

Scrutiny

Q1 2021-22 Performance Summary

Referral: 68.2% of referrals received during Q2 2021/22 were completed within 1 working day and 6.2% took over 3 working days to complete. 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: Re-referrals continue to remain low with 26 children, from 14 families, being re-referred to social care during Q2 2021/22. This equates to 10.7% of our referrals during this period having been repeated within 12 months. This is below the internal target of 18%.

Building Stronger Families: 162 Early Help Assessments have been completed during Q2 2021/22.

Missing: By the end of Q2 2021/22, Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) have been offered in 98.9% of the cases, 86.2% of which were offered within 72 hours and 48.9% of the children engaged in their RHI. 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.

Children & Families Assessments: 157 children had a single assessment carried out during Q2 2021/22.

C&F Timeliness: Social workers completed 87.3% of the C&F assessments within timescale during Q2 2021/22. This is below our target of 90%, and gives a year to date figure of 88.4% which is higher than the 80.4% for the same period last year.

Section 47 enquiries: 60 section 47 enquiries were started during Q2 2021/22 involving 128 children, 4 of which were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) at the time of the enquiry.

Child Protection Conference Timeliness: 70.3% of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting / section 47 being initiated, excluding transfer-in conferences, during Q2 2021/22. Darlington's performance remains below the internal target of 95%.

Child Protection Plans: 79 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of September 2021. This is a 23.3% drop compared to the 103 children who were subject to CP at the end of September 2020. Darlington currently has a 35.1 rate per 10,000 population for children subject to a CPP.

100.0% of CP cases were allocated to a social worker and all the CP reviews were carried out in timescale. During Q2 2021/22 there were no children ceasing

CP who had been subject to the plan for 2 or more years. At the end of September 2021, the percentage of children becoming subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending was 9.8%, above the 6% target although this is down on the 14.3% by the end of Q1 2021/22.

Child Protection Statutory visits: 87.1% of children received a statutory Child Protection (CP) visit during Q2 2021/22 within 10 working days, this is just below our target of 90%.

Children in Care: 266 children were in care as of September 2021, which is a reduction to the number of children (302) that were in care as of September 2020. During Q2 2021/22 a total of 21 children came into the care of the DBC and a total of 19 children ceased to be in care.

Children in Care Reviews: 100.0% of Children in Care (CiC) were allocated to a qualified social worker. 98.4% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales by the end of Q2 2021/22.

Children in Care Statutory visits: 92.9% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale during Q2 2021/22. This is above our internal target of 90%.

Children in Care Placements: 9.8% of Children in Care (CiC), as at September 2021, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is positively below the internal target of 10%. 69.8% 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 positively above our target of 68.0%. 8.3% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as at September 2021, which is positively below our target of 10.0%. This relates to 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.

Initial Health Assessments: We are awaiting the Q2 figures from CDDFT regarding the percentage of children they saw within their timescale of 20 days.

Health and Dental Reviews: 93.7% of children due a review health assessment by September 2021 have had one completed. 75.7% of Children in Care, that were due a dental check assessment by September 2021 have had one completed. The percentage of children who have refused their medical checks has continued to decrease through the year, with 4.2% refusing their health review and 2.6% 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: 100.0% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation at the end of September 2021. 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 21.3% at the end of September 2021.