

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 December 2022

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 2 2022/23

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with an update on performance against key performance indicators.

Summary

2. This report provides performance information (July 2022 – September 2022) in line with an indicator set agreed by Monitoring and Coordination Group on 2 July 2018, and subsequently by Scrutiny Committee Chairs.
3. It is suggested monitoring focuses on issues and exceptions, and relevant Assistant Directors will attend the meeting to respond to queries raised by the committee regarding the performance information contained within this report.
4. Where indicators are reported annually, quarterly updates will not be available.

Where are we performing well?

5. 84.4% of referrals were screened and completed within 1 day during Q2 2022/23. Although below the target of 90%, this is a continuing improvement when compared with previous quarters. A small number of referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in Q3 2022/23 (0.3%) which is positively below our target of 5%.
6. 15.3% of the children referred during Q2 2022/23 have been re-referred to Children's Social Care within 12 months of a previous referral, which is below the threshold of 18% and an improvement on the same period last year.
7. 100% of children with a Child Protection (CP) plan, and 100% of Children in Care (CiC) have an allocated social worker.
8. 100% of children with a Child Protection (CP) plan, and 98.9% of Children in Care (CiC) had their reviews completed within timescale.
9. No child ceased to be subject to a CP plan during Q2 2022/23 who had been subject to the plan for 2 or more years, positively reducing our cumulative performance measure to below target (5%) to 4.7%. As of September 2022, no child open to CP has been on their plan for more than 18 months.

10. o child became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending during Q2 2022/23, positivity reducing our cumulative performance measure lower to 8.1%.
11. 286 Children were in our care at the end of September 2022, 13 of which were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. For comparison, 273 children, excluding UASC, were in our care at the end of September 2022, an increase from 266 at the end of September 2021 but a decrease from 302 at the end of September 2020. Work continues to safely reduce the number of children coming into care.
12. 24.2% of the children ceasing to be in our care did so due to being adopted, 42.3% had a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) / Child Arrangement Order (CAO) granted to a relative and 12.1% returned home to their parent.
13. 72.4% of children due a review health assessment by September 2022 have had one completed. 40.7% of Children in Care, that were due a dental check assessment by September 2022 have had one completed. The percentage of children who have refused their medical checks has positively decreased throughout the year, with 5.7% refusing their health review and 1.9% 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.
14. 19.6% of our care Leavers, aged 19-21 and 19.6% of our care leavers, aged 22-25, years were not in employment, education, or training (NEET) which is positivity below target of 30%. 98.2% of care leavers aged 19-21 and 96.1% aged 22-25, were in suitable accommodation.
15. 58.9% of our care leavers, aged 19-21 and 68.6% of our care leavers, aged 22-25 were in training or employment as of September 2022, and 21.4% of those aged 19-21 were engaging in education, 10.7% in studies beyond A level with 11.8% of those aged 22-25 years also engaging in education, 7.8% are in studies beyond A level.

Where do we need to improve?

16. 68.1% of our C&F assessments were completed within timescale in Q2 2022/23. We have seen a reduction in the timeliness of the written aspect of the assessments, however it is of note that we are seeing an increase in the number of assessments required compared to previous quarters (310 assessment completed in Q2 2022/23, 158 in Q2 2020/21, 189 in Q2 2021/22 and 222 in Q2 2019/20).
17. 87.2% 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 2022/23. Although we are below the internal target of 95%, this is an improvement on the timeliness seen in Q1 2022/23 (75.0%) and Q2 2021/22 (78.8%) both of which saw less conferences being held during the quarter.
18. 62.2% of children received a statutory CP visit within 10 working days during Q2 2022/23. This is negatively below the internal target of 90%.

19. 85.2% of statutory CiC visits were completed within timescale during Q2 2022/23. This is negatively below our internal target of 90%.
20. 11.9% of our Children in Care, as of September 2022, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months, which is negatively above our internal target (10%).
21. 63.3% 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 as of September 2022, which is negatively below our internal target (68%).
22. 11.1% of our Children in Care have needed to be placed 20 or more miles away from home as of September 2022. This is negatively above target of 10% but all placements have been confirmed by team managers to be appropriate for the child enabling them to have the best support either with family links or specialised care.

Recommendation

23. It is recommended:

- a) That performance information provided in this report is reviewed and noted, and relevant queries raised with the appropriate Assistant Director.

James Stroyan
Group Director of People

Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Sharon Raine Head of Performance and Transformation: Extension 6091

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report supports the Council's Crime and Disorder responsibilities
Health and Well Being	This report supports performance improvement relating to improving the health and wellbeing of residents
Sustainability	This report supports the Council's sustainability responsibilities
Diversity	This report supports the promotion of diversity
Wards Affected	This report supports performance improvement across all Wards
Groups Affected	This report supports performance improvement which benefits all groups
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report contributes to the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) by involving Members in the scrutiny of performance relating to the delivery of key outcomes
Efficiency	Scrutiny of performance is integral to optimising outcomes.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report may have an impact on their emotional and physical health, social development, education and future employment.