
Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 29 March 2011
Subject: Quarter Three Performance Report
Report of: Portfolio Holder for Children's Services
Summary: The report highlights the Quarter Three 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:

That the Committee notes and reviews Quarter Three 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 performance summary for Quarter 3 is set out below. Appendix A provides the detailed performance data.

Performance Summary

4. The Council's performance in protecting vulnerable children and young people remains good. Key indicators measuring assessment timeliness, stability and review are on target. Increased pressures on Children's Social Care have impacted on our ability to achieve our target for the ratio of initial assessments to referrals. Regular monitoring continues to assure that current performance reflects consistent application of thresholds for access to services and assessment, rather than solely pursuing targets.
5. In this quarter, two schools currently had an Ofsted "Notice to Improve" – Derwent Lower School and Mill Vale Middle School. Derwent, however, has had an inspection recently and has been judged to be good. Mill Vale is showing some signs of improvement and impact in terms of a strengthened Senior Leadership Team and improvements in teaching and learning. The next stage will be for the school to provide evidence of impact on pupils' achievements and to consider its model of future delivery within the overall school review framework.
6. Performance at Key Stage 4 increased by over 4% last year, but is 4.4% below that of our statistical neighbours. Five schools are part of the second year of the national Gaining Ground programme where good progress is being made in developing the use of data, improving the quality of learning and developing middle leadership.

Appendices:

Appendix A – (Quarter 3 Children’s Services Performance Indicators)

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Executive 15 March 2011 - (Quarter 3 Performance Report)

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands