

Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny
Date: 23 July 2013
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 notes 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. This is supported by the detailed performance information provided in Appendix A.

Quarter 4 Performance Summary

14. The number of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in Central Bedfordshire is increasing, as is worklessness in the adult population. Currently Central Bedfordshire is 40th out of 152 Authorities in relation to performance on NEET, i.e. in the second quartile. To be in the top quartile Central Bedfordshire needs to be in the top 38 performing authorities. Key actions to enhance the tracking of young people and support to them are being further developed and implemented.
15. There are sufficient education and training places available in Central Bedfordshire for young people in the year 12-14 cohort (i.e. those aged 16-19). 5169 education and training opportunities were made available during the autumn.
16. Overall the proportion of schools being classified as good or outstanding has remained stable over the last three years. In Quarter 4 published inspection outcomes show that 80% of schools and colleges are either 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.

17. Sandy Upper School was inspected on 13th February 2013 and judged to require special measures. A Statement of Action has been completed to address the 4 key priorities of 'Improving Leadership and Management', 'Improving Teaching', 'Improving student achievement, particularly in English and Maths' and 'Improving Governance'. The Council's support for the school was recognised by the inspectors as was the fact that plans for the school to become an Academy were on-going. This support has been enhanced to ensure the school successfully addresses the issues raised. The school is rigorously addressing the identified issues.
18. Performance in relation to children's safeguarding indicators is good. Three of the four safeguarding indicators have met quarter 4 and end of year targets.
19. The fourth safeguarding indicator is very close to target. Provisional end of year results show that the percentage of initial assessments completed in 10 days is just 0.3% below target as a result of the dip in performance in Quarter 2. Monthly monitoring within Children's Services has demonstrated performance above target since August, when the causes underlying the Quarter 2 reduction in performance were identified and addressed. The information in this report is provisional and generated before all data has been verified. It is possible that the final outturn will be slightly higher or lower and the target might be achieved.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Performance Indicators

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Executive (Quarter 4 Performance Report)

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands