

Central Bedfordshire Council

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny

28 January 2016

Quarter 2 (July – September) 2015/16 Performance Report

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

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Purpose of this report: The report highlights Quarter Two (July – September) 2015 performance for the Children's Services Directorate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and comment on Quarter Two 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 Two. This is supported by the detailed performance information provided in Appendix A.

Quarter 2 Performance Summary

3. 85% 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 31 August 2015, 85% of Central Bedfordshire schools are good or better and the Statistical Neighbour Average was 84% and England 84%.

4. The Academy of Central Bedfordshire Alternative Provision was inspected for the first time on 16 June 2015 and was judged as Good.
5. Oak Bank School was inspected on 7 July 15 and was judged Outstanding.
6. All Saints Academy was inspected on 8 July 2015 and was judged to have Serious Weaknesses (the inspection report was published on 25 September 2015). The Academy's current position has been raised with the Regional Schools Commissioner to ensure the Academy makes the required improvements.
7. Performance data across safeguarding measures is good at the end of Quarter 2 2015/16.
8. Child protection reviews completed within timescales have achieved the 100% target in Quarter 2. 2014/15 performance has now been validated and published, and at 99.2%, Central Bedfordshire is ranked 4/11 against Statistical Neighbours and 37/152 nationally. (Statistical Neighbour average 92.3%, National Average 94% in 2014/15.)
9. 83.5% of referrals have led to the provision of a social care service – with performance above the increased target of 80%. 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.
10. 88.8% of children's social care assessments have been completed within 45 working days. Whilst this is just below the target of 90%, this is good performance. In 2014/15 Central Bedfordshire was ranked 9th best out of 152 local authorities with 96.7% of all assessments completed within 45 days. The national average was 81.5% and the Statistical Neighbour average was 84%.
11. 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 15 was 514 days. Whilst this is 57 days above the nationally set target, the timings remain in the best interests of the child and the adoptive family. This is 110 days below the comparator average for 2011/14 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 be apparent in future

months. 2014/15 comparator data will be published the new year but an exact time has not yet been released by the DfE.

Council Priorities

12. The quarterly performance report ensures that progress on the delivery of the Council's priorities is monitored e.g.
 - Improving Education and Skills
 - Protecting the Vulnerable; improving wellbeing

Corporate Implications

Legal Implications

13. 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

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

Risk Management

16. 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)

17. Not applicable.

Equalities Implications

18. 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.
19. 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

20. The report includes performance against measures which contribute to Council priorities including the following:
 - Protecting the Vulnerable; improving wellbeing

Community Safety

21. 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

22. Not applicable.

Procurement

23. Not applicable.

Appendices

24. The following Appendix is attached:

Performance Report Appendix A Quarter Two 2015/16