

## **2011/12 Mid-year Performance Report**

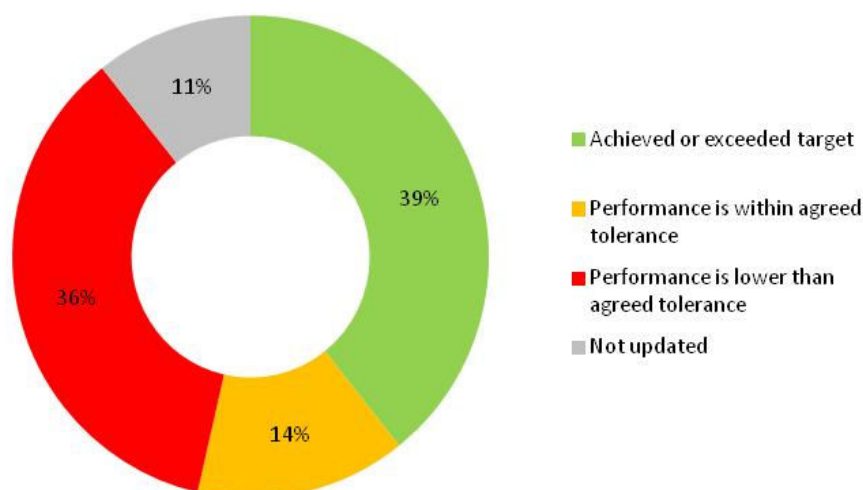
### **1.0 YEAR END PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

- 1.0.1 This section provides a high level summary of the key performance headlines at the end of the first half of 2011/12.
- 1.0.2 During 2011/12, the Performance & Partnerships Team are centrally monitoring a range of measures underpinning service objectives across the organisation. Many of these are newly developed local performance measures, and these will be developed and managed internally throughout 2011/12 in order to establish baseline data to inform future target-setting.
- 1.0.3 For external reporting purposes, the Council will report on a basket of measures retained within service plans from the former National Indicator Set, and former Best Value performance measures – 41 measures in total. Of these 41 measures, 28 can be reported on a quarterly basis.

### **PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGET**

Performance assessments (red; amber; green) have been made based on performance against target.

**Actual vs Target**



The 36% of measures which did not achieve their quarterly target were:

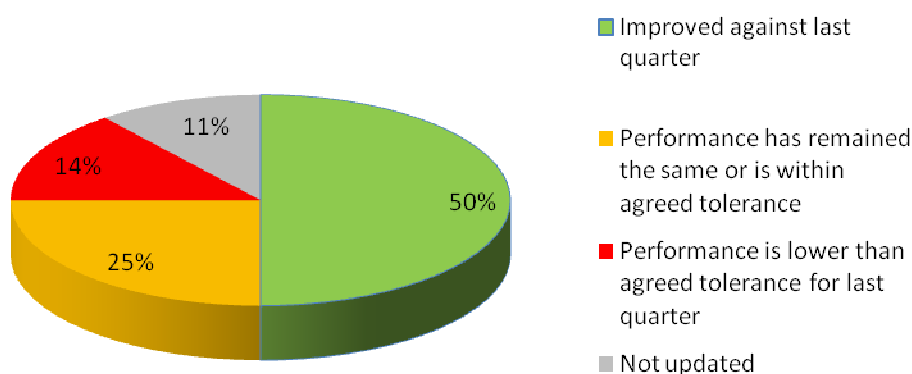
- NI 059 Initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral
- NI 060 Core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement
- NI 065 Children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time

- NI 068 Referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment
  - NI 117 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)
  - NI 146 Adults with learning disabilities in employment
  - NI 157a Processing of planning applications (major)
  - NI 157b Processing of planning applications (minor)
  - NI 157c Processing of planning applications (other)
  - BV 12 Working days lost due to sickness absence
- (See Annex 3 Appendix 1 for further detail)

## QUARTER ON QUARTER PERFORMANCE

Performance assessments (red; amber; green) have been made based on current performance compared to the previous quarter's data.

### Jun 11 vs Sept 11



The 14% which did not meet the same level of performance as last quarter comprises:

- NI 060 Core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement
  - NI 065 Children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time
  - NI 068 Referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment
  - BV 12 Working days lost due to sickness absence
- (See Annex 3 Appendix 1 for further detail)

### 1.1 Performance Measure Tolerances (Red/Amber/Green ratings)

The Council's electronic Monitoring and Performance System (CorVu) was pre-populated with a five percent tolerance against the targets set by service areas, meaning that the system assigns a 'red' assessment to performance data 5% (or more) short of the target, an 'amber' assessment to data within

5% of the target, and a 'green' assessment to data performing on or above target.

