

REPORT TO: Education & Children's Services PPRP

MEETING DATE: 12 December 2006

BY: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Statutory Performance Indicators

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report gives an initial analysis of Education and Children's Services Statutory Performance Indicators for 2005-06, covering the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006. The data produced for this year is compared to the corresponding data last year (2004-05), in an effort to highlight areas where there has been significant change.
- 1.2 Panel Members should note that the external auditor has audited the data used for this report.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to use the information provided in this report to begin considering whether any aspect of the Department's performance is in need of improvement or further investigation.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 All Scottish local authorities are obliged to collect information on Statutory Performance Indicators. These are determined by the Accounts Commission, collected by Audit Scotland, and audited externally. The figures are reported on an annual basis by Audit Scotland.
- 3.2 The indicators provide a broad range of information on East Lothian Council's services over the year, and due to the statutory nature of the indicators, allow comparisons to be drawn between the performance of East Lothian and other councils in Scotland.
- 3.3 The Statutory Performance Indicators are used in conjunction with many locally determined indicators to monitor the performance of the Council on an ongoing basis, largely through the scorecard system.

- 3.4 The figures relate to the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, and so the Panel should be aware that any changes made in recent months would not have impacted on results presented in this report.
- 3.5 The performance indicators mentioned in this report have been made available to the general public through the publication of *How We Perform*, copies of which have been distributed to all libraries and officially published on the internet. In addition, a number of the indicators were also published in *Aiming High*, the Council's public performance report, which was delivered to all households in East Lothian in October 2006.

3.6 Performance Analysis

- 3.6.1 The SPI data can be used in conjunction with the scorecard system the Council runs to assess overall performance. Figures from our benchmarking partners and from other Scottish Councils as a whole are unavailable as yet, so it is difficult to assess where our new figures will sit nationally. This will be reported to the panel in due course.
- 3.6.2 The report includes two tables. The first table gives a brief overview of how the Department is performing in each area. The second table summarises the most significant finding of each SPI. Brief comments have been suggested as to why an indicator has improved, remained the same or declined.

3.7 Performance of Individual Services

3.7.1 Children's Services

	No of indicators demonstrating			
	Improvement	Decline	Mixed Performance	X rating or Not Returned
Children's Services	3	1	1	0
Corporate Management (Sickness Absence)	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	4	1	1	0

1	Primary Schools – Occupancy 81% - 100%	57.1%	48.6%	Declined
2	Secondary Schools – Occupancy 81% - 100%	100%	100%	No Change
3	a) Teaching Staff: Equal Opportunities – percentage of head and deputy head teachers that are women.	77.4%	78.2%	Improved
	b) Teaching Staff: Equal Opportunities – percentage of all teachers that are women	79%	78.8%	Declined
4	Children's Reporter Liaison – Children's Hearing reports submitted within target time	-	59.3%	Changed*
5	Supervision – percentage of those requiring new supervision seen within 15 working days	40.5%	91.7%	Improved
6	Looked After Children – Academic Attainment (attaining Standard Grade English & Maths)	46.7%	64.3%	Improved
7	Residential Accommodation: Staff qualifications	-	75%	Changed*
8	Residential Accommodation: Privacy (en-suite)	0%	11.1%	Improved
9	Respite Care – total hours of daytime respite care provided per 1,000 children with disabilities	-	862.5	Simplified*
10	Sickness Absence: percentage of days lost by teachers	3.7%	3.6%	Improved

* Due to changes in the definition of these indicators there is a lack of comparative data and, therefore, no comment/analysis has been provided within this report.

Key Areas of Improvements:

- **Supervision**
 - Percentage of children seen within 15 working days has improved from 40.5% to 91.7%.
 - Children's Services has made strenuous efforts to ensure that when a supervision requirement is made, the child is seen within 15 working days.
- **Looked After Children – Academic Attainment**
 - Children attaining at least one Standard Grade (any subject) has improved from 53.3% to 78.6%.
 - Children attaining Standard Grade in English and Maths have increased from 46.7% to 64.3%.
 - The number of young people leaving care at age 16 or 17 each year in East Lothian is relatively small so the attainment levels can fluctuate from year to year because of a few children who for some reason were unable to sit examinations, for example because of a severe disability.
- **Residential Accommodation: Privacy**
 - All children in residential care still have their own room.
 - The figure for rooms with en-suite facilities has increased from none to 11.1%.
- **Sickness Absence: Teachers**
 - Days lost due to sickness absence of teachers improved from 3.7% to 3.6%.
 - Continued focus on absence management procedures (revised sickness absence procedures and management guidance), management support (priority support from Personnel Services), management training (all managers received absence management training last year) and health promotions (the Council has obtained SHAW Gold) have all contributed to an improvement in days lost due to sickness absence.

Key Area of Decline:

- **Primary School Occupancy Levels**
 - Primary school occupancy levels of 81-100% have declined from 57.1% to 48.6%, and occupancy levels of 61-80% has increased from 37.1% to 42.9%.
 - There is a declining primary roll across the county with increasing and decreasing variations between each school dependent on migration and birth rates.
 - Occupancy levels change from year to year in each school dependant on how the rolls change. This has caused some primary schools to move up and down the occupancy banding for 2005/06.

Area of No Change:

- **Secondary School Occupancy Levels**
 - Secondary school occupancy levels of 81-100% remains at 100%.
 - Functional capacity within the secondary schools remained unchanged from 2004/05 to 2005/06. There were also no significant increases within the secondary school rolls from 2004/05 to 2005/06 to affect the occupancy banding that each secondary school fell within. As a result, the PI remained unchanged for 2005/06.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 East Lothian Council is committed to delivering continuous improvement as part of Best Value. Further, the Council strives to improve all performance indicators on an annual basis, but focuses particular attention on any indicators where we feature in the fourth (bottom) quartile, and aims to at least maintain the performance of any indicators in the third quartile.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial – None

5.2 Personnel - None

5.3 Other - None

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Local Government Act 1992, The Publication of Information (Standards of Performance) Direction 2003: <http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications/pdf/2003/2003PIDirection.pdf>

- 6.2 Report on Statutory Performance Indicators presented to the Corporate Governance PPRP, 21 November 2006:

<http://spruce.eastlothian.gov.uk/CMISWebPublic/Binary.ashx?Document=6420>

AUTHOR'S NAME	Jacqueline Leslie
DESIGNATION	Policy Officer
CONTACT INFO	01620 827829 jleslie@eastlothian.gov.uk
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