



Report of the Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement

Meeting: Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: 13th September 2007

Subject: Performance Report Quarter 1 2007/08

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report discusses the key performance issues considered to be of corporate significance identified for the Children's Services Scrutiny Board as at 30th June 2007. In addition, the report also includes a predicted CPA score for 2007/08 and a performance table detailing all PI's for this Board.

2 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to present the key areas of under performance at the end of Quarter 1 (1st April and 30th June 2007).

3 Background Information

- 3.1 This 'highlight report' has been prepared in readiness for the Accountability process, which includes the CMT meeting on 14th August, Leader Management Team on 23rd August and Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th September.
- 3.2 The issues discussed in this report have been identified because performance in these areas impacts upon one or more of the following; the delivery of effective services, the delivery of our corporate priorities; our CPA score; or our ability to deliver efficiency savings. This report is supported by detailed PI information.
- 3.3 Any improvement in assessment scores should potentially have a positive impact on the council's Direction of Travel assessment and overall CPA Star Rating.

4 CPA Performance issues

4.1 The table below summarises our predicted CPA scores for February 2008.

	Direction of Travel	Star Category	Corporate Assessment	Level 1 Services			Level 2 Services			
				Use of Resources	Children & Young People	Social Care (Adults)	Benefits	Culture Service Assessment	Environment Service Assessment	Housing Service Assessment
CPA 2006	Improving Adequately	3 star	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3
CPA 2007 (provisional)		4 star	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

4.2 The CPA 2007 provisional score is mainly based on the category scores allocated in 2006. Where this applies the cells are highlighted in grey. This information will be updated as and when assessment scores are confirmed during 2007/08.

4.3 The provisional CPA 2007 Service Assessment scores for Culture, Environment and Housing are included in each Accountability report. These are mainly based on 2006/07 year-end returns, however there are a number of instances where other methods are used.

4.4 The Audit Commission have confirmed the PIs which are to be included in the 2007 CPA Service Assessments and the thresholds to be used to calculate the scores. The above scores have been updated to reflect this, however it must be noted that there are still several outstanding issues which could result in the Culture service assessment score becoming a 2.

The Housing score also takes into account service inspections undertaken between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2007.

4.5 At this stage we are unable to make an informed judgement as to our predicted Direction of Travel score.

4.6 For a more detailed breakdown of the CPA service assessment scores please see Appendix 1.

5.4 Children and Young People

5.4.1 Data quality

The main issue raised by the Q1 performance report is the important task of improving the accuracy and reliability of some aspects of data relating to children and young people. The main concerns focus on youth service indicators.

These concerns are being addressed in two ways. Firstly the new Integrated Youth Service is now in the process of completing implementation of a new management information system that will enable better collection, collation and analysis of data. Secondly the Integrated Youth Service is working with the former Learning and Leisure Policy and Performance Team and the Corporate Performance Team on a range of projects to look in more detail at data quality and associated business processes.

5.4.2 Updating and improving performance measures

The second issue that the Q1 performance report highlights is the need to update the set of performance measures reported through this process. This is needed in response to ongoing changes in sets of performance measures - both locally through the review of the Children and Young People's Plan, and nationally through changes to inspection and central government. Children's Services, Learning and Leisure Policy and Performance Team and the Corporate Performance Team will be working together over the next month to produce an updated suite of indicators that provides better information, reflecting the priorities from

amongst the statutory indicators reported to the Audit Commission, measures that OfSTED use for inspection and those in the Leeds Children and Young People's Plan and Local Area Agreement (LAA).

It is the aim of the project to identify where these overlap to ensure the information being reported within different forums is accurate and consistent. The project will also help to strengthen the Accountability process by providing a suite of indicators that are of corporate importance and need to be monitored on a regular basis. The remaining indicators will be monitored throughout the year and reported via the Accountability process on an annual basis. Should performance start to decline a provision will be made for these indicators to be included on an exceptions basis.

The work on aligning the indicators will aim to be completed in time for the quarter two reporting deadlines.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee considers the Quarter 1 performance information and highlight any areas for further scrutiny.