
Meeting: Children Families and Learning, Overview and Scrutiny Meeting

Date: 6 October 2009

Subject: Monitoring Quarterly Performance

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children, Families and Learning

Summary: The report provides members with performance information in relation to Children, Families and Learning so that the Committee can take a view on what performance information they would like to scrutinise on a quarterly basis.

Contact Officer: Sylvia Gibson, Interim Assistant Director, Policy, Planning and Commissioning

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. that members consider the range of performance information collected and monitored by the Children, Families and Learning Directorate**
- 2. that members decide what performance information they would like to scrutinise on a quarterly basis**
- 3. that members review the Quarter 1 performance information.**

Background

1. Central Bedfordshire Council's vision is to improve the quality of life of all in Central Bedfordshire, and enhance the unique character of our communities and our environment. In order to deliver this vision the Council has agreed the following five priorities which are set out in the Strategic Plan:
 - Supporting and caring for an ageing population
 - Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people
 - Managing growth effectively
 - Creating safer communities
 - Promoting healthier lifestyles

2. In the Children, Families and Learning Directorate Plan the following key challenges and priorities have been identified:
 - a. Reduce the health inequalities of children and families in Central Bedfordshire.
 - b. Embed and ensure a multi-agency approach to safeguarding practices across Central Bedfordshire.
 - c. Develop integrated, locality service planning, decision making and service delivery.
 - d. Raise Educational Achievement and improve children's assessment outcomes and examination results at age 11 and 16 Increase young people's participation in positive activities.
 - e. Increase the number of young people in employment, education or training.
 - f. Reduce the number of First Time Entrants and the Proven Rate of Reoffending.
 - g. Deliver services that represent value for money and drive efficiencies.
3. The Directorate Plan was developed in the run up to the establishment of the new authority and it provided the framework for the review of the first quarter's performance. Now that the Children and Young People's Plan has been adopted this will drive the priorities for the Children, Families and Learning Directorate and will provide the framework for reviewing performance in quarter two.

Monitoring progress against priorities

4. Children, Families and Learning (CFL) is responsible for delivering a wide range of services and for collecting and reporting against 69 indicators from the National Indicator Set (See Appendix A – Indicators that CFL collects and monitors showing Assistant Director responsibility).
5. In order to monitor progress against delivering the above priorities in the CFL Directorate Plan, CFL Management Team has identified a basket of critical indicators taken from the National Indicator Set to monitor quarterly. At the end of the first quarter the developing basket of critical indicators included those indicators in Appendix B. Further work is being done to extend the basket of indicators to include those from Community and Cultural Learning.

6. Quarter one performance was collected and reviewed against this set of critical indicators at the end of July 2009 and this performance and commentary are attached at Appendix C. Members will note that where information is not collected quarterly, in particular for a number of Local Area Agreement Indicators, a commentary is provided by the Assistant Director Lead. This commentary sets out progress based on inputs and outputs from delivery plans and states the likelihood of achieving quarterly or annual targets.
7. It was not possible to present quarter one information to this Committee due to the arrangements and timescales for setting up new Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the need to align our reporting of performance management across the Council. Members will be aware that performance has moved on since this first report was produced and performance for quarter two is due to be presented to this Committee for scrutiny on the 3 November 2009.

Conclusion and Next Steps

8. Members are asked to consider the national indicators that Children Families and Learning are responsible for as set out in the National Indicator Set (Appendix A) and identify those that they would wish to review and scrutinise on a regular quarterly basis.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS
<p>Council Priorities:</p> <p>The recommendations in this report provide Committee Members with an opportunity to scrutinise the performance of the authority to ensure they support the delivery of the following Council Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people • Creating safer communities • Promoting healthier lifestyles <p>It will also provide members with an opportunity to influence how they scrutinise future performance against the Children and Young People’s Plan and the priorities within that plan.</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>None</p> <p>Legal:</p> <p>None</p> <p>Risk Management:</p> <p>None</p> <p>Staffing (including Trades Unions):</p>

None

Equalities/Human Rights:

None

Community Safety:

None

Sustainability:

None

Appendices:

Appendix A – National Indicator Set

Appendix B – Basket of critical indicators monitored quarterly by CFL Management Team

Appendix C – Quarter 1 performance of critical indicators