



20 November 2017

Agenda Item: 4

## **REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES**

### **PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 2 2017/18) - 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 2017 and seek comments on any actions required.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Performance Reporting for 2017/18**

2. This report forms the second quarterly report of 2017/18, reporting on quarterly performance for the 2017/18 financial year.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. In addition, for each KPI, the table indicates whether performance has improved (+), declined (-), or remained the same (=) over the current reporting period.
6. Those KPIs that are aligned against the outcome statements in the [Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18](#) are highlighted (L) in both **Appendix 1** & **Appendix 2**. This strategy identifies six outcomes to be achieved, as listed below:
  - Looked after children and care leavers are happy and healthy
  - Looked after children and care leavers are safe
  - Looked after children and care leavers achieve their potential
  - Looked after children and care leavers are prepared for adulthood
  - Looked after children and care leavers are listened to
  - Looked after children and care leavers build positive relationships.

7. Progress is expected across all outcomes over the course of the three years. In order to ensure that the associated planned activity is realistic, deliverable and focused, an Annual Action Plan has been developed by the multi-agency *Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy Group* and progress is regularly monitored. Activity contained within the Annual Action Plan has been informed by the views of children and young people, via bi-annual surveys completed by the Children in Care Council.

## **Protecting the most vulnerable and ensuring that children in our care experience high quality and stable support (provisional figures)**

### **Child and family assessments**

8. The percentage of Child and Family Assessments completed within timescale is at 82.7%. This is a fall on the previous quarter's 90% and below the expected target of 85%. This is also below the national standard and that of statistical neighbours and is showing a downward trend on previous quarters. It should be emphasised that no child was left at risk as a result of the reduction in this measure. Due to a recent change in the process which will see one team complete the assessment from start to finish, it is anticipated that timescales will also improve. More recent figures are demonstrative of this change in practice, with the figure increasing to 84.7% and just 0.3% away from the target. Further analysis of this measure is ongoing and subsequent actions are being planned at senior leadership meetings.

### **Child protection**

9. The rate of children subject to a child protection plan remains high, although it has dropped slightly from the previous quarter. Attention continues to be paid to thresholds both for children being discussed at initial child protection conferences (ICPCs), the decision as to make a child subject of a plan, and also the decision to end a plan. Agreement has been gained to commission some external work to examine this further. The figure for the statistical neighbour average for 2016/17 as well as the figure for England as a whole is expected in November and will be available for Quarter 3. This figure will be crucial in terms of assessing the Council's performance in this area as anecdotal information from neighbouring authorities is that the number of children subject of child protection plans has increased.
10. Despite continued management attention on those child protection plans lasting two years or more, the figure has increased in the last quarter and is now above the target of 5.5%. This relates to a small number of cases, some of which have only just reached the threshold of two years within the last quarter. The majority of cases have multiple categories of need, therefore are typically complex and change is difficult to achieve. In context this indicator refers to 15 cases out of a total of 233 children in Nottinghamshire who have had a child protection plan end within Quarter 2. This is an area for continued attention.
11. During July to September 2017, 192 children became subject to a new child protection plan; of these 29 (15.1%) became subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time. This figure shows encouraging progress, as it is the lowest percentage reported for a number of quarters and significantly lower than the national average. Of the 29 repeat plans this quarter, 13 plans started within two years of the previous plan ending. There is

a current reoccurring theme that the repeat plans were predominately for the same reason as the previous plan, with neglect and domestic abuse featuring significantly within this. Continued oversight of these cases is generally good and it was entirely appropriate that these children were made subject to a repeat plan.

12. Performance on those child protection reviews held within timescale has fallen again and is now performing below the Council's target. This indicator measures whether a child has ever had a review out of the required timescale, throughout the duration of their child protection plan. Any improvements will therefore be dependent on such plans ending, rather than subsequent reviews being in timescale. To illustrate this, the 93% represents 658 children and 612 of these had reviews in timescale. Only 15% of the children who had reviews of their plans which were out of timescale were due to reviews held in this quarter.

