

Central Bedfordshire Council

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY 18 August 2015

CHILDREN'S TRUST ANNUAL REPORT

Report of Councillor Carole Hegley Executive Member for Social Care and Housing and Lead Member for Children's Services

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Purpose of this report

1. To provide an annual update on the progress made in delivering the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan (June 2013 – March 2015).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and comment on the Annual Report (Appendix A) and progress made in 2014/15.
2. Record any questions or comments for Children's Trust Board consideration.

BACKGROUND

2. The Children's Trust Annual Report sets out progress made in delivering the priorities within the Children and Young People's Plan (June 2013 – March 2015):
 - Improved educational attainment
 - Protecting vulnerable children
 - Early help and improving life chances
 - Being healthy and positive
3. This is the last Annual Report for the Children and Young People's Plan (June 13– March 15).

4. A refreshed Children and Young People's Plan was agreed by the Trust Board at its meeting of 3 March 2015. Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the refresh of the Plan at its meeting of 20 January 2015.
5. The following is included with this report:
 - **Appendix A** - Annual Report June 2015;
 - **Appendix B** - Children and Young People's Voice report June 15 (which forms part of the Annual Report);
 - **Appendix C** - Quarter 4 Performance Report; and
 - **Appendix D** - Refreshed Children and Young People's Plan (March 15 – March 17).

MONITORING THE PRIORITIES WITHIN THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

6. Overall performance has been fairly stable through 2014/15.

Improved Educational Attainment

7. Quarter 4 2015 (January – March) performance shows:
 - Central Bedfordshire has gone up 42 places in the ranking of English local authorities (from 114/151 in 2013 to 72/151 in 2014) for the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths.
 - The percentage of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) remains low - Central Bedfordshire (3.7%) performs better than the Regional average (4.5%) and National average (4.7%). Annually calculated NEET measure.
 - As at 31 March 2015, 84% of Central Bedfordshire schools are good or better - the Statistical Neighbour average was 82% and England 82%.
8. Challenges include:
 - Making sure every child has the best start in life and is 'ready for school'. The percentage of children assessed as having a good level of development in Central Bedfordshire (2014) is 57%. This is an improvement of 8% from 2013 but the rate of improvement has been matched nationally. Central Bedfordshire remains in the 3rd Quartile.
 - Improving attainment across Key Stages 2, 4 and 5.
 - Narrowing the gap and improving the attainment of vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people.

Protecting Vulnerable Children

9. Quarter 4 2015 (January – March) performance shows:
- Child protection reviews completed within timescales continue to achieve the 100% target.
 - 84.5% of referrals have led to the provision of a social care service - achieving the 75% target.
 - The ambitious 90% target for assessments completed within 45 days has been achieved, with a Quarter 4 figure of 96.2%.
 - Young people becoming first time entrants to the criminal justice system has continued to reduce (13.3% decrease - Quarter 4).
10. Challenges include:
- Tackling the challenges of domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health for children and families.
 - Engaging vulnerable young people within education, employment and training including children with special educational needs and disabilities, looked after children, care leavers and young offenders.

Early Help and Improving Life Chances

11. Quarter 4 2015 (January – March) performance shows:
- There is continued good performance in terms of the percentage of early years and childcare settings judged by Ofsted to be Outstanding or Good (non domestic childcare: 94%, childminders 89%).
 - Supporting Families (Troubled Families Programme) has met the target set by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for identifying and turning around 305 families during Phase 1 of the programme. Payment by results claims were subject to an annual external audit, the outcome of which was very positive.
 - 657 disadvantaged 2 year olds have been placed in early education / childcare. Whilst there is a risk that the final target will not be met it should be noted that take up is still improving.
 - In December 2014 there were 137,300 people in employment in Central Bedfordshire of a total working age population (aged 16-64) of 168,300 - 81.6%. This rate is higher than all comparator areas - and is in line with the target of maintaining performance at 5% above the national rate, increasing the difference between local and national to 9.1%.

12. Challenges include:

- Strengthening and improving the integrated approach to providing better health services across health visiting, children's centres, education and social care.

