

1. Cabinet decisions since the last Report from the Executive to the County Council

- 1.1 There will have been four Cabinet meetings, 20 April 2015, 18 May 2015, 15 June 2015 and 13 July 2015 since the last Executive Member report to County Council. There were no items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio.

2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council

- 2.1 Nothing to report

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

- 3.1 The future of funding for the Home Visiting Service will be discussed at Cabinet on the 13 July.

4. Key Partnerships

- 4.1 The Executive Member sits on the Health and Wellbeing Board; Children and Young People's Commissioning Executive Group; Hertfordshire's Safeguarding Children's Board; and is Chairman of the Local Government Association (LGA) regional portfolio-holders for Children's Services.

5. Other comments**5.1 Troubled Families**

Phase 1 of the National Troubled Families Programme closed at the end of May 2015. The target number of families for Hertfordshire to engage with over the three year programme was 1350 families; led by Thriving Families teams and key partner agencies. All outcome claims have been submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). To date, 1476 families have been supported.

Hertfordshire has signed up to engaging with 4,470 families over the 5 year expanded programme. In order to achieve significant and sustained outcomes for families the Council expects to engage with at least twice that number of families; approximately 1,500 in 2015/16 and over 2000 per year by 2018/19 - 2019/2020.

Thriving Families in Hertfordshire incorporates the Troubled Families programme of the DCLG as part of a longer term early help strategy to manage the demand for high cost services in the future.

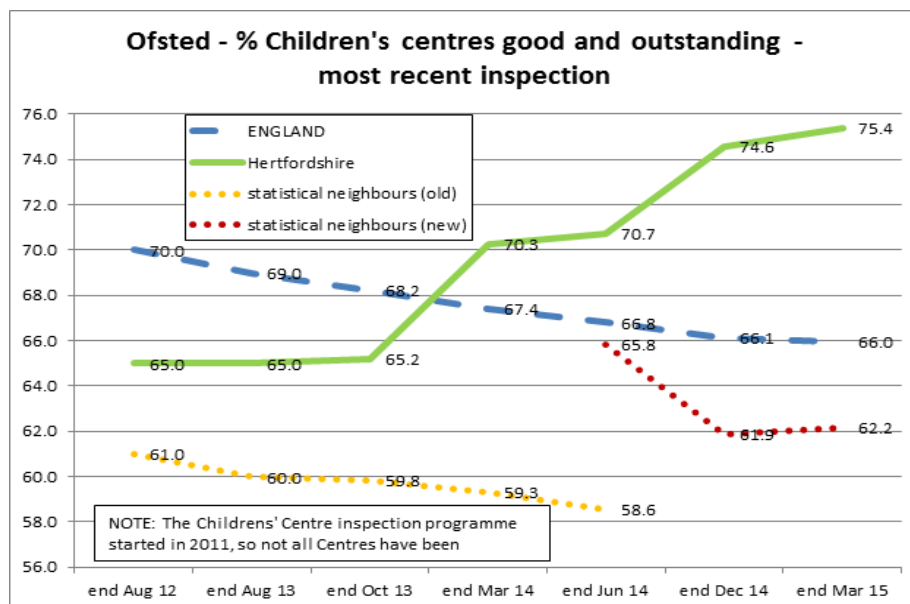
The Family First/ Early Help Programme will provide an overarching strategy for the delivery of early help, including early year's services and the expanded

Troubled Families programme. A critical element of Children’s Services’ approach is ensuring that it works closely with other directorates within the Council and key partner organisations.

5.2 Children’s Centres data

Ofsted has released its March data for children’s centres. This now covers all the children’s centre inspections for Hertfordshire under the current framework, as there have been no further inspections since March. There are 10 children’s centres in the County which have not had an inspection to date. Following the recommissioning of centres, the new contracts with new children’s centre providers commenced in April with no significant problems.

The percentage rated as good and outstanding for Hertfordshire has increased by 0.8 percentage points (ppts) since December 2014, while the figures nationally and for the Council’s statistical neighbours have changed only marginally. Hertfordshire is currently over 13ppts ahead of its statistical neighbours and over 9ppts ahead of the national figure.



5.3 Support for children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing

The Health & Wellbeing Board agreed the review and work programme for a more responsive children’s mental health service. The Executive Member is pleased that the issues raised through the work of the St Albans Youth Council and the 1125 group’s Youth Manifesto priorities have been recognised. Appropriate pastoral care for young people in and out of school, timely referrals and subsequent programmes of care will be included. Additional funding from Central Government is to be welcomed.

5.4 Families First

Early Help is known as Families First in Hertfordshire, after a consultation with partners in early spring. There has been an extensive programme of activity from

late summer 2014 and an Early Help Programme Board has been established from multi – agency partners to oversee developments and disseminate information. There has been consultation with parents, young people and children on how they would like to receive support earlier. Workshops have also been held with practitioners on the customer journey which will help the Council simplify pathways into the right service at the right time.

The number of Children and Family assessments (eCAF's) has increased from 600 in 2014 to 5195 individual children supported, and 2000 Family eCAF's. This enables local practitioners in schools, children centres and health settings to have a comprehensive oversight of the needs of their families. Referrals to statutory safeguarding have reduced. Five additional Senior eCaf co-ordinators were appointed to coach and problem solve during this period of programme expansion.

5.5 Hertfordshire Learning Disability Confident Employer Event

Children's Services ran a first ever event of this nature on the 9 June 2015 at the Ramada Hotel. Hertfordshire is leading in this area, working closely with the Department of education, schools, the regional colleges and employers. The driver for change is the low rates of employment for a group of people who wish to work as much as anyone else.

Employers, including Hertfordshire County Council, signed a pledge to encourage the "supported internships" model that has now been trialled successfully.

6. Cabinet Panels

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Children's Services Cabinet Panel has met on 25 June 2015. The matters discussed can be found at the following location:

25 June 2015

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/108/Committee/19/Default.aspx>

Richard Roberts
Executive Member for Children's Services
July 2015