

Children and Young People's Corporate Performance Report

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 8 October 2024

From: Executive Director, Children, Education and Families

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: Not Applicable

Executive Summary: This report provides an update to the Committee on the performance monitoring information for the 2024/25 quarter 1 period, covering April 1st to June 30th.

Recommendation: The Children and Young People Committee is asked to:

- a. Note performance information and act, as necessary.

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1. Creating a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire

- 1.1 This report analyses the key performance indicators (KPIs) which directly link to Children and young people have opportunities to thrive. Due to the complex nature of KPIs, some indicators may also impact other ambitions.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Performance Management Framework sets out that Policy and Service Committees should:
- Set outcomes and strategy in the areas they oversee.
 - Select and approve the addition and removal of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the committee performance report.
 - Track progress quarterly.
 - Consider whether performance is at an acceptable level.
 - Seek to understand the reasons behind the level of performance.
 - Identify remedial action.
- 2.2 This report, delivered quarterly, continues to support the committee with its performance management role. It provides an update on the status of the selected Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which track the performance of the services the committee oversees.
- 2.3 The report covers the period of quarter 1 2024/25, up to the end of June 2024.
- 2.4 The most recent data for indicators for this committee can be found in the dashboard at Appendix 1. The dashboard includes the following information for each KPI:
- Current and previous performance and the projected linear trend.
 - Current and previous targets. Please note that not all KPIs have targets, this may be because they are being developed or the indicator is being monitored for context.
 - Red / Amber / Green / Blue (RAGB) status.
 - Direction for improvement to show whether an increase or decrease is good.
 - Change in performance which shows whether performance is improving (up) or deteriorating (down).
 - The performance of our statistical neighbours. This is only available, and therefore included, where there is a standard national definition of the indicator.
 - KPI description.
 - Commentary on the KPI.
- 2.5 The following RAGB criteria are being used:
- Red – current performance is 10% or more from target.
 - Amber – current performance is off target by less than 10%.
 - Green – current performance is on target or better by up to 5%.
 - Blue – current performance is better than target by 5% or more.
 - Baseline – indicates performance is currently being tracked in order to inform the target setting process.
 - Contextual – these KPIs track key activity being undertaken, to present a rounded view of information relevant to the service area, without a performance target.
 - In development - KPI has been agreed, but data collection and target setting are in development.

3. Main Issues

3.1 Current performance of available indicators monitored by the Committee is as follows:

Status	Number of KPIs	Percentage of KPIs*
Red	9	45%
Amber	2	10%
Green	4	20%
Blue	3	15%
Baseline	-	-
Contextual	2	10%
In Development	-	-
Suspended	-	-

**Figures may not add to 100 due to rounding.*

3.2 The following indicator will not be updated this quarter:

3.2.1 Indicator 128: Percentage of Education, Health and Care plan assessments completed within timescale.

Following the introduction of the Impulse Nexus system, which went live on 13 May 2024, there was a phase of data migration which concluded in August and any remaining migration work has been moved onto small works briefs to be monitored by the Education Systems Programme Board.

Work is now being undertaken to build reporting functionality linked to the new system. A further update will be provided to this committee in the next iteration of the quarterly performance report due in January 2025.

3.3 There are 7 Green and Blue indicators for commentary this quarter. Below are some examples.

3.3.1 Indicator 8: Ofsted - Pupils attending schools that are judged as Good or Outstanding (Primary Schools)

The continued positive position in the percentage of schools good or better is hugely encouraging. There continues to be a large number of schools awaiting inspections especially in the academy sector where they are now over 3 years since they joined a trust. However, the vast majority of schools inspected this year have been judged as good schools. The service continues to work closely with maintained schools to ensure schools are ready for inspection including review safeguarding and the school's self-evaluation. Where there is not the assurance that a school will achieve good, the service is intervening to ensure rapid improvement in performance. This can include issuing warning notices, providing additional support or looking at other structural changes to provide capacity. The service has secure judgement on all our schools and the last year the service was accurate in all of assessments for schools. The service continues to work closely with academies to ensure improvement.

3.3.2 Indicator 118: Number of young first time entrants to the criminal justice system, per 10,000 of population

There has been a very significant decrease this quarter from last quarter and overall Cambridgeshire's figures remain similar to regional and national comparators.

The Youth Justice Service have received Turnaround funding for 2 years to deliver targeted prevention work through the Diversion Support Team (DST) / Turnaround work that specifically focuses on prevention activity. The team started delivering interventions at the start of last financial year, this earlier intervention with young people at high risk of becoming involved in offending will have directly positively impacted the FTE performance measure. An evaluation of the DST / Turnaround is currently being carried out locally and nationally and the initial findings are extremely positive with focussed intervention so far leading to very few young people going on to offend.

