

## Quarter 3 2014/15 Performance Report

Report of Councillor Carole Hegley Lead Member for Children's Services

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**Purpose of this report:** The report highlights the Quarter Three performance for the Children's Services Directorate.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. note and review Quarter Three performance.

1. The Council's framework for performance management supports the delivery of the Council's priorities.
2. 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

3. Final 2014 results (reported Quarter 3 2014/15) show that 57.1% of young people achieved 5 or more A\* - C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths. Whilst this is a decrease of 0.6% compared to last year there has been improvement as Central Bedfordshire has gone up 42 places in the ranking of English local authorities. In 2013 our schools were ranked 114 out of 151 and these results rank us at 72 out of 151.
4. 84% 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. When

this was last published (31 December 2014) it showed that Central Bedfordshire compared well to statistical neighbours and national averages - as 84% of Central Bedfordshire Schools at that time were good or better and the Statistical Neighbour Average was 81% and England 81%.

5. Performance data across safeguarding measures is good at the end of Quarter 3 2014/15, with three measures achieving target and one close to target. Child protection reviews completed within timescales continue to achieve the 100% target.
6. The new Access and Referral Hub has added greater stability to the referral process. 82.6% 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.
7. The ambitious 90% target for assessments completed within 45 days has been achieved, the Q3 figure 94.8% demonstrates that performance is good. The new processes are now well established with good performance expected to continue through 2014/15.
8. 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 31 December 14 was 512 days which is ten days above the nationally set target, 30 days below our 2011/14 outturn and 112 days below the comparator average for 2011/14. There has been further improvement on last year and Central Bedfordshire continues to compare well to other local authorities.

### **Council Priorities**

9. The quarterly performance report ensures that progress on the delivery of the Council's priorities is monitored e.g.
  - improved educational attainment
  - promote health and well being and protect the vulnerable

### **Corporate Implications**

### **Legal Implications**

10. This report considers a number of performance indicators against those

of previous years as such there are no specific legal implications in respect of this report.

### **Financial Implications**

11. There are a number of performance indicators within the full corporate suite that have a financial link.
12. It will be important to consider any financial implications in addressing ongoing areas of under performance.

### **Risk Management**

13. Areas of ongoing under performance are a risk to both service delivery and the reputation of the Council. Regular quarterly monitoring of performance supports effective risk management.

### **Staffing (including Trades Unions)**

14. Not applicable.

### **Equalities Implications**

15. 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.
16. 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**

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

### **Community Safety**

18. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that across all of its functions it does all that it reasonably can to reduce crime and

disorder. The use of this performance data by Children's Services enables us to monitor indicators that may indicate community safety concerns for children and young people that the Council needs to address.

### **Sustainability**

19. Not applicable.

### **Procurement**

20. Not applicable.

### **Appendices**

21. The following Appendix is attached:

Performance Report Appendix A Quarter Three 2014/15