
Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 21 December 2010
Subject: Quarter Two Performance Report
Report of: Portfolio Holder for Children's Services
Summary: The report highlights the Quarter Two performance for the Children's Services Directorate.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Karen Oellermann, Head of Partnerships, Performance and Workforce Development
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The Quarterly Performance Report ensures that progress on the delivery of the Council's priorities is monitored.

Financial:

There are a number of performance indicators within the full corporate suite that have a financial link.

It will be important to consider any financial implications in addressing ongoing areas of under performance.

Legal:

None.

Risk Management:

Areas of ongoing underperformance are a risk to both service delivery and the reputation of the Council.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None.

Equalities/Human Rights:

It is important that consideration is given to all our Central Bedfordshire communities when considering public facing performance indicators – particularly vulnerable groups.

Community Safety:

There are Children's Services indicators that relate to ensuring children and young people are kept safe.

Sustainability:

None.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Committee notes and reviews Quarter Two performance.

Background

1. The Council's framework for performance management supports the delivery of the Council's priorities.
2. Those indicators that Directors have identified as 'critical' make up the quarterly performance suite.
3. The Director's summary for Quarter 2 is set out below. Appendix A provides the detailed performance data.

Performance Summary**Children's Services**

4. The Council's performance in protecting vulnerable children and young people is good. Key indicators measuring assessment, stability and review are on target. This good performance is being sustained in the context of the increased pressures on Children's Social Care that is being experienced nationally. Our performance in Quarter 2 achieved top or second quartile compared to 2009/10 national results.
5. Two schools currently have an Ofsted "Notice to Improve" – Derwent and Mill Vale. Both received this inspection outcome in previous performance quarters. The outcomes for Derwent show that Key Stage 1 remains strong within the school. The school continues to make steady progress and will be subject to a full inspection in the near future. Mill Vale has shown a significant improvement in English at Key Stage 2 this year; one of the Key Improvement areas. Mathematics is in line with national and LA averages.
6. An Ofsted monitoring visit has occurred for Mill Vale but was outside the reporting period for Quarter 2. This will be reported more fully in Quarter 3 but finds progress to date to be unsatisfactory, with Council support for the school to be satisfactory. The report suggested activities and improvements for Mill Vale school to follow in the next period of recovery.
7. Performance at Key Stage 2 remained the same as last year. Action is being taken to target key areas of improvement in Key Stage 2 and to support the transition midway through the Key Stage from lower to middle schools.

Appendices:

Appendix A – (Quarter 2 Children’s Services Performance Indicators)

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Executive 7 December 2010 - (Quarter 2 Performance Report)

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands