

17 September 2018**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FINANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE &
IMPROVEMENT****CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CORE DATA SET
PERFORMANCE FOR QUARTER 1****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 1 of 2018/19 (1 April to 30 June 2018).

Information**Background**

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 1 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. Whilst the percentage of Child and Family Assessments completed within timescale has seen a slight fall in percentage from 94.6% in quarter 4 to 93.3% in quarter 1, it is above the target of 85% and above the performance for the same period last year (90.9%). In addition the percentage has continued to be above last year's quarter 3 low value of 78.3% demonstrating continued progress. Performance is also over 10 percentage points above the Council's statistical neighbours and national averages. Social Worker recruitment remains a challenge that requires senior management oversight to ensure manageable caseloads and appropriate progression of work.

Child protection

8. The number of children subject of a child protection plan continues to decline gradually towards the statistical neighbour average and this is very encouraging. Close monitoring of thresholds continues by children's social care service managers and also by chairs of child protection conferences.
9. Positively, the percentage of child protection plans lasting two years or more has fallen significantly this quarter from 5.7% to 1.8%. Child protection plans are routinely brought to children's social care service managers' attention at the second review. There has been considerable proactive work by children's social care and this has resulted in a marked decrease of the number of children on lengthy plans.
10. The proportion of children becoming subject to a child protection plan more than once, is an area of renewed scrutiny for chairs of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) and Review Child Protection Conferences (RCPCs). Feedback from meetings which are identified as being repeat plans for the child or children is collected and brought to team and service managers' attention through established quality assurance procedures. Twelve meetings took place in quarter 1 where the child or children had been subject to a previous child protection plan which ended in the past two years. The issues identified in these cases were parental alcohol or drug misuse, domestic abuse, neglect and in one distinctive case, emotional abuse. In each of these cases there has been a failure by parents to maintain progress, or a relapse to previous patterns of behaviour which resulted in the children returning to a child protection conference. Appropriate management oversight had taken place in the vast majority of these cases.
11. Performance of the percentage of child protection cases reviewed within timescales has recovered to a large extent from the dip in quarter 4 when staff sickness and heavy snow exposed issues in the administration arrangements for reviews of child protection plans. As this is a cumulative measure over a rolling 12 month period, sustained good practice

is required in order for this to be reflected in the performance measure. Nottinghamshire's performance currently shows as slightly below statistical neighbour and national averages.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing

12. The number of children reported to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) with CSE highlighted as a concern has decreased slightly in quarter 1 bringing it in line with quarter 3. This reflects continuing professional awareness of CSE. Once assessments clarify concerns, a smaller number of children are identified as being at risk of CSE and requiring a multi-agency strategy meeting. A full report on CSE and Missing Children will be presented to Committee at today's meeting.
13. Of the children reported to MASH at risk of CSE, Looked After Children is a subset. The number of looked after children (LAC) subject to CSE Strategy meetings has reduced again this quarter. While this is in keeping with previous data and looked after children's needs are addressed through LAC plans, CSE concerns must continue to be addressed. The number of children not Looked After is also a subset of those children reported to the MASH and has also shown a reduction in quarter 1. Given the continued focus on CSE locally and nationally, the reasons for this decrease will be explored.
14. The total number of children missing shows a significant increase this quarter and a corresponding increase in the missing occurrences. Although an increase is expected as the weather improves, this level of increase is to be further explored. The percentage of children missing more than 5 times remains consistently high and continues to receive management attention.
15. The percentage of children missing from home has decreased slightly while the percentage of children missing from care has increased slightly. The percentage of Nottinghamshire's children missing from care has risen above the national average and that of the Council's statistical neighbours. This is being explored by children's services managers in the missing and LAC service.
16. The percentage of Return Interviews (RI) completed in timescales has increased slightly this quarter, as has those completed overall. More return interviews for LAC children are completed within 72 hrs than for children missing from home, while a higher percent of LAC children refuse to complete Return Interviews. The Missing Steering Group reviews this data and considers how to improve RI completion and address refusals.

Looked after children

17. Looked after children who have had more than three placements during the previous 12 months as a proportion of all looked after children has improved on the last quarter and Nottinghamshire is currently performing better than the cohort of similar local authorities that comprise the Council's statistical neighbours and the national average - against which a revised performance target has recently been set. A full report on these "stability indicators" will be available to Committee today. Although the general rule of fewer placement moves leading to better outcomes for the child or young person prevails for the majority of cases, the computation of this performance indicator is unhelpfully impacted by the otherwise very positive process of stepping down an increasing number

of 16/17 year old LAC into a number of discrete supported placements that provide this group of elder young people with the necessary life skills to equip them for independence into adulthood.

