
Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 18 October 2011
Subject: Quarter One Performance Report
Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: The report highlights the Quarter One 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 One performance.**

Background

1. The Council's framework for performance management supports the delivery of the Council's priorities.
2. An overview of performance in Quarter 1 2011/12 and Director's summaries are set out below. This is supported by the detailed performance in Appendix A.

Performance Summary

3. The Council's performance in protecting vulnerable children and young people has remained good this quarter. Key indicators measuring social care assessment timeliness, stability and review remain on target to year end 2012. The demand on the frontline teams remains high and there has been a significant increase in the numbers of children subject to child protection plans and care proceedings required to protect children. These are resource intensive activities requiring frontline service and legal support. The implementation of new legislation and guidance is also having an impact on workloads and the level of support required for children.
4. Regular monitoring ensures 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.
5. Since the beginning of April, there have been 11 school inspections. Five of these maintained their Good outcome, four improved their Ofsted judgement (one Satisfactory, two Good and one Outstanding). There were two Early Years inspections and both were classified as Satisfactory. Mill Vale Middle School was inspected on 13th June. The school was judged to be Satisfactory taking it out of the Ofsted "Notice to Improve" category. Support from the local authority in providing guidance to the head teacher and governing body has been acknowledged by inspectors. Ashton Middle School was given a Notice to Improve on 9th February 2011. The School Management Team is focused on the improvements that need to be made, in part from the commissioned support from Alban Academy and Stratton Upper School. Indications are that September will bring a new start and improved practice.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Performance Indicators

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)
Executive 4 October 2011 - (Quarter 1 Performance Report)

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands