

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	<b>Education &amp; Children's Services</b>
DATE	<b>14<sup>th</sup> September 2017</b>
TITLE OF REPORT	<b>Education and Children's Services - 2016-17 Annual Performance (Statutory Performance Indicator) Report</b>
REPORT NUMBER	<b>ECS/17/047</b>
DIRECTOR	<b>Gayle Gorman</b>
REPORT AUTHOR	<b>Alex Paterson</b>

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with a summary of the 2016-17 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:

- (a) Note the content of the report, and
- (b) Note the detailed Education and Children's Services 2016-17 Annual Performance (Statutory Performance Indicator) outcomes contained within Appendices A and B

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 With effect from the 2016/17 reporting year, the Accounts Commission Direction to local authorities on Statutory and Public Performance Reporting has been replaced by new guidance ('the 2015 Direction')
- 3.2 Within this 2015 Direction, councils are required to reflect against outputs from the Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Framework (SLGBF) which are, as appropriate, captured within the Directorate's Statutory Performance Indicator (SPI) suite.
- 3.3 In addition, to support meeting of the new Direction, local authorities also need to report against particular thematic:
  - 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.

These requirements, as they reflect the Education and Children's Service's delivery and impact, are primarily encompassed under the first two headings.

- 3.4 The SPI suite encompasses a significant proportion of the high-level measures reflecting the Directorate's contributions to the delivery of the Council's Strategic Business Plan, 2016-17 Refresh, the current Strategic document and the City's Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026
- 3.5 Insight Tool-based metrics included in the attainment of national qualifications suite, were previously reported to this Committee in November 2016. This is supplemented by published data linked to the Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Framework which highlights improvements in pupil attainment in the context of deprivation, and the extent to which progress against raising attainment for all and closing the attainment gap is being delivered.
- 3.6 Due to the June deadline for submission of SPI for the purposes of facilitating the External Audit phase, and alignment of this reporting with the Accounts Commission Guidance, attainment data from the most recent academic year (2017) is not reflected in this Report.
- 3.7 The initial unaudited August release of SCQF outcomes from 2017, which links to the themes in the attainment suite, indicate a maintained improvement trend against core educational measures.

A Service Update against this early pre-Service data is provided through the link below:

<https://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ecCatDisplayClassic.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13450&path=0>

#### **4. MAIN ISSUES**

##### **4.1 Sports Facility Attendances (ECS SPI 1)**

With a total of 2,396,458 attendances in 2016-17, the annual outcome for this measure represents a decrease of just less than 6% on the previous year.

##### **4.2 Museums and Galleries (ECS SPI 2)**

The 2016-17 year-end outcome 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 1,369,758 as opposed to 1,094,948 visits in 2015-16, a rise of 25.1%.

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

#### 4.3.1 Visits in Person/Virtual Visits (ECS SPI 3)

Total visitor figures have increased from 1,429,835 in 2015-16 to 1,478,224 in 2016-17. This is a 3.4% increase overall which is counter to the national trend of decreasing library visits.

Physical visitors remained broadly similar to last year, with a 0.6% increase from 891,810 to 897,009, aided by the increase in opening hours towards the end of the 2015-16 year.

Access through digital channels, with an 8% rise in virtual visitors from 538,025 to 581,215, improved to a three year high with the number of customers interacting with the Service via the library catalogue recovering well following the change of provider in 2015.

#### 4.3.2 Community Participation and Engagement (ECS SPI 4)

There were a total of 35,257 attendances/participations in library engagement activities in 2016-17, compared with the 2015-16 figure of 27,003.

With a 16% increase in the number of activities taking place and a 31% increase in participation, this is indicative that the Service, in response to ongoing feedback, surveying and consultation responses, is engaging customers more effectively

#### 4.3.3 Digital Access (ECS SPI 5)

Overall, use of library PCs and Wi-Fi increased by 9% from 209,290 in 2015-16 to 228,890 in 2016-17.

As use of PC terminals fell slightly, from 172,925 to 171,492, (although this is still regarded as a positive baseline) the rise is due to a large increase in the use of Wi-Fi in library buildings. Since 2015-16, Wi-Fi use has risen by 58% from 36,365 to 57,398.

### 4.4 Attainment of National Qualifications (ECS SPI 6)

#### Background

From the 2013-14 academic year, National Qualifications were introduced at SCQF levels 4 and 5, replacing Standard Grades and in, 2015-16, this was followed by the full implementation of the new Higher Grade (SCQF Level 6) Qualification.

The Indicators contained in the ECS SPI 6 suite reflect the first opportunity for comparative analysis against the complete range of SCQF measures linked to these qualification changes.

#### 4.4.1 The cumulative trend for SQA attainment, across the measures encompassed within this SPI framework, (Appendices A and B) demonstrates an

improvement in 2016 outcomes in comparison with the previous year with the overwhelming majority of Indicators reflecting both an increase against the prior year and a maintained improvement trend.

The aggregated percentage of pupil candidates attaining qualifications across the seven specific SCQF level measures rose by 17.2 percentage points, with each Indicator, bar one, having improved year-on-year, which represents significant positive movement in the outcomes for S4-6 pupils.

4.4.2 In assessing the four 'benchmark' measures of senior phase achievement, (% attaining 5 or more awards at SCQF levels 5 and 6) the City's S4-6 pupil outcomes have continued to improve at rates in excess of the national picture.

In regards to the attainment of pupils from areas of the 20% of greatest deprivation (SIMD1), these measures are the most improved across Scotland year-on-year and amongst the most improved over three and five year periods.

The 2016 outcomes for these measures are the highest recorded against these particular indicators by the City's pupils to date.\*

In terms of closing of the attainment gap, this pattern is mirrored in the measures of Tariff Scores with both the gap between SIMD levels, and lower and higher achievers being reduced.

4.4.3 The summary of measures of SQA related attainment in Appendices A and B are aligned with the key national measure themes:

- Improving Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy
- Improving Attainment For All
- Tackling Disadvantage by Improving the Attainment of Lower Attainers Relative to Higher Attainers

4.5 School Education and Early Learning Centre Inspections (ECS SPI 7 & 8)

These measures reflect the proportion of positive evaluations of each Quality Reference Indicator conducted during the course of statutory inspections.

4.5.1 Inspections of Educational and Early Years Provision (ECS SPI 7)

The combined figure of 95.5% (ECS SPI 7) reflects the results from inspections of 46 educational settings (local authority and partner provider) carried out during 2016-17.

4.5.2 Inspections of Early Years and Childcare Provision (ECS SPI 8)

The outcome for evaluations of Early Learning and Childcare settings (ECS SPI 8) produced a figure of 96.1%. Again this was slightly below the 2015-16 figure of 96.3%, although above both the local target and 2014-15 outcome.

#### 4.6 Early Learning and Childcare Provision (ECS SPI 9)

The combined percentage of allocated places against 'ante pre-school' and 'pre-school' populations in 2016-17 rose by more than 2%, from 84.1% in the previous year to 86.2%, which is a five year high.

#### 4.7 School Leaver Destinations (ECS SPI 10)

The percentage of positive destinations in Aberdeen has fallen between the 2016 and 2017 School Leaver Destinations Report follow-up surveys with a small decrease from 91.2% of total school leavers to 89.3%

At this level, the 2015- 2016 academic year outcome for sustained destinations for the City is below the Scotland figure of 91.4% (and the Directorate target of 92.1%).

The more statistically reliable three year average of 90.8% is only just below the National Three Year Average and represents the second highest three year outcome for the City since reporting against this Indicator was first published in 2008.

From August 2017, this Indicator is to be replaced by the National Participation Measure on Post-School Participation which tracks the outcomes for all 16-19 year-olds.

Summary figures from the initial data release, published on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017, indicated that of the 6,862 young people in this cohort, 89.4% were in a positive destination, an increase of 0.5% points and 2.1% points on 2015 and 2016 respectively.

#### 4.8 Child Protection and Children's Social Work (ECS SPI 11, 12, 13 &14)

##### Background

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

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

##### 4.8.1 Care Placements of Children (ECS SPI 11)

This Indicator, introduced in 2014-15, has shown a decline in absolute and proportionate outcome this year with 31 Looked After Children (5.4% of the LAC cohort) experiencing 3 or more moves compared with 21 children in the previous year.

This is only the third year that we have reported on this SPI. As the cohort size is very limited and is as a subset of the total number of looked after children, which itself has increased in each year, it is too early to suggest this is a trend.

At the same time, it is recognised that more still needs to be done. The priority of reducing the percentage of children experiencing three or more moves is being addressed through improvement work linked to the review of residential homes and the training for residential and fostering staff.

Additionally, the recommissioning of externally provided early help and intensive support services will also aim to support more children to remain within their families and enable them to find solutions to their own difficulties. The Family and Community Support services are also being redesigned and links between them and the newly commissioned services will be more closely aligned.

#### 4.8.2 Support for Young People and Families at Risk (ECS SPI 12)

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.

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), showed a decrease on the previous year of just over 1% to 44.9% from 46.1%.

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 fourth year running, (despite those looked after in kinship arrangements rising slightly). This is also reflected in similar trends both within comparator authorities and across Scotland, as demonstrated by the 2016 CLAS return.

#### 4.8.3 Child Protection Registrations (ECS SPI 13)

In 2016-17 (1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017), there were a total of 276 registrations, an outcome higher than last year's figure of 249, and which had previously been seeing a marginal reduction year on year. Nevertheless the increase is within a static trend.

The data highlights that the rate of registration in Aberdeen City is 3.5 per 1000 while the national average is 3 per 1,000) However, this rate is not substantively different from the City's comparator authorities, (Dundee; Edinburgh City; Renfrewshire; Argyll & Bute and South Ayrshire).

#### 4.8.4 Child Protection Re-registration (ECS SPI 14)

During 2016-17, 22 children were re-registered on the Child Protection Register (CPR) within a 2 year period of being de-registered, a reduction of 8 children on the two previous years and against a background of an increasing, although relatively stable, number of children recorded on the Register.

The Scottish average taken from Scottish Government returns published in May 2017 (July 2016 snapshot) for children whose names are on the CPR with a previous history of registration is 17%. The level of re-registration for Aberdeen City is 20%.

While the data suggests that Aberdeen City is above the national average the outcome for this year is suggesting the gap is narrowing. Last year, Aberdeen City's rate of re-registration was 25% compared to the national average of 16%.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

**Financial:** There are no direct financial risks arising from this report.

**Employee:** There are no direct employee risks arising from this report.

**Customer / Citizen:**

Consistency and transparency of performance reporting in the public domain forms part of the Directorate's approach to risk mitigation through enhancing scrutiny and accountability against the delivery of services to the community.

**Environmental:** There are no direct environmental risks arising from this report.

**Technological:** There are no direct technology risks arising from this Report

**Legal:**

Reporting performance in the public domain meets the Best Value requirements placed on Scottish local authorities under the Local Government Act 1992

**Reputational:** There are no direct reputational risks arising from this Report

## **8. IMPACT SECTION**

- 8.1 The content and outcomes contained within this Report are directly aligned with the improvement themes from both the Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan, and the Aberdeen City Council Strategic Business Plan.

## 8.2 **Economy**

The Directorate takes cognisance of the positive impact that effective delivery of its services can impart to the Council and the community in terms of facilitating greater opportunities for access to the benefits of economic stability.

## 8.3 **People**

The Directorate is committed to improving the key life outcomes of all people in Aberdeen, with a specific focus on our children and young people, taking cognisance of the importance of promoting equality and diversity as a foundation for improvement.

Within the report, this is recognised in terms of the Directorate's focus on outcomes that:

- (a) increase access to, and quality within, childcare and education settings, providing our children with the best start in life.
- (b) enhance the employment outcomes for our young people.
- (c) provide enhanced and sustained support of children, young people and families from communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage through improving educational outcomes and experiences
- (d) offer encouragement, support and protection for our most vulnerable children and young people.

An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment is not required as the report does not disproportionately impact on persons with protected characteristics compared to persons without such characteristics.

## 8.4 **Place**

The report identifies outcomes which contribute to an enhanced sense of place by improving personal resilience, protecting individuals and the community from harm, and enabling citizens to both understand, and contribute to, their communities.

The report content also evidences that the Directorate is improving the experience of the City's residents and visitors through enhanced recreational and cultural provision.

## 8.5 **Technology**

The Directorate has a significant role to play in the application of technology and developing the future skills infrastructure necessary to engage with, and support, the use of technology as a means of increasing access to services.

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Education and Children's Services Committee, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016 – Aberdeen City Insight Briefing.
- National Benchmarking Overview Report 2015-16 (Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Framework).

## **10. APPENDICES**

Appendix A: 2016-17 Education and Children's Services Statutory Performance Indicator Scorecard

Appendix B: 2016-17 Education and Children's Services Statutory Performance Indicator Trendcharts

## **11. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

Co-ordinated by Alex Paterson, Development Officer, Performance Improvement, Education and Children's Services, [apaterson@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:apaterson@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

## **12. HEAD OF SERVICE DETAILS**

Euan Couperwhite, Head of Policy, Performance and Resources, Education and Children's Services, [ecouperwhite@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:ecouperwhite@aberdeencity.gov.uk)