

Committee: **Scrutiny Committee for Education and Libraries**

Date: **8 March 2005**

By: **Director of Law and Performance Management**

Title: **Quarter 3 (Q3) monitoring report against the 2004-05 Council Plan**

Purpose: **To provide a summary of performance after 9 months against the 2004-05 Council Plan**

RECOMMENDATION - the Committee is asked to:

- (1) note the achievements in 2.0; and**
 - (2) consider the specific areas of concern in 4.0 and agree the recommendations in 4.0 and Appendix 1**
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1.0 Financial Implications

1.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

2.0 Achievements update

2.1 **Corporate;** 75% of residents stated that they were satisfied with overall services that ESCC provided making the county the joint top performer nationally against other County Councils and third against all Councils. ESCC is also the seventh highest authority in the Country and the third highest County Council for public satisfaction with the way complaints are handled.

2.2 **Education:** The 2005/6 local target of 95% of schools submitting three year budget plans has already been achieved, against a 2004/5 target of 80% (Council Plan 3.1).

2.3 **Children and Young People; and libraries:** 44% of looked after children aged 11 attained at least level 4 in English against a target of 35% (Council Plan 2.1aii). Only 19% of looked after children reaching school leaving age left without having sat a GCSE examination or equivalent against a target of 20% and reduced from 33% in 2003/4 (Council Plan 2.1b). During the period April to December 2004, 100% (124 in total) of proposed statements/notes in lieu were prepared and communicated to parents within the 18 week statutory timescale (Council Plan 2.2b) excluding any cases that are affected by exceptions to statutory timescales. The Autumn 2004 headcount showed that 91% of 3 year olds accessed nursery education against a target of 85% and compared to only 66% in 2003/4 (Council Plan 3.1a).

3.0 PSA targets

3.1 The following performance judgements are taken from Appendix 2: PSA targets, not the Council Plan exception report in which the scoring is often based on more subjective criteria. Areas of concern at this stage appear to be:

PSA1: Pupil Attainment – 2 x amber, 2 x red (Q2 - 1 x amber and 1 x red)

PSA2: Pupil attendance – Information not available until the end of the year (2 x red in yr 1, early indications suggest the yr 2 target is unlikely to be met)

4.0 Specific Areas of Concern

4.1 Appendix 1 contains details of those key service targets assessed as amber or red within the remit of this scrutiny committee together with an explanatory commentary and recommendations

where appropriate. The performance against the following KSTs are of concern and further recommendations against these KSTs are shown below.

4.2 **Education: KST 1.4** (improve attainment of pupils at Key Stage 4). The targets and results relate to exams taken in Summer 2004, and therefore the indicator will be red at the end of the year. Attainment fell slightly against the previous year. This KST is also BVPI 39, which has just been examined by the BVPI project board. The board has recommended that the committee ask the Education Standards Panel (ESP) to scrutinise targets against this BVPI.

Recommendation: It is further recommended that the committee ask the ESP to scrutinise performance against this BVPI and report back to the committee.

4.3 **Education: KST 1.5a** (improve attainment of pupils in information and communications technology). The achievement figure has been confirmed as 54%, a drop from last year's achievement.

Recommendation: that the committee ask the ESP to scrutinise performance against this BVPI and report back to the committee.

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