

Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	11 October 2018
Officer	<p><u>Local Members</u> All Members <u>Lead Director</u> Nick Jarman, Director of Children's Services</p>
Subject of Report	Outcomes Focused Monitoring Report: September 2018
Executive Summary	<p>The 2017-19 Corporate Plan sets out the four outcomes towards which the County Council is committed to working, alongside our partners and communities: to help people in Dorset be Safe, Healthy and Independent, with a Prosperous economy. The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee has oversight of the Safe corporate outcome.</p> <p>The Corporate Plan includes objective and measurable population indicators by which progress towards outcomes can be better understood, evaluated and influenced. No single agency is accountable for these indicators - accountability is shared between partner organisations and communities themselves.</p> <p>This is the first monitoring report for 2018-19. As well as the most up to date available data on the population indicators within the "Safe" outcome, the report includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance measures by which the County Council can measure the contribution and impact of its own services and activities on the outcomes; • Risk management information, identifying the current level of risks on the corporate risk register that relate to our outcomes and the population indicators associated with them.

	<p>The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee is encouraged to consider the information in this report, scrutinise the evidence and commentaries provided, and decide if it is comfortable with the trends. If appropriate, members may wish to consider and identify a more in-depth review of specific areas, to inform their scrutiny activity.</p>
<p>Impact Assessment:</p>	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment: There are no specific equalities implications in this report. However, the prioritisation of resources to challenge inequalities in outcomes for Dorset’s people is fundamental to the Corporate Plan.</p>
	<p>Use of Evidence: The outcome indicator data in this report is drawn from several local and national sources, including the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) and the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF). There is a lead officer for each outcome whose responsibility it is to ensure that data is accurate and timely and supported by relevant commentary.</p>
	<p>Budget: The information contained in this report is intended to facilitate evidence driven scrutiny of the interventions that have the greatest impact on outcomes for communities, as well as activity that has less impact. This can help with the identification of cost efficiencies that are based on the least impact on the wellbeing of customers and communities.</p>
	<p>Risk: Having considered the risks associated with this report using the County Council’s approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as:</p> <p>Current: Medium</p> <p>Residual: Low</p> <p>However, where “high” risks from the County Council’s risk register link to elements of service activity covered by this report, they are clearly identified.</p>
	<p>Outcomes: The Overview and Scrutiny Committees each have a primary focus on one or more of the outcomes in the County Council's Outcomes Framework: Safe, Healthy, Independent and Prosperous. The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee has oversight of the Safe corporate outcome, and this outcome is therefore the primary focus of this report.</p>
	<p>Other Implications: None</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>That the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considers the evidence of Dorset’s position regarding the outcome indicators in Appendix 1; and:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies any issues requiring more detailed consideration through focused scrutiny activity.
Reason for Recommendation	The 2017-19 Corporate Plan provides an overarching strategic framework for monitoring progress towards good outcomes for Dorset. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees provide corporate governance and performance monitoring arrangements so that progress against the corporate plan can be monitored effectively.
Appendices	1. Outcomes Monitoring Report July 2018 – Safe
Background Papers	Dorset County Council Corporate Plan 2017-19, Cabinet, 28 June 2017 https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/corporate-plan-outcomes-framework
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1. Corporate Plan 2017-19: Dorset County Council’s Outcomes and Performance Framework

- 1.1 The corporate plan includes a set of “population indicators”, selected to measure progress towards the four outcomes. No single agency is accountable for these indicators - accountability is shared between partner organisations and communities themselves. For each indicator, it is for councillors, officers and partners to challenge the evidence and commentaries provided, and decide if they are comfortable that the direction of travel is acceptable, and if not, identify and agree what action needs to be taken.
- 1.2 Each indicator has one or more associated **service performance measures**, which measure the County Council’s own specific contribution to, and impact upon, corporate outcomes. For example, one of the outcome indicators for the “Safe” outcome is “The number of people who are killed or seriously injured on Dorset’s roads”. A performance measure for the County Council on this is “The percentage of roads in need of maintenance”, since one of the ways we improve road safety is to ensure that roads are kept in good condition.
- 1.3 Unlike with the population indicators, the County Council is directly accountable for the progress (or otherwise) of performance measures, since they reflect the degree to which we are making the best use of our resources to make a positive difference to the lives of our own customers and service users.

- 1.4 Where relevant, this report also presents **risk management** information in relation to each population indicator, identifying the current level of risks on the corporate register that relate to our four outcomes.
- 1.5 Outcome lead officers work to ensure that the commentaries on each page of these monitoring reports reflect the strategies the County Council has in place to improve each aspect of each outcome for residents. the commentary seeks to explain the strategies we have in place to make improvements, and then report on the success of those strategies.
- 1.6 Members are encouraged to consider all the indicators and associated information at Appendix 1, scrutinise the evidence and commentaries provided, and decide if they are comfortable with the direction of travel. If appropriate, members may wish to consider a more in-depth review of specific areas.

2.0 Suggested area of focus

2.1 Children

- 2.1.1 Focusing initially on indicators relating to Children the report highlights that the Rate of children subject to a child protection plan remain unchanged. This follows a sharp decrease between 2016 and 2017. There is a High Level Corporate risk surrounding the Council's inability to attract and retain suitably qualified specialist safeguarding staff within Children's Services.
- 2.1.2 The number of 'children in care' has improved slightly over the past year which reflects a small but ongoing improvement within this area. There remains a High Level Corporate risk over the lack of sufficiency (placements/ residential/ foster care), which impacts negatively on the demands led budget for children in care.
- 2.1.3 The rate of children who are persistently absentees from school in the primary sector has remained unchanged over the past year whilst the rate for children in the secondary sector has worsened slightly. The data for secondary schools follows the national picture which has shown an increase over time.

2.2 Adults

- 2.2.1 In relation to safe outcomes for Adults – the initial population indicator shows a worsening position in relation to the number of adult safeguarding concerns in Dorset, again this reflects the national trend.

2.3 Crime

- 2.3.1 In relation to crime – levels of total crime have seen an increase from the last quarter of 2017 to the first quarter of 2018 – the levels of crime have shown an upward trend since 2015/16 although there are seasonal fluctuations.
- 2.3.2 Levels of anti-social behaviour have increased since the last quarter of 2017 – and over the past few years there has been an upward trend in numbers of anti-social behaviour – however the numbers have decreased slightly from the same period last year. The data follows a seasonal pattern with numbers highest in the second quarter and lowest in the fourth quarter.
- 2.3.3 Levels of domestic abuse incidents reported have dropped slightly since the last quarter of 2017 and since the same time last year. However, the number of actual crimes recorded has increased which needs to be investigated as it could reflect several different factors.

2.4 Road Safety

- 2.4.1 It is important to consider the wide variety of factors that influence the number of road traffic casualties, many being outside the direct control of the County Council. Responsibility for improving road safety is shared with key partners including Dorset Police, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue and the South West Ambulance Service as well as individual road users. Data indicates that the number of people Killed or Seriously injured on Dorset's roads remains unchanged since the previous year however, if all incidents are included which includes slight injuries there has been a relatively consistent downward trend in the total number of road traffic casualties in recent years.
- 2.4.2 There remains a High Level Corporate risk over the inability to maintain the highways infrastructure to an acceptable standard in the face of changing circumstances (e.g. budget reductions; climate change).