Where strong cases are made for the revision of tolerances in 2011/12 (e.g. where a 5% tolerance is not appropriate due to a measure's data return format), the Team revised tolerances to support individual targets. In all other circumstances, the 5% tolerance will remain in place for performance measure reporting in 2011/12.

## **2.0 KEY DIRECTORATE ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **2.1 Children & Adults**

2.1.1 Consultation in relation to a standardised set of school term dates with parents and schools received good feedback from nearly 900 people, as well as discussions and representations at a number of face-to-face events across the Borough. The changes aim to provide an even teaching pattern, improved attendance, assist schools and parents with forward planning and align school terms with neighbouring authorities. The proposed changes due to be implemented by the majority of schools in September 2012 include:

- Autumn half term will always be the last full week in October
- Spring half term will always be the third full week in February
- Easter break will always be the first two full weeks in April (schools will always be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday)

2.1.2 Pupils at our schools excelled to deliver impressive GCSE results again in 2011 when compared to 2010. Provisional results illustrate a 2% increase (65%) in pupils achieving five or more A\*-C grades including English and Mathematics and a 3% increase (83%) in pupils achieving five A\*-C grades in any subject. This builds on the sixth formers outstanding A-level pass rate results, where 98.1% was achieved in 2011 a 0.5% increase when compared to 2010.

2.1.3 Our primary schools are also amongst the best in the country with this year's SAT results. 81% of pupils attained Level 4+ in both English and Mathematics out-stripping the national average figure of 74% and a 1% improvement on 2010. Improvement has also been accomplished with the two significant measures related to the Early Years Foundation stage as 68% of pupils gained at least 78 points, which is 10% higher than last year. And secondly, the gap between the lowest achieving 20% and the rest of the stage has reduced by 7% to 26%. This excellent achievement places Cheshire East primary schools joint 4<sup>th</sup> as "best performing region in the country" and joint 2<sup>nd</sup> in the North West according to the Department of Education league tables.

2.1.4 £250,000 additional funding has been awarded from the Department for Education to Cheshire East Council and a range of partners. From April 2012 this funding will enable trained therapists to work with young people aged 11-17 years of age, who have serious problems with aggressive or criminal behaviour, drug or alcohol problems, truancy and running away from home issues, as well as other high risk behaviours like self harm. Numerous studies have proved that this intensive approach reduces arrest rates by 70% and

out-of-home placement by 64% thereby breaking the cycle of crime and anti-social behaviour by keeping young people at home, in school and out of trouble.

## **2.2 Places & Organisational Capacity**

- 2.2.1 The July Nantwich Show saw the Council scoop first prize in the Trade Stand category. The stand promoted the wide range of outdoor activities available across the borough including walking and cycling; nature and conservation; the ranger services; gardens, parks and play areas' and days out in Cheshire and included:
- Scaled down recreation of Tatton Park's Japanese Garden
  - Willow weaver, artist demonstration and badge making
  - A children's play area demonstrating the equipment used in redeveloped parks and play areas
- 2.2.2 Success followed at the RHS Tatton Flower Show with 2 Gold Medals. One for the Council's flower bed display which depicted the restored iconic Queens Park clock tower in Crewe styled as a pop-up book and another for Tatton Park's recreation of its 100 year old Japanese Garden.
- 2.2.3 3014 residents from across the Borough were recruited throughout July and August to the Council's new Citizen Panel called "Influence Cheshire East". With the youngest member being 18 and the older member being 98, the panel will have the opportunity to influence services including education, social care and the environment. The first consultation exercise will be undertaken in quarter three.
- 2.2.4 £12,000 of Council funds has been invested in three unstaffed railway stations across the Borough ensuring residents feel safe and are well informed. Customers waiting for trains at Chelford, Goostrey and Holmes Chapel stations can now access the state-of-the-art help points 24 hours a day to be connected to a central information desk.
- 2.2.5 Sandbach cemetery gained the coveted Green Flag award in August and six other locations across the Borough retained their Green Flag awards for another year including Tatton Park, Teggs Nose Country Park, Brereton Heath Local Nature Reserve, The Moor in Knutsford, Congleton Park and Bollington Recreation Ground. The cemetery is the first in the country to receive this award, which is usually issued to parks and open spaces. The award demonstrates the cemetery is well maintained and well managed and has excellent facilities.
- 2.2.6 An investment of £6,000 (£3,000 from the Council's Recession Recovery Group and £3,000 from Knutsford Town Council) has provided Knutsford with an information point aimed at revitalising its visitor economy. The user friendly Information Pod similar to an iPad enables residents and visitors to access tourist information about Knutsford and the surrounding area.