



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
- 15 JANUARY 2018

JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

QUARTER 2 2017/18 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the performance of the Children and Family Services Department at the end of quarter 2 of 2017/18. This is for the period July to September 2017.

Background

2. The report is based on the set of performance measures aligned with the current Council Corporate Strategy to 2018. The current Strategy is presently being reviewed and a new Outcomes Framework developed which will guide future reporting to the Committee. The current performance dashboard is attached as Appendix A. Appendix B supports the Early Help indicator "Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact". The data and commentary provided refers to quarter 2 2017/18 (July to September 2017). Any subsequent changes will be notified in future reports.

Report Changes

3. Appendix A has been refreshed to concentrate on indicators where new data is available for quarter 2.
4. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.

Overview

5. From 30 measures that have been reported: 8 have improved; 14 show no significant change and 3 have declined. 5 further indicators provide information with no polarity.
6. From 16 measures that have a national benchmark: 5 are in the top quartile, 6 are in the second quartile, 4 are in the third quartile and 1 is in the fourth quartile.

Children and Young People are Safe within Caring Family Homes

Social Care

7. The number of 'Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales' was 97.2%. This has been consistently high over the previous year (10 cases were not reviewed within timescales).
8. The percentage of Child Protection plans lasting 2 years or more that were open at the end of quarter 2 was 1.1% (6 children). This was lower than the end of quarter 1. The percentage of plans that closed during quarter 2 lasting 2 years or more was 3.2%. Although this is higher than quarter 1, this involves very small numbers which can cause the percentage to fluctuate – 4 children on this occasion.
9. The percentage of 'Children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time' rose to 29.4% from 20.8% (a rise of 10 children). This is in the fourth (lowest) quartile of all local authorities. This remains an area of robust management oversight to both understand what is causing this and to ensure that the County Council response is robust. A recent audit undertaken highlighted two contributory factors remain:
 - i. cases where the Child In Need plans are not robust or working effectively after step down from a child protection plan; and
 - ii. change not being sustained by families leading to cases being stepped back up to child protection planning.
10. It is important to note that the majority of cases (67%) were placed on a repeat plan between 2 and 5 years after the initial plan. Whilst still an area of ongoing work, this does mean that children are not being removed from a plan too soon. To develop further understanding, a deep dive audit is now being undertaken to look at themes and common factors that may help the Children and Family Services Department to anticipate future vulnerability, develop better contingency plans with families and target intervention at families that are likely to step-up into the child protection arena.
11. The 'percentage of children with 3 or more placements during the year' was 7.6% (41 children). This is lower than the quarter 1 figure of 8.1% and places Leicestershire in the top quartile nationally. The 'percentage of children in the same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption' was 68.2% (368 children). This is similar to quarter 1 and places Leicestershire in the second quartile by national levels.
12. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 91.8% (139 young people). This is a small rise (1.2%) compared to quarter 1 and places Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
13. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 48.5% (75 young people). This is in the third quartile by comparison with other local authorities but slightly above the statistical neighbour average.

14. There were 67 Child Sexual Exploitation referrals in Leicestershire during quarter 2. This is 8 less than quarter 1.

Early Help

15. A total of 7,245 individuals accessed Early Help services during quarter 2. This is higher than the same time period last year but lower than the previous two quarters.
16. The number of families receiving targeted Early Help during quarter 2 was 835 and the number of individuals was 2,217. Both numbers are similar, but slightly lower, than quarter 1. This includes family members and individuals supported through Supporting Leicestershire Families and the Children's Centre Programme.
17. There was no new Payment By Results (PBR) claim during quarter 2. The most recent claim was in June 2017.
18. 37 Early Help cases were escalated to Social Care in quarter 2. This is lower than quarter 1 when the figure was 50.

Children and Young People have their Health, Wellbeing and Life Chances Improved

19. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had an annual health assessment' within the last 12 months was 76.3% (411 children). This is lower than quarter 1 (80.6%). Completion of health assessments continues to be overseen by the Children in Care Head of Service and Service Manager, with specific actions identified to address delays and barriers including systems support, processes and staffing pressures.
20. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had a dental check' is 56.4% (304 children). This is lower than the quarter 1 figure of 74.3% and below the internal target of 70%. Children in Care Head of Service and Service Manager have engaged in a period of data cleansing with business partners which includes a specific focus on recording of dental checks on Mosaic. This does not allow for the isolation of data related to very young children and those refusing dental checks.
21. The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) is a tool which is used to identify Looked after Children who are at risk of developing emotional and behavioural difficulties. The mean score for Leicestershire children was 14 in Quarter 2. The Department for Education (DfE) class 0-13 as 'normal', 14-16 as 'borderline' and 17- 40 as 'cause for concern'. A score of 14 places Leicestershire in the second quartile of local authorities.

