

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>14 JUNE 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE DIGEST – YEAR END 2009/2010</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND ICT, EDUCATION AND ACHIEVEMENT</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

To present the Performance Digest for Children's Services for 2009/2010 and to highlight key performance issues. The Performance Digest will be issued to Members as a separate document.

### **Key Decision**

This is not a key decision

### **Recommendation(s)**

**THAT Scrutiny Committee assesses and considers the levels of performance achieved for 2009/2010 and considers if further reports and/or action are judged to be necessary.**

### **Key Points Summary**

- The percentage of initial assessments completed within 7 working days has significantly improved and the final outturn was ahead of the target set for the year. Outcomes for children in care continue to show good performance, in relation to placement stability and timeliness of reviews. This is ahead of statistical neighbour and England outturns and recognised both nationally and regionally. The number of children subject to a child protection plan has risen significantly in the last year.
- Performance against the children related indicators contained in the Local Area Agreement is mixed and in some cases, the targets set in the Agreement are unlikely to be achieved, particularly obesity in year 6 children, participation in positive activities and young people not in education, employment or training. Actions are in place to address these areas, but for differing reasons they are unlikely to achieve the targets set.
- Attainment in the primary phase (Key Stages 1 and 2) continues to be an area of concern – results at Key Stage 1 have shown a downward trend over the last three years. Educational

---

Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Hilary Hall, Head of Quality and Improvement on (01432) 260801

attainment of looked after children, particularly at GCSE, shows good performance and above statistical neighbour and national outturns.

## **Alternative Options**

- 1 There are no Alternative Options.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2 To ensure that progress against the indicators, for which the Children and Young People's Directorate is responsible, is understood and to ensure that the reasons for actual or potential under-performance are understood and recommendations made for remedial action.

## **Introduction and Background**

- 3 The Performance Digest is produced quarterly and is the mechanism for monitoring key performance indicators, covering service delivery captured in the Local Area Agreement, the Children and Young People's Directorate and the Children and Young People's Plan.

## **Key Considerations**

- 4 Key areas in each of the Every Child Matters outcome areas, to which the Committee's attention should be drawn, are set out below:

### ***Be Healthy***

The results of the National Child Measurement Programme have now been released which are used to calculate the outturns for NIs 55 and 56 (obesity in children in reception year and year 6). The outturn for NI 55 (reception year) was 9%, slightly above the outturns for the previous two years of 8.7% (07/08) and 8.9% (08/09). In relation to NI 56, which is in the Local Area Agreement (LAA), the outturn is 18.9%, a significant increase on the previous year's outturn of 16.2% and the 07/08 outturn of 16.7%. The target set in the LAA is 15.3%. Substantial investment is being made in the Change4Life initiative and associated activities as a means of tackling this issue. The Be Healthy Outcome Group of the Children's Trust is coordinating Herefordshire's multi agency activities to improve children and young people's health and reduce the levels of obesity. The final assessment of this three year period will be carried out in July 2011.

In terms of the CAMHS service (mental health services for children and young people) (NI 51), the indicator is measured on a self assessment against 4 elements, for each of which a score of 1 to 4 can be scored, giving a total score of 16 points. This is a LAA indicator and the target is 16 / 16. In 2009/2010, 15 / 16 was achieved. The outstanding requirement is for a 24/7 emergency telephone response which is anticipated to be in place by December 2010 at the latest which will enable the target to be met.

91% of looked after children had a dental check and an annual health assessment which was slightly above the target of 90%. NI 54 – services for disabled children – measures parental satisfaction with the services provided for their disabled children through a survey administered nationally by the DCSF. 60% of Herefordshire parents were satisfied with the services received which is line with the rest of the West Midlands.

459 assessments were undertaken under the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), well above the target of 300.

## ***Stay Safe***

In 2009/2010, there were 273 referrals per 10,000 population aged under 18, which is just slightly less than the 2008/2009 outturn of 276. Herefordshire's rate of referrals remains below other comparative authorities and this, in part, may be explained by a focus on early intervention through the co-location of a CAF worker with the Referral and Assessment Team. 75.9% of initial assessments were completed in 7 working days (NI 59) which represents a significant improvement in performance against the previous year's outturn of 37.4%. As previously reported, a large number of uncompleted core assessments which were already out of date had been identified by the new management team which, although completed during the year, has impacted on the overall performance. 63% of core assessments were completed in 35 working days which, although not meeting the target, was better than had been anticipated. The potentially negative impact of a large number of out of date core assessments has been mitigated by a focus on completing new core assessments in timescale. Improvements have been sustained through better monitoring through Frameworki, clear expectations of what is required of social workers and audit of all cases at the point of transfer to the Children and Families Teams. The key priority for this year is to maintain and improve performance overall in relation to safeguarding, focusing in particular on the quality of assessments.

