



Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director – Children’s Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	8 December 2023
Subject:	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Success Framework 2023-24 - Quarter 2

Summary:

This report summarises the Service Level Performance against the Success Framework 2023-24 for Quarter 2. All performance that can be reported in Quarter 2 is included in this report.




Full service level reporting to all scrutiny committees can be found here: [Corporate plan – Performance data - Lincolnshire County Council](#)

Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to review and comment on the Children and Young People Service Level Performance for 2023- 24 Quarter 2.

1. Background

This report details the Service Level Performance measures for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee that can be reported at Quarter 2.

- 1 measure exceeded their target 
- 4 measures achieved their target 
- 1 measure did not meet their target 
- 1 measure did not have data available to report

1.1 Children are Healthy and Safe

1.1.1 Measures that exceeded their target

None in Quarter 2.

1.1.2 Measures that Achieved their target

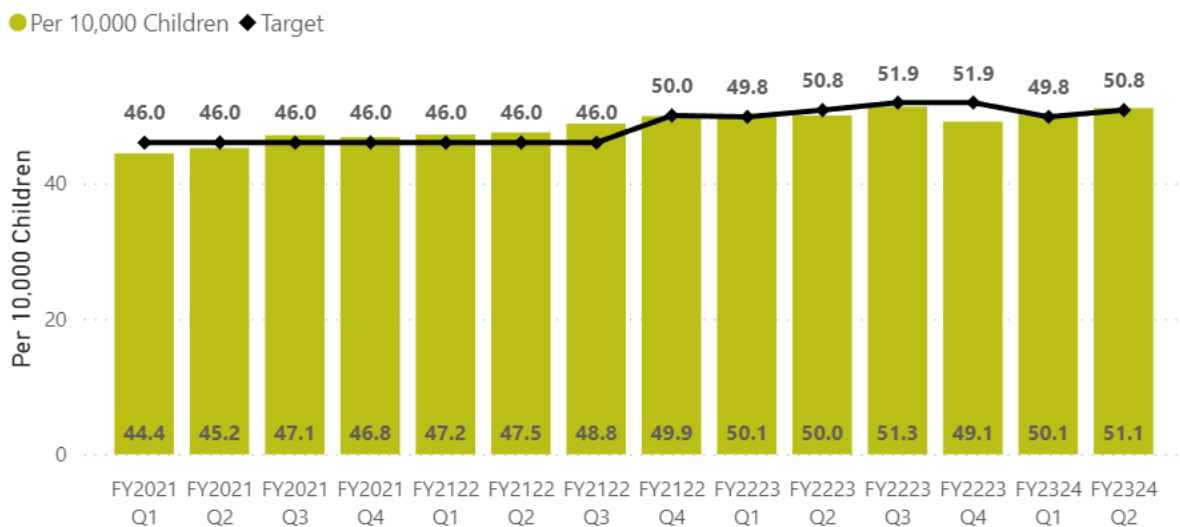
PI 23 Children in Care ✓

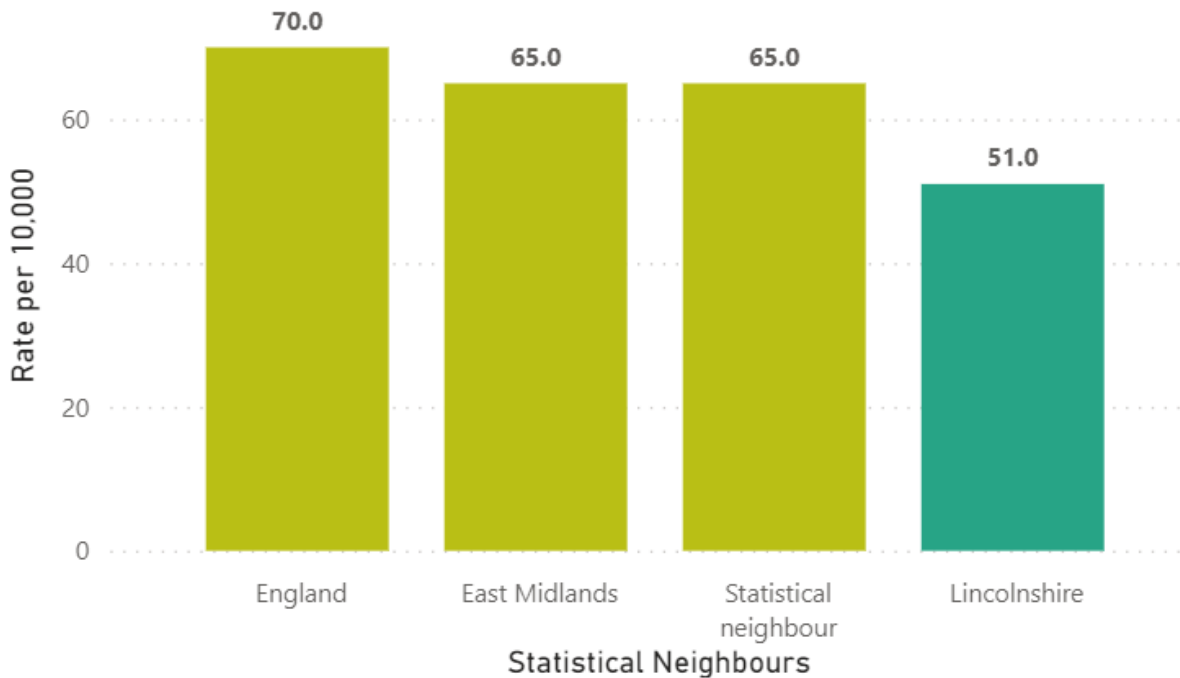
Actual: 51.1

Target: 50.8

At 51.1 per 10,000 children in care, this measure is slightly above target (50.8) but is within tolerance, so has therefore achieved this quarter. This target has been revised upward in comparison to recent years to take into account the effects of the National Transfer Scheme and the number of children in care per 10,000 remains at a relatively high level compared to recent years. The recent growth in numbers is attributable to the Council's safeguarding responsibilities and is partly attributable to the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children that have arrived as part of the new temporary mandated National Transfer Scheme. The expectation is that Lincolnshire will take a maximum of 144 children which equates to 0.1% of the general child population and therefore there continues to be a likely impact of growth going forward.

Despite the recent growth and the potential for future increase, there continues to be an emphasis on prevention from children coming into care and exit planning from the care system where it can be achieved. However, even with the increase, the Lincolnshire number of Children in Care (CiC) per 10,000 remains significantly below the most recent published figures both nationally and by our statistical neighbours (70 per 10,000 and 65 per 10,000 respectively as of 31 March 2022).





Benchmarking as at March 2022

PI 25 Average time taken to move a child from care to an adoptive family ✓

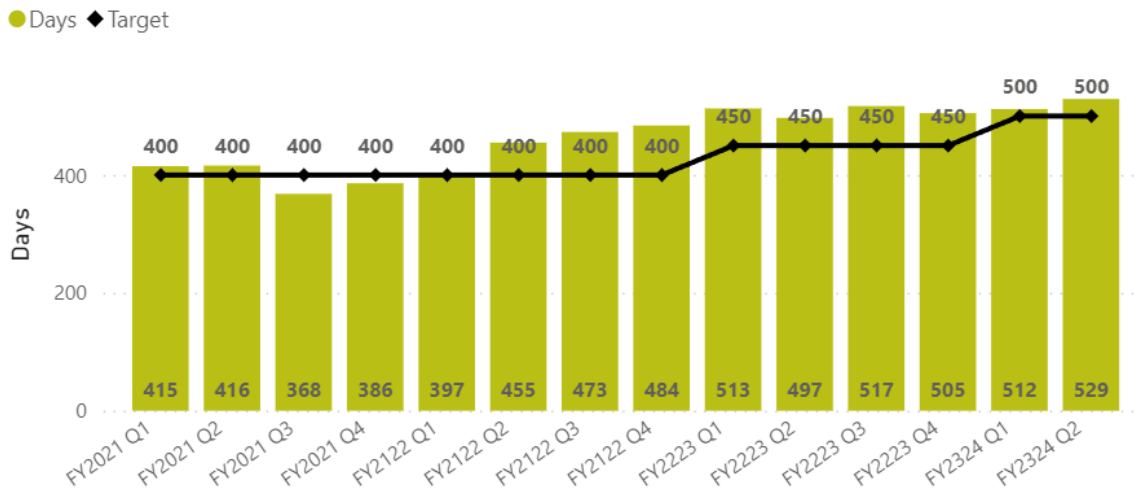
Actual: 529

Target: 500

This measure is a 'rolling' three yearly average. As we have moved forward, the calculation has considered more of the period covered by the pandemic, which has in turn increased the rolling average figure. There were children who experienced significant delay within the care proceedings that impacts on this figure.

It is important to note that the figure presented also includes some rare anomalies which have also adversely affected the overall timescales, such as one case which lasted for over 2,000 days due to an unusual amount of disruption as well as an increase in the number of children deemed harder to place in general.

In addition to this, there are also some children later adopted by their foster carers, but this measure does not properly take in to account the time they began living with those families, producing a longer timescale than there was in reality. These children have experienced a longer period of stability that does not really show within the figures.



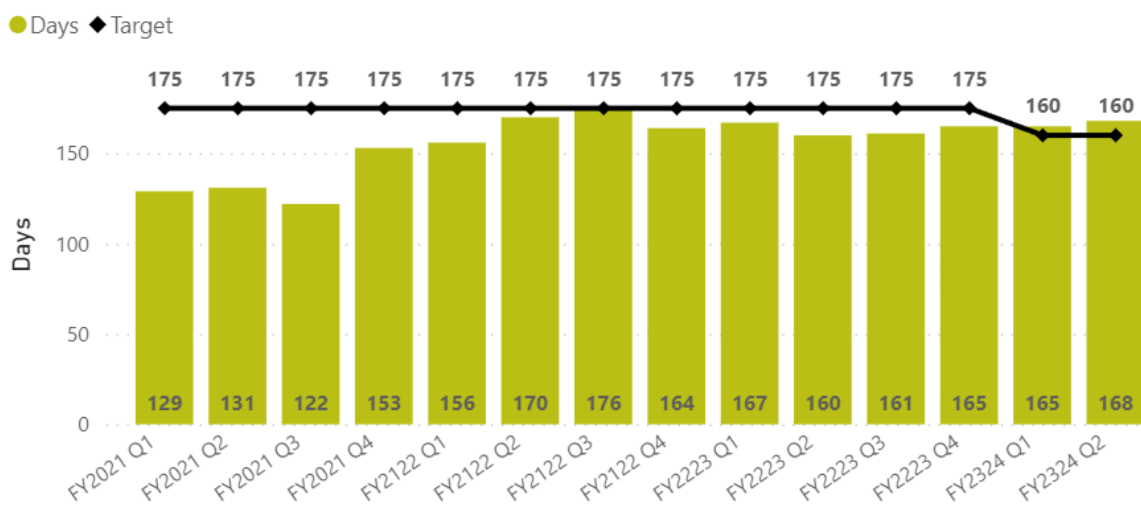
PI 26 Average time taken to match a child to an adoptive family ✓

Actual: 168

Target: 160

There are signs that the timescale is continuing to decline. This has, however, been impacted by an increase in the number of birth parents who are appealing the decision to make a placement order which impacts on the timescales for matching which has been seen in this quarter. This impacts on the timescales for this measure as we cannot family find whilst an appeal is ongoing.

Despite these challenges this figure is under the national average of 175 days, meaning that once we have authority to place for adoption, Lincolnshire is able to move children onto their adoptive families in a timely manner.





Benchmarking period April 2017 – March 2020

1.1.3 Measures that did not meet their target

PI 24 Children who are subject to a children protection plan ❌

Actual: 425

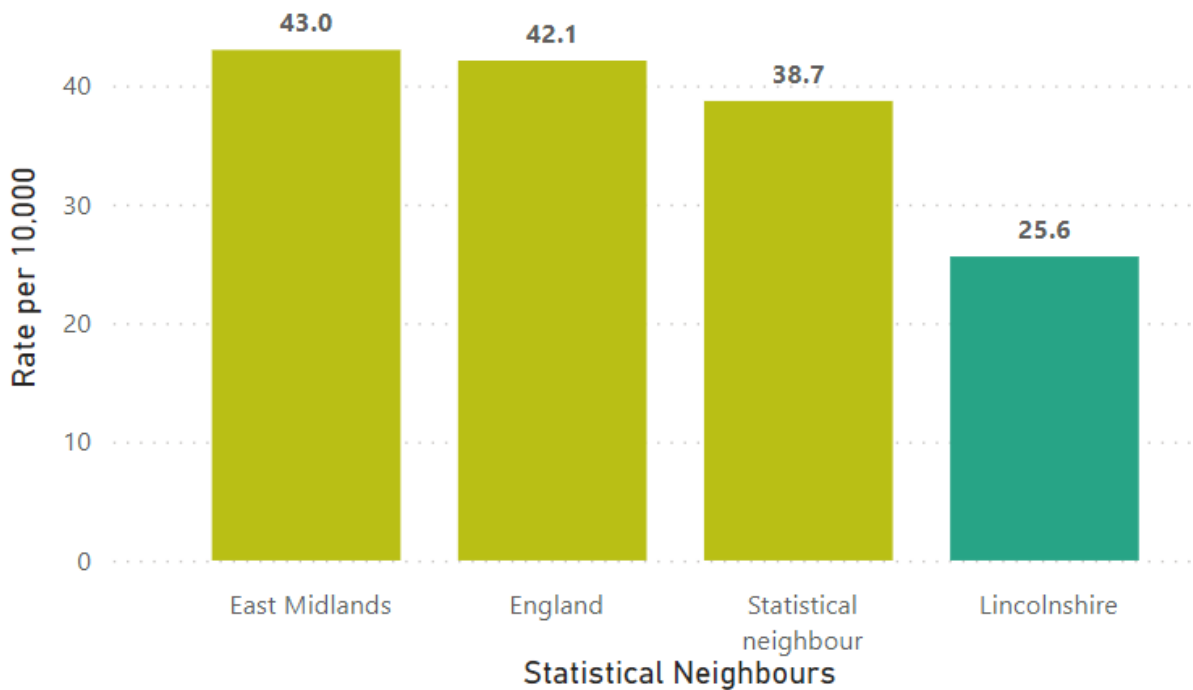
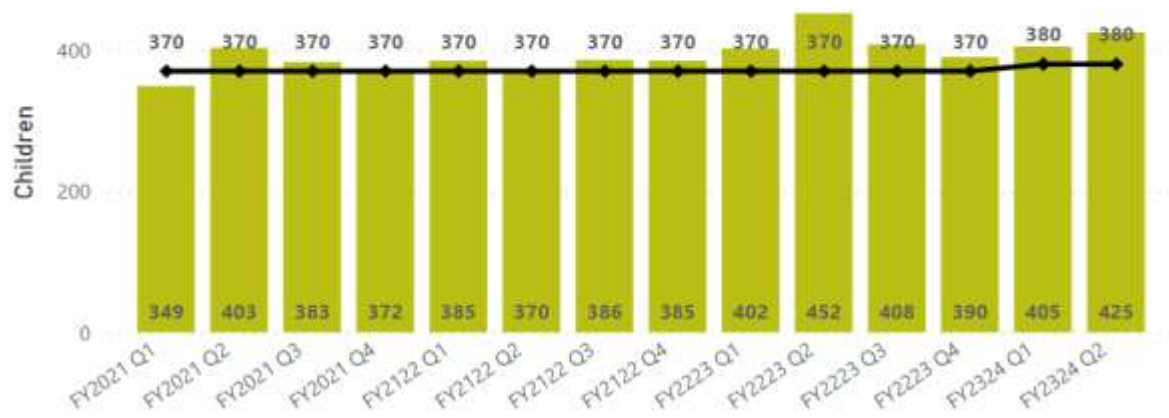
Target: 380

The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at the end of Quarter 2 is 425. It is recognised that this is a dip in performance and takes the number of children on a child protection plan just outside of the tolerance range.

The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan does fluctuate as the decision for a child to be made subject to, or remain on, a child protection plan is based on the risk factors present for the individual child. Additionally, this measure is heavily influenced by families where parents have multiple children. We expect to shift back into tolerance range as the year progresses due to the progress that families currently supported by child protection plans are making. However, we continue to see increased pressures and financial hardship upon families because of the cost-of-living crisis. This is particularly evident in those families where there are a number of children.

Child protection plans create safety, and it is important that risk is recognised and managed through plans where appropriate. Early intervention with families and effective risk management continues to take place to ensure that only the right children are subject to a child protection plan.

● Children ◆ Target



Benchmarking period April 2021 – March 2022

1.1.4 Measures that did not have data available to report

PI 15 Juvenile first time offenders

Unfortunately, there is no available data for this quarter (April 2022 - March 2023). This is due to the Youth Justice Board changing the way in which this indicator is calculated.

Data will be available for the July 2022 – June 2023 period, which will be reported in Quarter 3. Due to the new calculation method significantly impacting the figures for this measure, a revised target (to be agreed) will also be set against this measure from Quarter 3 onwards.

1.2 Learn and Achieve

Not reported in Quarter 2.

1.3 Readiness for Adult Life

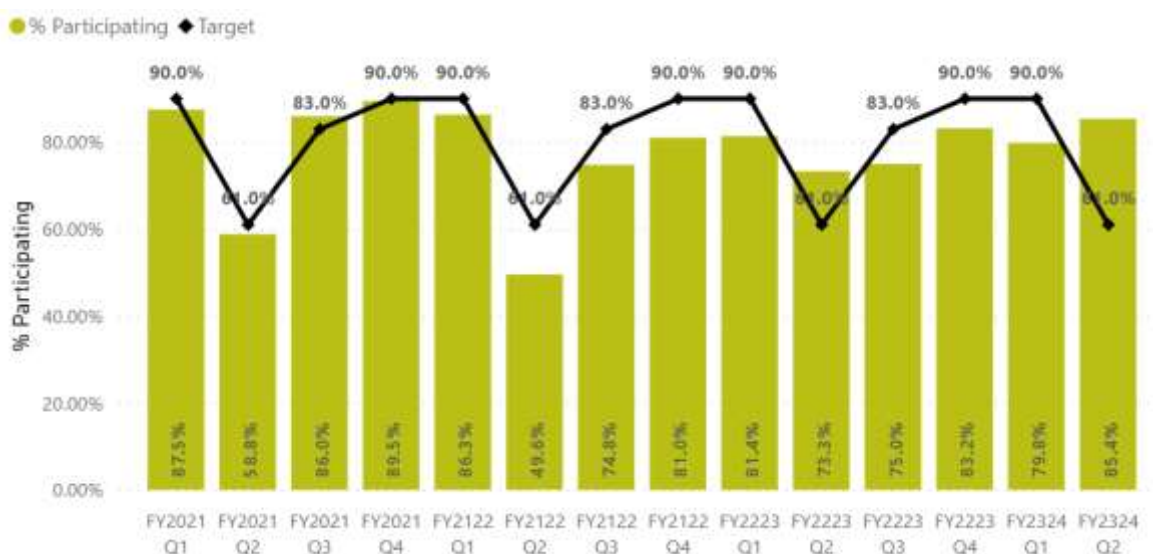
1.3.1 Measures that exceeded their target

PI 45 16 -17 year old Children in Care participating in learning ☆

Actual: 85.4

Target: 61

Performance this quarter exceeds the target and is an improvement on last year's Quarter 2 performance of 73.3%. At the end of the reporting period, there were 192 young people in care aged 16 and 17. 164 young people met the criteria for engaging in learning and were on roll at local colleges, post 16 providers and school sixth forms. Of the remaining 28 young people, two young people were in full time employment (without training), 10 young people were accessing interim/online English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision whilst awaiting a college place, and three young people were awaiting confirmation of a college place. Personal Education Plans for the 13 young people not actively engaged in learning aim to identify any potential barriers to progressing into employment, education or training and explore opportunities and appropriate support on a termly basis. Working in partnership with the Lincolnshire Leaving Care service, work experience placements are sought for those young people wanting to seek employment and short training course opportunities are revisited every term.



1.3.2 Measures that Achieved their target

PI 46 Care leavers in suitable accommodation ✓

Actual: 92.6

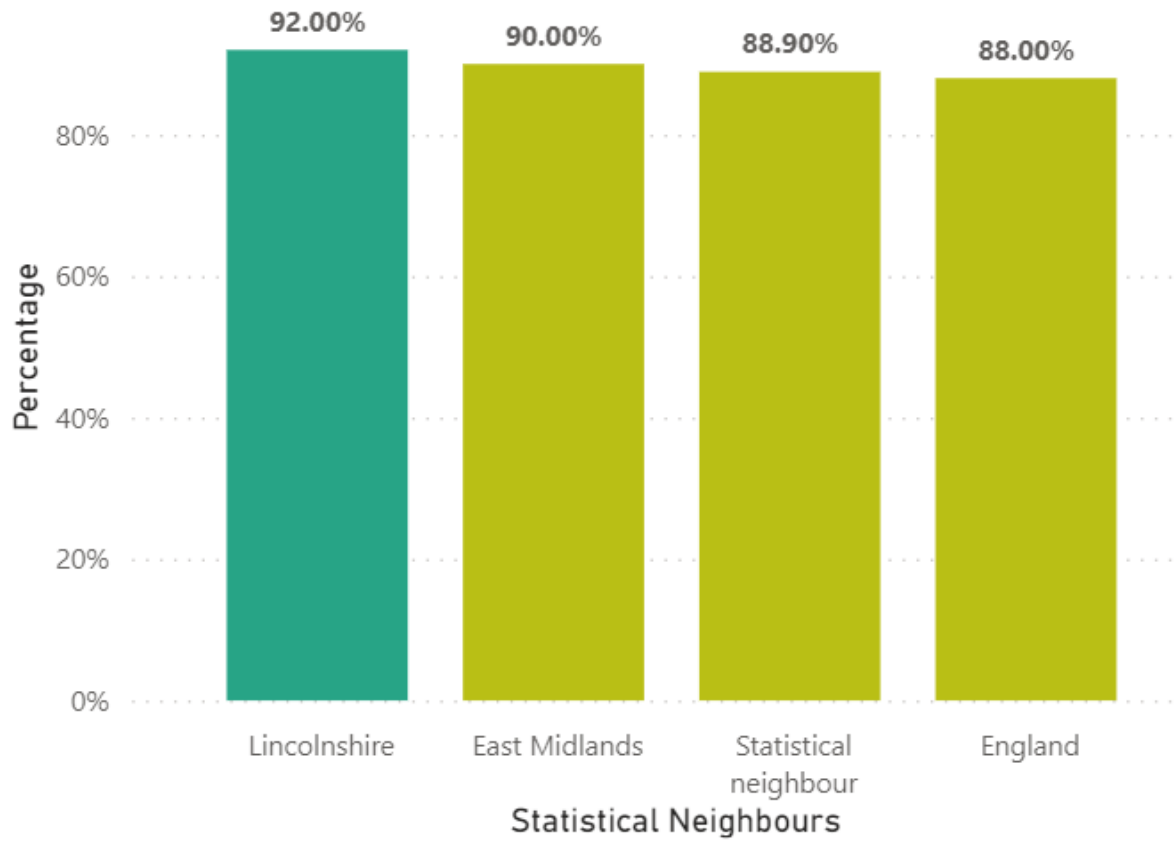
Target: 95

The most recent child level data analysis reported a percentage of 92.6% of young people in suitable accommodation for 19-, 20- and 21-year-olds. The definition of the suitability of accommodation is very strict, and whilst the definition would deem some of the accommodation options unsuitable, the young person might be making an informed choice (as an adult) about where they live and how they live. For example, the monthly tracker continues to identify a small number of young people who are choosing to live with friends and sleep on their sofa. This is deemed unsuitable, but the decision to live on a friend's sofa is the informed choice of the young person. We also know of one young person who still chooses to live in a caravan on their ex foster carers driveway and another young person who has turned down accommodation to live on their mother's driveway in a car. Both these young people have had multiple offers of supported living but choose to live where they are. This is still deemed as unsuitable by the criteria. There is also a small number of young people in temporary accommodation, provided by the District Council, whilst the housing authority is addressing homelessness and finding a long-term solution with the leaving care service.

In addition to the above, custody is also always deemed unsuitable. There has, however, been a small increase in the numbers of young people in custody. Ironically, being in custody qualifies as being in education, employment and training but is deemed as unsuitable accommodation.

The Head of Service continues to monitor unsuitable accommodation on a case-by-case basis every month.





Benchmarking as at March 2022

1.3.3 Measures that did not meet their target

None in Quarter 2.

2. Conclusion

The Committee is invited to review and comment on the Children and Young People Service Level Performance for 2023- 24 Quarter 2.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not applicable.

4. Appendices

None used.

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Jo Kavanagh, who can be contacted on jo.kavanagh@lincolnshire.gov.uk