

**Meeting:** Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny  
**Date:** 23 April 2013  
**Subject:** Quarter 3 Performance Report  
**Report of:** Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services  
**Summary:** The report highlights the Quarter Three 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

<b>CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b>Council Priorities:</b>	
1.	The Quarterly Performance Report ensures that progress on the delivery of the Council's priorities is monitored.
<b>Financial:</b>	
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.
<b>Legal:</b>	
4.	Not applicable.
<b>Risk Management:</b>	
5.	Areas of ongoing underperformance are a risk to both service delivery and the reputation of the Council.
<b>Staffing (including Trades Unions):</b>	
6.	Not applicable.
<b>Equalities/Human Rights:</b>	
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 3 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 3. This is supported by the detailed performance information provided in Appendix A.

**Quarter 3 Performance Summary**

14. Final results show that 57.6% of young people achieved 5 or more A\* - C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths. This is a drop of 1.8% compared to last year and a drop of 31 places in the ranking of English local authorities. In 2011/12 our schools were ranked 60 out of 151 and these results rank us at 91 out of 151. The highest average within our statistical neighbours group is 65.8% and the lowest is 56.4%. Within this grouping Central Bedfordshire remains ranked 8 out of 11.
15. Overall the proportion of schools being classified as good or outstanding has remained stable over the last three years. In Quarter 3 published inspection outcomes show that 79% of schools and colleges are either 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.

16. The new Information System (Frameworkki) used for monitoring the Council's performance in protecting vulnerable children and young people was installed at the end of the 2011/12 financial year. Work to embed the system has continued.
17. Performance in relation to three of the four safeguarding indicators has been good in Quarter 3, each remaining on target at quarter end.
18. The percentage of initial assessments completed in 10 days remains below target as a result of the dip in Quarter 2. Monthly activity since August has been above target such that year to date performance has improved. It is anticipated that performance at year end will be close to the target of 85%.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – Performance Indicators

**Background Papers:** (open to public inspection)  
Executive (Quarter 3 Performance Report)

**Location of papers:** Priory House, Chicksands