

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23rd October 2023

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 1 2023/24

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 2023 – June 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. 81.1% of referrals received in Q1 2023/24 were completed within 1 working day. We are still below the internal target of 90% completed within 1 working day however compared to Q1 2022/23 (79.6%) and Q1 2021/22 (68.0%) this is an improvement. This improvement is evident of the hard work the CIAT team have been doing. 1.3% of referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in Q1 2023/24 which is outperforming our target of 5%.
6. At the end of Q1 2023/24, there were 240 families, 511 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 52 families with 97 children were open to an external agency supporting the families. 365 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in Q1 2023/24, 8.2% (30) of which were initiated by external agencies. This is a decrease when compared to Q1 2022/23 (389 EHA's) and a decrease on the proportion of externally started EHA's (17.0%).
7. In Q1 2023/24, all children who were reported missing (excluding children from other authorities) were offered a Return Home Interviews (RHI), 89.2% of which were offered within 72 hours and 77.5% of the children/young people engaged in their RHI. Each are a performance improvement when compared with Q1 2022/23. Where the co-ordinator cannot engage the child or young person, discussions take place with parents, carers, teachers, or social workers to offer insight around reducing the missing episodes. Of those who went missing, 32.1% were a Child in Care accounting for 49.6% of the missing episodes.

8. 109 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of June 2023 This is a slight increase on the 104 children who were subject to CP at the end of June 2022. As of June 2023, no child open to CP has been on their plan for more than 2 years.
9. 100% of children with a Child Protection (CP) plan, and 100% of Children in Care (CiC) have an allocated social worker.
10. All of children with a Child Protection (CP) plan, and 97.0% of Children in Care (CiC) had their reviews completed within timescale. All children with a CP plan and who were in care were allocated to a qualified social worker.
11. 52.0% of the 25 children who ceased to be in care in Q1 2023/24 were reunified home to a parent.
12. 98.4% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 95.2% aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of June 2023. Of those who were not in suitable accommodation, this was due to them being in custody.
13. 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 27.0% for care leavers aged 19-21 and 19.0% for those aged 22-25 at the end of June 2023. 20.6% of the young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (7.9% of which are in studies beyond A level) and 52.4% of the young people were in training or employment (23.8% in full time (including apprenticeships) and 28.6% in part time). 6.3% of the young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (all of which are in studies beyond A level) and 74.6% of the young people were in training or employment (28.6% in full time (including apprenticeships), 46.0% in part time).

Where do we need to improve?

14. We have continued to see an increase in re-referrals this quarter in comparison to previous years with 21.7% of re-referrals during Q1 2023/24. Due to the increase in contacts being made, it is expected that the number of children referred will increase, however this means that we have missed our internal target of having no more 18% of referrals being re-referrals. Re-referrals are being scrutinised during weekly WRM meeting to ensure best practise and learning outcomes are shared.
15. 412 C&F assessments were completed in Q1 2023/24. This is a substantial increase on previous years, with an 24.8% increase on the 330 assessments in Q1 2022/23 and a 205.2% increase on the 135 assessments in Q1 2021/22. This increase in C&F assessments is a result of the increase in children referred. Due to this increase we have seen a decline in timeliness of assessments with 56.1% of our C&F assessments being completed within timescale in Q1 2023/24. Actions plans are being developed to improve this performance.
16. 76.6% 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 Q1 2023/24. Work is ongoing to reduction in late requests for conferences.

17. 69.8% of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in Q1 2023/24. This is a decrease when compared with Q1 2022/23 which saw 80.0% completed within 10 working days. The capacity of social workers to make regular visits continues to be impacted due to rising workloads. Changes to the new locality allocations for the A&S teams are currently being reviewed to ensure a fair and even distribution of allocation and workloads.
18. 343 children were in care as of June 2023, 5.0% of which are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. During Q1 2023/24 a total of 46 children came into the care of DBC, 2 of which were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, and a total of 25 children ceased to be in care.
19. 81.6% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in Q1 2023/24. This is a reduction compared to the 88.8% of visits carried out in timescale in Q1 2022/23, however there has been a 14.8% increase in the number of visits being carried out due to the increased number of children in care.
20. 13.7% of our Children in Care, as of June 2023, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months, which is above our internal target of 10%.
21. 62.1% 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 June 2023, which is an improvement on year end 2022/23 but below our internal target of 68%.
22. 11.6% of our Children in Care have needed to be placed 20 or more miles away from home as of June 2023. This is just above our target of 10%, 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.

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 Councils Crime and Disorder responsibilities
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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.