
Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 24 July 2012
Subject: Quarter 4 Performance Report
Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, 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:

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 considers and reviews Quarter Four performance.

Background

12. The Council's framework for performance management supports the delivery of the Council's priorities.
13. The following provides an overview of the performance position for Quarter 4 and the 2010/11 outturn position. This is supported by the detailed performance information provided in Appendix A.
14. The provisional outturn results for 2011/12 are:
- 4 indicators - Green
 - 3 indicators - Red

15. The indicators that have a 'Green' performance judgement are listed below:

- **Percentage of initial assessments undertaken within 10 working days of referral** - The performance target of 85% was met, which is good compared to statistical neighbours.
- **Percentage of child protection cases which should have been reviewed during the year that were reviewed** – Performance remains on target at 100%.
- **Percentage of referrals of children in need that led to initial assessments** – Performance has exceeded the target and continues to improve.
- **Published Ofsted school and college classifications** – During the year 19 schools and colleges have been judged to be outstanding or good. 104 schools falling within these categories.

16. The indicators that have a 'Red' performance judgement are listed below:

- **Percentage of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year** - The outturn of 13% is slightly higher than our statistical neighbour average for 2010/11 of 11.8% and in the previous Ofsted Performance Assessment Framework any figure up to 16% was banded as "Very Good". The current cohort includes children with complex needs and if a child or young person from this group needs an alternative placement this action will be taken to improve outcomes for the child.
- **Achievement at level 4 and above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2** - The target of 82% achievement at Level 4 in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 has been missed with an outturn of 70%. The reasons for the drop in standards vary from school to school and actions to improve performance in 2012 are in progress.
- **Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (Key Stage 4)** - The percentage of pupils achieving five or more A* - C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths, rose from 54% in 2010 to 59% in 2011. This indicator is scored as Red, as the Council set a target based on the aggregated aspirational targets of schools.

Quarter 4 Performance Summary

17. 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 are on target at year end. The demand on frontline teams continues to increase with an increase in numbers of children subject to child protection plans. The size of social worker caseloads is addressed to ensure that social workers are able to provide the quality and depth of work required for these complex cases.

18. Queensbury Upper School was inspected on 13 and 14 October 2011 and judged to require special measures. On 22 and 23 February 2012 Ofsted undertook a monitoring inspection and judged the school to have made inadequate progress. Local Authority monitoring since February shows that satisfactory progress is now being made in addressing a significant number of areas identified as needing improvement in the October Ofsted inspection. The school is making good progress towards becoming a sponsored academy.
19. Ashton Middle School was given a Notice to Improve on 9th February 2011. The school was inspected on 14 and 15 March and inspectors judged that the school no longer requires significant improvement. The school is now judged to be a satisfactory and improving school.
20. A verbal update on progress and any significant inspections since the close of quarter four will be provided at the meeting.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Performance Indicators

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Executive 3 July 2012- (Quarter 4 Performance Report)

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands