

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education & Children's Services
DATE	17 th November 2016
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Education and Children's Services - 2015-16 Annual Performance (Statutory Performance Indicators) Report
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/16/065
CHECKLIST RECEIVED:	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to:

Provide Elected Members with a summary of the 2015-16 Annual Performance (Statutory Performance Indicator) outcomes covering the work of the Education and Children's Services Directorate.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Committee is asked to:

- i) Note the content of the report
- ii) Note the detailed Education and Children's Services 2015-16 Annual Performance (Statutory Performance Indicator) outcomes contained within Appendices A and B

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.

5. BACKGROUND

Councils are currently required to publish a range of performance information

sufficient to demonstrate Best Value across a defined range of services and criteria.

These requirements, as they reflect the Education and Children's Service's delivery of outcomes within the community, are encompassed under the three main service headings.

- Cultural and Community Services
- The Education of Children
- Child Protection and Children's Social Work

This report, relating to the integrated functions of the Directorate, offers a revised range of Statutory Performance Indicator measures that are designed to demonstrate Education and Children's Services capacity for continuous improvement in an environment of changing legislative, policy and delivery priorities.

The Council's 2015-16 Statutory Performance Indicator Report, incorporating the outcomes against each of the fifteen Directorate Statutory Performance Indicator measures, was considered at the meeting of the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee on 20th September 2016.

Data relating to the Education of Children encompassing the twelve 2015 SQA metrics included in Attainment of National Qualifications suite was previously reported to this Committee in September 2015 and January 2016.

5. 1 Cultural and Community Services

5.1.1 Sports Facility Attendances (ECS SPI 1)

The Council's Strategic Business Plan, against which this SPI is a contributing measure, aims to increase the level of participation in sport and physical activity within sports venues by 1.0% per annum.

With a total of 2,549,135 attendances in 2015-16, the annual outcome for this measure represents an increase of just less than 2.5% on the previous year (+ 61,997) which is 37,126 admissions ahead of the annual target figure.

This reinforces a continuous six year trend in rising attendances at Council owned sports facilities (including community and education establishments) which have risen by 626,843 (+32.6%) over this period.

5.1.2 Museums and Galleries (ECS SPI 2)

The 2015-16 year-end outcomes for this overall measure reflect an increase in visits to and use of the Museums and Galleries Service against the previous year with a total of 1,094,948 as opposed to 1,075,225, a rise of just under 2%.

At this level, the 2015-16 result is only marginally below the full year result from 2013-14, which had been the previous benchmark figure for historical comparison.

Visits in Person

With the extended closure of three venues, (the Art Gallery, Cowdray Hall and Provost Skene's House) for redevelopment, the number of physical visits has, as anticipated, reduced considerably (-67 %).from 283,566 to 93,886 in 2015-16.

In addition, Aberdeen Maritime Museum was closed to visitors from 8th to 22nd July 2015 inclusive due to flood damage which had an adverse impact on visitor figures, falling as it did during a peak Summer visitor period.

This is reflected in a combined reduction in visits in person to the remaining two venues of 6.5% across the year.

Virtual Visits/Enquiries and Outreach Visits

Although website visits (via aagm.co.uk and aberdeenships.co.uk), have remained similar to previous years, usage of the Aberdeenquest website which provides topic support for the school curriculum has increased significantly on last year (+ 25%).

This has contributed to a year-on year increase in virtual visits of over 205,000 visits from 787,225 in 2014-15 to 992,242 in 2015-16. This figure represents a six year high in terms of virtual visits.

Enquiries and Outreach Visits also showed a substantial rise with a combined figure of just 9,000 in 2015-16.

5.1.3 Library and Information Services (ECS SPI 3, 4 and 5)

Total visitor figures have decreased from 1,525,986 in 2014-15 to 1,429,835 in 2015-16. However, this 6.3% drop was less than the fall in the previous year, suggesting that the trend of decreasing visitor numbers being experienced at a national level, is not being replicated to the same extent locally.

Visits in Person

Physical visitors fell from 996,285 in 2014/15 to 891,810 in 2015-16, a decrease of 10.5%. The highly successful Wild Dolphin Trail, involving the Service as hosts, in 2014-15 undoubtedly contributed to increased figures for the previous year, which it has not been able to sustain this year.

This decline also has to be viewed in the context of a national background of reducing visits to library facilities (around -9.4% over 2012-15 in Scotland)

Virtual Visits

In a reverse on last year, virtual visitors increased slightly from 529,701 to 538,025 (1.6%). This is mainly due to hits to the libraries webpages increasing, following a redesign of the landing page and other content. Recorded use of the library catalogue fell, due to the change in the library management system but now appear to be recovering to pre-implementation levels.

Community Participations

There were a total of 27,003 attendances at/participations in Promotions and Extensions activities recorded during 2015-16, a decrease of 1,028 (-3.6%).

A drop in school visits contributed to this, with 61 (-16.4%) fewer visits and 1822 (-16.2%) fewer students attending although the number of educational visits to libraries by nursery schools increased by 16.4%. Linked to this rise in Early Years provision, an increase in Bookbug sessions (an extra 12 sessions over the year) reached 182 more children and their 147 carers, bringing total attendance to over 6000 adults and children.

Digital Provision

Taking combined PC and Wi-Fi use into consideration, use of IT facilities in Aberdeen City Libraries has increased from 204,840 uses in 2014-15 to 209,290 in 2015-16, a 2.2% rise.

The number of terminals accessed over the year decreased from 183,260 in 2014/15 to 172,925 in 2015/16, a drop of 5.6%. However, Wi-Fi use increased from 21,580 in 14/15 to 36,365 in 2015-16, an increase of 68.5%.

Figures against the latter part of the year are indicative that the position in 2016-17 will show a more substantive rise in Wi-Fi usage which is likely to drive the overall figure forwards.

5.2 The Education of Children

5.2.1 Attainment of National Qualifications (ECS SPI 6)

From the 2013-14 academic years, new National Qualifications were introduced at SCQF levels 4 and 5, replacing Standard Grades. The Indicators contained in the 2015-16 ECS SPI 6 suite reflect the first opportunity for comparative attainment analysis against these new measures

The cumulative trend for SQA attainment in the 2015 academic year, across the measures encompassed within this SPI framework, demonstrates an improvement in 2015 outcomes in comparison with the previous year with the overwhelming majority of Indicators reflecting an increase against the prior year.

The aggregated percentage of pupils/candidates attaining qualifications across the seven new National 4 and 5 measures rose by 22.3 percentage points with each Indicator having improved. This represents significant positive movement in the outcomes for S4 pupils.

Whilst there was a more conservative cumulative increase of 1.7 percentage points against the Indicator measures at SCQF Levels 6 and 7 (S5 and S6 pupils), the outcomes from the first tranche of results against the new Higher Grade from 2014-2015 recorded an attainment rate of 80% across all subjects which compares favourably with the national average of just over 79%.

In most instances, the results exceeded both the predicted expectations derived from the MidYIS Baseline assessments conducted in S1 and the national figures for these measures.

A summary of the measures of SQA attainment, derived from the Insight Tool, shows the year-on-year trend for each core SPI measure is outlined below.

SCQF Level 4*

The percentage of S4 pupils attaining Literacy and Numeracy at National 4 rose slightly to 84.7% (+ 0.1% points.), marginally below the Virtual Comparator figure although above the national average of 82.4%

The S4 pass rate for all subjects, at National 4, increased substantially from 93.8% to 98%, considerably in advance of the both the Service improvement target and the national figure of 93.3%

SCQF Level 5*

The percentage of S4 pupils attaining Literacy and Numeracy at National 5 rose to 47.5% from 42.8% in 2014, an increase of nearly 5% points and more than 4% points ahead of the national figure.

The S4 pass rate for all subjects, at National 5, increased from 77.1% to 79.5%, slightly below the national average of 79.8%

The attainment rate for Skills for Work at National 5 increased by 3.6%, from 91.2% in 2014 to 94.8%.

The attainment rate for National 5 in English by S4 candidates improved by 6.8%, from 82.7% in 2014 to 89.5%.

The pass rate for National 5 in Mathematics by S4 candidates improved by 0.5% from 71.1% in 2014 to 71.6%.

SCQF Level 6*

The pass rate for all subjects at the old Higher Grade (A-C) increased from 76.2% to 77.0% in 2015, above both the Service improvement target for this measure and the national outcome

The percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more awards at the old Higher Grade (A-C) or better rose from 25.6% in 2014 to 27.8% in 2015 although falling slightly short of the target for this measure.

The attainment rate for English at the old Higher Grade (A-C) rose significantly to 80.5% in 2015 from the previous year's figure of 76.3%

The Higher Grade (A-C) pass rate against Mathematics fell by 0.75 percentage points in 2015 to just over 72%. It should, however, be borne in mind that there were some issues around SQA's framing of this particular examination which may have artificially depressed the 2015 outcome.

SCQF Level 7*

The pass rate for all subjects at Advanced Higher Grade decreased marginally in 2015 to 78.6% (- 0.6% points) just below the national figure of 80.9%

* N.B. All values are based on 'pre-appeal' values as at September 2015 and exclude outcomes from completed evaluations where results were pending. Typically, these values will be subject to minor upwards revision on conclusion of the final appeal and marking processes.

5.2.2 School and Pre-school Inspections (ECS SPI 7, 8 and 9)

The Directorate can also evidence outcomes through a range of qualitative indicators as evidenced through formal inspections of school and pre-school provision across the City.

