

17 June 2019**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, FINANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE &
IMPROVEMENT****CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CORE DATA SET - PERFORMANCE FOR
QUARTER 4****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides the Committee with a summary of the performance of the Council's services for children and young people for quarter 4 of 2018/19 (1st January to 31st March 2019).

Information

2. The Council's Planning and Performance Framework establishes the approach that the Council takes to planning and managing its performance to deliver effective and responsive services.
3. The Council has agreed that the key measures of its performance will be defined through a number of core data sets which are detailed in its Council Plan and each of its Departmental Strategies.
4. Performance against these core data sets is reported to Committee every three months (quarterly) to support the performance management of the delivery of services.

Performance Reporting for 2018/19

5. This report provides a summary of the quarter 4 position for the Children's Social Care and Education Core Data Set performance measures that fall within the responsibility of the Children and Young People's Committee. The full Core Data Set is included in **Appendices 1 and 2**. **Appendix 1** shows those measures which have received updates since the previous quarter. **Appendix 2** shows those measures which have not changed.
6. For each measure, the following information is provided:
 - Current performance and whether a high or low value is regarded as 'good'.
 - The period this current value relates to.

- An indication of whether performance has improved (+), declined (-), or remained the same (=) over the current reporting period. The most recently available annual performance and which year this relates to.
- The underlying numbers used to calculate the % for some measures is provided within the measure description.
- If a measure is cumulative, this is stated in the measure description.
- Comparator data of the national average for England, and that of the Council's children's services statistical neighbours, where this data is available.

Child and Family Assessments

7. The percentage of Child and Family Assessments completed within timescale has continued to improve from 97.1% in quarter 3 to 98.2% in quarter 4. This is well above the target of 85% and above the Council's statistical neighbours and national averages. This continued improvement has been delivered while focussing on proportionate and timely assessments being undertaken. Assessment Service principles and guidance alongside the SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely) allocation system ensures that staff are able to meet this timescale consistently.

Child protection

8. The number of children subject to a child protection plan (CPP) has increased this quarter to 51.8 per 10,000. England and statistical neighbour comparisons show Nottinghamshire as being above average, but this is based on 2017/18 benchmarking data due to the lag in this being available from the DfE. There continues to be close monitoring by children's service managers and also chairs of child protection conferences. The rise from quarter 3 is in line with the rise in children discussed at Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) this quarter. Analysis to date indicates that children are being brought to conference appropriately and likewise, plans are only being made where required. This is a continued area of close management focus.
9. There has been an increase in the percentage of CPPs lasting two years or more this quarter, which relates to 24 children in 13 families in Nottinghamshire in March whose plans have lasted two years or more. The cases represent some of the most difficult and a large number have involved legal planning meetings, Public Law Outline and/or court applications. Management action is taken as required after a child has been on a plan for 15 months. Further consideration of initial analysis will be carried out by operational managers.
10. There has been a small increase in the proportion of children becoming subject of a CPP for a second or subsequent time this quarter, although values are still lower than in quarters 1 and 2. The largest category of registration for children on repeat plans is neglect, followed by emotional abuse. These are therefore typically complex cases. This area is subject to close management attention which will continue.
11. The percentage of CP cases reviewed within timescales is a cumulative measure over a rolling 12 month period and therefore, sustained good performance is required over the year. Performance in the last three quarters has exceeded the national average and now stands at 91.5%. However, improvement is still required to meet the Nottinghamshire target of 98%.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing

12. Numbers of referrals to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for CSE has decreased this quarter while the number of CSE strategy discussions held has increased. This is considered positive given the focus required on addressing these issues promptly and at an earlier stage.
13. The missing measures represent a consistent picture for children who go missing from home and care with a slight reduction in numbers given the time of year (colder and darker). There has been a slight increase over the year in children going missing five times or more in the last 12 months. This will remain an area for close management attention. There are some improvements in the completion of Return Interviews within timescales and work will continue with operational teams to support this practice through training and attendance at team meetings.

Looked After Children

14. Looked After Children (LAC) who have had more than three placements during the previous 12 months as a proportion of all LAC has increased by 0.7% points since last quarter and is now higher than the corresponding data for statistical neighbours and the national average. Whilst the general rule of fewer placement moves resulting in better outcomes prevails for the majority of cases, the computation of this specific measure is such that the otherwise excellent work done to move 16/17 year old LAC into a number of discrete supported placements that provide this group with the necessary life skills to equip them for independence into adulthood, perversely impacts in a negative way on this particular piece of data. However, it does not impact in any practical sense on the overall long-term stability of placements.
15. The Council is continuing to perform well in terms of the percentage of children remaining in long-term placements. At 72.9% for quarter 4, it remains better than the national average and statistical neighbours, albeit showing a marginal decrease on the previous quarter. This may well be due in part to the planned placement moves into semi-independent accommodation for older young people, though this measure confirms that these do not compromise the overall objective of achieving placement stability over the longer term.

Adoption

16. The average length of time between a child's admission into care and placement has increased marginally this quarter to 446 days. This remains below the latest national average of 486 days and shows good performance in this area. Within this quarter, a sibling group of four children, who have waited a considerable time, have been successfully placed. Whilst this is a great outcome for children it has impacted negatively on this measure.
17. 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 at 194 days. This remains below the latest national average of 201 days and similar to statistical neighbours. The Council remains committed to finding placements for harder to place children and this tenacity

results in some good outcomes. Finding the right placement does take longer and this is reflected in the value this quarter.

Care leavers

18. The percentage of care leavers aged 19-21 years currently classed as in education, employment and training, has improved slightly this quarter (from 47.5% to 49.8%) and is now just above the target of 49%. This puts Nottinghamshire slightly above statistical neighbours but slightly below the national average.
19. The percentage of care leavers aged 19-21 years living in suitable accommodation has increased slightly from 85.5% to 87.4% in quarter 4. This is slightly above statistical neighbour and national averages. There are currently 14 young people aged 19-21 years in unsuitable accommodation (they are all aged 20 years old). The definition of unsuitable is as defined by the DfE and includes those with no fixed abode, in custody, temporarily staying with friends, who have gone abroad or where the residence is not known. Of the 14 reported this quarter, 9 are currently in custody with the rest spread across the other categories.

Educational standards

Ofsted inspections

20. The following paragraphs on Ofsted inspections are based on the current inspections of schools and do not take into account the former judgement of schools which have closed and re-opened as a sponsored academy (current Ofsted reporting arrangements). Numbers on roll are as at January 2019.
21. The number of primary schools in an Ofsted category (Inadequate) has increased to three schools from two at the last quarter. Haggonfields Primary (Bassetlaw district, LA maintained school with 108 pupils on roll) became Inadequate in March (previously judged as Good). The other two schools from the last quarter remain. These are Hillocks Primary (Ashfield district, LA maintained school; 329 pupils on roll) and Langold Dyscarr (Bassetlaw district, LA maintained school; 280 pupils on roll). Langold Dyscarr has however since closed and re-opened early April as a sponsor led academy under the leadership of Shine Multi Academy Trust.
22. The number of secondary schools in an Ofsted category remains unchanged at one school from the last quarter. Kirkby College (Ashfield district; a converter academy which converted August 2012 with 434 pupils on roll) remains Inadequate since the last quarter.

Attainment of looked after children

23. 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 31st March 2018 regardless of the location of school they attend.
24. This attainment data is based on a very small cohort with only 16 Nottinghamshire LAC pupils in the end of Key Stage 1 cohort for 2017/18 (each pupil accounting for 6.3%). Almost two thirds of the cohort were boys (62.5%) which is above the national cohort

(55.0%). Nottinghamshire had a higher proportion of pupils with SEN (special educational needs) Support (56.3% compared with a national figure of 39.0%) and a lower proportion with an EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan) / Statement (0% for Nottinghamshire and 12.0% nationally). The average SDQ (strength and difficulties questionnaire) score for the cohort stands at 18.6 compared with a national figure of 13.7 meaning the Nottinghamshire cohort has more complex needs. More Nottinghamshire LAC (75.0%) were educated within Nottinghamshire Local Authority (LA) than was the case nationally (67.0%).

