

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8 JANUARY 2024

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 2 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 (July 2023 – September 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. 78.0% of referrals received in Q2 2023/24 were completed within one working day. We are still below the internal target of 90% completed within one working day and a result of a dip in timeliness during August where only 65.0% of referrals were outcomed in one working day. 2.6% referrals took over three working days to be completed in Q2 2023/24 which is achieving our target of 5%.
6. At the end of Q2 2023/24, there were 223 families, 460 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 35 families with 60 children were open to an external agency supporting the families.
7. 314 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in Q2 2023/24, 6.4% (20) of which were initiated by external agencies. This is a decrease when compared to Q2 2022/23 (363 EHA's) and a decrease on the proportion of externally started EHA's (11.3%).
8. In Q2 2023/24, 97.6% of the children who were reported missing (excluding children from other authorities) were offered a Return Home Interviews (RHI), 90.6% of which were offered within 72 hours and 85.9% of the children/young people engaged in their RHI. Each are a performance improvement when compared with Q2 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, 31.6% were a Child in Care accounting for 33.3% of the missing episodes.

9. 123 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of September 2023, this is a slight decrease on the 118 children who were subject to CP at the end of September 2022.
10. 100.0% of CP cases were allocated to a social worker and 93.3% of the CP reviews were conducted in timescale. As of September 2023, no child open to CP has been on their plan for more than two years.
11. 46.4% of the 28 children who ceased to be in care in Q2 2023/24 were reunified home to a parent.
12. 100.0% of Children in Care (CiC) were allocated to a qualified social worker. 95.3% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales at September 2023/24.
13. 79.2% of children due a review health assessment by September 2023 have had one completed. 51.8% of Children in Care, which were due a dental check assessment by September 2023 have had one completed.
14. 98.4% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 94.6% aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of September 2023.
15. 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 23.8% for care leavers aged 19-21 and 21.4% for those aged 22-25 at the end of September 2023. 27.0% of the young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (including studies beyond A level) and 49.2% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships). 5.4% of the young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (all of which are in studies beyond A level) and 73.2% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships).

Where do we need to improve?

16. We have continued to see an increase in re-referrals this quarter in comparison to previous years with 22.8% of re-referrals during Q2 2023/24. Due to the increase in contacts being made, it is expected that the number of children referred will increase, 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 the weekly WRM meeting to ensure best practise and learning outcomes are shared.
17. 376 children had a C&F assessment completed in Q2 2023/24. This is a continual increase when compared to Q2 2022/23 (310), Q2 2021/22 (158) and Q2 2020/21 (189). This increase in C&F assessments is a result of the increase in children being referred which has also contributed to the decline in timeliness of assessments with 50.0% of them being completed within timescale in Q2 2023/24. Stop the clock days are taking place to support social workers clear any backlog they may have. As a result of these measures, a number of the assessments that were completed during this time were already out of timescale, bringing the overall percentage down.
18. 70.2% 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 Q2 2023/24. Work is ongoing to reduction in late requests for conferences.

19. 59.3% of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in Q2 2023/24 and 85.8% of the visits were completed within 15 working days. This is a decrease when compared with Q2 2022/23 which had more visits completed with 64.1% completed within 10 working days. The capacity of social workers to make regular visits continues to be impacted on due to rising workloads. Changes to the new locality allocations for the A&S teams have occurred and are regularly reviewed to ensure a fair and even distribution of allocation and workloads.
20. 354 children were in care as of September 2023, 5.1% of which are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. During Q2 2023/24 a total of 39 children came into the care of DBC, four of which were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, and a total of 28 children ceased to be in care (3 of which were UASC).
21. 79.9% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in Q2 2023/24. This is a reduction compared to the 81.9% of visits carried out in timescale in Q2 2022/23, however there have been an increase in the number of visits being carried out due to the increase in children in care.
22. 15.5% of our Children in Care, as of September 2023, have had three or more placements within the previous 12 months, which is above our internal target of 10%.
23. 64.5% 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 two years as of September 2023, which is an improvement but below our internal target of 68%.
24. 11.9% of our Children in Care have needed to be placed 20 or more miles away from home as of September 2023. This is just above our target of 10%, team managers have confirmed all placements to be appropriate for the child enabling them to have the best support either with family links or specialised care.

Recommendation

25. It is recommended that performance information provided in this report is reviewed and noted, and relevant queries raised with the appropriate Assistant Director.

Chris Bell
Assistant Director of Children's Services

Background

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

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
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	This report has no impact on Carbon and Climate Change
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
Council Plan	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.