This financial year there have been two additional DST posts set up from police Hot Spot funding which is in place just for this financial year. This has been providing significant additionality to the prevention and diversion work.

The reduction in FTEs is also linked to a greater use of diversion of young people to informal outcomes through the Out of Court decision making panel following the new Youth Justice Board Case Management Guidance on the use of Out of Court Disposals. This work continues following the recent HMIP inspection of Youth Justice with greater focus on earlier interventions managed jointly with the Constabulary as part of updated working and processes.

Detailed commentary and summary of each indicator can be found in Appendix 1.

3.5 There are 9 red indicators for commentary this quarter. Below are some examples.

3.5.1 Indicator 3: Number of children in care every 10,000 population under 18

The number of children in care continues to slowly rise, although Cambridgeshire remains below both its statistical neighbours and the England average. A significant rise has been observed in older adolescents with complex needs who have experienced considerable trauma, who present with challenging behaviours. The service are proactive in supporting our children through long-term care arrangements and, where required we commissions specialist services to provide timely support and facilitate recovery. In parallel, the service consistently explores reunification options where appropriate. The service strives to secure permanency for children at the earliest opportunity through adoption plans or applications for Child Arrangements Orders or Special Guardianship Orders.

3.5.2 Indicator 133: Percentage suspensions (All children)

Cambridgeshire has seen growth in suspension as the implications of Covid and more challenging behaviour in schools are seen. As a result of the cost-of-living crises, increasing numbers of disadvantaged children from poorer backgrounds are being suspended and are therefore not meeting expected school standards.

The growth in suspensions are below national levels of increase and consistent with our statistical neighbours.

For primary, the approach around Cambridgeshire therapeutic thinking is to support schools

to use a therapeutic approach to understanding and analysing behaviour, considering past experiences to create pro-social and positive relationships between children and adults. This approach is based on an equitable and inclusive offer for all children. For secondary, the BAIP (Behaviour Attendance Improvement Partnership) model which devolves funds for Appropriate Alternative Education from the High Needs Block to schools is used. It is for Head teachers to control the decision-making process by giving Heads direct financial control of the budget. Key benefits of the BAIP model are localised decision making, collaboration and working in partnership between Heads, historically low levels of permanent exclusions and peer challenge on managing behaviour.

Detailed commentary and summary of each indicator can be found in Appendix 1.

- 3.6 There are 2 indicators which have been identified as contextual. Not all indicators have targets. This may be because targets for these KPIs are being developed or the indicator is being monitored for context.
- 3.7 As part of the ongoing review of the indicators presented to committees, it has been identified that there are several indicators that require their targets to be reviewed and benchmarked. Work will now be undertaken with services to review the current indicators, any changes will be highlighted in the next iteration of this quarterly performance report.

4. Conclusion and recommendations

- 4.1 3.1 shows the breakdown of RAG status for this committee's indicator set. Of the indicators updated this quarter, 2 indicators saw an improvement in performance from the quarter 4 paper, reported to the committee in June 2024:
- 1 indicator moved from **Amber to Green**: Indicator 9: Ofsted - Pupils attending schools that are judged as Good or Outstanding (Secondary Schools)
 - 1 indicator moved from **Green to Blue**: Indicator 11: Percentage of 2 year olds taking up the universal entitlement (15 hours)

16 indicator's performance RAG status has remained unchanged:

- Indicator 1: Percentage children whose referral to social care occurred within 12 months of a previous referral
- Indicator 2: Number of children with a Child Protection Plan every 10,000 population under 18
- Indicator 3: The number children in care every 10,000 population under 18
- Indicator 7: Ofsted - Pupils attending schools that are judged as Good or Outstanding (Nursery Schools)
- Indicator 8: Ofsted - Pupils attending schools that are judged as Good or Outstanding (Primary Schools)
- Indicator 10: Ofsted - Pupils attending schools that are judged as Good or Outstanding (Special Schools)
- Indicator 116: Rate of referrals to Children's Social Care per 10,000 of population under 18
- Indicator 117: Proportion of children subject to a Child Protection Plan for the second or subsequent time
- Indicator 118: Number of young first-time entrants to the criminal justice system, per 10,000 of population

- Indicator 128: Percentage of Education, Health and Care plan assessments completed within timescale
- Indicator 130: Key Stage 2 Reading, writing and maths combined to the expected standard (All children)
- Indicator 131: Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 (All children)
- Indicator 132: Percentage of persistent absence (All children)
- Indicator 133: Percentage suspensions (All children)
- Indicator 134: Percentage receiving place at first choice school (Primary)
- Indicator 135: Percentage receiving place at first choice school (Secondary)

5. Significant Implications

- 5.1 This report monitors quarterly performance. There are no significant implications within this report.

6. Source Documents

- 6.1 Appendix 1: CYP Corporate Performance Report Q1 2024-25