

TITLE	Children's Services Performance Indicators
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22 January 2019
WARD	None specific
DIRECTOR	Director of Children's Services - Carol Cammiss

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Children's Services performance indicators underpin the council's priorities and principles to focus on every child reaching their potential and looking after the vulnerable.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Children's Services performance indicators be noted.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The timing of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee means that the latest indicators available for formal reporting this cycle are the Quarterly indicators reported at the end of September 2018 (Q2).

Background

A set of performance information is provided to the Corporate Leadership Team and the Executive on a quarterly basis. The most recent report, providing information for Children's Services covering the quarter to September 2018, is provided as Appendix A to this report.

Analysis of Issues

In 18/19 Q2 there are six green indicators, two amber indicators, and six red indicators.

Information on performance rated "Red" is given below.

1. EA1i: Percentage of Wokingham Borough State-Funded Primary Schools with a current Ofsted Rating of Good or Better.

18/19 Q1 Performance: **90.20%**

18/19 Q2 Performance: **86.27%**

Quarter 2 2018/19 performance reflects the position as at 31st August 2018. Two schools (Radstock Primary and Emmbrook Junior) have been judged as "Requires Improvement" and one school (Beechwood Primary) has been judged as "Inadequate". All three of these schools were previously rated as "Good" however were on the Local Authority risk register and identified as vulnerable to the judgements received. This

information is reported regularly throughout the year to Overview and Scrutiny where detail of the areas causing concern and remedies in place to support progress have been outlined. Those schools continue to receive support and challenge from the school improvement team in line with our guiding policy that is shared with schools annually setting out our terms of engagement with them.

For schools identified in the highest category of concern, schools are required to respond to 15 days of support and progress is challenged through regular School Improvement Board meetings. Other vulnerable schools are allocated up to 5 days of officer support time and are also held to account; in some cases through a School Improvement Board.

The Local Authority makes full use of the Statutory Powers available to it and one of the "Requires Improvement" schools had been issued with a Pre Warning notice. The "Inadequate" school had been issued a formal warning notice copied to the Secretary of State, powers were removed from the governing body and an Interim Executive Board were appointed. The Ofsted reports recognise the support and timely intervention of the Local Authority to bring about positive change and prevent further decline in those schools.

The school now rated as "Inadequate" is subject to an automatic academy order from the Secretary of State and the service are working closely with the Regional Schools Commissioners office and Department for Education to ensure that this process focusses on the continued development of effective provision for pupils.

2. EA2: Percentage of children who attend a Wokingham State-Funded School (Primary, Secondary or Special) which is "Good" or better.

18/19 Q1 Performance: **90.95%**

18/19 Q2 Performance: **86.65%**

Commentary for indicator is as for EA1i above.

3. EA11: 12-Month Rolling Voluntary Turnover of Qualified Social Workers within Children's Social Care and Early Intervention Service.

18/19 Q1 Performance: **24%**

18/19 Q2 Performance: **28%**

This new measure has been introduced for monitoring during 2018/19. A stable social work workforce results in continuity of support for our most vulnerable children, and important pre-requisite for achievement of the best outcomes for children and young people. Turnover is also an indicator of the morale of the workforce. The proposed targets assigned to this measure (Green if less than 16%) suggest it is currently red. The service is monitoring this new measure and will provide a further update in the next performance report.

4. VP4: Percentage of referrals in 2018/19 which are repeat referrals within 12 months of the previous referral to Children's Social Care.

18/19 Q1 Performance: **19.5%**

18/19 Q2 Performance: **23.6%**

The proportion of repeat referrals increased in July 2018. It is not unusual for referrals, and repeat referrals, to increase at this time of year, before schools are closed for the summer holidays. The target (20% or less) was met for the other two months in the quarter, August and September.

5. VP7: Percentage of children leaving care who achieved permanence (adopted, returned home or special guardianship order is granted)

18/19 Q1 Performance: **77%**
 18/19 Q2 Performance: **40%**

In Q2 four of the ten children leaving care achieved permanence. The other six children left care at the age of 18; three moving into independent living; one staying put with their foster carer; and two remaining in residential placement due to health needs. Those who leave care at the age of 18 will have a transition plan in place.

6. VP8: Percentage of child protection visits due in the period which were completed on time (within 10 days of the previous visit)

18/19 Q1 Performance: **65.4%**
 18/19 Q2 Performance: **58.0%**

The Assistant Director for Social Care and Early Help and Service Managers are meeting with teams on a weekly basis to review performance and address any barriers to achieving timescales. One of the main barriers is recording of visits on Mosaic (the social care case management system). The drop in performance coincides with increased caseloads and the main impact of this is that social workers are not always recording their work in a timely manner. There is robust oversight of visiting and any children that the service is unable to access are escalated appropriately.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A		

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
N/A

Cross-Council Implications
N/A

List of Background Papers
N/A

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