. The statistical neighbour local authorities are¹:
 1. Derbyshire
 2. Staffordshire
 3. Lancashire
 4. Worcestershire
 5. Cumbria
 6. Northamptonshire
 7. Essex

¹ Nottinghamshire's Statistical Neighbours changed in October 2014 and are ordered in terms of "closeness". The previous authorities were: Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Lancashire, Cumbria, Northamptonshire, Swindon, Kent, Dudley, Wigan and Lincolnshire.

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.
6. Although performance will be reported on a quarterly basis, not all KPIs are equally sensitive to quarterly fluctuation. The most up-to-date information available will be provided for each KPI but it should be noted that a number of performance indicators are annually based, and for these data is unchanged from the 2013/14 annual performance report, presented to this Committee in May 2014. This includes most indicators for educational attainment, including Key Stage 4, GCSE and A level results.

Key messages

Protecting the most vulnerable and ensuring that children in our care experience high quality and stable support²:

7. December saw a drop in the percentage of initial assessments completed in timescale to 71.3%, compared to 80.5% and 81.9% in October and November respectively. There was a lower percentage of assessments completed in timescale for the North Assessment Team compared with other teams, due to an abnormally high level of staff sickness over the Christmas holiday period. However, the 2014/15 cumulative year-to-date figure (78.5%) continues to make a favourable comparison to the latest benchmarking figures from other local authorities, with our statistical neighbours averaging at 67.2% and the national rate at 69.6%.
8. Performance for core assessments continues to be very strong, with nearly 90% meeting the timescale of 35 working days. December's percentage is the highest monthly figure for 2014/15. This is despite a large volume increase for December and a subsequent surge in the number of core assessments resulting in a Child in Need Plan.
9. The Quarter 3 figure of 26.8% for re-referrals into Children's Social Care remains slightly short of the national average, albeit showing an improvement on the previous quarter's figure. Historical analysis shows that the in-year data often indicates a slightly inflated figure which is picked up by the end-of-year data cleansing process that, for example, removes inappropriate referrals on cases that are already open. In comparison to re-referrals, the level of repeat MASH enquiries is typically 10-15% higher over the previous 3 quarters, with domestic violence cited as the primary re-occurring reason. Work continues to be carried out through Encompass Nottinghamshire to identify early signs of domestic abuse in school and early years settings, although it is too early to measure the full impact of this relatively new process.
10. During Quarter 3, a total number of 199 children became subject to a child protection plan; of these, 62 had been subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time (31.2%). This represents a significant increase and was a particular feature in December when 44.3% of plans were repeat plans. When looking at children becoming subject to a repeat plan within the last 2 years however the numbers reduce to a level of 15.1%, which is closer to the local target. Moreover, the numbers were made up from a relatively small number of families with large sibling groups. The common feature of these cases was the impact on the children of the parental relationship; the

² Please note the figures relating to children's social care are provisional

understanding that the relationship had ceased and then this being resumed. More generally, domestic violence features in a number of repeat plans and neglect is the most frequently identified category of harm noted. Our quality assurance activity has also focused on repeat plans during this same period and the outcomes from this will feature in the next scheduled QA report to this committee. The findings will also be shared with the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB).

11. There has been a slight decrease for the placement stability indicator which measures those with three or more placements within the year. There were only 97 children identified with three or more placements in the last 12 months compared with 107 children or young people last quarter. These 97 children largely remain the same children from Quarter 2, the majority of which have viable reasons for a placement change. Notwithstanding this, there has been an increase in those children aged 16 years or more moving into independent living, secure units or homes/hostels who have affected this measure, but have only been looked after for a small period of time or were admitted into care at an older age.

