

Scrutiny

Quarter 2 2020/21 Performance Summary

Referral: 77.3% of referrals have been completed within 1 working day during Q2 2020/21, with a year to date total of 80.6%. Extensive work regarding referral enquiries has been required for some cases, resulting in completion taking longer than the statutory timescale. However, the additional work has been to the benefit of the child.

Re-Referrals: 22.4% of children have been re-referred to Children's Social Care within 12 months of a previous referral, which is above our statistical neighbour (19.9), regional (21.4) averages and in line with the national average (22.6) (LAIT 2019).

Early Help: 131 Early Help Assessments have been completed during Q2 2020/21.

Missing: Of the children and young people who are reported missing from home, 87.5% have been offered a return home interview within the 72-hour timescale. Where the co-ordinator cannot engage the child or young person, discussion takes place with parents, carers, teachers or social workers to offer insight around reducing the missing episodes. Of those who went missing 28.6% were a Children in Care.

Children & Families Assessments: 189 children had a single assessment carried out during Q2 2020/21, which is a decrease on the 222 assessments completed during the same period last year. The rate of assessments was 147.4 per 10,000 of the population at the end of September 2020.

C&F Timeliness: Social workers completed 80.4% of the C&F assessments within timescale. A decrease from the same period last year (98.7%), and below the target of 90%.

Section 47 enquiries: 46 section 47 enquiries were started during Q2 2019/20 involving 88 children, 4 of which were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) at the time of the enquiry.

Child Protection Conference Timeliness: 91.6% of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting / section 47 being initiated, excluding transfer-in conferences, against our target of 95%. Darlington's performance is higher than the most recently available statistical neighbour (82.4%), regional (82.1%) and national averages (78.7%) (LAIT 2019).

Child Protection Plans: 103 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of September 2020. This is comparable to the 105 children who were subject to CP at the end of September 2019. Darlington currently has a rate of 45.9 per 10,000 population for children subject to a CPP which is lower than the regional average (63.1), statistical neighbour (50.4) and the national average (43.7) (LAIT 2019).

100% of CP cases were allocated to a social worker and all the CP reviews were carried out in timescale. During Q2 2020/21 there were no children ceasing CP who had been subject to the plan for 2 or more years.

Child Protection Statutory visits: 84.2% of children received a statutory Child Protection (CP) visit in Q2 2020/21 within 10 working days, this is below target of 90% but an increase on the 73.8% that was completed in this timescale in Q2 2019/20.

Children in Care: 302 children are currently in care as at September 2020, which is an increase on the number of children (278) that were in care as at September 2019. During Q2 2020/21 a total number of 23 children came into the care of the Local Authority, which is lower than in Q2 2019/20 (32). During Q2 2020/21, 12 children ceased to be in care. This figure reflects the inability and delay to progress adoption orders being granted or care orders being discharged by the court due to the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting court closure.

Statutory visits of Children in Care: 93.2% of Child in Care (CiC) statutory visits have been completed in timescale at September 2020. This is an increase on the 86.3% CiC statutory visits completed in timescale at September 2019 and above the target of 90%.

CiC Placements: 6.0% of Children in Care (CiC), as at September 2020, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is performing better than the internal target (10%), national (10%), statistical neighbour (9.2%) and regional averages (9%) and below the 11.9% as at September 2019. 70.3% of our Children in Care aged under 16 (who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years) have been in their current placement continuously for at least 2 years. This is a slightly lower percentage compared with September 2019 at 70.9%.

7.2% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as at September 2020, which is a positive reduction when compared to September 2019 (9.8%) and below internal target (10%). This relates to 21 young people who have been placed in residential care due to their disability / placed with family / or placed for adoption, and this provision was not available within 20 miles.

Dental and Health Review: 81.7% of children due a review health assessment by September 2020 have had one completed. This percentage has increased slightly compared with 80.6% completed reviews at the end of September 2019.

As a result of dental surgery closures during lockdown, 14.9% of children in care that were due a dental check assessment has had one completed. The percentage of children who have refused their medical checks has continued to decrease, with only 6.1% refusing their health review and 6.9% refusing their dental review. Although they are refusing, they are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

Care Leavers: 100% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation at the end of Q2 2020/21.

The percentage of care leavers who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) continues to be positively below the target set of 30% at 25.0% at the end of Q2 2020/21.