## **Adoption**

13. For those adopted children, Nottinghamshire has experienced a significant decrease in the length of time within the adoption process at all stages. Of those 9 children adopted within Quarter 2 of 2017/18, the average length of time between their admission into care and placement was 302 days, with some children only experiencing half the length of time between these stages. If focusing on those children adopted in the year-to-date (24 children) the average increases to 327 days, which is still 321 days less than the national three year average of 558 days.
14. The average number of days between placement order and deciding on an appropriate family for a child or children has correlated to the improvement in performance of the measure focusing on the length of time between entering care and placement. The target of 121 average days for this indicator has been easily met last quarter and exceeded the target by over 40 days this quarter. Consistent with the other related adoption measure, the figure increases slightly if calculating the average for the year-to-date to 104 days.
15. Of those children who have a current adoption plan and have been adopted in the year to date, 60% have been placed within 14 months of entering care. This continues to be very positive performance, higher than the national and statistical neighbour averages, as well as an improvement on Nottinghamshire's latest annual figure within the Adoption Scorecard.
16. There has been no significant change in the numbers of looked after children in Quarter 2. The rate continues to be stable and lower than the figure for England as a whole and statistical neighbours. Management oversight continues to ensure that thresholds are consistently and appropriately applied.

## **Looked after children**

17. The measure looks at all those looked after children who have had more than three placements during the previous 12 months as a proportion of all looked after children. Over the previous three quarters, this figure has gradually increased to be slightly over the national average and much higher than the consistent Nottinghamshire annual figure reported for the last 3-4 years (approximately 7%). The main reason for this is due to the increase in 16/17 year old children in care and the tendency for these young people to

move around multiple supported placements as they find themselves learning life skills that will equip them for adulthood.

18. There is a little decrease in the percentage of those looked after children remaining in long-term placements this quarter, although the figure still remains more than 8 percentage points higher than the national average. Within this quarter there have been slightly more placement changes compared to previous quarters, meaning these children will no longer be classed as placed in a long-term placement resulting in the slight percentage decrease.

### **Care leavers**

19. There is a slight improvement for those care leavers in Education, Employment or Training (EET), with an increase of 1.5 percentage points for Quarter 2 compared to Quarter 1. Investigation into this shows the increase is down to a small decrease in the total number of care leavers overall and a rise in number of care leavers currently in full-time education. 15.5% of the 43% of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) is due to illness or disability. The current figure stands just below the national average but actually just above the Council's statistical neighbours.
20. For those care leavers placed in suitable accommodation the percentage remains relatively stable and promising. The majority of care leavers within each accommodation remains the same as last quarter, but again, the total number of care leavers is slightly lower overall. Out of the 7.5% of those young people in unsuitable accommodation, nearly half are placed in custody. The remaining proportion of the cohort does not have a category recorded against them (7.1%) so does not reflect the full care leavers cohort as defined by the Department for Education (DfE).

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

21. The number of primary schools in an Ofsted category (inadequate) shows no change from the previous quarter with the same four Nottinghamshire primary schools judged inadequate remaining. These are Netherfield Primary (Gedling district, Local Authority (LA) maintained school but set to convert to a sponsored academy in December), Arnbrook Primary (Gedling district, a sponsored academy which converted in April 2014 under the leadership of Southwark Primary Academy - Nottingham LA), Hillocks Primary (Ashfield district, LA maintained school) and Jeffries Primary (Ashfield district, LA maintained school but set to convert to a sponsored academy in December).
22. The number of secondary schools in an Ofsted category also remains unchanged and stands at two schools. These are Manor (Mansfield district; a convertor academy which converted August 2011) and Vision Studio School (Mansfield district, studio Academy School which opened September 2014).
23. The percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile in Nottinghamshire schools and academies has increased by 1.1 percentage points to 68.2% in 2017. Nationally 70.7% of pupils achieved this measure which is a 1.4 percentage point increase from 2016. The gap between Nottinghamshire and national averages continues to widen. In 2015 the gap was 1 percentage point below national, then 2.2 in 2016 and now stands at 2.5 this year.

Against all LAs nationally (151 with published results) Nottinghamshire is placed 117<sup>th</sup> on this measure (where 1<sup>st</sup> is best) which represents a fall in position from 107<sup>th</sup> last year. Comparisons to statistical neighbours show a 0.8 point increase from 2016 (to 71.3%). Although this increase is slightly less than the Nottinghamshire increase from 2016 the statistical neighbour average is 3.1 points higher and against all 11 of these LAs (when including Nottinghamshire) Nottinghamshire is ranked at the bottom. Analysis by district shows Gedling was the only district to witness a fall in results from 2016. 67.8% of pupils achieved this measure a fall of 0.8 percentage points from 2016 (68.6% in 2016). The previous year Gedling witnessed a fall of 1.5 percentage points from 2015 (70.1% in 2015). Mansfield and Rushcliffe remained static from 2016 at 66.0% and 75.4% respectively. Broxtowe and Ashfield witnessed increase of 3.1 (to 70.3%) and 3.0 (to 64.4%) respectively. The percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development in Nottinghamshire schools and academies by area is as follows:

**Table 1 – Percentage of Children achieving a good level of development by District**

	2014/15		2015/16		2016/17		Diff. from 2016
	Pupils	% Good level of dev.	Pupils	% Good level of dev.	Pupils	% Good level of dev.	
Nottinghamshire	9,406	65.3	9,634	67.1	9,738	68.2	1.1
<i>Ashfield</i>	1,471	60.4	1,546	61.4	1,520	64.4	3.0
<i>Bassetlaw</i>	1,285	61.7	1,295	66.8	1,357	67.8	1.0
<i>Broxtowe</i>	1,293	64.9	1,338	67.2	1,356	70.3	3.1
<i>Gedling</i>	1,305	70.1	1,341	68.6	1,380	67.8	-0.8
<i>Mansfield</i>	1,352	61.7	1,387	66.0	1,433	66.0	0.0
<i>Newark</i>	1,336	65.7	1,347	65.0	1,352	66.1	1.1
<i>Rushcliffe</i>	1,364	72.8	1,380	75.4	1,340	75.4	0.0
National	-	66.3	-	69.3	-	70.7	1.4
Stat. Neighbours	-	67.6	-	70.5	-	71.3	0.8

*District refers to the geographical location of the school*

*Statistical neighbour is based on the averages of each LA's outcome and is not weighted*

24. Provisional data for the percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of primary education (typically 11 year olds) shows Nottinghamshire is in-line with the national average. 61.4% of pupils achieved this measure (an increase of 7.6 percentage points from 2016) compared with 61.0% nationally and 60.5% amongst statistical neighbours. Against all LAs nationally (150 with published data) Nottinghamshire is ranked 66<sup>th</sup> on this measure and against statistical neighbours is placed 5<sup>th</sup> (out of 11 LAs; where 1<sup>st</sup> is best). Outcomes by district show all districts witnessed increases in this measure with Gedling schools witnessing the greatest increase (10.4 points to 62.6%). The percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in combined reading, writing and mathematics in Nottinghamshire schools and academies by area is as follows:

**Table 2 – Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in combined reading, writing & mathematics by district**

	2015/16		2016/17(p)		Diff. from 2016
	Pupils	% Exp. Standard Rd, Wr, Ma	Pupils	% Exp. Standard Rd, Wr, Ma	
Nottinghamshire	8,410	53.8	8,798	61.4	7.6
<i>Ashfield</i>	1,334	47.8	1,373	56.7	8.9
<i>Bassetlaw</i>	1,175	51.1	1,211	58.3	7.2
<i>Broxtowe</i>	1,073	56.8	1,174	64.2	7.4
<i>Gedling</i>	1,264	52.2	1,232	62.6	10.4
<i>Mansfield</i>	1,139	48.8	1,224	55.1	6.3
<i>Newark</i>	1,155	53.4	1,269	58.1	4.7
<i>Rushcliffe</i>	1,270	66.5	1,315	74.4	7.9
National	-	54.0	-	61.0	7.0
Stat. Neighbours	-	53.3	-	60.5	7.2

*District refers to the geographical location of the school*

*Statistical neighbour is based on the averages of each LA's outcome and is not weighted*

25. There have been a number of changes to the way in which Key Stage 4 results are reported this year. New more challenging GCSEs in English language, English literature and mathematics (taught in schools from September 2015) are reported in a new grading scale of 9 to 1, with 9 being the top grade (not A\*-G as previously reported). These three subjects are the first to use the new grading structure. Eventually all GCSEs taken in England will receive numerical grades.
26. Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 or better as previously achieved a grade C or above but instead of the four grades (A\*, A, B and C) which most students achieve, the new grading structure will have six grades (9, 8, 7, 6, 5 and 4). Fewer grade 9s will be awarded than A\*s.
27. Grade 4 will be regarded as a “standard pass” and a grade 5 as a “strong pass”. The government wants to see the percentage of pupils achieving a grade 5 and above rising over time and to reflect this ambition, achievement at the “strong pass” will be one of the benchmarks used to measure the performance of schools.
28. Provisional results for 2017 show 45.0% of pupils achieved a strong pass (grades 9-5) in both GCSE English and mathematics. Nationally over the same period 42.4% of state funded schools achieved this measure. Nottinghamshire is placed 47<sup>th</sup> against all LAs nationally. Comparisons to statistical neighbours shows the average for this measure to be 41.9% with Nottinghamshire placed 2<sup>nd</sup> against all 11 authorities. 61.2% of Rushcliffe

pupils achieved the strong standard (highest performing district) compared with 33.6% for Ashfield district which was the lowest of the district outcomes.