Educational standards and closing the attainment gap:

12. At Key Stage 2, the final figures for 2014 indicate that 67.2% of Nottinghamshire pupils achieved a good level 4 (level 4B) or above in combined reading, writing and mathematics. This represents an increase of 2.6% from 2013, and places Nottinghamshire in-line with the national average for 2014. Analysis by district shows that Newark and Sherwood schools achieved the greatest increase from 2013 (up 6.1% to 68.4%), whilst Rushcliffe schools had the highest level of attainment at 80.4%.
13. Although outcomes at Key Stage 2 have improved from 2013, final published data for 2014 shows that the rate of improvement made across Nottinghamshire schools has slowed compared to national and statistical neighbours. Figures for 2013 show Nottinghamshire was in-line or above the national average in the majority of headline measures compared with 2014 where most are in-line or below.
14. In addition, the number of schools below the government's minimum expected standard, known as the floor standard, has increased slightly (6.2% of schools in 2013 to 7.3% in 2014) while nationally over the same period this has reduced (6.1% to 5.8%).
15. Key Stage 2 outcomes will be the focus of the department's next performance board with a detailed report being presented at the Children and Young People's Committee meeting on 9 March 2015.
16. The percentage of Nottinghamshire pupils attending good or outstanding schools remains good when compared with national averages. For primary schools 83% of pupils are in good or outstanding schools as at the end of August 2014, above the national average of 81%. Equally, 81% of Nottinghamshire pupils attend a good or outstanding secondary school, ahead of the national average of 74%. Nationally there was a slight fall of 1% during the year to August 2014. Nottinghamshire however witnessed an increase of 1% over this period. Finally, Nottinghamshire schools judged by Ofsted as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour remains broadly in line with national average.
17. The achievement gap at Key Stage 2 between pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) and those who are not, has narrowed for the third year running. Some 66% of

FSM6 pupils achieved level 4 or above in combined reading, writing and mathematics compared to 83.4% who were not FSM6. This 17.4% gap is 2.5% less than the 19.9% reported in 2013. Further analysis of this data shows that FSM6 pupils' performance increased by 3.9%, whilst those who were not FSM6 achieved a 1.4% increase. The district-by-district analysis shows the achievement gap narrowed in all except Broxtowe, which experienced a modest (0.4%) widening. Rushcliffe schools experienced the greatest decrease in the gap (a fall of 3.8% to 13.8%), whilst FSM6 pupils attending Mansfield schools achieved the greatest increase in performance (up 8.2% to 59.9%).

18. Finally, comparisons against a provisional national figure places Nottinghamshire 1.4% above the national average. However we continue to narrow the gap at a rate faster than is witnessed nationally. For example, between 2013 and 2014, Nottinghamshire reduced the gap by 2.5%; nationally the gap narrowed by just 1%.

Early Help Support:

19. A number of KPIs monitor effectiveness across a range of services that provide early help to children, young people and families.
20. The numbers of children and young people engaged in positive activities by the Youth Service or accessing Outdoor and Environmental Education after the first nine months of 2014/15 are on profile for the year.
21. Children's Centres continue to reach a significant proportion of their target group of families living in low income areas. For Quarter 3, the number of families in these areas who were registered with Children's Centres was 98.7%, compared with 84.8% in Quarter 2. The proportion of families seen during Quarter 3 was 58%, an increase of 10% compared with 48% in the corresponding quarter in 2013/14 (as this indicator is cumulative, comparisons are made with performance for the equivalent quarter in the previous year).
22. First time entrants to the youth justice system continue to be low and stable in overall countywide terms. Within this context, there were 4 more actual first time entrants to the youth justice system than during the corresponding period last year, with the districts of Mansfield and Bassetlaw experiencing the greatest proportion amongst the 7 district areas. Some 41% of the offences committed by the first time entrant population was violence; the next largest volume, accounting for 16%, was theft and handling.

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 has implemented the EHC Plan ahead of it becoming a national requirement in September 2014. There were a total of 28 EHC Plans finalised and issued throughout 2014/15 Quarter 3, compared with 61 in 2014/15 Quarter 2. In comparison there were 41 statements of SEN issued in 2013/14 Quarter 3 of the previous year.
24. It is too early in the new EHC Plan process to comment with confidence about trends in applications and the percentage of those where an EHC Plan is agreed. There is a time lag between applications being received and Plans being finalised and the drop may

partially reflect the time of the year when applications were originally received, particularly as the time limit for completion of EHC Plans at 20 weeks is different to that of Statements (26 weeks). SEND colleagues will continue to monitor the position and update the Committee in our new report.

Other Options Considered

25. 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

26. 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

27. 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 October to 31 December 2014.

Jayne Francis-Ward

Corporate Director for Policy Planning and Corporate Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Celia Morris
Group Manager, Corporate Strategy
T: 0115 9772043
E: celia.morris@nottsgov.uk

Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (SS 27/01/15)

29. 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.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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