Children and Young People and their Families live within Thriving Communities

22. In quarter 1 (latest figures available) there were 32 'first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17'. This is lower than quarter 4 (43) but slightly higher than previous quarters when the figure was less than 30.

23. The rate of re-offending per young offender was 0.91 for quarter 4 (the most recent available). This was higher than the previous quarter but similar to the overall 2016/17 figure.
24. Custody was used for 2 young people during quarter 1 (the most recent available data). This involves small numbers and is similar to the previous quarter (3 young people).

Education Quality

25. The percentage of Leicestershire schools rated as Good or Outstanding and the percentage of pupils in Good or Outstanding schools are both above national averages and in the second quartile of local authorities. The current figures are 89.6% and 90.2% respectively. The percentage of good or outstanding Special Schools remained at 100%.
26. Key Stage Four data (pupils aged 16) has now been released. Progress 8 is now the key measure for this age group and considers the progress made between the age of 11 and 16 by each pupil in 8 subject areas.
27. Leicestershire pupils overall made similar progress to last year with a score of -0.1. This is below the expected score of '0' but the same level as statistical neighbours. This places Leicestershire in the third quartile of all local authorities.
28. Girls made better progress than boys overall with a score of 0.13, which exceeded the expected levels for the group.
29. Boys made stronger progress in Mathematics, with both boys and girls recording a positive progress score. Girls were strong in English, with progress significantly better than boys.
30. The average point score for pupils taking A Levels was higher than 2016. However, there have been some changes to the assessment process which could also have a similarly positive impact on the national data when released.

Vulnerable Groups - Education

31. Provisional data for Children in Care achieving expected standards at the end of Key Stage Two (aged 11) show an improvement compared to 2016, with 22.2% achieving the standard. However, this is low compared to 2016 national averages. Key Stage Four data for the group is not yet available.
32. Progress for pupils eligible for Free School Meals was -0.71. This was similar to 2016 when Leicestershire was ranked in the fourth quartile of Local Authorities. National data comparisons are not yet available.
33. Progress for pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health Care Plan was also similar to 2016 when Leicestershire was ranked in the top quartile of local authorities.

Economy/Employment and Skills

34. The latest data from Prospects, commissioned by Leicestershire County Council to work with those not in education, employment or training (NEET), is for the end of August 2017 and shows a Leicestershire NEET figure of 2.2% (299 young people), a similar figure to quarter 1. Leicestershire has a lower NEET figure than most of the East Midlands and is around the average of statistical neighbours.
35. The NEET figure for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities was 3.8% for August 2017. This represents 20 young people compared to 19 at the end of quarter 1.

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List of Appendices

- Appendix A - Children and Family Services Department Performance Dashboard for Quarter 2, 2017/18
- Appendix B - supports the indicator 'Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact'

Equal Opportunities and Human Rights Implications

36. Addressing equalities issues is supported by this report, with a focus on vulnerable groups within Leicestershire. The education of pupils eligible for free school meals is recorded in this report with other pupil groups reported on directly to the relevant Heads of Strategy and Assistant Director.

Children and Families Performance FY2017/18 Q2				Better or worse than previous data point^	Trend Charts	Status RAG	National benchmark (quartile 1 = top)	Most recent Statistical Neighbour average
Latest update	Current Performance							
Children and young people are safe within caring family homes								
Social Care								
% child protection cases which were reviewed within timescales (Year to date)	Q2	97.2% (364)	Similar		A		2	94.0%
% of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for second or subsequent time	Q2	29.4% (50)	Worse		R		4	18.1%
% of Child Protection plans lasting 2 years or more open at the end of the quarter (low = good)	Q2	1.1% (6)	Better		G		1	1.7%
% of Child Protection plans lasting 2 years or more that cease during the quarter	Q2	3.2% (4)	Similar		A		2	3.4%
Placement stability - % children with 3 or more placements during a year (low = good)	Q2	7.6% (41)	Better		G		1	12.4%
Placement stability - % children in same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption	Q2	68.2% (368)	Similar		A		3	68.00%
% of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation (end of quarter)	Q2	91.8% (139)	Better		G		1	80.8%
The % of Care leavers in education, employment and training (EET) (end of quarter)	Q2	48.5% (75)	Better		A		3	48.1%
CSE referrals	Q2	67	Lower - no polarity		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Early Help								
No. of individuals open to Early Help services	Q2	7,245	Lower		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
No. of individuals with an Early Help Assessment	Q2	2,217	Similar		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
No. of families with an Early Help assessment	Q2	835	Similar		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
No. of SLF families claimed for as a % of overall payment by results target	Q1	927 (33%)	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of Early Help stepped up to Social Care	Q2	37	Lower		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact	See Appendix							n/a

