

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **28<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

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### **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 1 2024-25**

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#### **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 2024- June 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. 0.5% referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in Q1 2024/25 which is outperforming our target of 5%.
6. At the end of Q1 2024/25, there were 205 families, 416 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 60 families with 108 children were open to an external agency supporting the families.
7. In Q1 2024/25, 100 % of all Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) were offered, 81.6% of which were offered within 72 hours and 71.1% of the children engaged in their RHI.
8. 259 children had a C&F assessment completed in Q1 2024/25. This is below the 418 assessments started in Q1 2023/24, but still double the number started in Q1 2021/22 (135). 89.6% of C&F assessments were completed with the 45-day timescale. This is an increase to previous years and evidence of targeted work and support.
9. 115 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of June 2024 with a rate of 51.7 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 the same period last year.
10. 100% of Child Protection Cases were allocated to a qualified social worker.

11. 291 children were in care as at June 2024, 19 (6.5%) of which are unaccompanied asylum-seekers. 10 children from Darlington came into care in Q1 2024/25 from 9 families. This is a significant decrease when compared with the 46 children who came into care in Q1 2023/24.
12. 8.7% of our CiC, as of June 2024, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is below target (10%), which is an improvement as we have remained above target for some time.
13. 9.3% of our CiC have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of June 2024 which is the lowest number of children in over a year. This relates to young people who have been placed in residential care due to their disability / placed with family / or placed for adoption, and this provision is not available within 20 miles.
14. 93.8% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 96.5% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of June 2024. 12.5% of the young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education including studies beyond A level, and 70.3% young people were in training or employment (34.4% in full time and 35.9% in part time). 5.3% young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (all of which are in studies beyond A level) and 77.2% young people were in training or employment (22.8% in full time and 54.4% in part time).

#### Where do we need to improve?

15. In Q1 2024/25, 81.0% of the children had their referral completed within 1 working day not meeting our 90% target.
16. 77.5% of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in Q1 2024/25 and 94.9% of the visits were completed within 15 working days. Although below target (90%), this is an improvement on Q1 2023/24 where 70.1% of visits occurred within timescale.
17. 73.5% 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, Q1 24/25. We work with partner agencies who need notice so that they can prepare reports and arrange for someone to attend the meeting. The decision that there is a need for an Initial Child Protection Conference is one that needs to be made within a short timeframe. Generally, this means that the decision needs to be made in less than 10 working days.

When dealing with complex situations this can be a challenge for the social worker and their managers. Performance has dropped in recent times due to late notification by the Social Work Teams that a Child Protection Conference is needed. This is being continually monitored through Performance Clinics. This measure is below the target of 95%.

18. 80.0% of the initial CiC reviews and 81.2% of subsequent review were carried out in timescale. At the end of March 2024, to enable better quality reviews to be undertaken, the decision was taken by the Senior Leadership Team that if the Social Worker's report was not completed for the Child's Looked After Review, then the meeting would be rearranged. In Quarter 1, this decision has impacted on the number of reviews held within the required timescale (both initial and subsequent Reviews). The decision was taken due to reviews being held without full information being available. This is being monitored through Performance Clinics.
19. 84.6% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in Q1 2024/25. This is an improved performance compared to Q1 2023/24 (81.8%) but remains below target (90%).
20. Currently, 59.0% 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 below our 68% target and due to some safeguarding placement moves taking place in June, it has taken us below 60% which is the lowest performance in over a year.

## **Recommendation**

1. 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 of Children's Services**

**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 Childrens Social Care.
Addressing inequalities	This involves members in the scrutiny of the level to which Childrens Social Care 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.