
Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny
Date: 11 December 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. This report marks a change from previous performance reports, as it now focuses on a set of indicators that support the monitoring of progress against the priorities in the Medium Term Plan. The following provides an overview of the performance position for Quarter 2. This is supported by the detailed performance information provided in Appendix A for this new set of indicators.

Quarter 2 Performance Summary

14. The new Information System (Frameworkki) for monitoring the council's performance in relation to protecting vulnerable children and young people was installed at the end of the 2011/12 financial year. Work is continuing to establish this system to fully support operational services and it will be February 2013 before all management performance reports can be accessed. However, it is now possible to report all measures in this set.
15. Performance in relation to three of the four safeguarding indicators has been good in Quarter 2, each remaining on target at quarter end.

16. Although the percentage of initial assessments completed in 10 days is showing a dip in performance this quarter it is anticipated that performance will level out and that the end of year target of 85% will be achieved. This dip in performance is partly as a result of difficulties in completion due to the holiday period, both in terms of leave and availability of colleagues in other agencies. Frameworki will allow greater clarity on recording the date of a contact which progresses to an Initial Assessment.

17. Overall the proportion of schools being classified as good or outstanding has remained stable over the last three years. In quarter two published inspection outcomes show that 76% of schools and colleges are either good or outstanding.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Performance Indicators

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)
Executive (Quarter 2 Performance Report)

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands