
Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny
Date: 15 October 2013
Subject: Quarter 1 2013/14 Performance Report
Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: The report highlights the Quarter One performance for the Children's Services Directorate.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Karen Oellermann, Acting Assistant Director Commissioning and Partnerships
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 One 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 1. This is supported by the detailed performance information provided in Appendix A.

Quarter 1 Performance Summary

14. Overall the proportion of schools being classified as good or outstanding has remained stable over the last three years. In Quarter One published inspection outcomes show that 79% of schools and colleges are either 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.
15. As reported in Quarter Four, Sandy Upper School was inspected on 13 February 2013 and judged to require special measures. The Council's support for the school was recognised by the inspectors and this support has been extended to ensure the school successfully addresses the issues raised. The school is rigorously addressing the identified issues.
16. Performance in relation to children's safeguarding indicators is good. Three of the four safeguarding indicators have met targets.
17. The fourth safeguarding indicator is very close to target. The average time from entering care and moving in with an adoptive family for the 3 years ending on 30 June 2013 was just 6 days above the nationally set target threshold of 533 days. Maintaining current performance will ensure continued improvement which is expected to meet the target by year end.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Performance Indicators

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Executive (Quarter 1 Performance Report)

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands