

**23 May 2016****Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES****PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 4 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 January and 31 March 2016.

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

2. This report forms the fourth 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 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 removal of the 'Percentage of Children's Centres achieving good or better in Ofsted inspections' measure. The Ofsted Children's Centres inspection framework has been suspended pending the outcome of a consultation on children's centres provision. There has been no update to this measure this year and this will remain unchanged until a decision has been made regarding the future of this.
6. For each KPI, current performance is compared with 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

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. It is positive to note that performance in quarter 4 for initial and core assessments completed within timescales remains well above target and significantly better than England and statistical neighbour averages, despite a slight dip in performance for initial assessments, since quarter 3. From quarter 1 2016/17, performance for the single Child and Family Assessment will be provided.
9. There has been a slight deterioration in performance for re-referrals compared with the last quarter and the current value of 25.6% is slightly over target. Performance will continue to be closely monitored to ensure that children who need the support of children's social care receive it.
10. At the end of March 2016, there was a total of 703 children subject to a child protection plan (CPP). This is a decrease from the total of 745 at the end of December 2015. At the start of the year there were 697 children subject to a CPP and this number rose steadily to 859 in August 2015. The decision to progress cases to an initial child protection conference (ICPC) was assigned to operational service managers in October 2015 which has resulted in a decrease in the number of ICPCs since then.
11. The year-end performance of 43.2 children subject to a CPP per 10,000 children in 2015/16 is in line with the year end rate for 2014/15. This is slightly higher than the national average and statistical neighbours average of 42.9 and 38.3 respectively. Neglect continues to be the most frequent category of harm, featuring in over 50% of plans, with emotional abuse second accounting for over 30%.
12. A total of 248 children had their child protection plans ended during this quarter. Nine of these children had been subject to a child protection plan for more than two years, representing 3.63% of the total. This includes six children whom were under the category of emotional abuse and three children under neglect.
13. For the overall year, 23 children (4.1%) have been subject to a child protection plan for over two years at the point that their plan was ended. This has remained within the target figure for the past two years and suggests that plans are being progressed in a timely manner. Child Protection Coordinators (CPCs) are initiating alerts with the children's service managers when the plan reaches the 15 month stage and then monitor

the case to see if it has progressed; if there continues to be a delay then the CPCs will escalate with their own managers. This performance should also be considered alongside the performance for the number of repeat plans.

14. During the quarter, a total of 208 children became subject to a child protection plan; of these 28 (13.5%) became subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time. Overall for 2015/16 a total of 18.6% of children becoming subject to a CPP did so for a second or subsequent time. This is a reduction on the year before but remains above the Council's set target.
15. It should be noted that since October 2015 the number of children becoming subject to a repeat plan *within two years* of the previous plan ending has significantly decreased to single figures in each month. It is also noted that Domestic Violence features significantly in repeat plans. Child Protection Coordinators continue to monitor operational managers' oversight on the case file when there is a repeat plan. If this has not occurred then the CPC will initiate an alert. The outcome of the social care Quality Management Framework audit last year concluded that a repeat audit should take place around May 2016, to review repeat Child Protection Plans initiated once the Family Service has embedded its own practice with social care when stepping cases up and down.
16. During quarter 4 a total of 540 children had their plans reviewed at a child protection conference, with a total of 272 conferences being held. The percentage of cases reviewed in timescale for the year is 96.6%, which is a drop from last year's figure of 99.6% and is just below the current target of 98%. This is a rolling figure and if one meeting throughout the year is not held within timescale then this impacts on the end of year figure. Although the percentage is lower than the Council's set target it remains higher than Nottinghamshire's statistical neighbours. Managerial attention has been given to this drop in performance and there have been discussions on how the child protection process as a whole can ensure the reviews can be held within timescale.
17. For those adopted children, the average number of days between their admission and placement has decreased to the lowest level in over two years and is now well below the levels of the national average and statistical neighbours. The Council continues to be ambitious in its plans for children, placing older children and larger sibling groups. Nationally 5% of older children are placed for Adoption whereas in Nottinghamshire 9% are placed. Placements for older children take longer. In quarter 4 there have been some placement disruptions pre-order which have also increased the number of days.
18. The average days between a local authority court authority to place and a decision to match has also fallen and is at its lowest in two years. The Council makes ambitious adoption plans for older children and sibling groups who are harder to place. However the Council is tenacious and successful in finding homes for these children. Time from placement order to match varies greatly from 27 days for one child to 383 for another child. Pre-order disruptions continue to affect this data set for the period where a child is being prepared for a second adoption (if applicable).
19. As at the end of March 2016, a total of 839 children were looked after by Nottinghamshire. This figure continues to remain stable throughout the year and is in line with the 851 looked after children reported in March 2015. The rate per 10,000 to date is

51.6 which remains lower than England and statistical neighbour averages of 60 and 57.7 respectively.

20. This quarter has seen a slight increase in the percentage of looked after children with three or more placements. Placement stability for looked after children remains an area of focus and an area that requires close monitoring to ensure that where placements are at risk of disruption a placement support meeting is being held.
21. The percentage of children remaining in long-term placements has fallen very slightly this quarter but has been consistent throughout the last 12 months at between 72% and 74% and continues to be well above the national and statistical neighbours average.
22. The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation has seen an increase this quarter to 79.5% (from 75.2% in quarter 3) and is now above the statistical neighbours average and close to the national average of 80.7%.

### **Educational standards and closing the attainment gap**

23. The percentage of young people qualified to Level 3 (2 or more passes at A-Level or equivalent) has witnessed a fall from the previous academic year. Data for young people aged 19 years at the end of the 2014/15 academic year shows 50.4% of those who attended a Nottinghamshire school at age 16 years attained this compared with 51.0% the previous academic year. Nottinghamshire remains at the bottom of its statistical neighbours on this measure behind Northamptonshire (where 53.4% attained Level 3) while Lancashire is placed first (60.6%). Against all authorities nationally Nottinghamshire is placed 129<sup>th</sup> (out of 151) with only city / unitary authorities with lower outcomes. The statistical neighbour average is 56.8% (an increase of 0.5 percentage points from the previous year), while nationally the figure for the state sector is 57.4% (an increase of 0.4 percentage points).
24. The number of primary schools in an Ofsted category (as at the end of December 2015) shows no change from the previous quarter. The two schools judged Inadequate by Ofsted are Muskham Primary (Newark and Sherwood district; LA maintained) and Wainwright Primary (Mansfield district; a sponsored academy which converted in September 2012 under the leadership of the School Partnership Trust). Latest information shows Muskham Primary has since been re-inspected and is now rated Good. This change will be reflected in the next quarterly update to Committee.
25. The number of secondary schools in an Ofsted category has reduced to one (from two in the previous quarter). Queen Elizabeth (Mansfield district; a sponsored academy which converted in January 2012 under the leadership of School Partnership Trust) remains Inadequate from the previous quarter. Arnold Hill (Gedling district; a converter academy which converted in October 2011), which was judged to be Inadequate as at the previous quarter, is now judged to Require Improvement.
26. Final Key Stage 4 (GCSE and equivalent outcomes) figures show a widening of the attainment gap for pupils who were eligible for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years (FSM6) against other pupils in Nottinghamshire schools. In 2015, 33.8% of FSM6 pupils achieved 5 or more A\*-C grades including GCSE English and mathematics (a fall from 35.5% achieving this in 2014) compared with 64.0% (a slight fall from 64.4%

in 2014) who were not FSM6. The FSM6 gap for Nottinghamshire schools is 30.2 percentage points which represents a widening of the gap (1.3 percentage points) from 28.9 percentage points reported in 2014. A similar widening of the gap was witnessed nationally with the national gap now standing at 27 percentage points (an increase of 1 percentage point from 2014).

27. The percentage of young people not achieving a Level 2 (A\*-C or equivalent) qualification in English and mathematics in a Nottinghamshire school at age 16 who go on to achieve this by age 19 years has seen an increase of 0.7 percentage points to 17.0% (from 16.3% in 2013/14). Nationally over the same period there has been an increase of 5.4 percentage points to 22.3% of pupils achieving this threshold. Nottinghamshire is placed 10<sup>th</sup> (out of 11 local authorities) amongst its statistical neighbours in this measure and 132<sup>nd</sup> nationally (out of 150). This represents a fall on national rankings compared with last year when Nottinghamshire was placed 88<sup>th</sup>. This cohort would have completed key stage 4 in 2012 and with improvements in English and mathematics outcomes in Nottinghamshire schools, it could be argued, make it more challenging to perform well on this measure as more pupils achieve the threshold at age 16 years. However, amongst Nottinghamshire's statistical neighbours, Warwickshire (34.2%) and Lancashire (37.1%) had the closest proportion of pupils at 16 who failed to achieve A\*-C grades in English and mathematics when compared with Nottinghamshire (36.2%) and both of these areas witnessed a greater proportion of pupils achieve A\*-C grades in English and mathematics by the time these young people turned 19 (21.0% and 27.1% respectively compared with 17.0% for Nottinghamshire).
28. The percentage of sessions missed in all Nottinghamshire schools (primary, secondary and special schools) due to overall (authorised and unauthorised) absence remains static compared with the last academic year at 4.5%. Nationally over the same period there has been an increase of 0.1 percentage point to 4.6% with a similar increase witnessed amongst the Council's statistical neighbours (to 4.5%) making Nottinghamshire now in-line. Comparisons by type of Nottinghamshire school show primary phase schools has witnessed an increase to 4.0% of sessions missed (an increase of 0.2 percentage points from last academic year), this is in-line with national, secondary phase a fall (of 0.2 percentage points) to 5.2% while nationally the figure is 5.3%, and special schools an increase (of 1.0 percentage point) to 8.8% with a national figure of 9.4%.
29. The percentage of young people aged 16-17 years who are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) has increased in quarter 3 from the same quarter the previous year. 94.0% of young people are now in EET, an increase of 1.3 percentage points. Improvements have also been seen in the proportion of young people whose activity is unknown. Quarter 3 data shows this has fallen to 4.6% (from 6.1%). Those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) has witnessed a slight increase to 1.4% (from 1.2% this quarter last year).

## **Youth Offending & Early Help Support**

30. During quarter 3 there were 54 first time entrants to the Youth Justice System (or 76 per 100,000 10-17 population). This is higher than the same period last year where there were 49 first time entrants (or 68 per 100,000 population). Year to date there are 175 first time entrants (247 per 100,000 population) compared with 144 (201 per 100,000 population) for the same period last year.

31. Children's Centre registrations performance remains high with 100% of all children under 5 years who live in low income areas registered with a Children's Centre at the end of quarter 3. There is also an improvement in the number of these who had been seen at a Children's Centre. At the end of quarter 3, 67.0% of children living in low income areas were seen in Children's Centres, an improvement on the same quarter last year of 58.0%.

### **Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans**

32. 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 yrs) 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**

33. 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**

34. 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**

35. 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 January – 31 March 2016.

**Jayne Francis-Ward**  
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**Constitutional Comments**

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

**Financial Comments (SS 05/05/16)**

37. 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 3 2015/16) – services for children and young people – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 22 February 2016.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0819