

## Quarter 4 (January – March) 2014/15 Performance 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:** The report highlights the Quarter Four (January – March) 2015 performance for the Children's Services Directorate.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and comment on Quarter Four 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 4. This is supported by the detailed performance information provided in Appendix A. Details of statistical neighbours are included in Appendix B.

### Quarter 4 Performance Summary

3. The percentage of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) remains low and Central Bedfordshire continues to perform well at 3.7% - better than the national average 4.7% and the regional average 4.5%. An Amber rating has been given as the target of being in the top quartile has been missed by 0.2% (which equates to 17 young people). Central Bedfordshire remains in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile of all Local Authorities and is currently 42<sup>nd</sup> out of 152 Authorities. To be in the top quartile Central Bedfordshire needs to be ranked in the top 38 performing authorities.

4. The number of education and training opportunities made available during the Autumn for young people in Central Bedfordshire has increased to 5278 from 5211 in the previous year. This is a local measure (statistical neighbour and national comparison is not available).
5. Ofsted inspections show that 84% of schools and colleges are good or outstanding – this 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 31 March 2015, 84% of Central Bedfordshire Schools are good or better and the Statistical Neighbour Average was 82% and the national average for England was 82%.
6. Performance data across safeguarding measures is good at the end of Quarter 4 2014/15, with three measures achieving their targets. Child protection reviews completed within timescales continue to achieve the 100% target. National and statistical neighbour comparator data for 2014/15 is expected to be available in December 2015.
7. The new Access and Referral Hub has added greater stability to the referral process. 84.5% 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. This is a local measure – national and statistical neighbour comparator data is not available.
8. The ambitious 90% target for assessments completed within 45 days has been achieved. The Q4 figure of 96.2% demonstrates that performance is good. The new processes are now well established with good performance expected to continue through 2015/16. National and statistical neighbour comparator data for 2014/15 data is expected to be available in December 2015.
9. The average timescales from entering care and moving in with an adoptive family for the 3 years ending 31 March 15 was 539 days. Whilst this is 52 days above the nationally set target the timings were in the best interests of the child and the adoptive family and is 3 days lower than our 2011/14 outturn. Central Bedfordshire continues to compare well to other local authorities and children are placed in their permanent home without undue delay which is particularly important in enabling very young children to form positive emotional attachments. With more adoptions planned and shorter timescales in most cases it is expected that improvements will be apparent in the coming year. This indicator is based on a rolling 3 year cohort. National and statistical

comparator data for 2012/15 is expected to be available in December 2015.

### **Council Priorities**

10. 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**

11. 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**

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

#### **Risk Management**

14. 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)**

15. Not applicable.

#### **Equalities Implications**

16. 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.
17. 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**

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

### **Community Safety**

19. 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**

20. Not applicable.

### **Procurement**

21. Not applicable.

### **Appendices**

22. The following Appendices are attached:

Performance Report Quarter Four 2014/15 - Appendix A  
Details of Statistical Neighbours - Appendix B

### **Background papers and their location: (open to public inspection)**

23. Executive (Quarter Four Performance Report)