

Statistical First Impressions

Outcomes for Looked After Children 2008

24/11/08

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report provides a brief summary of the outcomes for children who have been looked after (LAC) by Surrey for the last 12 months or more. The report covers the 542 LAC cared for between the 1st October 2007 and the 30th September 2008. The data underpinning these outcomes is submitted to the DCSF in the form of the OC2 Statutory return.

A more detailed educational attainment report will be published at the end of January. This report will provide a detailed analysis of this year's performance, as well as results over time and progress in relation to our DCSF/Local Authority agreed targets; including Local Area Agreement (LAA) Targets.

The DCSF publishes its own analysis of the OC2 data submitted nationally. This publication details performance nationally, as well as at individual LA-level, and enables authorities to compare their performance against statistical and regional neighbours. This report will not be available until May 2009.

Key Messages

- LAC and their education was a Council priority in 2007/08. On most measures reported outcomes show a decline.
- At KS1, our LAC have not performed as well as in 2007 and the results are lower than all academic years since 2002/03
- At KS2, our LAC have not performed as well as in 2007 and the results are the lowest since 2005/06 in English and 2004/05 in Maths and Science.
- At KS3 we have had our best overall results, Maths and Science the best recorded, English was only better in 2004/05 and then by less than 1%.
- At KS4, our LAC have not performed as well as last year except in 5 A* - C where the performance is the best since 2004/05 at 13%.
- The percentage of LAC that had a medical and dental check in the last year was 83.1%. This is just above last year's 82.9% but below our target of 85%.
- The number of children who received a final warning, caution or conviction increased considerably (lower is better) and is our highest on record at 8.1%.
- The number of LAC who had all their immunisations up to date has fallen considerably from 80.0% to 65.1%.
- In PAF terms, one of the three indicators from this return (C19) is in the top band with C24 remaining in the 'Good' band and C18 just outside the highest band but now in the 'ask questions about performance band'.

2.0 SUMMARY

The number of children who had been looked after for 12 months or more (542) was higher than last year (531) but lower than the preceding 4 years. However, the number of those children who should have been in full-time schooling (409) was less than last year (415), both the number of LAC above school age and those below were higher than last year. The number in their final year of a key stage showed a bigger decline, 173 of this year's cohort compared with 193 last year.

The number of children in receipt of a statement of SEN (148 – 36% of the school age cohort) fell again this year from last year (155). The number of children permanently excluded from School was the lowest ever with only 5 children (1.22%) being recorded as having a permanent exclusion during the year. The number of LAC absent from school for 25 days or more (30) was lower than last year (34) and means that our performance on the PAF indicator C24 (about absence) has remained in the 'good' band.

At KS 1, the number of children who sat and received an assessment for all the tasks was the highest on record (19) as was the total size of the cohort (21). However, the performance shown in the teacher assessments was the worst since the 2002/03 academic year, each subject being around 15 percentage points lower than last year. The provisional results for all Surrey children at KS1 also show a decline in performance across all three subjects but by much smaller margins (between 0.5 – 1.1 percentage points).

At KS2, the number of LAC in year 6 was the lowest in the last eight years. The number of children who sat and received an assessment for all the tasks was also the lowest in the last eight years at just under 76%. The performance in English was the lowest since the 2005/06 academic year at 48.3%, the performance in Maths (41.4%) and Science (55.2%) was the worst since 2004/05. The provisional results for all Surrey children at KS2 showed a decrease in Science attainment, English was marginally lower and Maths increased slightly.

At KS3, the number of LAC in year 9 was the smallest since 2001/02. Only 56.3% (27/48) sat and received an assessment for all the tasks, the lowest percentage since 2002/03. However, the overall results were the highest ever, with only English (39.6%) being lower than a previous year (2004/05 – 41.9%). The provisional results for all Surrey children at KS3 are based on Teacher Assessments. They also show improvements across all three subjects.

At KS4, the number of children who sat at least one GCSE was only 57.1%, lower than the last 3 years. 55.8% of LAC got 1 A* - G (again lower than the last 3 years) and only 35.1% got 5 or more GCSEs at A* - G, compared to 45% last year and 40.3% in 2005/06. However, 10 of the 77 LAC in the cohort achieved 5 or more A* - C, a percentage of 13% compared with 12.5% last year and only better in the last 5 years in 2004/05 (13.9%). The provisional results for all Surrey children at KS4 show an improvement in these 3 measures.

The number of LAC whose immunisations are up to date fell significantly again this year (65.1% -2008, 80% - 2007). But health surveillance checks for those aged 5 and under rose to a record high of 98.2% (96.4% last year).

For the second year, data was collected about substance misuse. The number of LAC identified in the year as having a substance misuse problem fell from 18 last year to 14 this year. Of these, 11 received an intervention for this problem (an improvement on the 8 last year); the other 7 refused any intervention for this problem.

In answer to the question – ‘What are LAC doing at the end of Year 11?’ of the 77 children in this particular year, 68.8% were continuing in full time education, slightly up on last year’s figure of 67.5%. However, the percentage unemployed for reasons other than ill health or disability rose to 19.5% this year from 16.3% last year and is the highest since 2003/04.

In the three PAF PIs, performance was slightly better for C19 worse for C18 and better for C24 than last year:

- For C19 – health of LAC performance was up marginally from 82.9% last year to 83.1% this year, we continue to remain in the ‘Good’ band.
- Performance for C18 – offending of LAC was at its highest (low is good) level on record at 8.1%. It is likely however that this higher result is a consequence of better data quality rather than a shift in offending behaviour. Based on the last available Police federation crime figures for Surrey (young people over 10 and under 18) in 2006, where 2.71% of that population offended, the ration for C18 is 3.0%, meaning that we are just outside the highest performance band (1<3).
- Performance in C24 – absence from School, improved from last year’s figure of 8.2% to 7.3% this year, only the performance in 2002/03 is better. This performance keeps us in the ‘Good’ PAF band.