

**18 June 2018****Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES****PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 4 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 January and 31 March 2018 and seek comments on any actions required.

**Information****Performance Reporting for 2017/18**

2. This report forms the fourth 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. 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.
7. Some new measures have been included for the first time this quarter, looking at Child Sexual Exploitation. Additional measures have also been included around the subject of missing children allowing a fuller picture of this issue to be shown.

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

### **Child and family assessments**

8. The percentage of Child and Family Assessments completed within timescale has seen a marked improvement since quarter 3, rising from 78.6% to 94.6%. The previous quarter value was influenced by a significant fall in November 2017 to 76%. Since then there have been noticeable improvements each month resulting in a good performance for the quarter which is above target and better than both the national average and the Council's statistical neighbours average.

### **Child protection**

9. It is notable that the rate of children subject to a child protection plan has fallen slightly throughout this year. However, the rate continues to be an issue in Nottinghamshire, in that it is consistently higher than both the England average and the statistical neighbour figures, despite service manager oversight of the decision to take a child to an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC). This is therefore an area of continued focus.
10. The percentage of child protection plans lasting two years or more has increased this quarter to 5.7%. Performance has fluctuated over the year and is now higher than the England average and statistical neighbours. Child Protection Coordinators (CPCs) monitor cases and request service manager oversight when child protection plans have lasted 15 months. CPCs complete quality assurance after each meeting to assess if there is drift or delay in cases, and raise alerts with team managers when appropriate. These cases typically involve complex issues of neglect and domestic abuse which are not easily resolved.
11. There has been an improvement in the proportion of children becoming subject to a child protection plan more than once, dropping from 29.3% to 21.6%. However, this is still higher than it was earlier in the year and higher than the England average and that of statistical neighbours for 2016/17. This continues to be an area for close management attention and a recent Serious Case Review (SCR) has directed some further work in this area.
12. Performance of the percentage of child protection cases reviewed within timescales has fallen sharply in quarter 4 to 84.9%. Two factors have impacted on this measure in the last quarter. Firstly the impact of heavy snow on Nottinghamshire on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March which resulted in the unavoidable cancellation of 28 meetings. Many of these were inevitably rearranged outside required timescales. Secondly there were high levels of short term staff sickness which peaked in the week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> March, when five CPCs were on sick leave out of total staff numbers of 9.6. As staff chair, on average, two meetings a day it was not possible to cover the sickness absence. The final period of sickness has now finished and at the time of writing all staff are back at work. There remain some data cleansing issues currently being addressed which may improve this figure for the statutory return.

## **CSE and Missing**

13. Additional measures have been included this quarter to show the extent to which children in Nottinghamshire are at risk of child sexual exploitation. The number of children reported to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) where Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) was highlighted as an issue has increased slightly since quarter 3, reflecting the continuing professional awareness and attention to this important area of work. The number of children reported to the MASH is made up of Looked After Children (LAC) and non-LAC children. This reflects the assessment process and the level of concern raised. Both groups have reduced slightly this quarter and are in keeping with previous data. Following assessment, a much smaller number of children are identified as requiring a multi-agency strategy meeting, and the majority of these are non-LAC children.
14. New measures have also been included to provide additional data on missing children. The total number of children missing shows a small but steady decline over the first three quarters of this year and this has continued in quarter 4. The percentage of children missing from care has remained static and below the national average and statistical neighbours. The number of missing occurrences has reduced in the last two quarters. The percentage of children missing more than five times remains consistent with previous quarters. While the percentage of Return Interviews (RIs) completed in time scales has reduced slightly since quarter 3, completed RIs for LAC within timescales has increased slightly and decreased for children missing from home. This is influenced by a child's refusal to complete a Return Interview, the rate of which has increased for children missing from home and decreased for LAC. This is addressed at the Missing Children Steering Group and covered in the Multi-agency Children Missing training.

## **Looked after children**

15. Looked after children who have had more than three placements during the previous 12 months as a proportion of all looked after children has increased slightly since the last quarter. It is a reflection of the higher number of young people aged 13 - 17yrs, some of whom present particularly challenging behaviours leading to placement disruption. The figures are also impacted by the process of stepping down an increased number of 16/17 year old LAC into a number of discrete supported placements, which provide them with the necessary life skills to equip them for independence into adulthood. This is positive but continues to present a challenge in terms of how this presents itself in statistical reporting.
16. There has been a small increase in the percentage of those looked after children remaining in long-term placements this quarter. The data continues to confirm strong performance in this area, being approximately 9 percentage points better than the national average for all local authorities.