25. The percentage of LAC achieving the expected standard in Key Stage 1 reading teacher assessments in 2018 was 31.3% which represents a fall from 2017 of 16.3 percentage points. Nationally 51.0% of pupils achieved this standard which represents no change from the previous year.
26. For Key Stage 1 writing teacher assessments for LAC pupils Nottinghamshire is below national with 25.0% and 42.0% achieving the expected standard respectively. As with reading Nottinghamshire witnessed a fall of 13.1 percentage points from 2017 while nationally there was a 3 percentage points increase.
27. For Key Stage 1 mathematics teacher assessments 37.5% of Nottinghamshire LAC achieved the expected standard compared with almost half of pupils nationally (49.0%). Mathematics witnessed a slight increase from the previous year of 4.2 percentage points while nationally there was a 3 percentage point increase.
28. There were 32 Nottinghamshire LAC pupils in the end of Key Stage 2 cohort for 2017/18 (each pupil accounting for 3.1%). 43.8% of the cohort were boys which is slightly below the national cohort (55.0%). Nottinghamshire had a broadly similar proportion of pupils who had some form of special educational needs as nationally. 37.5% of the cohort required SEN Support (36.0% nationally) and 21.9% had an EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan) / Statement (22.0% nationally). The average SDQ (strength and difficulties questionnaire) score for the cohort stands at 16.9 compared with a national figure of 14.1 meaning the Nottinghamshire cohort has more complex needs. More Nottinghamshire LAC (78.1%) were educated within Nottinghamshire LA than was the case nationally (66.0%).
29. The percentage of LAC achieving the expected standard in Key Stage 2 reading tests in 2018 was 46.9% which represents an increase of 4.4 percentage points from 2017. Nationally 51.0% of pupils achieved this standard which represents a 6 point increase on 2017. Against all local authorities nationally (92 with published data) Nottinghamshire is ranked 55th on this measure (where 1st is best) and against statistical neighbours is placed 9th (out of 11 LAs; where 1st is best). This represents a fall from 51st and 7th respectively in 2017.
30. Just over a third (37.5%) of Nottinghamshire LAC achieved the expected standard in Key Stage 2 writing teacher assessments in 2018, this represents a fall of 12.5 percentage points from 2017. Nationally 49.0% achieved this which is a 2 percentage point increase from 2017. Against all LAs nationally (92 with published data) Nottinghamshire is ranked 83rd on this measure (where 1st is best) and against statistical neighbours is placed 11th (out of 11 LAs; where 1st is best). This represents a fall from 35th and 4th respectively in 2017.

31. In Key Stage 2 mathematics test 37.5% of Nottinghamshire LAC achieved the expected standard in Key Stage 2. This represents a decrease of 7.5 percentage points from 2017 compared with a national increase of 1 point (to 47.0% in 2018). Against all LAs nationally (89 with published data) Nottinghamshire is ranked 75th on this measure (where 1st is best) and against statistical neighbours is placed 10th (out of 11 LAs; where 1st is best). This represents a fall from 45th and 10th respectively in 2017.
32. There were 44 Nottinghamshire LAC pupils in the end of Key Stage 4 cohort for 2017/18 (each pupil accounting for 2.3%). Just over half the cohort were boys (52.3%) which is slightly less than the national cohort (56.0%). Nottinghamshire had a broadly similar proportion of pupils who had some form of special educational needs as nationally. 22.7% of the cohort required SEN Support (22.0% nationally) and a slightly higher proportion who had an EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan) / Statement (25.0% for Nottinghamshire and 20.0% nationally). The average SDQ (strength and difficulties questionnaire) score for the cohort stands at 13.4 compared with a national figure of 13.8. A slightly higher proportion of KS4 LAC pupils were educated within the LA (68.2% of the cohort were educated within Nottinghamshire) than was the case nationally (63.0%).
33. 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 2017/18 stands at 6.8% which is a 4.7 percentage point fall on the year before. Nationally 7.8% of LAC achieved this threshold which is a 0.4 percentage point increase. National benchmarking is not provided due to low number of LA's with reported results (only 14 LA's nationally).
34. The percentage of Nottinghamshire LAC achieving a standard pass (grade 4 or above) in both English and mathematics is above national. 22.7% of Nottinghamshire LAC achieved this compared with 17.8% nationally. Locally, this is an improvement of 1.4 percentage points (from 21.3% in 2017) while nationally there was a marginal increase of 0.3 points. Rankings remain broadly stable – 3rd for statistical neighbours (no change on 2017) and 29th (out of 68 LAs), an improvement of one place from 2017.

School absence and exclusions of looked after children

35. Persistent absences are below the national average although they have increased from last year. 8.9% of Nottinghamshire LAC pupils are classed as persistent absentees (an increase from 7.9% in 2017) compared with 10.6% nationally. Against statistical neighbours Nottinghamshire is ranked 2nd (was 3rd in 2017) and 37th nationally (out of 140; was 32nd in 2017) on this measure.
36. As exclusion data is collected two terms in arrears the following exclusion outcomes relate to the 2016/17 academic year which has been matched to pupils who were looked after for 12 months or more as at 31st March 2017. This is a year earlier than the cohort reported for attainment / attendance purposes.
37. In 2016/17 there were no Nottinghamshire LAC pupils who were permanently excluded. This compares with a national average of 0.10%. Both locally and nationally there was no change from the year before.
38. For the percentage of pupils with one or more fixed term exclusion there has been a slight increase from 2016. 10.6% of Nottinghamshire LAC pupils had at least one fixed term

exclusion compared with 11.8% nationally in 2017. Nationally this represents an increase of 0.4 percentage point while locally the figure is 0.8 point increase. Rankings against statistical neighbours show a slight decrease to 6th in 2017 (was 5th in 2016) and 52nd (out of 142 LAs; was 34th in 2016) nationally.

