

18 September 2017**Agenda Item: 4**

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES

PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 1 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 April and 30 June 2017 and seek comments on any actions required.

Information and Advice

Performance Reporting for 2017/18

2. This report forms the first quarterly report of 2017/18, reporting on quarterly performance for the 2017/18 financial year.
3. At its meeting in July 2012, the Committee agreed to receive a report each quarter, reviewing performance across the full range of services provided to children and young people. Quarterly reports would be in addition to other reports that might be presented to the Committee from time to time, providing detailed performance-related information about specific initiatives, projects or services. As agreed at this meeting, quantitative performance reporting to the Committee is measured via key performance indicators (KPIs), which cover the full range of services to children and young people.
4. Performance data is set out in the appendices. **Appendix 1** shows those measures which have received updates since the previous quarter. **Appendix 2** shows those measures which have not changed.
5. 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. Since October 2014, Nottinghamshire's statistical neighbours have been:
 1. Derbyshire
 2. Staffordshire
 3. Lancashire
 4. Worcestershire
 5. Cumbria
 6. Northamptonshire
 7. Essex
 8. Kent

- 9. Cheshire West and Chester
- 10. Warwickshire

- 6. In addition, for each KPI, the table indicates whether performance has improved (+), declined (-), or remained the same (=) over the current reporting period.
- 7. 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:
 - 1) Looked after children and care leavers are happy and healthy
 - 2) Looked after children and care leavers are safe
 - 3) Looked after children and care leavers achieve their potential
 - 4) Looked after children and care leavers are prepared for adulthood
 - 5) Looked after children and care leavers are listened to
 - 6) Looked after children and care leavers build positive relationships.
- 8. 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)

- 9. The percentage of single child and family assessments completed within statutory timescales (45 days) is at 90.9%, exceeding the target of 85%. Performance is below that of quarters 2-4 of last year, but exceeds the national and comparative statistical neighbours.
- 10. The rate of children subject to a child protection plan remains high. Previous analysis still applies to these figures, with an increased number of plans started and a lower number of plans being discontinued. On further investigation thresholds appeared to be appropriate although further work is planned to understand the position of Nottinghamshire by close scrutiny of those children currently on a plan within their regular review and of those children new to a plan to ensure this is the appropriate route.
- 11. During the first quarter of 2017/18, 227 children had their child protection plan ended, with 11 of these children who had a plan lasting longer than 2 years and consisted of 4 smaller sibling groups. In April there was a significant rise in the number of these plans that has lasted over 2 years; of 61 plans discontinued, 7 plans lasted more than 2 years (11.5%). Performance improved in May and June and the 2017/18 year to date figure stands at 4.8%, which is slightly higher than the latest national average (3.8%) and statistical neighbour average (3.6%). All Child Protection Plans that last beyond 15 months are flagged to management and receive close attention where their regular reviews and visits are scrutinised.

12. During April to June 2017, 243 children became subject to a new child protection plan; of these 51 (21%) became subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time. Although this figure remains relatively high and outside the target, it has reduced significantly compared with 29.8% reported last quarter. Of the 51 repeat plans this quarter, 21 plans (across 13 sibling groups) started within 2 years of the previous plan ending. These repeat plans were predominately for the same reason as the previous plan, with neglect and domestic abuse featuring significantly within this. Oversight of these cases is generally good and it was appropriate that these children were made subject to a repeat plan. Consideration is also being given in a timely way to whether legal advice is required.
13. Throughout April to June 2017, 566 children had their plans reviewed at a child protection conference with a total of 278 review conferences being held, compared with 331 in quarter 4 & 298 in quarter 3. There is also a small drop in the percentage held in timescale, meaning the quarter 1 figure is slightly below the target of 98%. Although performance is better than the last available comparator data, this is receiving close management attention with a view to achieving the target by the end of the financial year.
14. For those children adopted during the financial year so far, the average time between the start of the child's care and their placement with adopters has reduced compared with previous quarters. This is an encouraging figure for the forthcoming year as the figure is below target and even further below the latest national three year average. This measure is reported on a year-to-date basis and caution needs to be applied with this quarter's data because it is only based on a small number of children and the figure tends to increase as the year progresses.
15. Similarly with the other adoption performance indicator, performance for this measure is positive for the year and at the lowest rate ever seen since reporting on adoption within the DfE adoption scorecard. When compared with the same quarter this time last year, the quarter 1 figure for 2016-17 is over 70 days higher than the current figure for quarter 1 in 2017-18. Again, caution needs to be applied with this quarter's data because it is only based on a small number of children as this is reported on the year-to-date basis, predictably the figure tends to increase as the year progresses.
16. There has been a 2 month reduction in the definition of the measure looking at the percentage of children waiting less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family - last year the indicator was based on the percentage of those children waiting less than 16 months. Despite this, performance has improved, forecasting promising performance going forward through the year. Due to this indicator being based on current children with a plan and those adopted children the figure tends to be more reflective of future performance than the other adoption measures.
17. As at the end of June 2017, a total of 785 children were looked after by Nottinghamshire which is a rate of 48.3 per 10,000. This figure has remained relatively stable throughout the past year and continues to be lower than England and statistical neighbours averages. The threshold for when children are accommodated receives ongoing management oversight and the decisions made suggest the right threshold is being applied. The number of children accommodated, 85 during this quarter, relates to 48% being accommodated under section 20 and a further 41% on an interim care order.