## **Adoption**

17. The average length of time between a child's admission into care and placement has increased further this quarter from 394 days to 416 days. This level of performance at the end of the year is better than target and better than the latest available England and statistical neighbour averages. A robust system of tracking and early matching has

enabled the Council to identify placements for the majority of children speedily and at the earliest opportunity. There were a number of particularly hard to place children who were adopted during the quarter which has contributed to the average number of days going up slightly.

18. The average number of days between placement order and deciding on an appropriate family for a child or children has also increased and is now 152 days. The Council is ambitious in its plans for older children, sibling groups and children with disabilities and because of this it sometimes takes longer to identify an appropriate match. The Council's performance remains better than the national and statistical neighbour averages, despite an increase that has meant missing the end of year target.

### **Care leavers**

19. There was a total of 246 care leavers eligible for care leavers support aged 19-21 years as at the end of quarter 4 and of these, 112 were in part-time/full-time education, employment or training (45.5%). There is a marked improvement in data quality with a decrease in those where this information is missing. However, there has been an increase of 5.5% points in the percentage of care leavers who were not in education, employment or training (NEET), more specifically there are more young people who are NEET due to other circumstances, as opposed to illness/disability. The proportion of care leavers aged 19-21 years in higher education has seen a rise from 3.1% in quarter 3 to 4.5% at year end, although this remains below the levels seen nationally and across the statistical neighbours.
20. Despite last quarter's slight drop, the percentage of those care leavers classed as living in suitable accommodation has improved and is now more in line with the other quarterly figures within the financial year 2017-18. Again, there is a marked improvement in the data quality of these cases.

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

21. The following attainment outcomes relating to looked after children (LAC) are based on Nottinghamshire LAC who have been looked after for 12 months or more as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 regardless of the location of school they attend.
22. There were 21 Nottinghamshire LAC pupils in the end of Key Stage 1 cohort for 2016/17 (each pupil accounting for 4.76%). Two thirds of the cohort were boys (66.7%) which is above the national cohort (56.0%). Nottinghamshire had a higher proportion of pupils with SEN (special educational needs) Support (57.1% compared with a national figure of 37.0%) and a lower proportion with an EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan) / Statement (4.8% for Nottinghamshire and 14.0% nationally). More Nottinghamshire LAC (81.0%) were educated within Nottinghamshire Local Authority (LA) than was the case nationally (67.0%).
23. The percentage of LAC achieving the expected standard in Key Stage 1 reading teacher assessments in 2017 was 47.6% which represents a fall from 2016 of 2.4 percentage points. Nationally 51.0% of pupils achieved this standard which represents a 1 point increase from the previous year.

24. For Key Stage 1 writing teacher assessments for LAC pupils Nottinghamshire is slightly below national with 38.1% and 39.0% achieving the expected standard respectively. As with reading Nottinghamshire witnessed a fall of 1.9 percentage points from 2016 while nationally there was a 2 percentage points increase.
25. Key Stage 1 mathematics teacher assessments have the lowest outcome of the three subjects. A third of Nottinghamshire LAC achieved the expected standard compared with almost half of pupils nationally (46.0%). Mathematics also witnessed the largest fall of the three subjects when compared with the previous year with a drop of 6.7 percentage points while nationally there was no change.
26. There were 40 Nottinghamshire LAC pupils in the end of Key Stage 2 cohort for 2016/17 (each pupil accounting for 2.5%). More than half the cohort were boys (60.0%) which is slightly above the national cohort (55.0%). Nottinghamshire had a higher proportion of pupils with SEN (special educational needs) Support (42.5% compared with a national figure of 37.0%) and a lower proportion with an EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan) / Statement (12.5% for Nottinghamshire and 22.0% nationally). Slightly more Nottinghamshire LAC (70.0%) were educated within Nottinghamshire LA than was the case nationally (66.0%).
27. The percentage of LAC achieving the expected standard in Key Stage 2 reading tests in 2017 was 42.5% which represents an increase of 13.2 percentage points from 2016. Nationally 45.0% of pupils achieved this standard which represents a 4 point increase on 2016. Against all local authorities nationally (91 with published data) Nottinghamshire is ranked 51<sup>st</sup> on this measure (where 1<sup>st</sup> is best) and against statistical neighbours is placed 7<sup>th</sup> (out of 11 LAs; where 1<sup>st</sup> is best). This represents an increase from 79<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> respectively in 2016.
28. Half of Nottinghamshire LAC achieved the expected standard in Key Stage 2 writing teacher assessments in 2017, an increase of 18.3 percentage points from 2016. Nationally 47.0% achieved this which is a 1 percentage point increase from 2016. Against all LAs nationally (89 with published data) Nottinghamshire is ranked 35<sup>th</sup> on this measure (where 1<sup>st</sup> is best) and against statistical neighbours is placed 4<sup>th</sup> (out of 11 LAs; where 1<sup>st</sup> is best). This represents an increase from 79<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> respectively in 2016.
29. In Key Stage 2 mathematics test 45.0% of Nottinghamshire LAC achieved the expected standard in Key Stage 2. This represents an increase of 15.7 percentage points from 2016 compared with a national increase of 5 points (to 46.0% in 2017). Against all LAs nationally (91 with published data) Nottinghamshire is ranked 45<sup>th</sup> on this measure (where 1<sup>st</sup> is best) and against statistical neighbours is placed 7<sup>th</sup> (out of 11 LAs; where 1<sup>st</sup> is best). This represents an increase from 73<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> respectively in 2016.
30. There were 61 Nottinghamshire LAC pupils in the end of Key Stage 4 cohort for 2016/17 (each pupil accounting for 1.64%). Just over half the cohort were boys (55.7%) which is broadly in-line with the national cohort (55.0%). Nottinghamshire had a higher proportion of pupils with SEN (special educational needs) Support (27.9% compared with a national figure of 23.0%) and broadly similar proportion with an EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan) / Statement (19.7% for Nottinghamshire and 20.0% nationally). More

Nottinghamshire KS4 LAC (75.4%) were educated within Nottinghamshire LA than was the case nationally (63.0%).

31. The percentage of Nottinghamshire LAC achieving 9-5 grades (or a strong pass) in both GCSE English and mathematics at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2016/17 stands at 11.5% which is above the national average of 7.4%. There is no trend data available as this was the first year of numerical grading at GCSE. Statistical neighbour data is not available due to data suppression and nationally there were only 12 local authorities with published data (Nottinghamshire was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> out of these 12 LAs)
32. The percentage of Nottinghamshire LAC achieving a standard pass (grade 4 or above) in both English and mathematics is also above national. 21.3% of Notts LAC achieved this compared with 17.5% nationally. Locally, when compared with A\*-C grades from 2016, this is an improvement of 4 percentage points (from 17.3% in 2016) while nationally there was no change. Rankings have also improved as a result with Nottinghamshire placed 3<sup>rd</sup> for statistical neighbours (5<sup>th</sup> in 2016) and 30<sup>th</sup> (out of 69) from 49<sup>th</sup> in 2016.
33. As exclusion data is collected two terms in arrears the following exclusion outcomes relate to the 2015/16 academic year which has been matched to pupils who were looked after for 12 months or more as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. This is a year earlier than the cohort reported for attainment purposes.
34. In 2015/16 there were no Nottinghamshire LAC pupils who were permanently excluded. This compares with a national average of 0.10%. Nationally this represents a slight fall (from 0.14% the year before). Locally there was no change.
35. For the percentage of pupils with one or more fixed term exclusions there has been a slight increase from 2014/15. 9.8% of Nottinghamshire LAC pupils had at least one fixed term exclusion compared with 11.4% nationally. Nationally this represents an increase of 1 percentage point while locally the figure is 0.1 percentage point increase. Rankings against statistical neighbours show no change from 2014/15 and remain at 5<sup>th</sup> while nationally these has been an improvement from 50<sup>th</sup> last year to 34<sup>th</sup> (out of 137) this year.
36. Although both locally and nationally there has been an increase in the percentage of LAC pupils classed as persistent absentees (1.1 percentage point increase in Nottinghamshire and 0.9 point increase nationally), Nottinghamshire remains below the national average for 2016/17. 7.9% of Nottinghamshire LAC are classed as persistent absentees compared with 10.0% nationally. Against statistical neighbours Nottinghamshire is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> nationally (out of 135) on this measure.
37. The number of primary schools in an Ofsted category (inadequate) remains unchanged from the last quarter at three schools. Netherfield Primary School (Gedling district, LA maintained school) closed at the end of February 2018 and is now a sponsored academy under the leadership of Greater Nottingham Education Trust; the school's name remains unchanged. Oak Tree Primary School (Mansfield district, LA maintained school) became inadequate in March (previously was judged good). The other two schools from the last quarter remain. These are Arnbrook Primary (Gedling district, a sponsored academy which converted in April 2014 under the leadership of Believe Academy Trust) and

Hillocks Primary (Ashfield district, LA maintained school) which is set to close at the end of September for academy conversion.

