

EXECUTIVE – 9 JULY 2019

ITEM 8: PERFORMANCE REPORTING AGAINST THE COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN – QUARTER 4

COMMENTS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

On 27 June 2019, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered the report and agreed to support the recommendations to the Executive.

Sustaining and Growing Business and the Economy Commissioning Strategy - Qualifications achieved by adults (Measure 70)

The Board was informed that the Qualifications achieved by adults (Measure 70) had initially been reported in the Executive report considered by the Board as not meeting the target in Quarter 4, when in fact the target of 525 had been exceeded and the 2018/2019 outturn was 1,114. The Board supported the amendment of the annual target from 525 as published in the Council Business Plan 2018/2019 to 1,000 for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 Council Business Plans. As a result, there would be changes to the Executive report due to an improvement in the number of commissioning strategies that had performed really well from four to five commissioning strategies as the Sustaining and Growing Business and the Economy Commissioning Strategy had now achieved all its targets. In response to a query about whether the targets were correct where the measures were overachieving all the time, it was confirmed that the targets were reviewed throughout the year to ensure there was the right of level of output and to identify any need to redistribute resources.

Readiness for School Commissioning Strategy – Achievement at a good level of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage (Measure 47) and Achievement gap between pupils eligible for Free School Meals and their non-Free School Meal eligible peers nationally achieving Good Level of Development (Measure 48)

With regards to the two Readiness for School measures, concern was raised regarding the focus on literacy as a priority and whether there would be any negative impact on numeracy as a result. In addition, concern was raised in relation to the widening achievement gap between pupils eligible for Free School Meals and their non-Free School Meals eligible peers and whether there would be more pressure on teachers if more pupils were in receipt of Free School Meals. In addition, figures were requested for numeracy and literacy in Lincolnshire including a comparison to other regions. Officers agreed to raise these queries with the service area.

RESPONSE FROM SERVICE AREA

Literacy and numeracy amongst school leavers

The percentage of children in Lincolnshire achieving a grade 5-9 in English and Maths in 2017/18 was 43.0%. This is broadly in line with the national average of 43.5% and is above the statistical neighbour average of 41.2% and East Midlands average of 42.0%. However, work remains to be done, as a comparison to other

authorities where there is selective education shows that Lincolnshire is behind the average of 52.5%. With all but one of our secondary schools being an Academy it is for them to commission support to improve attainment in their schools. The local authority will follow the agreed Academy protocol where there are any concerns over attainment but ultimately it is the responsibility of the Head Teachers of secondary academies to drive up educational standards.

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)

Literacy does have the widest gap which is why there is the focus on reading and writing for the teaching schools key projects. However, the Early Years and Childcare Team (EYCC) has focussed on supporting the early years sector with communication and language as communication underpins both numeracy and literacy skills. EYCC has provided an assessment package this year 2018/19 to support targeted schools that had data that was significantly below national. This provided bespoke support to use data to identify children who would not make a good level of development in any area of learning so that targeted interventions could be implemented. EYCC has also proposed a 'Transition to Year One' project for the teaching schools to meet the needs of those children who did not reach a good level of development as they move into year one.

In 2018/19 the end of year EYFSP training has had the focus on the numeracy goals for reception class teachers as well as literacy. 2018 data showed that outcomes for the 'Number' early learning goal (ELG) were lower than the 'Shape, Space and Measures' ELG. By also providing specific training during the academic year, this enables practitioners to reflect on their practice to make a difference.

Increase in the number of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM)

In January 2019, for all school types, 15.4% of pupils were eligible for and claiming free school meals. This is the highest proportion since 2014, reversing the downward trend. Since April 2018, protections have been in place for FSM eligibility while Universal Credit is introduced nationwide. This has been the main driver in the increase in the proportion of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals as pupils continue to become eligible but fewer pupils stop being eligible.

The increase in FSM Eligibility due to Universal Credit Rollout is echoed in Lincolnshire resulting in a 1.8% increase between 2017 and 2018 in nursery/primary and 1.8% increase in secondary. These children will therefore be eligible to pupil premium funding which is a grant given to schools to reduce the attainment gap for disadvantaged children.

Safeguarding Adults Commissioning Strategy - Safeguarding enquiries where the source of risk is a service provider (Measure 114) and Adult safeguarding concerns that lead to a safeguarding enquiry (Measure 130)

Concerns were raised regarding the removal of Measure 114 from the Council Business Plan and it being replaced with Measure 130. A Board member highlighted that Measure 114 was a national measure and questioned why it had been removed from the Council Business Plan. It was confirmed that it had been replaced in the Council Business Plan by the new measure to ensure that escalation was occurring at the right level. The Board recommended that both measures should be included in the Council Business Plan and agreed that these measures should be referred to the

Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for consideration and to reflect on the Board's recommendation at its meeting on 3 July 2019, and record its comments for the Executive's consideration on 9 July 2019.

RESPONSE FROM ADULTS AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

On 3 July 2019, the Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee considered the above request from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and discussed the replacement indicator. It was noted that this change of Council Business Plan indicator had previously been endorsed by the Committee on 10 April 2019.

It was further clarified to the Scrutiny Committee on 3 July that the replaced '*source of risk*' measure still existed in the suite of intelligence utilised by the service to identify themes and patterns and is reported as part of returns to Government and other agencies. However, on its own this measure does not represent the most appropriate indicator of service performance and risk, requiring the further context and understanding which that suite provides.

The Scrutiny Committee accepted the rationale that the new measure of '*concerns that lead to a safeguarding enquiry*' provided a better standalone measure of the level and consistency of understanding of safeguarding responsibilities and processes across the system. The Committee concluded with a recommendation that only the new measure should continue to be presented in the Council Business Plan, and accordingly provides this advice to the Executive.

Protecting the Public Commissioning Strategy - Adults Reoffending (Measure 14)

With regards to Adults Reoffending, concern was raised about the target not being met and it was queried what was being done to tackle the increase in reoffending rates, where the problems were, and what type of crimes were being committed. It was highlighted that the ARC (Assisting Rehabilitation through Collaboration) scheme was in place to help reoffenders, but officers agreed to raise these queries with the service area for a response.

RESPONSE FROM SERVICE AREA

The local reoffending rate considers offenders who are formally informed by Lincolnshire Police that they will be recorded as being responsible for committing a crime over a 3 month period and then those offenders who commit another offence in Lincolnshire during a 12 month follow-up period. The index offences (the first offence captured within the 3 month period) referred to could be any Home Office 'notifiable' offence. For the period in which this query relates the following index offences had been committed (listed most commonly committed to least commonly committed):

Shoplifting, Violence With Injury, Drug Possession, Violence Without Injury, Public Disorder, Criminal Damage, Drug Trafficking, All Other Theft Offences, Possession Of Weapons Offences, Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society, Burglary, Vehicle

Crime, Other Sexual Offences, Bicycle Theft, Theft From The Person, Robbery Of Personal Property, Rape, Robbery Of Business Property, Arson

Shoplifting and Burglary are the index offences with the highest reoffending rates (note the reoffence may not be the same as the index offence).

Community Resilience and Assets Commissioning Strategy - Visits to core libraries and mobile library services (Measure 36)

In relation to the changing IT requirements at libraries, it was questioned whether this would be addressed as part of the Council's IT roll out. It was reported that a project was going through to enable GLL (Greenwich Leisure Limited) to undertake a rollout of new IT equipment.

Wellbeing Commissioning Strategy – Percentage of alcohol users left specialist treatment successfully (Measure 31)

It was highlighted that it had been previously agreed to separate out alcohol users and drug users into separate measures, but a measure for drug users had not been put back into the Council Business Plan. Officers agreed to check what had been previously decided in relation to this measure.

RESPONSE FROM OFFICERS

The Quarter 2 report included the following:-

Proposed change to reporting performance against the Council Business Plan 2018/19

Following a request for clarification raised at Overview and Scrutiny Management Board when the Q1 performance report was discussed, the title of the measure in the Wellbeing Commissioning Strategy 'Percentage of alcohol users left drug treatment successfully' has been amended to 'Percentage of alcohol users left specialist treatment successfully'. The definition of the measure remains unchanged. This change of title of the measure has been made to the infographics.

General Comment

With regards to those areas not performing well, it was questioned whether there was any correlation with higher levels of sickness absence and lower levels of appraisal completions. Officers reported that they would consult with HR to see if there were any correlations between these and those areas not performing well.

RESPONSE FROM OFFICERS

Data is being analysed.