When balancing this with the number of children discharged, 68 during this quarter, with 29% returned to the care of their parents and 32% moved onto independent living.

18. There has been a slight increase in the percentage of Looked after Children (LAC) who have had three or more placements within the year. Currently, over of half of these children with poor placement stability now have a plan that involves long-term fostering or eventual adoption, so are less likely to be included in the indicator in future quarters as they have now moved to a more permanent placement. The rest of the cohort are those older children who tend to have more placements as they find supported living within the community.
19. The percentage of children who remain in long-term placements remains consistently high and better than the national average. Nottinghamshire tends to be better than other authorities due to a higher proportion of LAC that are placed for adoption, or are in foster-to-adopt or long-term foster placements. The increase this quarter relates to an extra 5 children who have now remained in their placement longer than 2½ years (the cut-off time period to be included in the numerator).
20. The percentage of those care leavers classed as being in education, employment or training (EET) has taken a slight dip compared with previous quarters, which could be due to the slight increase in the care leaver's cohort. Those care leavers that fall into the age 20 years tend to be the group with the lowest proportion of young people currently taking part in EET and those aged 21 years have the highest rate in EET due to the small numbers involved. Despite this drop, the figure is still above the statistical neighbours average.
21. Positively, those young care leavers classed as living in suitable accommodation has increased to 85.2%, the highest figure recorded within the last couple of years. This is three percentage points higher than the latest national figures and six percentage points higher than the Council's statistical neighbours. 2.3% of young people are classed as not in suitable accommodation due to them being in custody. However 7.8% are missing this information, so it is not possible to appropriately measure the impact of these children on the measure.

Educational standards and closing the attainment gap

22. The number of primary schools in an Ofsted category (inadequate) has increased since the previous quarter with four Nottinghamshire primary schools judged inadequate as at the end of June 2017 (previously two). Netherfield Primary (Gedling district, Local Authority (LA) maintained school but set to convert to a sponsored academy in September) and Arnbrook Primary (Gedling district, a sponsored academy which converted in April 2014 under the leadership of Southwark Primary Academy - Nottingham LA) both remain inadequate from the last quarter. Hillocks Primary (Ashfield district, LA maintained school) became inadequate in May (previously was judged to require improvement). Jeffries Primary (Ashfield district, LA maintained school but set to convert to a sponsored academy in December) became inadequate in April (previously was judged good).
23. The number of secondary schools in an Ofsted category has increased from one to two since the previous quarter. Manor (Mansfield district; a convertor academy which

converted August 2011) remains inadequate since the last quarter. Vision Studio School (Mansfield district, studio Academy school which opened September 2014) became inadequate in May. This was their first Ofsted judgement since opening.

24. Latest data on permanent exclusions for the 2015/16 academic year from all schools (maintained, academy and special schools) shows Nottinghamshire continues to remain below both national and statistical neighbour averages. 0.03% of the overall Nottinghamshire school population were excluded in 2015/16, this represents no change from the previous academic year. The national figure for the same period is 0.08% which represents an increase from 0.07% reported in 2014/15. A similar increase was witnessed amongst statistical neighbours to 0.09% (from 0.08% reported the previous year). On this measure Nottinghamshire is now placed joint first with Kent LA. Comparisons for the Council's closest statistical neighbour, Derbyshire, was 0.10%, an increase from 0.09% the previous year.
25. The percentage of young people aged 16-17 years who are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) has increased in quarter 1 from the same quarter last year. 96.8% of young people are now in EET, an increase of 1.2 percentage points. Improvements have also been seen in the proportion of young people whose activity is unknown. The reduction in the actual number of status Not Knowns is around 100 young people compared to June 2016. Of the 182 young people aged 16 and 17 years whose EET status was Not Known in June 2017, only 11 were young people who there was no means of contacting. The remaining 171 Not Knowns are young people who have not responded to numerous attempts to verify their EET status. The primary means of tracking young people who do not appear in school sixth form, college or training provider data includes the use of social media, texting, e-mail and phone calls. The Council has worked hard in the past two to three years to get accurate contact details for Year 11 leavers from schools.
26. The number of two year olds taking up their free entitlement in the summer 2017 term shows no change from last term but an increase from the same period last year. 75.0% of eligible two year olds are attending providers, an increase of 4.3 percentage points (from 70.7%) from the same term last year. Analysis by district shows 98.2% of eligible Rushcliffe district children are accessing their entitlement whereas the equivalent figure for Newark and Sherwood district is 66.5%. All districts however witnessed an increase from this quarter last year with the exception of Rushcliffe which witnesses a slight fall.

Youth Offending & Early Help Support

27. 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. Quarter and year-to-date figures are also broadly in line with the previous year.
28. 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 1. 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 1, 72.4% of children living in low income areas were seen in Children's Centres.

Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans

29. By 31st March 2018, the DfE require all LAs to ensure children with an existing Special Educational Need Statement have had this transferred into an EHC Plan. During quarter 1 there were 33 statements converted into EHC Plans, out of a total of 357 outstanding statements as at 31st March 2017. 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

30. 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

31. 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

32. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

33. 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

That Committee:

- 1) notes the summary of the performance of the Council's services for children and young people between 1 April and 30 June 2017
- 2) considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the performance information contained within the report.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 31/08/17)

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

Financial Comments (SAS 01/09/17)

35. 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 2016/17) – services for children and young people – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 19 June 2017.

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1013