29. At the standard pass (grades 9-4) provisional results show 65.2% of Nottinghamshire pupils achieved grades 9-4 in both English and mathematics, a slight fall of 0.7 percentage points on 2016 when comparing A\*-C grades with 9-4. Nationally there was a slight increase in this measure of 0.2 points to 63.5% and an increase of 0.5 points to 63.9% for statistical neighbours. In spite of a slight fall, Nottinghamshire remains above both national and statistical neighbour averages. Gedling was the only district to witness an increase in this measure (1.2 points to 68.2%) with all others reporting a fall. Comparisons with all authorities nationally place Nottinghamshire 52<sup>nd</sup>, a fall from 41<sup>st</sup> in 2016 when comparing A\*-C outcomes. Against statistical neighbours Nottinghamshire has maintained its position amongst 11 authorities and is placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. The percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in English and mathematics in Nottinghamshire schools and academies by area is as follows:

**Table 3 – Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in English and Mathematics by District**

	2014/15		2015/16		2016/17(p)			Diff. from 2016 (A*-C / 9-4)
	Pupils	% A*-C GCSE English & Maths	Pupils	% A*-C GCSE English & Maths	Pupils	% 9-5 GCSE English & Maths	% 9-4 GCSE English & Maths	
Nottinghamshire	8,193	59.7	7,883	65.9	7,534	45.0	65.2	-0.7
<i>Ashfield</i>	<i>1,367</i>	<i>54.1</i>	<i>1,264</i>	<i>55.3</i>	<i>1,169</i>	<i>33.6</i>	<i>54.9</i>	-0.4
<i>Bassetlaw</i>	<i>1,169</i>	<i>67.8</i>	<i>1,124</i>	<i>71.3</i>	<i>998</i>	<i>50.8</i>	<i>69.9</i>	-1.4
<i>Broxtowe</i>	<i>950</i>	<i>58.5</i>	<i>918</i>	<i>67.4</i>	<i>879</i>	<i>45.2</i>	<i>66.1</i>	-1.3
<i>Gedling</i>	<i>1,247</i>	<i>62.3</i>	<i>1,162</i>	<i>67.0</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>47.2</i>	<i>68.2</i>	1.2
<i>Mansfield</i>	<i>1,204</i>	<i>51.7</i>	<i>1,202</i>	<i>57.4</i>	<i>1,182</i>	<i>36.6</i>	<i>56.2</i>	-1.2
<i>Newark</i>	<i>975</i>	<i>50.2</i>	<i>915</i>	<i>62.3</i>	<i>856</i>	<i>37.5</i>	<i>59.5</i>	-2.8
<i>Rushcliffe</i>	<i>1,281</i>	<i>71.5</i>	<i>1,298</i>	<i>80.2</i>	<i>1,283</i>	<i>61.2</i>	<i>79.5</i>	-0.7
National	-	59.2	-	63.3	-	42.4	63.5	0.2
Stat. Neighbours	-	59.8	-	63.4	-	41.9	63.9	0.5

*District refers to the geographical location of the school*

*Statistical neighbour is based on the averages of each LA's outcome and is not weighted*

30. The percentage of A-Level entries in Nottinghamshire sixth forms awarded a pass grade at A\*-E fell slightly to 99.0%, a decrease of 0.7 percentage points from 2016. Comparisons to all schools and colleges nationally witnessed a similar fall to 98.1%.
31. The percentage of A-Level entries in Nottinghamshire sixth forms awarded a pass grade at A\*-B has increased to 49.7%, an increase of 0.3 percentage points from 2016. Comparisons to all schools and colleges nationally show a slight decrease of 0.3 to 53.3%.