Children and young people have their health, wellbeing and life chances improved							
The % of children in care who have had dental checks within last 12 months (at end of period)	Q2	56.4% (304)	Worse		n/a	n/a	n/a
The % of children in care who have their annual health assessment within last 12 months (at end of period)	Q2	76.3% (411)	Worse		n/a	n/a	n/a
The average emotional health strengths/difficulties score for children in care. (low = good)	Q2	14	Better		A	2	14.63
Children and young people and their families live within thriving communities							
Number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17 (low = good, quarter in arrears)	Q1	32	Similar		G	1	n/a
Rate of re-offending by young offenders (low = good)	Q4 (2016/17)	0.91	Similar		n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of instances of the use of custody for young people (low = good, quarter in arrears)	Q1	2	Higher		n/a	n/a	n/a

Education Quality								
The % of schools rated Good or Outstanding.	Aug-17	89.6%	Similar	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	A		2	89.5%
The % of Special Schools rated Good or Outstanding	Aug-17	100% (6)	Same	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	G		1	95.3%
The % of pupils in Good or Outstanding schools	Aug-17	90.2%	Similar	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	A		2	86.9%
Key Stage 4 - Progress 8	2017	-0.10	Similar	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	A		3	-0.10
A Level average points score (per entry)	2017	209.46	Better	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	A		3	210.06
Vulnerable groups - Education								
Key Stage 2 - % of Children in Care achieving expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths	2017	22.2%	Better	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	n/a	n/a		n/a
Key Stage 4 - % of pupils eligible for Free School Meals achieving Progress 8	2017	-0.71	Similar	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	n/a	n/a		n/a
Key Stage 4 - % of SEN statement/EHCP pupils achieving Progress 8	2017	-0.75	Similar	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	n/a	n/a		n/a
% of NEET 16-17 for children with SEN and disability (low = good)	Aug-17	3.8% (20)	Similar	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	n/a	n/a		n/a
NEET young people aged 16-17 (low = good)	Aug-17	2.2% (299)	Similar	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	G		2	2.2%
The following indicators will be available in a future report. Data for 2017 is not yet available								
Key Stage 4 - % of Children in Care achieving Progress 8	2017				n/a	n/a		n/a

RAG rating key

Top quartile of local authorities or high in the second quartile with an improving trend

Second or third quartile with room for improvement

Fourth quartile or low in the third quartile with a declining trend

Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact

UK Youth Parliament:

In July the two Members of Youth Parliament and one Deputy Member attended the UK Youth Parliament Annual Sitting at Hope University in Liverpool, where they debated issues to be included in the UK Youth Parliament Manifesto. Then MYPs voted for the 10 topics to be included in this year's Make Your Mark Ballot.

In August a DMYP launched the Make Your Mark Ballot for Leicestershire at the Oadby and Wigston Youth Council Event – Supersonic Boom held on Blaby Road Park in South Wigston.

In September the three MYPs and four DMYPs were very busy getting the young people of Leicestershire to complete the UK Youth Parliament 'Make Your Mark' Ballots. The results will be available in October.

Children in Care council

There have been two CiC Council meetings in Q2 (July and September). Key agenda items included:-

- Members overseeing monthly allocation of T2S Funding.
- Completing consultation work with Fostering and Adoption Service colleagues regarding Foster Carer recruitment and training. This resulted in junior / senior members beginning work on a recruitment video seeking to deliver key messages to new and prospective Carers, e.g. what makes a good Carer and what makes a new placement work well etc.
- Dissemination of the Children and Young People's Ofsted Summary. CiC Council recommendations included that the summary should be distributed to children and young people via Social Workers and Carers in order to provide context and explanation. Senior members also stated that they would value meeting with senior managers in order to fully discuss the document and contained recommendations.

Over the course of two Narrowboat days held in the Summer, junior members were consulted by Virtual School colleagues regarding the PEP process e.g. what works well and what could be improved etc. As an outcome, updating of the paperwork has since taken place.

