

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>22 OCTOBER 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE DIGEST – QUARTER 1 2010-2011</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 Quarter 1 of 2010-2011 and to highlight key performance issues.

### **Recommendation**

**THAT Scrutiny Committee assesses and considers the levels of performance achieved in Quarter 1 of 2010-2011 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 continued to improve although the unannounced OfSTED inspection in June 2010 and further audit work highlighted that some initial assessments were being closed down and moved to core assessments prematurely. This is being addressed through robust management action and has been recognised in verbal feedback from the recent in depth OfSTED inspection. 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 continued to rise and as at 30 June 2010, stood at 175.
- Unvalidated examination results show that, compared to our national and statistical neighbours, overall Herefordshire continues to perform well, assuming other authorities' performance stays broadly in line with previous years; however, there are some areas that require specific improvement. The percentage of pupils achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2 in both English and Maths increased slightly to 71.4% from 70.8% in 2009. Two levels progression in English between Key Stages 1 and 2 decreased, but improved for Maths. The percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A\*-C including English and Maths increased to 54.9% from 52.2% in 2009. The achievement of 2 or more GCSEs A\*-C in Science continues to improve, 70.3% in 2010 compared with 68% in 2009.

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

## 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 The Performance Digest has been circulated as a separate document with the agenda and is Appendix 1 to this report. 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***

A significant number of the indicators in this outcome area are subject to annual reporting in March 2011. In addition, many of the indicators rely on data from the bi-annual Every Child Matters survey. The next survey is due to be undertaken in March 2011 with the results anticipated to be available in September 2011. Furthermore, data for some national indicators was collected via the annual TellUs Survey. This survey has, however, been discontinued by the new government and it is un-clear how, and in what form, these indicators will continue.

In relation to breast feeding at 6 – 8 weeks from birth, the percentage of babies being breastfed at this time is 48.8% (NI 53a) which is below the target for the year but slightly ahead of the 2009/10 outturn. However, the percentage of babies for whom breastfeeding status is recorded (NI 53b) is 95.8% which is slightly ahead of the target for the year. This is also ahead of the outturn for 2009/10.

There were 30 new re-diagnosed cases of Chlamydia in the resident 15 – 24 year old population and five of these cases are now receiving treatment. Ensuring that young people receive screening for Chlamydia remains a challenge, with the target for the year being set at 6,930 young people to be screened.

178 assessments were undertaken during the first quarter under the common assessment framework (CAF), which means that we are well on track to achieve the target of 500 CAFs for the financial year.

### ***Stay Safe***

For the first quarter of 2010/11, there were 261 referrals per 10,000 population aged under 18, which was slightly below the 2009/10 outturn of 273. Overall, Herefordshire's rate of referrals remains fairly constant and there continues to be a focus on early intervention through the co-location of a CAF Worker with the Referral and Assessment Team. However, there was a significant increase in referrals between April and June 2010, as compared to the same period in 2009. The percentage of repeat referrals remains low and well below statistical neighbours

and England averages.

85% of initial assessments were recorded as completed in 7 working days (NI 59) which continues the improvement in performance evidenced during 2009/10. However, the recent un-announced inspection by Ofsted and subsequent audits indicated that some initial assessments were being closed down and moved to core assessments prematurely. This is being addressed through robust management action in the Referral and Assessment Team to ensure that children are seen and initial assessments are completed appropriately and that there is clear management oversight. As a consequence there has been an increase in the number of core assessments completed. 67% of core assessments were completed in 35 working days which is above the outturn for 2009/10 and in line with the target for the year.

All child protection and looked after children (LAC) Reviews were completed in quarter one although in each case two children's reviews were slightly outside of the timescale. There has been a significant increase in the number of children subject to a child protection plan; the figure for the end of June 2010 was 175. There were 180 LAC as at 30 June 2010. The number of LAC remains relatively constant. Performance in relation to the stability of placements for LAC (NI 62 & 63) in terms of the number of moves and length of placement continues to be very strong and is recognised both regionally and nationally.

### ***Enjoy and Achieve***

The majority of indicators in this outcome area cannot be reported in quarter one as they relate to the examinations which took place in June 2010. However, unvalidated data in relation to these indicators is attached at Appendix 2 to this report and will also be included in the Quarter 2 digest published in November 2010. The percentage of statements of special educational needs (SEN) completed by the authority remains at 100% which is excellent performance and well ahead of statistical neighbours.

Many schools improved on their record GCSE results of a year ago, particularly in the relatively new benchmark measure of five or more GCSEs at grade A\* to C including English and mathematics. A particularly high standard in this measure was achieved by Fairfield High School (71 percent), John Masefield High School (64 percent), St Mary's RC High School (72 percent), Wigmore High School (66 percent), Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat school (60 percent) and John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre (59 percent). These results are significantly higher than the national average and reflect major improvements. In particular, Fairfield High School raised performance by 11 percent, Whitecross High School in Hereford improved by nine percent, Earl Mortimer College and Sixth Form centre (formerly the Minster College in Leominster) raised performance by 14 percent and the Hereford Academy which improved by 16 percent.

All high schools in Herefordshire performed either at or above the previous national average for students achieving five or more GCSE grades at A\*-C, and some schools made significant increases on last year's record high results. Top performers in this measure were Fairfield High School (92 percent), Wigmore High School (95 percent), St Mary's RC High School (87 percent), Earl Mortimer College and Sixth Form Centre (88 percent) and Queen Elizabeth High School (98 percent).

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

For the rolling year to 30 June 2010, 93% of LAC participated in all of their reviews. Encouraging participation of children and young people in their reviews remains a high priority with specific training being run for young people to enable them to chair their own reviews. Data for the youth offending indicators which make up a large proportion of the indicators in this outcome area will not be available until September 2010.

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

All of the indicators in this outcome area are subject to annual reporting and rely on the 2010 examinations to a large extent. However, Herefordshire's performance in relation to the achievement of level two and level three qualifications continues to improve compared with statistical neighbours.

### **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 Local Area Agreement indicators.

### **Consultees**

9 None.

### **Appendices**

10 Appendix 1: Performance Digest (circulated with the agenda as a separate document)

11 Appendix 2: Unvalidated 2010 examination results

### **Background Papers**

- None identified.

## Appendix 2 – Unvalidated 2010 examination results

### Early Years Foundation Stage (unvalidated results)

Percentage of pupils achieving...	2010 unvalidated	2009 final
At least 78 points across the EYFS with at least 6 in each of their scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy	44.6%	46.2%
Narrowing the gap between the lowest 20% in the EYFS and the rest	33.2%	33%

### Key Stage 2 (unvalidated results)

Percentage of pupils achieving...	2010 unvalidated	2009 final
English Level 4+	79.2%	80.8%
Reading Level 4+	82.7%	86.3%
Writing Level 4+	68.1%	67.1%
Maths Level 4+	77.9%	77.4%
English and Maths Level 4+	71.4%	70.8%
Progression 2 levels in English KS1 – KS2	86.4%	87.4%
Progression 2 levels in Maths KS1 – KS2	80.2%	78.9%

### Key Stage 4 (unvalidated results)

Percentage of pupils achieving...	2010 unvalidated	2009 final
5 or more A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths	54.9%	52.2%
5 or more A*-C GCSEs	79.8%	74%
2 or more A*-C in Science	70.3%	68%
5 or more A*-G GCSEs	93.7%	95.1%

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