18. There has been a very small decrease 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 more than 6 percentage points better than the national average for all local authorities.

Adoption

19. The average length of time between a child's admission into care and placement has decreased further this quarter from 416 days to 306 days. Where possible Nottinghamshire works in a child focussed way to ensure that children are in a stable and secure permanent placement as soon as is practicable. Whilst this is a very positive figure it is important to remember that for some of the harder to place children it will take longer and thus there is some fluctuation in this figure as evidenced in previous quarters.
20. The average number of days between placement order and deciding on an appropriate family for a child or children has also decreased and is now just 69 days. The Council works in partnership to identify families for children as swiftly as possible and to use early matching to avoid delay for Nottinghamshire children. As evidenced in previous quarters this data set fluctuates depending on the cohort of children placed.

Care leavers

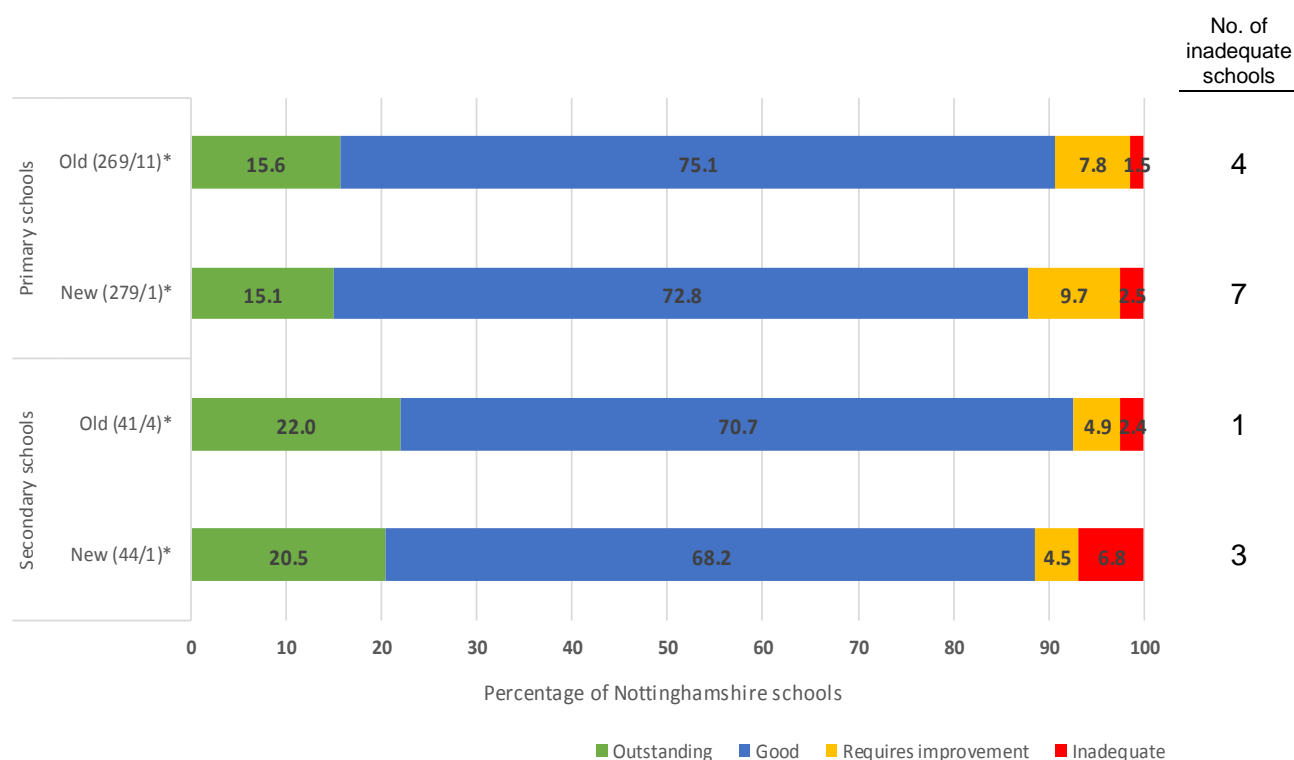
21. There were 239 care leavers aged 19-21 years eligible for care leavers support as at the end of June 2018 and, of these, 46% were in education, employment or training. This percentage remains largely stable and slightly increased from the last quarter. This still puts the Nottinghamshire rate slightly above the Council's statistical neighbours but slightly below the national average.
22. There has been an improvement in the percentage of care leavers aged 19-21 years living in suitable accommodation, with the quarter 1 figure for 2018/19 being one of the highest figures in over a year. Only 21 care leavers out of 239 (8.8%) were classed as being in accommodation that was unsuitable and just under half of these were in custody and have to be classed as unsuitable by the Department for Education. Increases in the staffing establishment of the Leaving Care Service and delivery of the Partnership Strategy for LAC and Care Leavers (2018-21), approved by Committee in March, are reported as having a positive impact on performance.

