

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Children and Families Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 16th November
Report of: John Weeks, Strategic Director - People
Subject/Title: Children & Families Performance Score Card & Local Authority Ofsted Profile

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on continuing developments around performance data across Cheshire East. This paper builds upon the previous paper presented at the last Scrutiny meeting where the proposed performance Score Card was agreed. This score card process needs to be considered within the context of their wider performance reporting process which primarily refers to the analysis of Corporate performance across all of the National Indicator Sets. A summary of performance has been taken through full Cabinet by Janis Grant based upon Quarter 2 returns and will result in specific actions as agreed with Cabinet. There is clearly a need for a consistent approach across all Corporate functions in terms of reporting procedures to show progress against targets within the Corporate Business Plan.

The Local Authority has also recently received its Ofsted Children's Service performance profile which summarises the outcomes from inspections undertaken across all Children's Services. The headlines from this profile are included within this report.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The information included within this paper is for information and does not require a specific recommendation. It will however be the case that the Committee will want to make judgements on those priority areas which have been identified so that there is agreement on those areas which are considered as high risk. There is a significant issue for 2009-10 in terms of being able to assess our progress against agreed targets. Due to the LGR process, there are few specific targets available for Cheshire East which therefore limits our capacity to accurately monitor rates of progress over the year.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 It is important that members are fully informed about the reporting process and that there is an agreement on the priority areas resulting from the data available.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All localities will be affected by this reporting framework. Ultimately, Ward information will be presented which will allow clear comparative information to be available which will highlight areas of high performance/outcomes as well as those which may identify real areas of need and therefore potential additional support and development.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 None identified

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

- 6.1 The Corporate Plan outlines the organisation's 20 priorities which reflect the needs to our communities. These priorities are aligned to local partnership arrangements as part of the Local Area Agreement. The agreed reporting template includes many of these priority areas (in the majority of cases, through identified National Indicators) as they apply to C&F and the direct work of service teams.

- 6.2 In creating the format and style of the interim score card, it has been a deliberate decision to maintain a real sense of priority and avoid a format which includes over-elaborated detail and information. Through discussion with key performance managers, the following priority areas have been agreed:

6 Local Area Agreement National Indicators
10 Statutory National Indicators
8 Other critical National Indicators
A variety of other locally identified priority areas.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 7.1 None

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 8.1 The establishment of an effective and robust performance reporting regime will require an evaluation of the job descriptions of staff identified within the Quality Assurance section of the Improvement & Achievement Service. There will be some integration of personnel across different teams which may result in some financial savings as clarity is reached over the size and function of performance staffing.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 9.1 None

10.0 Risk Management

- 10.1 The key risk is that without a structured and ultimately integrated performance reporting system, the Local Authority would not be in a position to report accurately on its performance against key indicators and undertake a quarterly review of progress.

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 C&F Performance Priorities (Appendix A)

At a recent C&F Performance reporting day, all service managers considered the performance data currently available and agreed a series of priority themes which will be used to shape all work of service teams and the priorities which it needs to address. A list of proxy measures are being identified which will be used to monitor progress across these themes. In summary, these areas include:

- a. Early Intervention
- b. Narrowing the Gap
- c. Family Support
- d. Emotional Health & Well Being
- e. Economic Development, Skills & Learning.

11.2 Ofsted profile of Children's Services Profile (Appendix B)

The key issues raised within the profile include:

- a. Only one of the ten indicators is judged as Red (at Risk). This relates to inspection of Children's Homes but is based upon an inspection in a single Children's Home.
- b. Six of the ten indicators are judged as Green (positive outcomes).
- c. Two of the three amber indicators are identified as being our priority areas. These relate to the number of Secondary schools and 6th Forms which are judged as being Good or Outstanding across Cheshire East. Our performance is below the national average as well as for similar areas.

Further information and data will become available to the Authority later this term from Ofsted which will give us more detailed information.

11.3 Performance Report Card – Quarter 2 return (Appendix C)

The key issues raised from the data available include:

- a. Overall, there is a need to identify intermediate targets for many of the indicators so that ongoing performance can be measured against these targets. Many of the targets are annual and there is a real need to build in more detailed assessments during the year.
- b. Under 18 Conception rates need to continue to be a priority and should be reflected in current work by the Local Authority targeting Teenage Pregnancies (a summary of which was presented to Scrutiny last meeting by Lorraine Butcher)
- c. NEET: the current trend in NEET figures across Cheshire East is rising which reflects the national picture. The gap between current NEET figures and the target

set being around 1.5%. Actions need to be coordinated on a locality basis to address this priority which integrates the work of both C&F service teams as well as commissioned services (Connexions).

- d. The number of secondary schools who achieve 5+A* - C including English & Maths: whilst the overall rate continues to improve, there is a need to ensure that improvements are made in targeted schools which results in Cheshire East being at least within the expected range for similar schools across all schools.
- e. The performance of Cared for Children in relation to educational attainment: there is a need to increase the focus for this vulnerable group to ensure that sufficient resources are being provided to ensure that Cared for Children make appropriate progress.
- f. Integrated Service – The number of initial and core assessment carried out: within the redesign process for C&F Integrated Services, there is a clear need to maintain the focus on the assessment process.
- g. School Attendance: there is a need to maintain the focus on target pupils who are categorised as Persistent Absence (PA).
- h. The number and quality of CAFs completed: there is a review of the CAF process currently taking place in terms of quality and completion.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

- 12.1 In the near future, a detailed plan showing the actions resulting from these priorities will be produced which will give specific milestones during the coming year. (Appendix D)

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Mark Bayley
Designation: Quality Assurance Manager
Tel No: 01244 972411
Email: Mark.bayley@cheshire.gov.uk