CiC Council members have also continued to be involved in staff recruitment and selection. In Q2, this included appointment to Head of Service and Service Manager posts across Children and Family Services.

Junior and Senior members also attended September's meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board. This included co-chairing of the meeting, as well as providing broader CiC Council feedback and overview.

CiC Council members have also continued to deliver training workshops to Foster Carers nearing completion of their Skills to Foster Care Training.

CYCLe (County Youth Council for Leicestershire):

Donna Worship, LCC Policy Manager attended the July CYCLe meeting with a colleague to get CYCLe's thoughts on the proposed 'Draft Outcomes' for LCC and the 'Approach and Measuring Outcomes'.

There was no CYCLe meeting in August due to the summer holidays, however the CYCLe Don't Hate Educate Sub Group did meet once in August and twice in September for ongoing organisation for a Conference on October 13th 2017, the focus for this year is SEND.

In September CYCLe met to plan their special meeting for young people attending LCC SEND Groups as part of Voice Festival Week. This meeting was planned as the fourth session in a programme of four sessions designed to:

- Explore who they are and celebrate difference
- Enable them to identify hate crime and how to speak out about it
- Explore who it is safe to talk to and when is the right time
- Experience the bigger picture of Voice by having the opportunity to take part in the UK Youth Parliament 'Make your mark Ballot' at a CYCLe meeting at County Hall.

Cycle members ran the event and the outcomes were that the young people took part in the Make Your Mark Ballot, which they will keep updated on and that they had five requests from the young people attending to attend the next CYCLe meeting.

Family Voice and EH Support Services:

Young people were invited to a Pop Up held at Brocks Hill Nature Park visitors Centre in August to work with the three new Early Help Service wellbeing practitioners to design what their service would look like. There were arts and crafts activities linked to emotional wellbeing, a session of Tai Chi and a logo competition. The winner was delighted to see her artwork on the practitioner's leaflets.

25th to the 29th of September was Voice Festival week, which had the focus of SEND. This started with the launch at Beaumanor Hall with professionals listening to parents experiences of life with children who have special needs. This was followed by two workshops, the first on how to capture the voice of very young children and the second facilitated by the Autism Outreach Service.

On Thursday 28th September there was a lunch at Beaumanor Hall for parents and volunteers who have been involved with LCC Services and contributed to the evaluation and development of services by talking about their experiences and supporting others to do so.

The Voice Box project committee completed and disseminated their Jenga Cards, which are an addition to resources box for SEND young people and vulnerable teenagers.

SEND:

A new SEND Voice Worker began in May 2017 and during the last quarter they have met with over 200 individuals, both children and young people and parent carers. They have visited several groups and schools and are preparing a report to help shape the SEND Strategy using what families have told her. The role works closely with the Parent Carer Forum and they have successfully organised their first joint event in the Summer which had a great turn out. Throughout the summer a short film was created using the views of families and also the professionals supporting them. There are ongoing sessions and opportunities planned for further engagement with families around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Q2 SLF Feedback from parents and carers

“As parents we work together more and back each other up, this was not happening before and we would end up arguing about the children. We enjoy being parents more.”

“We were more able to cope. This summer has been the best we have ever had with the children, normally I don’t want school holidays to come.”

“After sessions with you we understood that we were not making the children happy by letting them do as they wanted. I had a hard childhood and wanted everything to be really good for them. This was not working. By [Partner] and I working together and understanding what we needed to do.”

“I had brilliant support from SLF and the youth workers really understood me and what I needed, I got my English & Maths qualification.”

“I’m not right yet but I’m better than I was thanks to them.”

“The support and help the youth workers gave me who I will never forget; she understood what I was going through and was the best person to talk to.”

“I think our worker has been amazing support and if we didn't have her, things would have just got worse.”

“There are no more arguments around the children. The household is at peace and can focus on moving forward.”

“[young person] has started a new college, which he enjoys and is doing very well. He does not appear to have the anger problems he used to have.”

“My worker has been really great and has helped me so much. [SLF worker] has helped me get into contact with ADHD Solutions.”

“My children's behaviour has really improved since having a support worker, she helped and guided with behaviour strategies and routines. I think that she’s also helped me gain confidence I needed to help my children.”

“My children are now attending school regularly and they now have very good attendance. I now understand the importance of regular school attendance.”

“Massive thank you for everything. The woman shadowing you today is in good hands, even if she becomes half the person you are she's going to be amazing. You have helped us more than everyone put together in the last 4 years. You've given me hope again and I am so thankful.”