

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 October 2023

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS YEAR END 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 (April 2022 – March 2023) 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. 84.1% of referrals received in 2022/23 were completed within 1 working day. We are still below the internal target of 90% completed within 1 working day however compared to 2021/22 (72.1%) and 2020/21 (77.7%) this is an improvement. This improvement is evident of the hard work the CIAT team have been doing and the team have processed 75.5% more referrals than last year. 0.8% of referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in 2022/23 which is outperforming our target of 5% and an improvement compared to 5.6% completed in 2021/22.
6. At year end we were in line, at 17.7%, with our internal target of having no more than 18% of the referrals being repeated within 12 months of a previous referral starting. In terms of our performance over the past 3 years, this is an increase compared with 2021/22 at 10.9% but slightly below our 2020/21 performance of 19.1%. National benchmarking data is not yet available for 2022/23 but when looking at data for 2020/21 we were performing slightly better than our statistical neighbours (20.5%), regional average (20.5%) and national average (21.5%) (LAIT 2022). The increase year on year increase is likely to relate to us receiving a much higher number of referrals.
7. 1,650 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in 2022/23, 13.5% of which were initiated by external agencies. This is an increase on 2021/22 (839 EHA's) but with a decrease on the proportion of externally started EHA's (19.2%).

8. In 2022/23, Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) have been offered in 94.4% (473 / 501) of the cases, 84.6% of which were offered within 72 hours and 59.1% of the children/young people engaged in their RHI.
9. 116 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of March 2023. This is a slight decrease on the 120 children who were subject to CP at the end of March 2022, but an increase on March 2021 (87) and March 2020 (85).
10. 100% of children with a Child Protection (CP) plan, and 100% of Children in Care (CiC) have an allocated social worker.
11. 98.7% of children with a Child Protection (CP) plan, and 98.0% of Children in Care (CiC) had their reviews completed within timescale.
12. 2.2% of the children, ceasing to be subject to a CP plan in 2022/23, had been subject to the plan for 2 or more years, which is meeting the target of 5%. As of March 2023, no child open to CP has been on their plan for more than 2 years.
13. During 2022/23, 4 families became CP for the 2nd time within 2 years of the previous plan ending. This has taken us just above our internal target (6%) to 6.9% but is a reduction on previous years.
14. 21.0% of the children ceasing to be in our care did so due to being returned home to a parent, 39.0% had a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) / Child Arrangement Order (CAO) granted to a relative and 21.0% turned 18 years and progressed to a care leaver. 17.0% of the children ceasing care were adopted.
15. 83.3% of children due a review health assessment by March 2023 have had one completed. 47.7% of Children in Care, that were due a dental check assessment by March 2023 have had one completed. The percentage of children who have refused their medical checks have decreased throughout the year, with 0.9% refusing their health review and 1.4% 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.
16. 96.3% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 95.9% aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of March 2023. Of those who were not in suitable accommodation, this was due to them being in custody (2 aged 19-21 and 2 aged 22-25).
17. The percentage of care leavers who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) continues to be inline with the target of 30% at 20.4% at the end of March 2023. 13.0% young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (11.1% of which are in studies beyond A level) and 66.7% young people were in training or employment (29.6% in full time, 37.0% in part time).

Where do we need to improve?

18. 1,461 C&F assessments were completed in 2022/23. This is a substantial increase on previous years, with an 81.2% increase on the 806 assessments in 2021/22, 111.1% increase on the 692 assessments in 2020/21 and 53.8% increase on the 950 assessments in 2019/20, increasing our rate per 10,000 population to 645.5. This increase in C&F assessments is a result of the increase in children referred during 2022/23 which has had a negative effect on the timeliness of recording completion on the system with 69.3% of our C&F assessments being completed within timescale in 2022/23.
19. 74.4% of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting / section 47 being initiated, excluding children who were transferred-in conference, in 2022/23. Work is ongoing to incorporate systems of process to aid the reduction in late requests for conferences.
20. 67.8% of CP visits completed within 10 working days and 90.0% of the visits were completed within 15 working days. This is a decrease when compared to 2021/22 which had similar number of visits completed with 82.9% completed within 10 working days.
21. 322 children were in care as of March 2023, 5.3% of which are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. During 2022/23 a total of 149 children came into the care of DBC, 18 of which were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, and a total of 100 children ceased to be in care.
22. 83.4% of statutory CiC visits were completed within timescale in 2022/23. This is below our internal target of 90%.
23. 13.7% of our Children in Care, as of March 2023, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months, which is above our internal target (10%).
24. 58.7% 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 March 2023, which is below our internal target (68%).
25. 12.5% of our Children in Care have needed to be placed 20 or more miles away from home as of March 2023. This is 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

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

Chris Bell
Assistant Director Childrens Services

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.