

Report to: **Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services**

Date: **16 June 2005**

Report by: **Director of Law and Performance Management**

Title: **Quarter Four (Q4) monitoring report against the 2004-05 Council Plan**

Purpose: **To provide the scrutiny committee with an end of year summary of performance against the 2004-05 Council Plan and to consider whether to establish a scrutiny review board to consider performance against critical best value performance indicators (BVPIs)**

RECOMMENDATION - the Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- 1) note the achievements during 2004/05 and the end of year monitoring results of both Key Service and PSA Targets; and**
 - 2) establish a scrutiny review board to investigate in detail a number of critical BVPIs and report back to the next committee with its findings and recommendations.**
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1. Financial Implications

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

2. Notable achievements 2004/05

2.1 ESCC was short listed for several awards, the winners of which will be announced in June 2005, including the Public Finance Magazine Public Servants of the Year Awards for 'Education' (for the partnership work to develop the University Centre Hastings).

3. Council Plan 'fourth quarter monitoring' achievements of note include:

Children and Young People; and Libraries

3.1 Staff from 144 schools (73%) received child protection training during 2004/05, against a target of 60%. 789 courses were delivered through Learndirect centres in 2004/05 (245 in the fourth quarter) compared with 550 courses in 2003/04. 85% of schools now have broadband connections (meeting target for 2005/06). The percentage of schools with more than 25% or more of their places unfilled has been reduced in primary schools to 6.4% (ten schools) against a target of 7%. In secondary schools this has been reduced to 3.7% (one school) against a target of 7.4%. 100% of child protection conferences were held within required timescales. The number of foster carers recruited increased by 29 against a target of 25 and 31 prospective adopters were approved during the year (plus 16 Permanent Carers), against a target of 30.

4. Performance against Key Service Targets

4.1 Appendix 1 provides a summary of measures which have been scored red in the fourth quarter. Appendix 2 provides a summary of performance measures which were identified earlier in the year as unlikely to succeed in their original form. The two appendices provide a summary of all targets that have not been fully achieved at the end of the year. A full commentary is provided for each measure along with a percentage score indicating the, often very high, degree of partial achievement.

5. Public Service Agreements (PSA) targets

5.1 Appendix 3 shows PSA progress, at the end of Year 2, together with a more detailed commentary and graphical representations of performance where appropriate.

6. Convening BVPI Scrutiny Boards

6.1 In July 2004 a Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) review board, established by the Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee, successfully challenged performance against BVPIs and identified some indicators that the committee should monitor carefully in future. These were incorporated into the future programme for the committee and subsequent quarterly Council Plan performance monitoring reports. Both Members and officers found the sessions to be very informative in identifying and examining areas of poor performance.

6.2 It is recommended that the Committee establishes a scrutiny review board of 3 members to examine a number of the most critical current BVPIs in detail, especially those showing poor performance; and to report its findings and recommendations to the Scrutiny Committee in September.

6.3 Recommendations may address: changes to services to help better meet targets, changes to the way performance data is presented to assist Members with performance information and interpretation; and, any further training considered necessary to assist Members with interpretation of performance information.

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