Educational standards

23. The number of primary schools in an Ofsted category (Inadequate) has increased to four this quarter (from three last quarter). Python Hill Primary School (Newark district, LA maintained school) became inadequate in April (previously was judged Good). The school is proposed to close for academy conversion. The other three schools from the last quarter remain. These are Oak Tree Primary School (Mansfield district, LA maintained school), 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 proposed to close for academy conversion.

24. The number of secondary schools in an Ofsted category shows a decrease to one school from two schools last quarter. Manor (Mansfield district; a convertor academy which converted August 2011) is now judged to be Good after being re-inspected in May (was Inadequate). Kirkby College (Ashfield district; a convertor academy which converted August 2012) remains Inadequate since the last quarter.
25. Since last quarter's report the Ofsted arrangements for reporting school inspections has changed. Schools which previously closed and re-opened under academy sponsorship lost their former judgement and were treated as a new school with no judgement until their first inspection. The new Ofsted reporting arrangements are to keep this judgement of the closed school until this is replaced after having undergone inspection.
26. The above paragraphs on Nottinghamshire schools judged to be Inadequate are based on the old reporting arrangements as this better reflects risk. Schools which have re-opened under a new sponsor / different leadership arrangements have had a change in oversight and the previous Ofsted judgement is unlikely to reflect current practices.
27. The chart below shows the percentage distribution of Nottinghamshire schools by their Ofsted judgement as at quarter 1 using the old and new reporting arrangements together with the number of schools judged to be Inadequate:



* figures in brackets refer to number of schools inspected / number of schools yet to be inspected

28. The percentage of young people aged 16-17 years who are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) is 95.5% as at June 2018. This shows a slight increase from last quarter when the figure was 95.1%. Those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) has remained at 1.4%. The percentage of not knowns has reduced to 3.1% (from 3.5%).

29. The number of 2 year olds taking up their free entitlement in the summer 2018 term shows a slight fall from the same period last year. 72.8% of eligible 2 year olds are attending providers, a 2.2 percentage points fall (from 75.0%) from the same term last year. Rushcliffe district has the highest proportion of eligible 2 year olds accessing their entitlement at 88.8% whereas the equivalent figure for Bassetlaw is 66.1% and 66.7% for Newark and Sherwood district. Comparisons to the same term last year show Rushcliffe district had the largest fall (down 9.4 percentage points from summer 2017 to 88.8%) whereas Ashfield witnessed the largest increase (up 2.5 percentage points to 69.4%).
30. Latest data on permanent exclusions for the 2016/17 academic year from all schools (maintained, academy and special schools) shows Nottinghamshire continues to remain below both national and statistical neighbour averages. 0.04% (53 pupils) of the overall Nottinghamshire school population were excluded in 2016/17, this represents a slight increase of 0.01 percentage points from the previous academic year (0.03%). The national figure for the same period is 0.10% which represents an increase from 0.08% reported in 2015/16. A similar increase was witnessed amongst statistical neighbours to 0.10% (from 0.09% reported the previous year). On this measure Nottinghamshire is placed 2nd (out of 11 LAs) with Kent LA first (exclusion rate of 0.02%). Comparisons with Nottinghamshire's closest statistical neighbour, Derbyshire was 0.12% (an increase from 0.10% the previous year).
31. The percentage of young people qualified to Level 3 (2 or more passes at A-Level or equivalent) witnessed a slight fall from the previous academic year. Data for young people aged 19 years at the end of the 2016/17 academic year showed 51.7% of those who attended a Nottinghamshire school at age 16 years attained this compared with 52.1% the previous academic year. 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 went on to achieve this by age 19 years saw an increase of 2.9 percentage points to 22.8% (from 19.9% in 2015/16).

Youth Offending & Early Help Support

32. The year-end rate of First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice Service per 100,000 of the 10-17 years population was 322 meaning that 226 actual young people had a police or Court outcome for their first offence. 322 per 100,000 is exactly the same as the national average.
33. 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 1. The number of these who had been seen at a Children's Centre shows an increase from the same period last year to 75.5% (from 72.4%).

Other Options Considered

34. 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 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

35. 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

36. 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

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

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

38. 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 1 April to 30 June 2018.

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Constitutional Comments (EP 23/08/18)

39. The recommendation falls within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SAS 23/08/18)

40. 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 4 2017/18) – services for children and young people – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 18 June 2018.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1140