
Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny
Date: 20 January 2015
Subject: Quarter 2 2014/15 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: Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Karen Oellermann, 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 under performance 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.

Public Health

9. The report includes performance against measures which contribute to Council priorities including the following:
- promote health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable.

Community Safety:

10. There are Children's Services indicators that relate to ensuring children and young people are kept safe.

Sustainability:

11. Not applicable.

Procurement

12. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Committee is asked to:

- 1. note and review Quarter Two performance.**

Background

13. The Council's framework for performance management supports the delivery of the Council's priorities.
14. The following provides an overview of the performance position for Quarter 2. This is supported by the detailed performance information provided in Appendix A.

Quarter Two Performance Summary

15. 87% of schools and colleges are good or outstanding – which is good performance. Ofsted publish a similar indicator which does not include colleges or sponsored Academies which are yet to be inspected. This shows Central Bedfordshire compares well to statistical neighbours and national averages - as at 30 June 2014, 87% of Central Bedfordshire Schools are good or better and

the Statistical Neighbour Average was 80% and England 81%.

16. The 2014 Provisional Key Stage 4 Results - Statistical First Release was published in October 2014. Provisional results indicate that the percentage of pupils achieving 5A*- C including English and Maths GCSE in Central Bedfordshire 2014 is 56.4%, with the Statistical Neighbour average 57.2% and the National average 52.6%. Central Bedfordshire is ranked 7/11 against the Statistical Neighbours (compared to a ranking of 10/11 last year) and is ranked 71/151 against the National ranking (a 43 place increase compared to a ranking of 114/151 last year). Whilst this is an early indication (with details being checked by schools) this suggests improvement and provisionally moves Central Bedfordshire into the second quartile. Changes have been made and only a student's first entry to a GCSE examination count in their school's performance tables. Therefore this needs to be considered when comparing 2014 results to previous years. Final results are expected to be published in January 2015 and will be reported in Quarter 3.
17. Performance data across safeguarding measures is good at the end of Quarter 2 in 2014/15. Child protection reviews completed within timescales continue to achieve the 100% target.
18. The new Access and Referral Hub has added greater stability to the referral process and 81.1% of referrals have led to the provision of a social care service - achieving the 75% target. This indicator reflects the proportion of referrals that go on to further social care input, in most cases this will be to start an assessment. Detailed analysis of completed referrals has shown that assessments are started where needed and continue to focus correctly on the right children who need our services.
19. The ambitious 90% target for assessments completed within 45 days has been achieved, the Q2 figure of 93.6% demonstrates that performance is good. The new processes are now well established with good performance expected to continue through 2014/15.
20. Children are placed in their permanent home without undue delay which is particularly important in enabling very young children to form positive emotional attachments. The average timescales from entering care and moving in with adoptive family for the 3 years ending 30 September 14 was 523 days which is six days above the nationally set target, 19 days below our 2011/14 outturn and 107 days below the comparator average for 2012/13. There has been further improvement on last year and Central Bedfordshire continues to compare well to other local authorities. With more adoptions planned and shorter timescales in most cases it is expected that improvements will continue.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Performance Report Appendix A Quarter Two 2014/15

Background papers and their location: (open to public inspection)
Executive (Quarter Two Performance Report)