

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 SEPTEMBER 2024

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS YEAR END 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 – March 2024) 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. In 2023/24, 1.7% of the referrals took over 3 working days to be completed which is positively below our target of 5%.
6. At the end of 2023/24, there were 197 families with 423 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 64 families with 125 children were open to an external agency supporting the families.
7. In 2023/24, all Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) were offered except for 2, 87.8% of which were offered within 72 hours and 76.9% of the RHI's had the child's engagement. This is a positive increase in children engaging with their RHI compared to previous years (2022/23, 84.6% in 72hrs with 59.1% engagement and 2021/22, 75.8% in 72hrs with 51.2% engagement).
8. 146 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of March 2024 with a rate of 65.6 per 10,000 population with a CP plan. This is an increase on previous years and comparable to the increase in CiN plans open and decrease in Children in Care seen during 2023/24.
9. 100% of Child Protection Cases were allocated to a qualified social worker and 98.5% of Child Protection reviews have been completed within the required timescales.
10. Of the 196 children who became subject to a CP plan in 2023/24, 7 became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending. We remain positively below target (6%) with 3.6% of the children becoming subject to a CP plan for a subsequent time.

11. 300 children were in care as at March 2024, 18 of which are unaccompanied asylum-seekers. The rate of children in care per 10,000 population has started to fall this reporting year and was at 134.8 at the end of March 2024, compared to 142.3 at March 2023 and closer to pre-covid levels of 120.0 at March 2021.
12. 121 children came into care in 2023/24 from 81 families. This is a decrease when compared with the 149 children who came into care in 2022/23 from 104 families. 11 of the young people came into care after accepted by the Home Office as UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child) during 2023/24, a reduction on the 18 who came into care during 2022/23.
13. 143 children and young people, from 112 families ceased to be in care in 2023/24. This is the highest yearly number of children ceasing care we have seen. We have also seen a reduction in the number of children coming into care who have previously been in care (13 in 2023/24 from 22 in 2022/23). The proportion of children who returned home to their parent(s) (42.7%) has doubled when compared to 2022/23 (21.0%), 2021/22 (28.3%) and Q1 2020/21 (27.5%).
14. 10.4% (29 / 278) of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as at March 2024 which is the lowest number of children this year and compared to March 2023 which saw 37 children placed 20 or more miles from the family home.
15. 100.0% of Children in Care (CiC) were allocated to a qualified social worker. 93.5% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales at March 2024.
16. 91.1% of children due a review health assessment by March 2024 have had one completed and 90.7% of the children in care have an up to date health check.
17. 98.4% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 97.9% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of March 2024. 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 22.6% for care leavers aged 19-21 and 14.6% for those aged 22-25 at the end of March 2024. 193.4% of the young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (including studies beyond A level) and 58.1% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships). 8.3% of the young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (including studies beyond A level) and 77.1% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships).

Where do we need to improve?

18. In 2023/24, 81.4% (1,119 / 1,374) of the children had their referral completed within 1 working day. This is decrease when compared with 84.1% in 2022/23 and does not meet our 90% target.
19. During 2023/24, 332 children from 198 families have had a new referral within 12 months of their last referral starting. This is a continued year-on-year increase in re-referrals. Due to the reduction in referrals made to social care, and an increase in re-referrals, it has resulted in a total of 24.2% of our referrals this year being repeated within 12 months of a previous referral starting. Re-referrals are being scrutinised

during the weekly WRM meeting to ensure best practise and learning outcomes are shared.

20. 1,554 children had a C&F assessment completed in 2023/24. This is a continual increase when compared to 2022/23 (1,461), 2021/22 (806) and 2020/21 (692). 62.7% (975 / 1,554) of our C&F assessments were completed within timescale in 2023/24. This is significantly below target of 90.0% but focused work on C&Fs has been done in the second half of this year which is evident in the increase in assessments outcomed within 45 days. Between April and October 2023, assessments were averaging at 52.5% completed in timescale in a month, since then, this has increased to an average of 80.5% a month.
21. 79.5% 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 2023/24. This measure continues to be negatively below the target of 95% although an increase in performance compared to the last 2 years.
22. 69.0% (2,050 / 2,973) of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in 2023/24 and 90.4% (2,688 / 2,973) of the visits were completed within 15 working days. In comparison to 2022/23, the number of visits carried out has had a 16.5% increase (from 2,553 to 2,973 visits) along with the percentage that were carried out within timescale (67.8% within 10 days and 90.0% within 15 days). Reviews of the new locality allocations for the A&S teams have occurred and where appropriate are amended to ensure a fair and even distribution of allocation and workloads.
23. 81.0% (3,079 / 3,801) of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in 2023/24. This is a year-on-year decrease in performance from 93.1% in 2020/21, 90.1% in 2021/22 and 83.4% in 2022/23. Reviews of the new locality allocations for the A&S teams is occurring and where appropriate are amended to ensure a fair and even distribution of allocation and workloads.
24. Currently, 61.1% 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. This is negatively below our 68% target however an improvement when compared to 2022/23.
25. 17.0% of our Children in Care, as at March 2024, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is negatively above internal target (10.0%).

Recommendation

26. 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

Background papers

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

Sharon Raine Head of Performance and Transformation: Extension 6091

Council Plan	This report contributes to the Council Plan by involving Members in the scrutiny of performance relating to the delivery of key outcomes with regards to Children and Young People
Addressing inequalities	This report involves members in the scrutiny of the level to which Childrens Services contributes to ensuring that opportunities are accessible to everyone, with a focus on ensuring a good job, home and/or social connections for all.
Tackling Climate Change	This report does not identify any issued relating to climate change.
Efficient and effective use of resources	This report allows for the scrutiny of performance which is integral to optimising outcomes and ensuring efficient use of resources
Health and Wellbeing	This report supports performance improvement relating to improving the health and wellbeing of residents.
S17 Crime and Disorder	This report supports the Councils Crime and Disorder responsibilities.
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.
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.