

**Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) / Director of Children's Services**

**Report to Children and Families Scrutiny Board**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**Subject: 2012/13 Q3 Performance Report**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. This report provides a summary of performance against the strategic priorities for the council relevant to the Children and Families Scrutiny Board.

**Recommendations**

2. Members are recommended to:
  - Note the Q3 performance information and the issues which have been highlighted and consider if they wish to undertake further scrutiny work to support improvement over the coming year in any of these areas.

## 1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report presents to scrutiny a summary of the quarter three performance data for 2012-13 which provides an update on progress in delivering the relevant priorities in the Council Business Plan 2011-15, Children and Young People's Plan 2011-15 and City Priority Plan 2011-15.

## 2 Background information

- 2.1 The City Priority Plan 2011 to 2015 is the city-wide partnership plan which sets out the key outcomes and priorities to be delivered by the council and its partners. There are 21 priorities which are split across the 5 strategic partnerships who are responsible for ensuring the delivery of these agreed priorities. The Council Business Plan 2011 to 2015 sets out the priorities for the council - it has two elements - five cross council priorities aligned to the council's values and a set of directorate priorities and targets.
- 2.2 Members will note that the delivery of City Priority Plan priorities are shared with partners across the city while the Council Business Plan sets out the Council's contribution to these shared priorities. The partnership contribution to children's elements of the City Priority Plan priorities is led by the Children's Trust Board and through delivery of the Leeds Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The City priorities, framed as obsessions, form part of the 11 children's priorities. This report includes a quarter 3 assessment of progress against the Children and Young People's Plan obsessions. Full performance reports, with context and narrative are only completed for all CYPP priorities at quarters 2 and 4. Therefore, for quarter 1 and 3 the Board is provided with the latest monthly CYPP performance dashboard which gives the most up to date position for each of the CYPP indicators. Any key issues from the dashboard will also be highlighted in the cover report as required.
- 2.3 This report includes 3 appendices:
- Appendix 1 – Performance Reports for the 3 City Priority Plan Priorities (these are the same as the “obsessions” from the CYPP)
  - Appendix 2 – Children's Services Directorate Priorities and Indicators
  - Appendix 3 – CYPP dashboard

## 3 Main issues - Quarter 2 Performance Summary

### *City Priority Plan*

- 3.1 The three **Children's Trust Board obsessions** have continued to show improvement in Q2. The number of looked-after children has dropped by 44 (3%) since the end of the 2011-12 financial year, with September's figure 21 lower (1.4%) than the same month last year. Attendance in Leeds primary schools continues to improve and is now above national and statistical neighbours, with Leeds ranked in the top quartile for primary attendance. There was also an improvement of 1.4 percentage points in secondary attendance and this is now at the highest level ever; whilst this remains lower than national and statistical neighbour authorities, the gap has narrowed. NEET levels remain higher than

national (using latest comparative data up to July) but the gap has fallen to one percentage point, compared to 2.1 percentage points a year earlier. Leeds' position nationally in July was in the third quartile of 148 local authorities. Challenges remain (e.g. persistent absence, NEET rates for some key groups) but the intelligence-led and outcomes-focused approach is making a positive difference and targeted funding on NEETs via the City Deal should continue to drive improvement.

### **Council Business Plan**

- 3.2 **Directorate Priorities and Indicators:** There are 5 directorate priorities and all 5 are assessed as green at Quarter 3.
- 3.3 In terms of performance indicators 4 green, 4 amber and 1 red. The red indicator is:
- percentage of children's homes that are rated good or better by Ofsted
- 3.4 **Council Children's Homes:** The percentage of children's homes rated as good or better by Ofsted remains at 36% (with 1 rated as outstanding, 3 good and 7 as adequate). This result is the same as that for quarter 2 as no further inspections have been made with all homes having been inspected in this cycle. The next round of inspections commences in April 2013. Improvement work is on-going and a programme of refurbishment work began in Jan 2013 for six of the homes.
- 3.5 **Complaints:** Performance on the indicator for complaints responded to within 20 days has improved significantly from Quarter 2 to 3 from 56% to 73% and has moved from red to amber. This remains a focus both on timescales and for learning from complaints. Service areas with weakness in response times are being supported and learning from complaints is being integrated into broader quality assurance work to support improved service practice.
- 3.6 **Children's Obsessions:** Numbers of Children Looked After are at a 30-month low: 1395 at December 2012, down from 1475 in March 2012. NEET figures have improved in November and December 2012 compared to 12 months before and the gap to national performance has closed. While the 'not knowns' remain high compared to comparator authorities, numbers are coming down through ongoing work with Connexions providers.

### **Children's Social Care inspections**

- 3.7 Ofsted has recently aspects of our Children Looked After services. This included a thematic review of Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) service and a visit to test some of the proposed tools and methodology for Ofsted's new framework for inspecting services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers. Very positive feedback was received in particular, inspectors noted that IROs and social workers knew their cases well and everyone they met was very positive about their work and the direction the service was taking. Ofsted's views also reinforced our local priorities for improvement and the need to continue the momentum. The new inspection framework for Looked After Children and Care Leavers will come into effect in July. As with the new framework for Safeguarding the inspection will

be a multi-agency inspection. This means in the coming year the local authority and partners may be subject to two separate inspections. Children's Services are the only part of the council subject to this level of inspection.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 This is an information report and as such does not need to be consulted on with the public. However all performance information is published on the council's and Leeds Initiative websites and is available to the public.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

4.2.1 This is an information report and not a decision so due regard is not relevant. However, this report does include an update on equality issues as they relate to the various priorities.

### **4.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

4.3.2 This report provides an update on progress in delivering the council and city priorities in line with the council's performance management framework.

### **4.4 Resources and value for money**

4.4.1 There are no specific resource implications from this report; however, it includes a high level update of the Council's financial position. This is in terms of the cross council priority within the Business Plan of "spending money wisely".

### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.5.1 All performance information is publicly available and is published on the council and Leeds Initiative websites. This report is an information update providing Scrutiny with a summary of performance for the strategic priorities within its remit and as such is not subject to call in.

### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.2 The Performance Report Cards include an update of the key risks and challenges for each of the priorities. This is supported by a comprehensive risk management process in the Council to monitor and manage key risks. These processes also link closely with performance management.

## **5 Conclusions**

5.1 This report provides a summary of performance against the strategic priorities for the council relevant to the Children and Families Scrutiny Board.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 Members are recommended to:

- Note the Q3 performance information and the issues which have been highlighted and consider if they wish to undertake further scrutiny work to support improvement over the coming year in any of these areas.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.