38. The number of secondary schools in an Ofsted category shows an increase from the previous quarter to two schools (previously one). Kirkby College (Ashfield district; a convertor academy which converted August 2012) became inadequate in March (previously was judged good). Manor (Mansfield district; a convertor academy which converted August 2011) remains as inadequate since the last quarter.
39. The percentage of young people aged 16-17 years who are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) is 95.1% as at March 2018. This shows a fall from this time last year when the figure was 96.9%. Those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) has reduced slightly from 1.5% last year to 1.4% this year, however the percentage of not knowns has increased to 3.5% (from 1.7% this time last year). The increase in not knowns compared to 2017 is largely in relation to 17 year olds. Futures and the Family Service are working to track the destinations of these young people in order to reduce the number of not knowns.
40. The number of two year olds taking up their free entitlement in the spring 2018 term shows a slight fall from the same period last year. 73.0% of eligible two year olds are attending providers, a 2 percentage points fall (from 75.0%) from the same term last year. Analysis by district shows 96.5% of eligible Rushcliffe district children are accessing their entitlement whereas the equivalent figure for Bassetlaw is 63.9% and 63.4% for Newark and Sherwood district. Comparisons to the same term last year show Gedling district had the largest fall (down 8.4 percentage points from spring 2017 to 83.2%) whereas Ashfield witnessed the largest increase (up 4.0 percentage points to 71.9%).
41. The percentage of sessions missed in all Nottinghamshire schools (primary, secondary and special schools) due to overall (authorised and unauthorised) absence remains unchanged from last academic year. Figures for the 2016/17 academic year show 4.4% of sessions were missed. Nationally over the same period there has been a slight increase of 0.1 percentage points to 4.7% of sessions missed with statistical neighbours remaining unchanged at 4.5%. Comparisons with all LAs nationally place Nottinghamshire 28<sup>th</sup> (out of 152) whilst against statistical neighbours the position is 2<sup>nd</sup>.
42. Comparisons by school phase show overall absence in primary schools remains unchanged from last year at 3.9% of sessions missed in 2016/17. Nationally the figure is 4.0%. In secondary schools overall absence remains unchanged at 5.0% of sessions missed in 2016/17. Nationally there was an increase of 0.2 percentage points from 2015/16 to 5.4%. Special schools witnessed the largest increase between the years. 9.7% of sessions were missed in Nottinghamshire special schools in 2016/17, an increase of 1 percentage point from the previous year. Nationally there was also an increase of 0.6 points to 9.7%.
43. The reasons for special school absences in 2016/17 show that most (79.1% of all absent sessions) were due to authorised absences with illness being the main reason (46.4%), followed by medical or dental appointments (15.2%), other authorised circumstances (11.4%) and agreed family holidays (4.8%). Unauthorised absences account for a fifth (20.9%) of sessions missed. The largest category is unauthorised; other reason (15.1%),

followed by not agreed family holidays (3.9%), arrived late (1.4%) and no reason given (0.5%).

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

44. The service has not been able to report Final First Time Entrant (FTE) figures for the third quarter due to a fault in the data management system. First Time Entrant Data for 2016/17 is now available. The rate of FTEs to the Youth Justice Service (YJS) per 100,000 of the 10-17 years population decreased nationally from 361 to 322. The indication from quarters 1 and 2 is that there is a small in-year increase in FTEs and on the current trajectory it is expected to be a little over the national average at the end of the year with a forecast of 342. When considered in real terms the difference is 14 individual offenders based on Nottinghamshire's population.
45. Children's Centre registrations performance remains high with 100% of all children under five 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 4. The number of these who had been seen at a Children's Centre shows an increase to 75.5%, from 73.4% in the same quarter last year.

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

46. By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, the DfE required all local authorities to ensure children with an existing Special Educational Need Statement have been transferred onto an EHC Plan. This work has now been completed and 100% of children who had a SEN statement now have an EHC Plan.

### **Other Options Considered**

47. 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**

48. 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 and Families department.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

49. 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.

### **Financial Implications**

50. There are no financial implications arising from the report.

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

51. 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 January to 31 March 2018.

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### **Constitutional Comments (LM 25/05/18)**

52. The Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report.

### **Financial Comments (SAS 25/05/18)**

53. 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 2017/18) – services for children and young people – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 19 March 2018.

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

All.

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