

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

Report to Children and Families Scrutiny Board

Date: 13th December 2012

Subject: 2012/13 Q2 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 Q2 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 two 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 2 assessment of progress against the Children and Young People's Plan obsessions.

- 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 performance update

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 2.
- 3.3 In terms of performance indicators 4 green, 3 amber and 2 red. Red indicators are:
- percentage of children's homes that are rated good or better by Ofsted
 - percentage of complaints resolved within 20 days
- 3.3.1 **Council Children's Homes:** The percentage of children's homes rated as good or better by Ofsted is currently 36% (with 1 rated as outstanding, 3 good and 7 as adequate). While down from 55% at Q4 there are now no homes rated as inadequate. The current result is the same as at Quarter 1 however, one local authority children's home has improved its grade from good to outstanding. All homes have been inspected within this cycle so this result will not change until spring 2013 when the next round of inspections commence. The framework for inspecting children's homes changed in April 2012 and is more prescriptive with homes being judged more stringently; nationally there has been a fall of 20 percentage points of homes judged as good or better. Reassurance is offered that no serious safeguarding risks have been highlighted and that no overall or headline judgement for any home is inadequate. Improvements are needed around the fabric of some of the buildings and practice improvement is ongoing, including improvements with recording.
- 3.3.2 **Complaints:** Performance on the indicator for complaints responded to within 20 days has improved slightly from Quarter 1 from 55% to 56%. 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.
- 3.3.3 **Initial and core assessments:** These two indicators have moved from Red at Quarter 1 to Amber at Quarter 2. At quarter 1 performance was lower than usual on the indicators for carrying out core and initial assessments to timescale. This had been caused by backlogs that had arisen as a result of restructuring work to children's social work teams. These backlogs have now been overcome and assessments are now being carried out at close to or above target timescales. Performance in August 2012 was 79.9% for the initial assessment indicator and 90.1% for the core assessment indicator, but because these indicators are cumulative throughout the year, the impact of disruption caused in quarter 1 will continue to have an impact on how performance is reported against these indicators for the rest of the reporting year.

Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)

- 3.4 Six monthly the Children's Trust Board is provided updates on the 11 priorities in the children and young people's plan. This update is based on two page performance reports as succinct position statement for each CYPP measure, inclusive of the 3 obsessions. A summary of these from the Children's' Trust Board report is attached as appendix 3. The performance reports are available but not included in this report.
- 3.5 At quarter 2 one measure is judged red; 10 are judged amber and 5 are judged green. In addition to progress with the obsessions quarter 2 highlighted improvements in apprenticeships starts and ongoing reductions in teenage pregnancies and in the number of young people that have been convicted of one or more offences. The one outcome judged red relates to Key Stage 4 results. While Leeds results improved marginally in 2012 the rate of improvement was not to the extent desired. This was in part a consequence of issues with the regrading of the GCSE English result. Efforts to improve overall results and narrow performance gaps continue, including focus on individual schools. In future years national direction has the potential to limit any significant increases in the headline GCSE indicator for England with consequences for Leeds.
- 3.6 Quarter 2 highlighted both positive results in 0-11 learning outcomes and areas for focus. Leeds is now in the second quartile nationally for the percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Pupils in Leeds also continue to make better progress between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 in English and maths than that seen nationally. However while improved the provisional overall Leeds Key Stage 2 result for English and maths is slightly below national levels and the gap measure at the foundation stage between the bottom 20% and the average remains too wide. As part of the Leeds Education Challenge we need to both support learning providers to improve outcomes and to collectively understand the changing make-up and needs of the early years and primary school population, a growing population.
- 3.7 The CYPP performance reports highlight ongoing work to better support children and families, including children at risk. This includes the ongoing success of the Strengthening Families model of child protection conferences, the implementation of the targeted services leader (TSL) role across the city and the implementation of the Families First initiative (the Leeds response to the government's Troubled Families programme) which aims to support families to tackle issues such as worklessness, crime and anti-social behaviour, and poor school attendance. Partnership work continues around our initial response to child protection concerns with a social worker now located at Millgarth Police Station to work with the Police on referrals where there are concerns about domestic violence; and work is underway with Health and the Police to co-locate colleagues from these agencies in the Duty and Advice Team that handles initial child protection inquiries.

Children's Services Inspection

3.8 It is currently anticipated that children's services (in respect of services related to the protection of children) will imminently be subject to an Ofsted inspection under the new inspection framework. A number of authorities have already been inspected under this revised framework which has been recognised as being more stringent and has resulted in some critical reports (4 out of 7 authorities so far have been judged inadequate). Considerable progress has been made over the past 12 months but there is more to do. A nine point plan has been developed to drive the pace of improvement and an Improvement Hub has been established within the directorate in order to lead their inspection preparation.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.4 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 Q2 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 for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.