
Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 26 July 2011
Subject: Quarter Four Performance Report
Report of: Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: The report highlights the Quarter Four 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:

1. **That the Committee notes and reviews Quarter Four performance.**

Background

1. The Council's framework for performance management supports the delivery of the Council's priorities.
2. The following provides an overview of the performance position for Quarter 4 and the 2010/11 outturn position.
3. The provisional outturn results for 2010/11 are:
 - 3 indicators are Green;
 - 1 indicator is Amber; and
 - 2 indicators are Red.
4. The indicators that are Amber and Red are detailed below and in Appendix A:
 - NI 68 - The percentage of referrals of children in need that led to initial assessments (Red)
 - NI 73 - Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (Red)
 - NI 75 - Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (Amber)

Performance Summary

5. The Council's performance in protecting vulnerable children and young people is good. Key indicators measuring assessment timeliness, stability and review have remained on target to year end 2011. Despite additional numbers of social workers, increased pressures on Children's Social Care frontline social work teams have impacted on our ability to achieve our target for the ratio of referrals to initial assessments (NI68). 30% more initial assessments have been completed this year, totalling 1574. The planned replacement of the Integrated Children's System client database, with improved recording practices should help to resolve these issues in future.
6. Regular monitoring enables Children's Services to ensure that current performance reflects consistent application of thresholds for access to services and assessment for children in need and those in need of protection. This demonstrates continuing availability of the service for those most vulnerable, rather than solely pursuing targets.

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.
8. Final results indicate that 54.2% of students at Key Stage 4 achieved 5A*-C including English and mathematics. This represents an improvement of 4% compared with 2009. These figures place Central Bedfordshire above the national average and improving faster than the national rate of improvement, but 4.4% below that for statistical neighbours (ranked 11 out of 11). Five schools are part of the second year of the national Gaining Ground programme. This gives access to extra support and challenge through additional School Improvement Partner (SIP) time, peer support from another school and some national programme support. Good progress is being made in developing use of data, improving the quality of learning and development of middle leadership.
9. During the year 11 schools have been judged to be outstanding, bringing the total number of Outstanding inspections to 63 - an increase of seven from last year. Schools judged outstanding are not now routinely inspected; instead, Ofsted carries out an interim assessment based on a desk top analysis.
10. Mill Vale Middle School is in an Ofsted "Notice to Improve" category. The latest monitoring data shows improvement in teaching and learning.
11. Ashton Middle School was given a Notice to Improve on 9th February 2011. In consultation with the Church of England Diocese, a Local Authority Statement of Action and a school action plan have been drawn up identifying support from an Outstanding Church of England school and an additional community school.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Performance Indicators

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Executive 12 July 2011 - (Quarter 4 Performance Report)

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands