



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday 21st June 2023

REPORT TITLE:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT (QUARTER 4)
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the latest performance information for Children's Services. The design and content of the report was developed following discussions with the Chair of the Children, Young People & Education Committee and party spokes at a Performance Monitoring workshop back in March 2021.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough and supports the Wirral Plan priority of Brighter Futures for all.

This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is recommended to note the content of the Performance Report attached in Appendix A and highlight any areas requiring further clarification or action.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Children, Young People & Education Committee have the opportunity to monitor, review and challenge performance of the Council's Children's Services Directorate.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This report has been developed in conjunction with the Chair of the Children, Young People & Education Committee and party spokes. Various options were considered before agreeing on a quarterly Performance Report, supported by automated Children's Services data reports.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Performance Report (Appendix A) has been structured around eight indicator groups. The data contained in the report relates to Quarter 4 2022/23 (period ending Mar-23). Where Quarter 4 data was not available, the most recent information has been provided.
- 3.2 Where available, national, regional and statistical neighbour benchmarking data has been included in the report so comparisons can be made.
- 3.3 The supporting narrative in the report has been strengthened with Assistant Directors and Heads of Service from Children's Services providing a narrative to explain trends or changes in performance.
- 3.4 In addition to the Performance Report, an interactive dashboard has been created in Power BI, the Council's business intelligence system. The dashboard is structured around the same indicator groups as detailed in the Performance Report. The Power BI reports can be accessed via the Councillors App.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Information on the key risks faced by the organisation and Directorate and the associated mitigations and planned actions are included in the Corporate and Directorate Risk Registers. This report has no direct implications related to risk.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 A Performance monitoring session was held with the chair of the Children, Young People & Education Committee, and party spokes on 4th March 2021 to review current performance monitoring arrangements and to define a new, improved approach.
- 8.2 A further Performance Management workshop was held on 12th July 2022 with the newly appointed Chair of the Children, Young People & Education Committee, and party spokes where they received a demonstration of Power BI and shown what data is available via the interactive reports.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision, or activity. There are no equality issues arising from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no environmental or climate implications generated by the recommendations in this report.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Children's Services generally impacts positively on community wealth through commissioning arrangements of local providers to support and improve the lives of some of our most vulnerable residents.

Parents benefit from early years funding for their children from the age of two. Parents and schools can also benefit from additional funding for those pupils who are eligible for free school meals.

We monitor the number of young people in employment, education or training. Those young people in employment will receive a paid salary whilst some of those in training, such as apprenticeships, will receive a reduced salary whilst they are studying.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Tricia Thomas**
Head of Operations (interim), Children's Services
Tel: 0151 666 3630
email: triciathomas@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Children's Service Performance Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Data and performance information held in Children's Services Management Information Systems and accessed via the Council's business intelligence system Power BI.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Children, Young People & Education Committee in accordance with Section 3.2(f) of its Terms of Reference, providing a view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management in relation to the Committee's functions.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Children, Young People & Education Committee Children's Services Q3 Performance Report	07/03/2023
Children, Young People & Education Committee Children's Services Q2 Performance Report	12/10/2022
Children, Young People & Education Committee Children's Services Q1 Performance Report	21/06/2022
Children, Young People & Education Committee Children's Services Q4 Performance Report	10/03/2022
Children, Young People & Education Committee Children's Services Q3 Performance Report	23/11/2021
Children, Young People & Education Committee Children's Services Q2 Performance Report	13/09/2021
Children, Young People & Education Committee Children's Services Q1 Performance Report	15/06/2021
Children, Young People & Education Committee Children's Services Performance Management	17/03/2020
Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2019/20 Q3 Wirral Plan Performance	11/11/2019