

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 5TH APRIL 2012

PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTERS 3 (OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2012)

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1.0 Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to provide Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee with a performance update for the period October to December 2011.

2.0 Background

Performance reports provided to Scrutiny Committee prior to March 2011 were based on performance indicators from the previous government's national indicator list, with a particular focus on those prioritised within the Local Area Agreement. In October 2010 the Coalition Government announced the deletion of the National Indicator set and also announced that from April 2011 there would no longer be a requirement for council's to produce an LAA. Both announcements signalled a move towards self regulation and improvement with more flexibility to report against local priorities using a set of locally determined measures.

For 2011/12 and beyond the Council's aim is that performance reporting should be focused on the key priorities for the people, place and economy of Sunderland. This new approach will be reflected in the performance reports and evolve and develop over 2012/13. Performance reports will include former national performance indicators reported to scrutiny committee adopted into the local performance framework for 2011 – 2012 (and those that continue to provide performance reporting relevant to the key issues and priorities for Sunderland will continue be part of the reporting framework for 2012 – 2013). In addition as part of the Council's annual planning arrangements, consideration is also being given to identifying new localised performance measures which will also be needed to support a robust performance framework tailored to local needs. These will be reported to the relevant scrutiny committee as appropriate and some of these new measures will be reported in 2012/13, where information is available and adds value to the review of performance. Members should also be aware there are also some former national indicators that are no longer available and have therefore been removed from the performance framework. For this performance report, national changes to performance measures for children and young people who offend, as determined by the Ministry of Justice / Youth Justice Board, have been reflected in this report.

Attached at Appendix 1 is an extract of the basket of indicators that the Council has identified within the self-regulation performance framework for 2011-2012 that demonstrate progress against priorities that fall within the remit of this committee.

3.0 PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The following section contains a summary of performance against the key outcomes for children and young people of Being Healthy, Staying Safe, Enjoying and Achieving, Making a Positive Contribution and Achieving Economic Wellbeing. There is also a performance summary of the use of libraries in the city.

3.1 Being Healthy

Quarterly prevalence of breastfeeding has improved quarter 2 (July to September 2011) to quarter 3 (October – December 2011), from 20.7% to 27% and is above the performance for the same period last year (October to December 2011) when performance was at 21.5%. When aggregated, however, performance is likely to be below the year end target of 27.4%.

The latest information for the percentage of children in Year 6 with height and weight recorded, published autumn 2011, shows that around 1 in 5 children (21.9%) were obese during the academic year 2010-2011. This is a slight increase on the previous figure of 21.2% and keeps Sunderland above the national average of 19%. There has however been a slight decrease, down to 1 in 10 (10.2%) for the percentage of children in Reception with height and weight recorded as obese; the national average is 9.4%.

The engagement of children and young people in sport and leisure activity may assist in preventing obesity. Schools can support this through the time dedicated to physical activity. The percentage of children and young people participating in high-quality PE and sport (NI 57) was 86% for the academic year 2009-2010. Performance has continued to improve year on year, from 72% to 78% to 86% over the three academic years 07/08 to 09/10.

Sunderland Healthy Schools was launched in January 2012 to transition schools from the now defunct National Healthy Schools programme. The new programme is outcomes driven and focuses on meaningful school improvement through a plan, do and review model. It is expected it could take schools up to 2 years to achieve the award due to the focus on improving health inequalities. 99% of schools in Sunderland are eligible to start work on the new model having already demonstrated a foundation in promoting health and wellbeing through National Healthy Schools.

There has also been an improvement as at 31st December 2011 in the take up of healthy school meals in both primary and secondary schools; 54% and 60% respectively. This has been achieved through a range of targeted actions including better marketing, menu development, and feedback from pupils. It should be noted that improved performance comes against a backdrop of a 10p increase in school meal prices from September 2011 (the first for 3 years).

It must also be noted that preparation is also underway within the city of Sunderland as to the impact of the Government's Welfare Reform Programme; The Welfare Reform Programme is expected to have a number of projected impacts on both families and individuals; from housing to financial to social care issues. One of the key activities already being progressed in the city is the increased free school meal take up which is being delivered in conjunction with the Child and Family Poverty Board. The activity will maximise funding through the Pupil Premium into Sunderland Schools and ensure that all eligible children and young people have the opportunity to access free school meals through an assumed consent arrangement.

To enable this a number of council services have worked together during December 2011 to data match and identify where there were 'gaps' in free school claimants. To date this has resulted in over 800 additional children being eligible for free school meals.

In respect of teenage pregnancy the latest published annual data which relates to the year ending December 2010 shows that the under 18 conception rate has reduced from 52.8 per 1,000 pop in 2009 to 50.1 in 2010, representing a real reduction from 288 to 264 conceptions. This represents a continuing trend in reducing teenage pregnancy in Sunderland. The Sunderland rate, however, is above both national (35.4) and North East averages (44.3). The rate of reduction since 1998 baseline is 21% in Sunderland compared to 24% nationally and 22% in the North East.

The Electronic C-Card System provides young people in the city with access and services relating to contraception, sexual health, substance misuse and Chlamydia screening. Data available as at January 2012 shows that there have been 1870 c-card registrations since April 2011. There are currently 77 trained outlets in Sunderland; approximately 15 per locality. The National Sexual Health Strategy is expected to be published in spring 2012.

At the end of quarter 3, 7,986 Chlamydia screens have taken place, representing 20% of target population screened which is in line with the national average at 20.3%. The percentage testing positive is 9.3%, which is higher than national average at 7.3%.

3.2 Staying Safe

The number of initial assessments that were carried out within timescale have decreased from 80.91% in the same period last year to 72.9% for the period October to December 2011. The number of core assessments that were carried out within timescale have improved, however, from 73.67% in the previous year to 81.44% at the end of December 2011.

For those children identified from assessment as needing Safeguarding services, above those of a child in need, a Child Protection Plan may be put in place. The purpose of a Child Protection Plan is to devise and implement a plan which leads

to lasting improvements in the child's safety and overall wellbeing. Therefore the need for a child to become subject for second or subsequent time for the same category of abuse may indicate that any interventions originally provided have not been effective in the child's long term care. However, adverse changes in children's circumstances may also lead to subsequent plans.

Between 1 April 2011 to 31 December 2011, 371 children have become subject to a Child Protection plan, with 64 (17.25%) of them doing so for a second or subsequent time. This is a decline in performance on both the year end figure for 2010/11 (16.6%) and the same period last year (15.3%). The majority of these children's previous Child Protection plan ceased more than 12 months before their new plan commenced.

Long-term stability for looked after children who remain in care for significant periods of time can often lead to better outcomes for those children. Although in some circumstances a move can be necessary to offer a more stable permanent placement to a child. As at 31 March 2011, 95 of the 131 (72.5%) children aged under-16 who had been looked after for at least 2.5 years had the stability of living in the same placement for at least 2 of those years. Performance has deteriorated slightly in recent months, with 87 of the 124 (70.16%) being in stable placements as at 31 December 2011, below the 2011/12 target of 75%. Current performance continues to reflect the high demand for placements and the shortfall of foster care placements available, hence the implementation of the Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention Strategy, which looks at effective marketing and recruitment campaigns to ensure Sunderland has the right number of foster carers with the right skills to meet the needs of looked after children.

Of the 398 children looked after as at the 31 December 2011, 37 of them have had three or more placement moves in the previous 12-months, equating to 9.30% of the looked after population. This is an improvement on the 2010/2011 outturn of 10.20% and is within the target set for 2011/12 of no more than 10.5%. Regional performance benchmarking has shown a correlation between Councils with have a high percentage of children remaining in the same placements against a highest percentage of children looked after in foster care placements.

The reductions in the numbers of children and young people aged 10-17 offending for the first time (first time entrants) has been maintained in quarter 3. There were 58 young people who were first time entrants to the youth justice system between October and December 2011. This is consistent with the numbers of first time entrants (58) in quarter 3 of 2010 and a maintained low rate compared to previous years where the numbers of first time entrants was 81 for quarter 3 (October to December) of 2009 and 153 for quarter 3 of 2008. A key initiative that is considered to have contributed to sustaining a lower rate of first time entrants is the Arrest Diversion scheme, a partnership between Sunderland City Council, Northumbria Police and other partners under the Sunderland Youth Offending Service partnership. The scheme is delivered using national funding attracted as a result of the success of the former Youth Support in Custody and Triage schemes. It combines referral onto appropriate services through early

identification of need with diversion from the youth justice system through the use of restorative justice.

In relation to re-offending, from April 2012 a new measure will be reported on based on a new data published by the Ministry of Justice that aligns statistics on youth and adult re-offending. The previous national indicator for youth re-offending (former national indicator 19) as measured by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales has now been discontinued. The latest available data for the former national indicator (previously reported to scrutiny) relates to the end of March 2011. Over a three year period of 2008 – 2011 there was 17.3% reduction in youth re-offending against the national three year target of 10.1%. It is expected that scrutiny will be provided with an overview of the first quarterly performance for youth re-offending for the new measure at the end of quarter 1 of 2012-2013 (April to June 2012).

In the last performance report this Scrutiny committee was advised that the Youth Justice Board / Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has also released a new performance measure for custodial sentencing of children and young people expressed as a rate per 1000 population. The latest figure as at the end of December 2011 shows a rate of 0.15, which relates to one young person sentenced to custody in the period October to December 2011 (which relates to 4 young people) compared to a rate of 0.22 for the period October to December 2010 (which relates to 6 young people).

3.3 Enjoying and Achieving

At the September committee Members received a detailed report on the annual attainment performance of Sunderland schools. There is therefore no further update for this performance report. The latest position in relation to each performance measure for enjoying and achievement is set out at Appendix 1.

The percentage NEET is 9.1% for the November 2011 to January 2012 average statutory reporting period, which is 0.6% points higher than the same period the previous year (8.5% using new 11/12 methodology), but in line with Tyne and Wear NEET at 9.0%. Nationally, NEET has reduced from 6.6% to 6.1%. The 2009-11 NEET Action Plan aimed at achieving improvement has been superseded by a Scrutiny Committee led Action Plan and a complimentary Action Plan developed and led by the NEET Improvement Board.

3.4 Libraries

The latest available data for the percentage of 4-11 year olds who are library members has improved for both boys and girls in comparison to the previous year and is above target. The number of physical visits per 1,000 population to public library premises, however, has reduced from 3,621 in the same period in the previous year to 3,420 at the end of December 2011. There is an ongoing programme to encourage active borrowing and reading including continued development of reading groups, author visits and promotions including outreach

at non-traditional venues outside libraries. The total number of items, including books and audio-visual material, issued within public libraries has also declined. External factors including trends in downloading music and films are considered to have had a impact on the availability of sound and vision material.

Appendix 1 provides an overview of all performance measures collected within Children Young People and Learning Scrutiny.

4. Recommendation

That the committee considers the continued good progress made by the council and the Sunderland Partnership and those areas requiring further development to ensure that performance is actively managed.

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