

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 27 March 2017

Report of: Kath O'Dwyer, Executive Director of Children's Services and Deputy Chief Executive.

Subject/Title: Children and Families Performance Scorecard – Quarter 3, 2016-17

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Liz Durham

1. Report Summary

1.1. This report and the attached performance scorecard provide an overview of performance across the Children and Families Service for quarter 3 of 2016-17.

2. Recommendation

2.1. Scrutiny is recommended to:

- a) Note the contents of the report and scorecard; and
- b) Scrutinise areas where expected levels of performance are not being met.

3. Other Options Considered

3.1. Scrutiny may want to consider the performance of the Service more or less frequently.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 One of the key areas of focus for the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to highlight areas of poor performance and to scrutinise the effectiveness of plans in place to improve services. Overview and Scrutiny has an important role to play in the performance management systems of the local authority. The Children and Families performance scorecard provides essential data, along with qualitative information, to measure the effectiveness of services within children's services. This report and scorecard will be provided to Scrutiny on a quarterly basis to enable the Committee to maintain an overview of performance across the Service.

5. Background

5.1. This is the fifth performance scorecard presented to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee following Ofsted's inspection of Children's Services in July 2015. This report and scorecard sets out the performance against the agreed measures across the Children and Families Directorate for quarter 3 (1st October – 31st December 2016).

5.2. The performance scorecard details the following:

- Measure – details of each performance measure
- Polarity – whether it is good to have the measure high or low
- Statistical neighbour average – gives a comparator against local authorities with similar characteristics to Cheshire East. Cheshire East's statistical neighbours in rank order are:
 - Cheshire West and Chester
 - Warwickshire
 - Central Bedfordshire
 - Warrington
 - Hampshire
 - North Yorkshire
 - East Riding of Yorkshire
 - Solihull
 - North Somerset
 - West Berkshire
- National average – gives a national comparator figure
- Target – this is either a national target, eg, adoption timeliness, or a local one set by the service to provide a 'good/outstanding' service
- Year end 2015-16 – enables Members to compare existing performance to that in the previous year
- Quarterly performance – enables Members to compare performance from quarter to quarter
- RAG – this is a rating of red, amber, green based on current performance against the expected level of performance
- Direction of travel – this provides the direction of travel this quarter and whether this is positively or negatively in an upward/downward trajectory or static
- Comments – this provides a general commentary on the information presented
- C&YP Plan Priority – links the measure to the relevant priority within the Children and Young People's Plan
- Corporate Priority – links the measure to the relevant priority within the Council's Corporate Plan

5.3. Since quarter 2 additional data has been provided with regards to targets. Statistical neighbour and National average data has also been amended to reflect the statistical first releases from the Department of Education relating to the CIN census (SFR52 – 2016) and the SEN2 return (SFR17 - 2016). Amendments have also been made to the 90% attendance indicators so they now reflect Primary and Secondary attendance on a termly basis.

5.4 On 13th December 2016 Cheshire East took part in an external Northwest peer challenge involving scrutiny and challenge around our local data and performance. This has helped inform ongoing development of the scorecard, and in particular with regards to the special educational needs indicator set.

6. Performance Overview

- 6.1. The performance scorecard at Appendix 1 includes 69 separate measures covering all areas of the service. Some of these measures are non-performance related, eg those that relate to population cohorts. In total, 53 of these measures relate to performance and have been RAG rated. A breakdown summary is set out follows:

Performance Measures	Red	Amber	Green	n/a	Total
This quarter	1	15	37	16	69
Previous quarter	3	19	30	17	69

- 6.2. The above table shows that there has been some improvement in Children and Families performance from the previous quarter; there has been an increase in those measures judged green and a reduction in red RAG rated measures. The red RAG rating relates to the completion of initial health care assessments for cared for children. This has been highlighted at the Corporate Parenting Board and through the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and is subject to regular scrutiny and deep dives through both of these boards.

- 6.3. Whilst it is important to look at the current performance around particular measures, it is equally important to look at the direction of travel and to RAG rate this in relation to performance, ie, whether this is improving (green), staying broadly the same (amber) or getting worse (red). A summary of the direction of travel of performance across the service is detailed below.

Direction of Travel	Red	Amber	Green	n/a	Total
This quarter	1	23	44	1	69
Previous quarter	2	19	42	6	69

- 6.4. The direction of travel shows broadly that most measures of performance are on a positive trajectory, and this trajectory has remained in line with the previous quarter.

7. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

- 7.1. The performance measures relate to all ward areas.

8. Implications of Recommendation

8.1. Policy Implications

7.1.1 There are no direct policy implications, although low or high performance in a certain area may lead to suggest changes in policy to address them.

8.2. Legal Implications

7.2.1 There are a no direct legal implications.

8.3. Financial Implications

7.3.1 Although there are no direct financial implications related to this report, performance measures may be used as an indicator of where more or less funding is needed at a service level.

7.4 Equality Implications

7.4.1 Members may want to use the performance scorecard to ensure that services are targeted at more vulnerable children and young people.

9. Access to Information

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

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