At 31 March 2010, there were 147 children subject to a child protection plan, a significant rise from the same time last year when it was 104. The timeliness of reviews of child protection cases was impacted by the bad weather in the early part of 2010. Although all reviews took place, the reviews of 3 children did not take place in the statutory timescales. There were 155 children in care as at 31 March 2010, a decrease from 167 at the same time last year. The number has fluctuated considerably during a year, reaching a high of 167 in January 2010. However, performance in relation to the stability of placements for looked after children (NI 62 and 63) in terms of the number of moves and length of placement, continues to be very strong, ahead of national and statistical neighbour averages and this is recognised both regionally and nationally.

The directorate has established a Quality Assurance Group in 2009/2010 to oversee a detailed audit programme across the directorate, but particularly focusing on social care cases. Audits have been carried out and actions put in place to develop practice and address areas that require improvement.

During May 2010, Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board invited the Improvement and Development Agency to undertake a peer review of safeguarding arrangements in Herefordshire. The peer review team was in Herefordshire for a week and in addition to reviewing documents, had interviews with a number of Councillors, staff and partner agencies. Overall, the outcome of the peer review was positive and a number of priority actions have been identified to be taken forward by the Safeguarding Children Board.

## ***Enjoy and Achieve***

Educational attainment has been reported throughout the year and relates to the 2008/2009 academic year. In summary, there was an improvement in achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage (from 42% to 45.8%). Key Stages 1 and 2 show a continuing downward trend over the last three years and improvement work in the current year has focused on embedding specific strategies around reading and writing, focusing on tracking pupil progress and continuing universal support and training for schools, together with targeted work with key schools. Inclusion of the results for the two Academies has impacted

on the results for the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A\*-C GCSEs (NI 75). The outturn is 52.2% which is below the 2008/2009 outturn of 53.2% and below target.

As at 31 March 2010, 2 personal education plans for looked after children (CYPEA-6) have not been completed – one child is not in formal education and one plan has been postponed to the summer term to coincide with a special educational needs annual review. Educational attainment of children in care remains among the best in the country. 100% of children in care sat at least one GCSE examination (DIS 1406). 3 children out of a cohort of 14 achieved 5 or more A\*-C GCSEs including English and Maths; a further 3 achieved 5 or more A\*-C GCSEs not including English and Maths. At Key Stage 2, three children in the cohort of 7 achieved level 4 in Maths (2 achieved Level 4 in English); overall, two further children in the cohort were disapplied.

### ***Make a Positive Contribution***

There has been excellent performance in relation to the final warnings, reprimands and convictions of young people in care (PAF CF/18) – 0.9 compared with the previous year's outturn of 2. During 2009/2010, there were 150 first time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 to 17 years (NI 111), a significant reduction on the previous year's outturn of 250. In relation to re-offending (NI 19), which is a LAA indicator and measures the number of re-offences per young person in a defined cohort after 6 months, the data for the year end is not yet available; however, the positive trend reported in previous quarters is expected in the year end outturn. An update will be provided at the meeting.

Young people's participation in positive activities (NI 110) is measured through the annual Tellus survey and in 2009/2010, 79.6% of young people reported participating in activities run by adults. This is a LAA indicator although was taken out of the calculations for performance reward grant due to concerns about the validity of the data in 2008/2009 on which the baselines were set. In that year, the percentage was disproportionately high compared with other authorities giving a target for 2010/2011 of 94%. This year's results are more robust and although below the target, are 14 percentage points above national figures and 11 percentage points above statistical neighbours

### ***Achieve Economic Wellbeing***

The impact of the recession and general downturn in the economy continues to impact on this outcome area. The percentage of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NI 117) was 5.9% for 2009/2010 which is the same outturn as the previous year. This is a LAA indicator and although additional NEET programmes have been made available, together with E2E and 4U provision, it is unlikely that the 2010/2011 target of 4.7% will be achieved. However, the performance of Herefordshire in keeping the outturn at the same level as previous years is good considering the impact of the recession, and is better performance than the national or regional average.

At 31 March 2010, no families were occupying bed and breakfast accommodation (CYP-AEW1).

## **Community Impact**

5 None.

## **Financial Implications**

6 Remedial action in respect of the directorate's performance may require reallocation of resources within existing budgets. This is being addressed by the Directorate Leadership

Team.

## **Legal Implications**

7 None.

## **Risk Management**

8 The risks to achievement of the indicators, for which the directorate is responsible, are identified by officers as part of the service planning process. Any significant risks are escalated to the directorate risk register, and corporate risk register, as appropriate. Day to day management of risk is undertaken by responsible officers, in conjunction with their Assistant Directors. There is a particular focus on the management of risks associated with the achievement of the LAA indicators.

## **Consultees**

9 None.

## **Appendices**

10 Performance Digest. Due to the statutory Returns date – on which the Digest detail relies - being in the same week as the agenda despatch, the Performance Digest will be issued to Committee Members prior to the meeting as a separate document. Copies can be obtained from Hilary Hall Head of Quality and Improvement tel: (01432) 260801.

## **Background Papers**

- None identified.