Being Healthy and Positive

13. Quarter 4 2015 (January – March) performance shows:

- There has been an ongoing, downward trend in the under-18 conception rate in Central Bedfordshire since 2010, with the greatest reductions seen in the under-16s. There has been a 25.5% reduction in the under-18 conception rate in Central Bedfordshire from 2012 – 2013, which is below both the national and regional rates. However, whilst rates have stabilised or fallen in 4 out of the 5 teenage pregnancy 'hotspot wards', there has been an increase in Manshead ward (see challenges below).
- Breastfeeding rates in Central Bedfordshire in Quarters 1, 2 and 3 2014/15 show an improvement on 2013/14, although the proportion of mothers both initiating, and continuing to breastfeed at 6-8 weeks dropped slightly in Quarter 3 (latest data). Ongoing, effective support for mothers from Midwifery Services, Health Visitors and Children's Centres - working in partnership across the antenatal and postnatal pathway - needs to continue to strengthen. For 2015/16 Midwifery Services will have an additional target to maintain breastfeeding rates at 5 days (75%), and Health Visitors will be contacting mothers on day 6 post delivery to offer additional breastfeeding support and advice.
- Delivery of the new prevention/Tier 1 work in the Children & Young People's Drugs & Alcohol Services has seen a positive increase in Tier 2 interventions in 2014/15, and a decrease in the demand for Tier 3 services. The percentages of young people reporting a reduction in drug and/or alcohol usage 3 months following discharge from both Tier 2 & Tier 3 services remain high.

14. Challenges include:

- Reducing teenage pregnancy rates in the Manshead ward (the 'hot spot' ward where the latest data suggests rates have increased).
- Improving young people's self esteem and emotional health and well being – identified as an emerging issue in the Schools Health Education Unit (SHEU) Health Related Behaviour and Perceptions Survey report 2014.

- Increasing breastfeeding rates at 6-8 weeks through strengthened, integrated working between Midwifery Services, Health Visitors and Children's Centres.

15. Further detail of performance is included in the Children's Trust Board Quarter 4 Performance report (Appendix C).

Children and Young People's Voice

16. The Children's Trust Board is committed to listening and involving children and young people as a means of ensuring the right services are being provided, needs are being met, and outcomes improved. The Children and Young People's Voice report is included as Appendix B (forming part of the Annual Report). The report will also be considered by the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board 'Voice of the Child' sub group.

Council Priorities

17. The Children and Young People's Plan supports the Council in delivering the following priorities:

- Improved educational attainment.
- Promote health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable.

Corporate Implications

Legal Implications

18. There are no specific legal implications in respect of this report.

Financial Implications

19. Prevention and early intervention are key drivers of the plan which are expected to deliver efficiencies in the long term. Work continues with partners to deliver services together in a more integrated way, with all priorities and actions developed within partners' current resources.

Risk Management

20. Areas of ongoing under performance are a risk to both service delivery and the reputation of the Council. Regular quarterly monitoring of performance against the priorities within the Children and Young People's Plan supports effective risk management.

Staffing

21. Not Applicable.

Equalities Implications

22. The priorities within the Children and Young People's Plan include a number of strategic actions which identify children and young people who are not achieving, who are excluded or in vulnerable circumstances.

Public Health

23. The Children and Young People's Plan sets out the vision of wanting every young person to be 'prepared to take their full place in society as a healthy, happy, contributing and confident citizen'. This is underpinned by priorities and actions aimed at improving children's emotional and physical health.

Community Safety

24. 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 review of performance may indicate community safety concerns for children and young people that the Council needs to address.

Conclusion and Next Steps

25. There has been improvement in some key priorities as outlined above and the challenges identified are being addressed by the Children's Trust Board through a number of focused deep dives including:

- School readiness
- Attainment of disadvantaged children
- Under 18 Conceptions - Deep dive analysis in high rate wards
- Mental health, self harm and self esteem issues
- Domestic abuse
- Work experience opportunities

26. Members are asked to consider the Annual Report and to make comments in relation to the progress of partners in delivering the priorities in the plan.

Appendices

The following Appendices are attached:

Appendix A - Annual Report June 2015;

Appendix B - Children and Young People's Voice June 15 (which forms part of the Annual Report);

Appendix C - Quarter 4 Performance Report; and

Appendix D - Refreshed Children and Young People's Plan (March 15 – March 17)

Background Papers

None