32. Provisional data shows the Key Stage 2 attainment gap for pupils eligible for free school meals at any point in the past six years (FSM6) attaining the expected standard in each of reading, writing and mathematics has narrowed slightly (0.6 points) to 23.6 percentage points. 44.1% of Nottinghamshire FSM6 pupils achieved this standard compared with 67.7% of non-FSM6 pupils. Comparisons to national data show the equivalent figures to be 47.0% and 67.0% respectively giving a national gap of 20.0 percentage points which is 3.6 percentage points lower than Nottinghamshire.
33. The difference in the gap is due to attainment of FSM6 pupils in Nottinghamshire being 2.9 percentage points lower than the equivalent group nationally (47.0% provisional national FSM6). The non-FSM6 group performs slightly higher in Nottinghamshire with 67.7% achieving the expected standard compared with 67.0% nationally.
34. Outcomes by district show all pupil groups witnessed an increase in attainment from 2016. The FSM6 gap is widest in Mansfield district at 26.0 percentage points and was the only district to witness an increase in the gap between 2016 and 2017.
35. Key Stage 2 outcomes for those achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics by free school meal at any point in the past six years (FSM6) eligibility and the associated gap are as follows:

**Table 4 – Percentage of FSM6 pupils achieving the expected standard in combined reading, writing & mathematics by district and the associated gap**

District	FSM6 eligible?	2016			2017			Increase from 2016	GAP change
		Pupils	%	GAP	Pupils	%	GAP		
Ashfield	Yes	489	34.2	21.5	500	43.2	21.2	9.0	-0.3
	No	845	55.7		873	64.4		8.7	
Bassetlaw	Yes	348	36.5	20.7	353	45.3	18.3	8.8	-2.4
	No	827	57.2		858	63.6		6.4	
Broxtowe	Yes	253	41.5	20.0	291	49.8	19.2	8.3	-0.8
	No	820	61.5		883	69.0		7.5	
Gedling	Yes	328	35.4	22.7	310	46.1	22.0	10.7	-0.7
	No	936	58.1		922	68.1		10.0	
Mansfield	Yes	371	33.4	22.9	420	38.1	26.0	4.7	3.1
	No	768	56.3		804	64.1		7.8	
Newark	Yes	294	35.0	24.7	321	39.9	24.3	4.9	-0.4
	No	861	59.7		948	64.2		4.5	
Rushcliffe	Yes	178	42.1	28.3	163	54.6	22.6	12.5	-5.7
	No	1,092	70.4		1,152	77.2		6.8	
LA	Yes	2,261	36.1	24.2	2,358	44.1	23.6	8.0	-0.6
	No	6,149	60.3		6,440	67.7		7.4	
National	Yes	-	39.0	21.0	-	47.0	20.0	8.0	-1.0
	No	-	60.0		-	67.0		7.0	



36. The percentage of young people aged 16-17 years who are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) is 88.8% as at September 2017. This shows a fall from this time last year when the figure was 91.7%. The percentage of not knowns has also increased to 9.9% from 7.2% this time last year. Those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) has reduced from 1.2% last year to 1.0% this year. It is important to be aware that the number of students whose education destination is not known increases this time of year as this cohort is still in the process of being tracked. This is expected to reduce by next quarter's report.

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

37. First time entrants to the youth justice system is reported a quarter in arrears. The target is to remain below the national average which on latest data, released in February 2017, is 346 per 100,000. The new national benchmark for first time entrants has fallen by 12%. Despite this, Nottinghamshire remains on target to remain well below the average in terms of numbers per 100,000 of youth population and in line with last year's figures. The latest figure of Quarter 1 for 2017/18 is 70 (actual number of first time entrants is 49), compared to a slightly higher figure of 74 this time last year.
38. Children's Centre registrations performance remains high with 100% of all children under 5 years who live in low income areas, as defined by their IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index) score, registered with a Children's Centre at the end of Quarter 2. 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 2, 71.4% of children living in low income areas were seen in Children's Centres.

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

39. By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, the DfE require all LAs to ensure children with an existing Special Educational Need Statement have been transferred onto an EHC Plan. During quarter 2 there were an extra 87 statements converted into EHC Plans, along with the 33 transferred in quarter 1, making a total of 120 out of an overall 357 outstanding statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 (42.9%). This measure is reported to the DfE on a monthly basis, therefore it is continually monitored by the service and is forecasted to increase at a greater rate throughout the year.

### **Other Options Considered**

40. 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**

41. 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**

42. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, 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, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications**

43. Reporting on the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers will better enable the Council to ensure that children are effectively safeguarded.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That Committee considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the performance information on the Council's services for children and young people for the period 1 July to 30 September 2017.

**Jayne Francis-Ward**  
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## **Constitutional Comments (LM 03/11/17)**

44. The Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report and that Members consider whether there are any actions they require in relation to the issues contained within the report .

## **Financial Comments (SAS 06/11/17)**

45. 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 2017/18) – services for children and young people – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 18 September 2017.

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18

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

All.

C1051