

## Quarter 1 (April – June) 2016 / 17 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 One (April – June) 2016 performance for the Children's Services Directorate.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and comment on Quarter One performance.

1. In 2015, the Council updated its plans for delivering its ambitions. This culminated in the new Five Year Plan 2015-20 being adopted by Council in November 2015 based on 6 key priorities:
  - Enhancing Central Bedfordshire
  - Delivering great resident services
  - Improving education and skills
  - Protecting the vulnerable: improving well-being
  - A more efficient and responsive Council
  - Creating stronger communities.
2. The Council's framework for performance management supports the delivery of the Council's priorities.
3. This report represents the first view of Children's Services performance measures which support delivery of two of these priorities: 'Improving education and skills' and 'protecting the vulnerable: improving well-being'. As this is a new set of measures, over time comparator data will

be made available in order that Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee can monitor progress.

4. The Committee may already be familiar with some of the data (e.g. attainment results) given the timing of publications.

### Quarter 1 Performance Summary

| Improving Education and Skills   |                       |  |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| <b>School readiness: % of children achieving a good level of development at the Early Years Foundation Stage</b> | <b>Annual 2015</b>    | <b>64% of children</b>                 |
| <b>Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths - ranking</b>          | <b>Annual 2015</b>    | <b>57 / 151 local authorities</b>      |
| <b>% of schools rated good or better</b>   | <b>Quarterly</b>      | <b>85% of 136 schools</b>              |
| <b>% of young people aged 16-18 in education, employment or training (EET)</b>                                   | <b>Annual 2015/16</b> | <b>90.4% of 16-18 year olds in EET</b> |

5. The 2015 results for Central Bedfordshire show that 64% of children were classed as having a 'Good Level of Development'. This is a 7% improvement from 2014 but Central Bedfordshire remains below the National (66%) and Statistical Neighbour (68%) averages. Positive action is being taken to ensure that children in Central Bedfordshire are school ready.
6. The 2015 results for Central Bedfordshire also show that 58.3% of young people achieved 5 or more A\*-C grades or equivalent including English and Maths. This is an improvement of 1.2% from 2014 and Central Bedfordshire has gone up 15 places in the ranking of local authorities (from 72/151 in 2014, to 57/151 in 2015).
7. Quarter 1 performance with regard to schools in Central Bedfordshire judged to be 'Good or Outstanding (85%) remains stable. Ofsted publish a similar indicator which does not include sponsored academies yet to be inspected. At March 2016 it shows Central Bedfordshire to be on a par with both National and Statistical Neighbour averages (86%).
8. In 2015/16, the percentage of young people aged 16-18 who are in education, employment or training in Central Bedfordshire improved to 90.4% (from 88.5% in 2014/15). This is as a result of effective support and interventions from the Council.

| <b>Protecting the vulnerable: Improving well-being</b>                                       |                  |              |
|--|------------------|--------------|
| <b>Children's Safeguarding – Referrals as a percentage of the child population</b>           | <b>Quarterly</b> | <b>1%</b>    |
| <b>Percentage of referrals leading to the provision of a social care service</b>             | <b>Quarterly</b> | <b>86.4%</b> |
| <b>Looked After Children School Attendance (when entering care and registered at school)</b> | <b>Annual</b>    | <b>New</b>   |
| <b>Percentage of care leavers age 17-21 engaged in education, training or employment</b>     | <b>Quarterly</b> | <b>70.6%</b> |

9. Referrals as a percentage of the child population and the percentage of referrals leading to the provision of a social care service are in line with expectations based on previous activity. These measures give the Council an indication of the volume of referrals to social services that come from partners and the public.
10. Looked After Children (LAC) school attendance information is not available at the time of reporting. A new methodology has been developed to provide this information. Any comparisons to historic measures would not be accurate.
11. The percentage of care leavers engaged in education, employment or training has continued to improve from 50% in June 2015 to 70.6% in June 2016. This performance is in the top quartile nationally. This shows that the Council is supporting vulnerable young people to continue to gain new skills and qualifications and long term employment as they become young adults.

### **Council Priorities**

12. The quarterly performance report ensures that progress on the delivery of the relevant Council's priorities is monitored.

## **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 well-being.

## **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 the monitoring of 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. None