The combined figure of 93.5% reflects the results from inspections of 46 educational settings (local authority and partner provider) carried out during 2015-16. This encompasses 9 Education Scotland reports against 6 individual establishments and 37 Care Inspectorate visits, of which 36 resulted in positive inspection outcomes

At this level of outcome, Aberdeen City's results for 2015-16 have improved on the previous two year's figures and exceed Education Scotland's NPF Baseline + 1 year figure for Scotland (91%) which, in the absence of an official combined statistical measure at a national level, acts as a credible proxy benchmark.

These inspections, conducted by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate, display an overall trend of continued and sustained improvement in the quality of provision delivered by and through the Directorate

5.2.3 School Leaver Destinations

The percentage of positive destinations in Aberdeen has fallen between the 2014 and 2015 School Leaver Destinations Report follow-up surveys with a small decrease from 91.7% of total school leavers to 91.1%. At this level, the 2015 academic year outcome for sustained destinations for the City is below the Scotland average of 92.0% (and the Directorate target of 92.1%).

At the same time, the Scottish Government, within publication of the National Performance Indicator Framework, has indicated that annual variations of +/- 1% point are to be regarded as representing an essentially unchanged position.

Additionally, the more statistically reliable three year average of 91.3% is 0.1% above the National Three Year Average and represents a three year improvement rate of 2.2% points, as against the national level of 1.9%.

It is also significant to note the continued longer term improvement trend in this Indicator since 2015 recorded the second highest City outcome since reporting against this indicator was first published in 2008.

5.2.4 Pre-School Provision (ECS SPI 11)

The combined percentage of allocations against ante pre-school and pre-school places in 2015-16 rose by more than 4%, from 83.4% in the previous year to 87.8%, which is a five year high.

Whilst there has been a significant improvement in the overall position, the City's education authority, in common with a number of other local authorities, remains in a position where its capacity to secure full access to early learning and childcare provision continues to face significant pressures from both:

(a) predicted future population growth in this age group and; (b) the availability of places as determined by current physical provision in terms of both facilities and capacity, particularly in the commercial and voluntary sectors.

The Directorate recognises that real and long term progress on tackling inequality can be made through a focus on early years and so actions have and are being taken to increase the provision available to meet demand.

This is evidenced through the additional nursery places provided across the City in the current academic year and the implementation plan to both increase partner provider places and extend our own provision, linked to the City's longer term Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

5.3 **Child Protection and Children's Social Work**

5.3.1 Background

Implementation of the Reclaiming Social Work model, which is a whole system redesign of services for families in need, is underway within Children's Social Work Services.

In addition, completion of the Inclusion Review has created new opportunities for promoting and addressing the needs of looked after children which are, in part, captured through the Indicators below:

5.3.2 Care Placements of Children (ECS SPI 12)

This Indicator, introduced in 2014-15, has shown a positive improvement this year with 21 children (3.8% of the LAC cohort) experiencing 3 or more moves compared with 34 in the previous year.

However given this is only the second year that we have reported on this SPI it is not possible to suggest this is a trend. While this improvement is to be celebrated it also serves as recognition more still needs to be done.

Research has clearly evidenced that the more placement moves children have they generally experience poorer outcomes. The instability of care experiences doesn't allow for children to put down roots, to plan for their future, to develop a sense of belonging and forge relationships of significance with their primary care givers

which can support them into adulthood. Moves of care placement's often necessitate changes of schools providing a disrupted pattern of education commonly resulting in poorer outcomes i.e. qualifications, employment etc.

This data highlighted that over 80% of the young people who experienced more than 3 moves were children aged 12+. This reflects the challenge of being able to successfully care for children in this age group, who have experienced early neglectful care and trauma, the ramifications of which continue to be felt in their teenage years. In view of this a Service priority continues to be the recruitment; training and support provided to foster carers who care for teenagers.

The review of our Residential Children's Homes has also identified the challenge of caring for young people who are in crisis. Caring for a group of young people with similar and competing needs is a hugely complex task. It requires a staff group with the skills and experience to manage their individual and collective needs.

In addition, Implementation of the Reclaiming Social Work model is intended to support more children remain within their families and enable families to find solutions to their own difficulties and will enable staff to further consider how they can support the needs of children in long term care. One critical factor is the emotional and psychological needs of young adolescents. In conjunction with NHS colleagues discussions are ongoing as to explore how the local Child & Adolescent Mental Health team can better support this vulnerable group of children/young people.

5.3.3 Support for Young People and Families at Risk (ECS SPI 13)

Both the measure used to record the SPI (i.e. the number of children and young people with a placement of 'at home or with kinship' as a percentage of the total number of children looked after), and, influentially, the overall number of children looked after have shown reductions for the third year running.

Two thirds of children and young people whose families meet the threshold for a social work service intervention are supported to live at home within their own communities without becoming looked after.