Two-year-old take up

39. The number of 2-year olds taking up their free entitlement in the spring 2019 term shows an increase from the same period last year. 75.3% of eligible 2 year olds are attending providers, a 2.3 percentage point increase (from 73.0%) from the same term last year. Rushcliffe district continues to have the highest proportion of eligible 2 year olds accessing their entitlement whereas Bassetlaw district has the lowest at 63.2%. Comparisons with the same term last year show Ashfield district witnessed a fall (down 7.8 percentage points from spring 2018 to 64.1%) followed by Bassetlaw district with a slight fall of 0.7 percentage points over the same period to 63.2%. All other districts witnessed increases in take up.

Outcomes by age 19

40. The percentage of young people qualified to Level 3 (2 or more passes at A-Level or equivalent) shows no change from the previous academic year. Data for young people aged 19 years at the end of the 2017/18 academic year shows 51.8% of those who attended a Nottinghamshire school at age 16 years attained this. Nottinghamshire remains at the bottom of its statistical neighbours on this measure. The gap between Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire has narrowed slightly from 0.6 percentage points last year to 0.4 points this year. Cheshire West and Chester is placed first where 59.6% attained this measure. Against all authorities nationally Nottinghamshire is placed 116th (out of 150, where 1st is best), which represents a slight improvement in rank from 121st last year. The statistical neighbour average is 56.2% (a slight fall from 56.7% from the previous year), while nationally the figure for the state sector is 57.2% (a slight decrease of 0.4 percentage points).
41. 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 years who go on to achieve this by age 19 years has seen a slight increase of 0.5 percentage points to 23.4% (from 22.9% in 2016/17). Nationally over the same period there has been an increase of 1.3 percentage points to 27.2% of pupils achieving this threshold. Nottinghamshire is placed last (out of 11 local authorities) amongst its statistical neighbours in this measure and 127th nationally (out of 150, where 1st is best).

School absence

42. The percentage of sessions missed in all Nottinghamshire schools (primary, secondary and special schools) due to overall (authorised and unauthorised) absence shows good performance from last academic year. Figures for the 2017/18 academic year show 4.5% of sessions were missed (an increase of only 0.1 percentage points). Nationally there has been a similar increase over the same period to 4.8% of sessions missed with the statistical neighbour average increasing 0.3 percentage points to 4.8%. Comparisons with all LAs nationally place Nottinghamshire 21st (out of 152; an improvement from 28th last year) whilst against statistical neighbours the position is 1st (an improvement from 2nd last year).

43. Comparisons by school phase show overall absence in primary schools has increased slightly (0.1 percentage points) from last year to 4.0% of sessions missed in 2017/18. Nationally the figure is 4.2% (an increase of 0.2 percentage points). Secondary school overall absence has also increased at a similar rate (0.1 points) to 5.1% of sessions missed in 2017/18. Nationally the figure was 5.5% for secondary schools (again a 0.1 increase from the previous year). Special schools remained unchanged at 9.7% of sessions missed in 2017/18. Nationally there was a 0.5 percentage point increase to 10.2%.

Youth Offending & Early Help Support

44. The rate (per 100,000 population) of First Time Entrants is reported a quarter in arrears and for the first three quarters of this year has seen a drop from 245 to 198 relative to the same quarter last year. The focus on reducing FTEs within the Youth Justice Service is believed to be partly responsible for this decline. The revised Police procedures have taken time to bed-in with frontline staff and deviance from these is being monitored.

Other Options Considered

45. This report is provided as part of the Committee's constitutional requirement to consider performance of all areas within its terms of reference on a quarterly basis. The departmental strategy was agreed on 24 January 2018 and the format and frequency of performance reporting were agreed by the Improvement and Change Sub-Committee on 12 March 2018. Due to the nature of the report no other options were considered appropriate.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

46. This report is provided as part of the Committee's constitutional requirement to consider performance of areas within its terms of reference on a quarterly basis.

Statutory and Policy Implications

47. 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

48. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

49. 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

- 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 1st January to 31st March 2019.

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Constitutional Comments (EP 24/05/19)

50. The Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report. If Committee resolves that any actions are required, it must be satisfied that such actions are within the Committee's terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SAS 05/06/19)

51. There are no financial implications arising directly from the 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 2018/19) – services for children and young people – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 18th March 2019.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1247