

To: Communities Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

By: Mike Hill, Portfolio Holder for Community Services
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Date: 11th January 2011

Subject: Core Monitoring Report (including in-year performance update)

Classification: Unrestricted

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform Members about key areas of performance and activity within the Communities Directorate. It includes results from in-year performance monitoring, of which emerging headlines were reported to this Committee in November 2010.

FOR INFORMATION AND COMMENT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The second KCC corporate monitoring report was presented to Cabinet on 29th November 2010, showing performance against a selection of key indicators across the authority.
- 1.2 Attached at Appendix One is an extract from that report, relating to services within the Communities Directorate, up to the end of September 2010. It includes an introduction from the Managing Director giving an update at the half year point on capital and other projects; actions and indicators in unit operating plans; equalities and environmental performance; and external inspection and evaluation results. It also includes graphical and other information on the eight specific Communities indicators that have been selected for corporate monitoring.
- 1.3 This process contributes to the management of the overall performance of the authority and the reports are published on the external web site as part of KCC's transparency agenda.

2. Presentation

- 2.1 The main changes to the report format compared with the last report in September are as follows:-
 - (i) Data tables have been added below the graphs

(ii) Information for annual benchmarks and current year quarterly trends have now been combined into one graph for each indicator as far as possible and some new comparative data has been added.

(v) LAA targets have been removed and the focus of assessment for indicators affected has moved to comparison with national benchmarks.

2.2 The corporate indicators within the report are presented with the following information: historic trends; a RAG (Red/Amber/Green) status, a DoT (Direction of Travel rating) and a commentary. A summary of the RAG ratings by indicator is provided at the start of the report together with an explanation of how the RAG ratings and DoT ratings are arrived at. The ratings are always based on quarterly data except where the indicator is only provided with annual figures. To show how the position has changed from the most recent quarter compared to the previous quarter, RAG ratings and DoT ratings for the previous quarter are also shown for the first time.

3. Data Quality and Interpretation

3.1 Some data for the most recent quarters is provisional and may be subject to revisions at a later date. Even so, in all cases the most recent data presented is of sufficient accuracy to provide a reliable indicator of trends.

3.2 Where annual data is presented alongside national benchmarks, this information is taken from nationally published information already in the public domain. Sources for this information are generally government departments, and such data usually comes within the remit of National Statistics. These are produced to high professional standards as set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and they undergo regular quality assurance reviews.

4. Indicators Relevant to the Communities Directorate

4.1 There are eight indicators within the Communities Portfolio that feature in the corporately agreed Core Monitoring reports. They cover library footfall and book issues; Kent Apprenticeships; new entries to the youth justice system; young offenders in education, training and employment, Adult Education and KEY Training enrolments; drug users starting new treatments; and vulnerable people achieving independent living (Supporting People indicator).

5. Future Reporting

5.1 The content of Core Monitoring reports will evolve in the future to reflect the priorities in 'Bold Steps for Kent', which was adopted by the County Council in December, as well as taking into account any implications related to the Coalition Government's comprehensive list of data that it expects Local Authorities to report on, due to be implemented in April 2011.

6. Recommendation

6.1 Members are asked to NOTE and COMMENT on this report.

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