

Quarter 2 (July – September) 2016 / 17 Performance Report

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

Advising Officers:

Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services
sue.harrison@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Karen Oellermann, Assistant Director, Commissioning and Partnerships
karen.oellermann@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Purpose of this report: The report highlights Quarter Two 2016/17 performance for the Children's Services Directorate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and comment on Quarter Two performance.
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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. This report represents the second view of Children's Services performance indicators 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.
 3. The Committee may already be familiar with some of the data (e.g. attainment results) given the timing of publications.

Quarter 2 Performance Summary

Improving Education and Skills				
Indicator	Frequency /Date	Latest Data	Direction of travel	Current Status
School readiness: % of children achieving a good level of development at the Early Years Foundation Stage	Annual 2016	68%	↑	▲
Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths - ranking	Annual 2015	57 / 151 local authorities	↑	▲
% of schools rated good or outstanding	Quarterly (Q2)	89%	↑	●
% of young people aged 16-18 in education, employment or training (EET)	Annual 2015/16	90.4%	↑	N/A

4. The 2016 results for Central Bedfordshire show that 68% of children were classed as having a 'Good Level of Development'. This is a 5% improvement from 2015 but Central Bedfordshire remains below the National (69%) and Statistical Neighbour (72%) averages. Positive action is being taken to ensure that children in Central Bedfordshire are school ready.
5. The provisional 2016 results show that 57.3% of Central Bedfordshire young people achieved 5 or more A* - C grades or equivalent including English and Maths. This is a 1% reduction from 2015. Central Bedfordshire remains 1.7% below the statistical neighbour average (59%) but above the national average (52.8%). The Council is 69/150 local authority areas nationally compared to a ranking of 57/151 last year. The Council remains in the 2nd quartile nationally. The above table references the final 2015 results (Central Bedfordshire's ranking against other local authorities). Final 2016 results are not yet published. Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee will receive a detailed report and analysis of school results in March 2017 for review.
6. 89% of schools are good or outstanding which is good performance. This is an increase from 85% in Quarter 1 2016/17 but it should be

noted that 4 schools have closed during the Quarter which has had an impact on the Quarter 2 figure.

7. The percentage of young people aged 16-18 who are in education or employment or training (EET) in 2015/16 in Central Bedfordshire improved to 90.4%, from 88.5% in 2014/15. This has previously been reported.

Protecting the vulnerable: Improving well-being				
Indicator	Frequency / Date	Latest Data	Direction of Travel	Current Status
Children's Safeguarding – Referrals as a percentage of the child population	Quarterly (Q2)	1.6%	↑	N/A
Percentage of referrals leading to the provision of a social care service	Quarterly (Q2)	90.2%	↓	★
Looked After Children School Attendance (when entering care and registered at school)	Annual Jul 16	92.7%	N/A	N/A
Percentage of care leavers age 17-21 engaged in education, training or employment	Quarterly (Q2)	70.7%	↑	★

8. The referrals as a % of the child population and % 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.
9. Looked After Children (LAC) school attendance is 92.7% as at the end of July 2016. A new methodology has been developed to provide this information therefore any comparisons to historic measures would not be accurate.
10. Attendance in 2015/16 from Reception to Year 9 (age 5-14) is as good and in some year groups better than children who are not looked after. The area for improvement remains with children in Years 10 and 11.
11. Attendance can be low where pupils have moved placement or have spent some time waiting for a school place in other authorities, or where they have had periods on part-time timetables. All pupils where attendance has been identified as a concern are being closely

monitored by both the Council's Virtual School and Social Care staff. The Council's Virtual School is working with young people to re-engage them in learning.

12. The % of care leavers engaged in Education, Employment or Training has continued to improve (from 50% in June 2015) to 70.7% in September 2016. This performance remains 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

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

Corporate Implications

Legal Implications

14. 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

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

Risk Management

17. 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)

18. Not applicable.

Equalities Implications

19. 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.
20. 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.
21. The Performance Team within Children's Services carries out analysis to support the Council and its partners in understanding need and improving educational and social care outcomes for vulnerable children.

Public Health

22. The report includes performance against measures which contribute to Council priorities including the following:
 - Protecting the vulnerable: improving well-being.

Community Safety

23. 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

24. Not applicable.

Procurement

25. Not applicable.

Appendices

26. None.