Within the sub-set of those children and young people who are looked after, the proportion that are looked after at home, or with friends or relatives, has fallen for the third year running, which is reflected in similar trends both within comparator authorities and across Scotland, as demonstrated by the 2015 CLAS return.

5.3.4 Child Protection Registrations (ECS SPI 14)

In 2015-16 (1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016), there were a total of 249 registrations which, although slightly fewer than last year's figure of 257, indicates that the number of children on the register has remained relatively static for the last 4 years.

The last year has seen a continued raising of the profile of domestic abuse, and within Aberdeen it remains one of the most common risk factors for those placed on the child protection register. For example, of those children on the Child Protection Register on 31st July 2015, domestic abuse was a concern identified at the case

conference for 41% of children. Parental substance misuse was a concern in 36% of cases; emotional abuse in 34% and parental drug misuse in 28%.

Meanwhile, comparisons with our comparator authorities (i.e. Dundee, Edinburgh, Argyll and Bute, South Ayrshire and Renfrewshire) show that as at 31st July 2015, Aberdeen's rate of 2.9 children aged 0 - 15 per 1,000 on the register was in the mid-range between Edinburgh at 3.4 per 1,000 and Argyll & Bute at 2.4 per 1,000 and below the national picture of 3.0 per 1,000.

5.3.5 Child Protection Re-registration (ECS SPI 15)

During 2015-16, 30 children were re-registered on the Child Protection Register within a 2 year period of being de-registered. In spite of this figure being the same as for the previous 12 month period, re-registration levels remain a focus for the Service and, given this, audit work was undertaken in February 2016 to consider and reflect upon the quality of intervention and support following de-registration.

However, given that drug and alcohol misuse is cited as a risk factor in over 50% of registrations in Aberdeen City, it is likely that some children will continue to be re-registered, given that both are conditions prone to relapse.

The findings from February 2016's audit, examining the reasons why there has historically been a higher proportion of children in Aberdeen who require more than one period of time on the child protection register, have highlighted that further work is needed into better supporting decision making at the time of de-registration to improve practice and consistency at this stage of intervention.

Linked to this work, actions are also in place to ensure that positive changes are maintained after they cease to be on the child protection register, including ensuring that support is provided and monitored up to three months after children cease to be on the register.

6. **IMPACT**

Improving Customer Experience

Analysis and publication of Performance data and, in particular, the use of benchmark information, offers the Directorate the opportunity to critically evaluate the extent to which it is currently meeting customer needs and, as required, re-align delivery methodologies to ensure that the customer experience is continuously improving.

Improving Staff Experience

Transparency of performance reporting, in terms of outputs and outcomes, offers staff with the opportunity to gain insight into areas of good practice within the Directorate, those where improvement might be required and importantly, recognise where their contributions are materially influencing and driving the work of their Service.

Improving our use of Resources

This report aligns with the principles of Best Value whereby local authorities are required to evidence and evaluate the extent to which resource is used effectively and efficiently in the delivery of services to stakeholders through improved outcomes.

Corporate

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

Public

The report is designed for information purposes and no Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment has been prepared.

Transparency of performance reporting is a key component of the Council's Public Performance Reporting (PPR) requirement, which is subject to annual review by Audit Scotland on behalf of the Accounts Commission.

- 6.1 With effect from the 2016/17 reporting year, the Accounts Commission Direction to local authorities on Statutory Performance Reporting has been replaced with new Direction aligning SPI information with enhanced PPR activity within the Best Value audit process.

Councils will still be required to report the output of the Local Government Benchmarking Framework, which reflects a proportion of the Directorate's present SPI suite. However, to support meeting of the new Direction, local authorities will also need to report:

- Performance in improving public services (including with partners)
- Performance in improving local outcomes (including with partners)
- Performance in engaging with communities and service users and responding to their views and concerns
- Performance in achieving Best Value including performance benchmarking, options appraisal and use of resources.

Accordingly, the Directorate, through involvement in development of the Performance Management Framework, which is part of the corporate Governance Review, is beginning to identify suitable cross-service performance information, including non-quantitative measures and case studies, which will support the new Direction.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

There are no additional direct risks to be considered as a result of the publication of this report.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A: 2015-16 Education and Children's Services Statutory Performance Indicator Scorecard

Appendix B: 2015-16 Education and Children's Services Statutory Performance Indicator Trendcharts

Finance, Policy and Resources Committee, 20th September 2016 - Statutory Performance Indicators 2015/16

Education and Children's Services Committee, 3rd September 2015 – Aberdeen City 2015 SQA Briefing and 28th January 2016 – Aberdeen City 2015 Insight Briefing.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Co-ordinated by Alex Paterson, Development Officer, Performance Improvement, Education and Children's Services.



01224 522137



apaterson@aberdeencity.gov.uk