

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

Report to Children and Families Scrutiny Board

Date: 27th Sept 2012

Subject: 2012/13 Q1 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 Q1 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 one 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 1 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 it is proposed to provide the Board with the monthly CYPP performance dashboard which gives the latest 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 for July

3 Main issues - Quarter 1 Performance Summary

City Priority Plan

- 3.1 The three **Children's Trust Board obsessions** have all shown improvement in Q1. The number of looked after children has reduced in the last 3 months. Fewer children are being placed in the external residential placements and with independent fostering agencies which will have a positive impact on budget pressures and, though it is still early days, the significance of starting to turn this curve should be emphasised. Primary school attendance is in line with national performance with Leeds now ranked in the top half of authorities nationally (61 out of 150) and secondary attendance is at the highest ever recorded. NEET is falling faster in Leeds than elsewhere (both nationally and compared to our statistical

neighbours) resulting in improved performance relative to others. The outcomes-focused approach is making an impact however these remain obsessions. With the exception of primary attendance gaps to national performance, while closing, remain.

Council Business Plan

- 3.2 **Directorate Priorities and Indicators** – there are 5 directorate priorities and 3 are assessed as green and 2 amber. The amber priorities are:
- Build a strong relationship with schools which delivers improved outcomes and develops their role in their local area.
 - Develop a high performing and skilled workforce.
- 3.3 In terms of performance indicators 4 green, 1 amber and 4 red. Red indicators are:
- percentage of children’s homes that are rated good or better by Ofsted
 - percentage of initial assessments carried out by social care within timescale
 - percentage of in-depth (or core) assessments carried out by social care within timescale
 - percentage of complaints resolved within 20 days
- 3.4 **Initial and core assessments:** the Q1 performance on the timeliness of both these indicators is below target due to the transfer of cases required as part of the restructure of children’s social care. New teams have been created across the city that are locality-based and offer children and families greater consistency and continuity. Backlogs created during the transition period have been cleared, performance has improved back up to previous levels for initial assessments and was 81% in June. Performance against core assessments will take slightly longer to come back up to previous levels, due to the additional complexity of the nature of these assessments. Improvements are expected to be seen in Quarter 2.
- 3.5 **Council Children’s Homes:** The percentage of children’s homes rated as good or better by Ofsted is currently 36% (4 rated as good and 7 as adequate). While down from 55% at Q4 there are now no homes rated as inadequate. Since Q4 two homes have dropped from good to adequate and the home previously judged as inadequate is now adequate. Provisionally one of the Q1 good homes is now rated as outstanding and another recent inspection was good. For the two former good homes within their overall adequate judgement the quality of care judgement remains good. The framework for Ofsted inspection changed in April 2012 and is more prescriptive with homes being judged more stringently. Lessons have been learned from early inspections and all recommendations from inspections are disseminated to all homes to ensure learning across the board. Additionally residential homes are regularly assessed through our internal processes and all Ofsted recommendations are followed up. Reassurance is offered that while improvements are needed around evidencing good outcomes and consistent administrative processes no serious safeguarding risks have been highlighted.

- 3.6 **Complaints:** Performance on the indicator for complaints responded to within 20 days fell during quarter 1 compared to the 2011/12 year end result. In a similar vein to the assessments during this period the children's social care teams have undertaken a significant restructure and this period of change led to delays with complaint cases being allocated, investigated and responded to. Work is being undertaken to identify those areas which have seen an increase in the number of responses not meeting targets, significant work is being undertaken to support and improve these results by targeting these areas.

Children and Young People's Plan

- 3.7 Performance reports on **CYPP priorities** are completed 6 monthly the next one being available at quarter 2. Each month though a dashboard is provided of our best available information against CYPP key measures and the dashboard for July is provided in appendix 3. Highlights are:
- Rate of teenage conception citywide continues to reduce with a conception rate of 39.8 per 1000 15-17 year old females in June 2011. This is a 3 year rolling average that has declined from 45.5 in June 2010. This equates to 505 under 18 conceptions from July 2010 to June 2011, a reduction from 586 for the period July 2009 to June 2010. NB this is new information the dashboard has March figures.
 - For the period August 2011 to April 2012 1716 16-18 year olds started apprenticeships in Leeds. This compares to 1,594 for the same period last year a 7.7% increase. Plans have been drawn up for the council to partner Leeds City College to establish an Apprenticeship Training Agency, this will create new opportunities for local young people to secure employment and skills training.
 - Free School Meal take up has remained stable in primary schools for the financial year 2011-12 at 76.9%. At secondary there was a slight improvement to 68.9%. Priorities are to raise awareness about the importance of school meals to pupils, families, headteachers, and frontline practitioners, in order to establish a sustainable school meal service that meets health and cultural needs.
- 3.8 Other key development in children's services include:
- Through the ambition for **Child Friendly Leeds** we are creating the framework for a city-wide effort to improve the lives of children and young people, with partners from every sector invited to play a part. In recent months this work has gathered significant momentum. The development of the Child Friendly Leeds 'thumbs up' brand has created a strong and distinctive identity. Discussions with a growing number of business and organisations from all sectors are ongoing with a number of high profile pledges and initiatives underway or in development. On 19 July, to coincide with the visit of her Majesty the Queen, a significant Child Friendly Leeds launch event was staged. Elected members have an important part to play in supporting this work by raising the profile of the Child Friendly Leeds ambitions. There are more details on the Child Friendly Leeds pages of the Council website: <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Child-friendly-Leeds.aspx>

- Children’s Services is continuing to focus on creating more **integrated local services**. Social care teams are now organised locally, which is helping to strengthen their links with schools and other local services. The implementation of the new targeted services leader roles across the city is helping to bring more co-ordination, consistency and focus to how local services work together. Early Start teams providing more holistic early years support have been launched integrating the work of health visiting and children’s centre teams. Leeds is also one of the leading authorities nationally in implementing the Families First initiative (this is the Leeds response to the Government’s Troubled Families initiative) which aims to support families to tackle issues such as worklessness, crime and anti-social behaviour, and poor school attendance. Taken together, these initiatives reflect the emphasis being placed on better early intervention and targeted support across our services, putting more emphasis on preventing issues from escalating to the point at which they require social care intervention.

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 Q1 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 documents¹

7.2 Children and Young People's Plan

7.3 City Priority Plan 2011 to 2015

7.4 Council Business Plan 2011 to 2015

¹ 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.