
Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 17 January 2012
Subject: Quarter 2 Performance Report
Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member 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:

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

Financial:

2. There are a number of performance indicators within the full corporate suite that have a financial link.
3. It will be important to consider any financial implications in addressing ongoing areas of under performance.

Legal:

4. Not applicable

Risk Management:

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

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

6. Not applicable.

Equalities/Human Rights:

7. This report highlights performance against a range of indicators which seek to measure how services impact across all communities in Central Bedfordshire, so that specific areas of underperformance can be highlighted for further analysis.

8. As such it does not include detailed performance information relating to the Council's stated intention to tackle inequalities and deliver services so that people whose circumstances make them vulnerable are not disadvantaged. The interrogation of performance data across vulnerable groups is a legal requirement and is an integral part of the Council's equalities and performance culture which seeks to ensure that, through a programme of ongoing impact assessments, underlying patterns and trends for different sections of the community identify areas where further action is required to improve outcomes for vulnerable groups.

Community Safety:

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

Sustainability:

10. Not applicable.

Procurement:

11. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee notes and reviews Quarter Two performance.

Background

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

Performance Summary

14. The Council's performance in protecting vulnerable children and young people has remained good this quarter. Key indicators measuring social care assessment, timeliness and review remain on target to year end 2012. The demand on frontline teams continues to increase with high numbers of children subject to child protection plans. This multi-agency work is resource intensive but regular monitoring ensures that access to services and assessments for children in need and those in need of protection, is maintained, rather than solely pursuing targets.
15. Ofsted inspections show that 79% of schools are either good or outstanding. During this quarter there were two inspections. One school improved from satisfactory to become good and the second declined from good to satisfactory, so there is no net change from Quarter 1. More recent published inspections will be reported in the Quarter in which they took place i.e. next quarter.

16. Key Stage 2 standards have fallen this year and targets have not been met. Actions to improve performance for 2012 have included a conference for middle schools to focus on good practice and improvement in raising achievement, and a programme of support targeted at those pupils at risk of not achieving Level 4 in English and / or mathematics is ongoing in selected schools.
17. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the key stage 2 performance at their last meeting and received a verbal update on the action plan for the year. Scrutiny asked that the progress be reviewed at the November/December meeting in 2012 to consider the effect of the action plan.
18. Ashton Middle School was given a Notice to Improve on the 9 February 2011. The school received a monitoring visit on the 23 September 2011 and was judged to be making satisfactory progress in addressing the issues for improvement and in raising pupils' achievement.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Performance Indicators

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Executive 10 January 2012- (Quarter 2 Performance Report)

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands