

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education and Children's Services
DATE	2nd December 2014
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Education, Culture and Sport Service - 2013-14 Statutory Performance Indicator Report
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/14/054
CHECKLIST RECEIVED:	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide Elected Members with a summary of the 2013-14 Statutory Performance Indicator outcomes covering the work of the Directorate.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Committee is asked to:

- Approve the E, C&S Service 2013-14 Statutory Performance Indicator Tables contained within Appendix A.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from the report.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

The Service is required to act as set out in the Local Government Act 1992, and as defined within the Statutory Performance Indicator 2013 Direction provided by the Accounts Commission, in respect of its reporting obligations and;

There may be legislative, property, equipment or Health and Safety implications linked to the Service-wide Health and Safety update included in this report. These are addressed by Service as a matter of course, and in accordance with best practice, as required.

5. MAIN ISSUES

- The tables attached at **Appendix A** reflect the detailed Statutory Performance Indicator outcomes relating to the Education, Culture and Sport Service for 2013-14.

5.1 Key Analysis

Members should note the following summary of Statutory Performance Indicator outcomes against the Service's two core functional areas for this period;

5.1.1 Education Services

- 5.1.1.1 Members attention is drawn, in particular, to the overall outcomes relating to the indicators covering the Attainment of Children (**ECS SPI 6**) where the combined position, incorporating the range of 11 sub-indicators shows material progress over 2011-12 results and a substantive longer term improvement trend against the majority of SQA parameters.

It should be noted that, with the introduction of the National Qualifications examination framework in the 2013-14 academic year and extension of this process to advanced levels in 2014-15, this is the last year in which it will be possible to make direct year-on-year comparisons against historical data derived from this Statutory Performance Indicator data-set.

Discussions are currently on-going at national level, through the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES) and SOLACE, in respect of the development of a renewed suite of Statutory Performance and national benchmarking Indicators relating to the education of children under the Accounts Commission's SPI 2 and 3 guidance.

It is anticipated that these negotiations will conclude and that additional instruction will be issued through the Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Project later this year.

- 5.1.1.2. Related to this theme and linking to the introduction of Insight (previously known as the Senior Phase Benchmarking Tool) and revised national CfE performance measures, it is also significant to note the continued and strengthening trend in delivery against the Positive Destinations Indicator (**ECS SPI 10**) that is recording its highest City

outcome since reporting against this parameter was introduced in 2006/07.

5.1.1.3 Outwith these Indicators, the Service can reflect on the underlying long term trend of maintaining or improving performance against the range of Quality Indicator outcomes arising from formal inspections by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate of its education and pre-school establishments and those of partner providers, **(ECS SPI 7, 8 and 9)** albeit that, due in part to sample sizes, there is a relative year-on-year reduction against two of these high level outcomes.

5.1.1.4 The SPI suite for 2013-14 covering Education Services also incorporates a new Indicator relating to the provision of pre-school nursery provision **(ECS SPI 11)** that notes an improvement in the extent to which the needs of eligible children are being met but notes the challenges that face the Service looking forwards.

5.1. 2. Communities, Culture and Sport

5.1.2.1 The year-on-year position in respect of the core attendance and usage indicators relating to Sport, Museums and Galleries and Libraries (ECS SPI 1, 2 and 3) all reflect positive movements with increases of 2.7%, 39.0% and 11.4% respectively.

5.1.2.2 Sports Service

Whilst the levels of pool attendances contributing to the **ECS SPI 1** total have fallen against 2012-13, largely due to improvements in the accuracy and robustness of recording protocols, the absolute and sustained increase in dry facility visits has more than compensated for this loss.

Both this latter figure and the overall total for visits are at their highest recorded level since the opening of the Aberdeen Sports Village and transfer of the majority of sports management functions to Sport Aberdeen in 2010.

5.1.2.3 Museums and Galleries Service

Due in large part to the significant growth of visits to the Service's on-line offerings, the combined total for visits to/usages of the Service **(ECS SPI 2)** have seen a material increase in numbers in comparison with 2012-13.

At the same time, the other contributing measures; visits in person, enquiries and outreach event attendances, have shown differing levels of relative performance although in the case of venue attendances this has been materially impacted by the closure of Provost Skene's House in early 2013.

5.1.2.4 Libraries and Information Service

Taking account of the range of Indicators provided, the Service has experienced a number of differing year-on-year outcomes but with three of the four measures achieving Service targets for the period.

Overwhelmingly, each of these outcomes are heavily influenced by the steady and continued migration of users to technology based delivery platforms, an issue that features as a national agenda point for library services across Scotland.

In terms of meeting this demand, the overall rise in visits (**ECS SPI 3**) demonstrates the extent to which the Service is improving its capacity to deliver against this agenda. It also acts as a counter-balance to the marginal reduction in registered PC users (**ECS SPI 5b**) which, as Wi-fi connectivity has been rolled out across venues, would have been anticipated.

Counter to the trend noted in ECS SPI 5b, the small increase in PC usages (**ECS SPI 5a**) reflects anecdotal evidence in respect of particular current societal issues relating to the welfare reform agenda and the availability of technology infrastructure within libraries that offers support for applicants.

Lastly, **ECS SPI 4** records a marginal reduction in the proportion of population holding library membership from 2012-13 that is, perhaps, below Service expectations. At the same time, it is worth noting that the figure of 21.7% is likely, as it has been for a number of years, to be at the upper end of both the national and City's benchmarking partners' spectrum when this information is released later in the year.

6. IMPACT

Corporate

Reporting to the Committee is an essential governance requirement of the Service's performance management arrangements, by which members may seek assurance that performance improvement activity is evidenced and robust.

The measures reported against ensure linkage to the Single Outcome Agreement and the themes contained in "Improving Scottish Education.", together with the Administration's Policy Statement 'Smarter Aberdeen', - "Improvements in the services provided by Education, Culture and Sport impact positively on communities across the City."

Public

The report is designed for information purposes only and no Equalities and Human Rights implications are involved either in its preparation or the recommendations contained within the body of the Report.

Transparency of performance reporting is a key component of the Council's Public Performance Reporting requirement, which is subject to annual audit by Audit Scotland.

In terms of meeting this requirement, the Education, Culture and Sport Directorate undertakes to report its own performance to the Committee and thereby into the public domain as a matter of course.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The nature of this report is not such that a risk assessment of options is required for consideration by the Committee. However, the regular reporting of performance is itself mitigation of the risk that the Council's Public Performance Reporting might be regarded as insufficient for the purposes of meeting the obligations placed upon it.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- **Appendix A:** 2013-14 Education, Culture and Sport Statutory Performance Indicator Tables

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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