

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 SEPTEMBER 2025

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS YEAR END 2024-25

SUMMARY REPORT

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-March 2025) 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. 20 (2.1%) of the 962 referrals were outcomed over 3 working days, which outperforms our target of 5% but very slight increase compared to the 1.7% of referrals taking over 3 working days in 2023/24.
6. In 2024/25, 124 re-referrals were made into social care within 12 months of their last referral ending, equating to 12.9%, keeping us below our internal target of 18%. This is a positive decrease of -62.8% compared to last year, which saw 333 re-referrals, equating to 23.1%.
7. At the end of 2024/25, there were 219 families, 443 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 70 families with 145 children were open to an external agency supporting the families. 1,299 Early Help Assessments (EHA) started in 2024/25, 14.5% of which were led by an external agency and 1,109 children, 538 families ended an episode working with BSF during 2024/25, 74.7% of which ceased following positive impact and change.
8. The total number of missing episodes in 2024/25 was 272, involving 81 individual children and young people (CYP). This is a reduction compared to 2023/24 which seen 423 episodes of missing involving 122 individual children. The reduction is mainly seen in the absence of Child in Care (CiC) young people open to another local authority (27.2% of the episodes in 2023/24 and 12.5% of the episodes in 2024/25).

9. 98.6% of Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) were offered during 2024/25.
10. 62 of the 81 CYP's (76.5%) had 3 or less episodes of missing during 2024/25 and 14 (17.3%) had between 4 and 6 episodes, with 5 further CYP's having more than 10 episodes.
11. 925 children had a C&F assessment completed in 2024/25. This is a -40.5% decrease compared to the 1,554 assessments started in 2023/24, and more in line with pre-covid figures.
12. 89.4% of the assessments were completed with the 45-day timescale during 2024/25. This is a significant increase to previous years (62.7% in 2023/24 and 70.0% in 2022/23) and evidence of the sustained and targeted work and support throughout the year.
13. 140 Child Protection (CP) plans were started in 2024/25, a decrease from 196 plans starting in 2023/24, but comparable to the 134 started in 2022/23 that had a similar number on a plan at the end of the year.
14. 174 Child Protection (CP) plans ceased during 2024/25. 79.3% of which either converted to a Children in Need (CiN) plan (107 children) due to sustained improvements or ended social care involvement as significant improvements had been made and were either supported by the Building Stronger Families team (23 children) or directed to universal services (8 children).
15. 100% of Child Protection (CP) and CiC children were allocated to a qualified social worker.
16. 265 children were in care as of March 2025, 22 (8.3%) of which were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people. This is a -11.6% decrease on the 300 children in care in March 2024 and a -17.7% decrease on the 322 children in March 2023. 14.5% (9/62) of the children and young people coming into care during 2024/25 were accepted by the Home Office as UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child). 53 further children, from 39 families, also came into care during this time.
17. 95 children and young people, from 76 families ceased to be in care in 2024/25. 33 children (34.7%) returned home, 17 (17.9%) had an SGO/CAO granted, 14 (14.7%) were adopted and 29 (30.5%) turned 18 years becoming care leavers (4 of which were UASC), and 2 for other reasons.
18. 95.0% of the initial CiC reviews carried out on children currently in care, were done in timescale as at March 2025. 87.7% of subsequent review have been carried out in timescale.
19. When comparing placements as of March 2025 with March 2024 we see a reduction in placements with IFA carers (from 26.0% to 23.8%) and the increase in the percentage of connected carer placements (from 15.3% to 20.0%).
20. Placed with parents, overall, has remained consistent during 2024/25 along with adoptive placements. The percentage of children in a long-term foster placement has remained consistent with 35.7% at March 2025.

21. 93.2% of children due a review health assessment by March 2025 have had one completed, with only 1 young person refusing to engage in the medical checks.
22. 96.7% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 95.7% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of March 2025.

Where do we need to improve?

23. In 2024/25, 79.5% of the children had their referral completed within 1 working day not meeting our 90% target. The timeliness has seen an improvement over the year, however due to the small numbers of referrals we receive, any late outcomes can have a greater impact on percentages when compared to larger councils.
24. 76.9% (120/156) of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting/section 47 being initiated during 2024/25, excluding children who were transfer-in from another local authority area. Performance has dropped recently due to late notification by the Social Work Teams that a Child Protection Conference is needed (the timescale being within 10 working days of the enquiry to allow a minimum of 5 working days for the partner agencies to prepare reports and arrange for someone to attend the meeting).
25. During 2024/25, there were 17 children who started a CP plan after ceasing their previous CP plan within 2 years. The target for this measure is 6%, and the 17 children equate to 12.1% of the total children starting a CP plan in the year. These 17 children represent 7 families, unfortunately 6 of the 7 families returned to a CP for the same or similar reasons as the previous, predominantly around substance misuse and domestic violence despite the targeted work that was done with the families during the plan.
26. 76.3% (2,328/3,050) of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in 2024/25. Although this remains below target (90%), this is an improvement on previous years.
27. 83.7% (2,598/3,103) of statutory visits for Children in Care were completed in timescale in 2024/25. Although there has been an improvement in performance on the previous 2 years, this remains below target (90%).
28. 13.3% (35 children) of our Children in Care, as of March 2025, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is above target (10%). As our CiC numbers reduce, 1 child move will result in a larger percentage fluctuation which can disguise the fact that this measure has improved with 35 children having 3+ moves in the year compared to 51 during 2023/24 and 44 during 2022/23.
29. Currently, 53.3% (65/122) 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.
30. 12.1% (30 children) of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of March 2025. This is above our target of 10%. Although the number of children placed at a distance has only increased slightly in the year, the cohort for this measure has reduced resulting in a higher percentage than if the cohort had remained consistent.

31. 69.4% of all Children in Care, requiring a dental check-up by March 2025 have had one completed. Currently 3.7% of the children/young people are refusing to attend a dental check-up. Although below the yearly target, there has been a noticeable effort seen since Q3 to ensure the CYP's have a check-up with a dentist, and it is recorded.
32. 41.0% of care leavers aged 19-21 are deemed with no education, employment or training (NEET), a further 38.3% of care leavers aged 22-25 are also deemed NEET. A review of recording and decision making is taking place regarding all our care leavers to ensure accurate recording.
33. 50.8% of young people aged 19-21 were in training or employment (31.1% in full time and 19.7% in part time) and 8.2% were in education, and 48.9% young people aged 22-25, were in training or employment (27.7% in full time and 21.3% in part time) and 12.8% were in education.

Recommendation

34. It is recommended that the 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: 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's Social Care.
Addressing inequalities	This involves members in the scrutiny of the level to which Children's 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 issues 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.