

## PERFORMANCE DIGEST – QUARTER 2 – 2007/2008

Report By: Director of Children's Services

### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

1. To present the Quarter 2 Performance Digest for Children's Service (July – September 2007) and to highlight key areas arising from the performance for the second quarter.

### Financial Implications

2. Remedial action in respect of the directorate's performance may require reallocation of resources within existing budgets.

### Background

3. The Performance Digest is produced quarterly and is the mechanism for monitoring key performance indicators, both for the Children and Young People's Directorate and the wider Children's Trust.

### Considerations

4. The Performance Digest for Quarter 2 of 2007/2008 is enclosed for Members with this agenda, for consideration. Copies are available on request. The Digest is set out under the five outcomes of *Every Child Matters*, and service management, and includes a headline page for each outcome. Data, including comparative data, is set out in a graphical form for the Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) indicators and Best Value Performance Indicators. The Quarter 3 Performance Digest is currently being produced and any updates on performance will be reported to the Committee at its meeting.
5. In summary, key areas in each of the outcome areas, to which the Committee's attention should be drawn, are set out below:

#### Be Healthy

The *number of schools achieving the Healthy Schools Standard* (page 9 of 63) remains on target to be achieved. The target in this financial year is 78 and at the end of the second quarter, 70 schools had achieved the standard. Proxy indicators for the areas taken from the Teenage Lifestyle Survey have now been identified and the perceptions of young people will be surveyed as part of the next Youth Survey in 2009. 100% of young offenders had received *substance misuse assessments and interventions* in line with the annual target (page 10 of 63).

#### Staying Safe

The rate of *referrals of children in need per 10,000 population aged under 18* (page 17 of 63) continues to decrease and shows signs of stabilising. The rate continues to be

monitored closely by the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board and the Directorate Management Team. The number of referrals has had an impact on the *percentage of initial assessments completed within 7 working days* (page 19 of 63). There is pressure on performance in this area because of the increased workload and insufficient numbers of suitably qualified and experienced social workers. Robust monitoring and risk management is carried out by the team managers and health colleagues and performance during the three months Quarter 3 shows sustained improvement. The *percentage of core assessments completed within 35 days of commencement* (page 20 of 63) improved again in Quarter 2 to 78% and the *percentage of child protection reviews on time* (page 23 of 63) remains at 100%, placing Herefordshire in the highest performance band.

### **Enjoy and Achieve**

Overall, the unvalidated 2007 exam results (pages 33-38 of 63) show improvement on previous years' outturns although a number of the high aspirational targets set by the Department for Children, Schools and Families have not been achieved. Improved Key Stage 2 results reflect the focus of the school improvement work over the previous year. There is continuing good performance in relation to the *provision of statements of Special Educational Needs* (page 39 of 63) with performance remaining at 100%.

### **Make a Positive Contribution**

In the 2007 Youth Survey, 31% of young people feel that the council does enough to give them the opportunity to influence decisions. This is 11.8% more than the 2005 baseline and exceeds the 2008 target by 3%. The *percentage of looked after children who communicated their views in reviews* (page 46 of 58) continues to show good performance with Herefordshire ahead of its statistical neighbours and in the top performance band.

### **Achieve Economic Wellbeing**

A range of initiatives are underway to ensure that young people, particularly in vulnerable groups, remain in education, employment or training. Full year's data will be available at Quarter 3 and the Committee will be updated accordingly at the meeting. The number of families housed in bed and breakfast accommodation has increased with a high level of homeless presentations in Quarter 2. The year end target will not be met.

### **Service Management**

The bulk of the indicators in this outcome area relate to finance and expenditure on looked after children, in particular, is increasing as a result of the rising number of children in residential and agency placements (pages 54 and 56 of 63). The outcome of the social worker recruitment strategy is starting to show positive impacts (page 57 of 58).

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Committee assess the levels of performance achieved in Quarter 2 of 2007/2008 and consider if further reports and/or action is judged to be necessary.**

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None identified