

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE AS AT END OF QUARTER FOUR 2020-21

### Report of the Director of Children's Services

Strategic Aim:	Safeguarding	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr D Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning, Early Years, SEND, Inclusion, Safeguarding Children & Young People	
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Ward Councillors	All	

### DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

1. Notes the performance information as at the end of quarter four (April – March) 2020-21.

### 1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

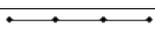
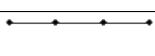
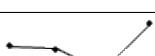
- 1.1 This report provides a table showing the key performance indicators (KPIs) for children's services for consideration and comment by the committee. Key points related to the data are also discussed in a summary commentary.

### 2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The table shows performance against this year's target using a red/amber/green system, along with a trend line showing the last four quarterly positions.
- 2.2 Some measures are included to provide a picture of current demand for services and therefore no targets or trends are shown.

### 3 PERFORMANCE DATA

- 3.1 Table showing 2020-21 performance as at end of quarter four (April – March).

Service/ KPI name	2019-20 outturn	2020-21 outturn	2020-21 target		Trend – last four quarters
<b>Contacts and referrals</b>					
Number of contacts received	1,645	1,524	-	-	-
Number of referrals received	319	248	-	-	-
% of re-referrals within last 12 months	34%	38%	25%		
<b>Assessments</b>					
Number of single assessments	321	261	-	-	-
% single assessments completed within 45 days	93%	91%	90%		
% children seen as part of an assessment	98%	92%	95%		
Number of CSE cases	11	9	-	-	-
Number of children missing from home/care episodes	24	27	-	-	-
<b>Virtual visits</b>					
% of statutory visits carried out virtually ( <i>started March 2020 due to covid-19</i> )	26%	17%	-	-	-
<b>Children in need (CIN)</b>					
Number of CIN	69	85	-	-	-
% CIN seen in timescale	71%	99%	90%		
% CIN reviews completed in timescale	76%	80%	90%		
<b>Child protection (CP)</b>					
Number of CP cases	22	8	-	-	-
% children subject to CP plan seen in timescale	95%	100%	100%		
% CP reviews on time	92%	100%	100%		
% core groups held on time	79%	97%	100%		
<b>Children looked after (CLA)</b>					
Number of CLA Cases	43	35	-	-	-
% CLA seen in timescale	91%	100%	100%		
% CLA reviews on time	84%	93%	100%		
% of children placed in non-LA placements	30%	31%	50%		
Number of in-house fostering households	12	11	-	-	-
<b>Care leavers</b>					
% Care leavers in appropriate accommodation	97%	100%	100%		

Service/ KPI name	2019-20 outturn	2020-21 outturn	2020-21 target		Trend – last four quarters
% Care leavers in EET	62%	79%	80%		
% Care leavers we are in touch with	100%	100%	100%		
<b>Early Help and SEND</b>					
Number of current active early help cases (children)	115	95	-	-	-
% of all cases closed in year stepped up to social care	5%	14%	5%		
Total number of children open to CWD	15	15	-	-	-
<b>Education inclusion partnership</b>					
Number of referrals ( <i>note – launched Feb 2020</i> )	-	55	-	-	-
<b>RCC Staff</b>					
Children's Services staff turnover rate	14%	3.7%	-	-	-

## 4 COMMENTARY

- 4.1 Re-referral rates remain higher than expected, although they are reducing. An audit of re-referrals took place earlier in the year which largely found that threshold applications were correct but offers of support to prevent re-referral could have been more robust. This learning is now being applied to practice; the rate for quarter four itself (January – March) was 25%, in line with target. Our re-referral rate within 12 months of 38% this year compares to 26% regionally and 23% nationally, so this will be a focus for improvement in 2021-22.
- 4.2 Assessments completed in timescale are now back on target – 91% for the year – after a dip earlier in the year, helped by continued management scrutiny. Performance for the last six months of the year was 98%, equating to two assessments out of 113 outside of timescale. The English average for this KPI is 84%.
- 4.3 Children seen as part of an assessment is below target for the year, at 92%. This has been due to how virtual home visits have been captured and recorded during lockdown, where social workers have recorded 'child not seen' (although the child was seen virtually). Social workers have been fully supported during Covid-19 lockdown to continue to engage with children and families safely and subsequently there has been a gradual increase in all children now having face to face visits. Positively, recent performance in March 2021 and April 2021 was 100%.
- 4.4 Children in need (CIN) seen within timescale is 99%, representing our best performance for several years. CIN reviews completed within timescale remains below target, although quarter four (January – March) in isolation was 94%, again our best quarterly figure for several years. Increased management oversight and usage of a live data reporting system is helping with this KPI and it will continue to be closely monitored to further improve in 2021-22.
- 4.5 Performance across child protection KPIs is significantly better than last year. Core groups being held on time is 97% for the year, with 100% being achieved across the

last six months. All reviews have been held on time and all children seen in timescale. It should be noted that our child protection case number is currently very low when compared to regional and national averages.

- 4.6 Children looked after (CLA) seen in timescale is currently 100%, meeting target and an improvement on last year. CLA in non-local authority placements is currently 31% (11 children out of 35). This is within target, and includes 4 residential children's home, 1 residential school and 6 foster placements. We are aiming to reduce the number of children placed outside the local authority through our Fostering Recruitment Campaign which will ensure a wide range and choice of placement provision closer to home for CLA. All settings included are regulated and registered accommodation. CLA reviews held on time has improved this year to 93%, equating to seven reviews out of timescale during the year. Recent performance for February 2021, March 2021, April 2021 was 100%. Our CLA rate per 10,000 children is 45, comparatively low against the regional and national averages of 61 and 67.
- 4.7 100% of care leavers are in appropriate accommodation. The regional and national averages for this KPI are 87% and 85%.
- 4.8 22 out of 28 care leavers are currently in employment, education or training (EET) – giving us performance of 79%, slightly below our challenging 80% target. For comparison, the regional average for care leavers in EET is 50% and the national average 53%.
- 4.9 The percentage of early help cases closed and stepped up to social care this year is 14% (14 out of 102 cases). Just one of those cases was stepped up in the last six months of the year (October - March), where the appropriate threshold had been met.
- 4.10 Information on the number of referrals to education inclusion partnership has been added to this report, standing at 55 since launch in February 2020. All primary schools are now included, and referrals have been more prevalent for children in years 4, 5 and 6. Of the 55 referrals, 43 related to boys and 12 girls. Recent feedback from headteachers has been very positive, praising the work of the inclusion team and the difference it is making to the children involved.

## **5 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Not applicable.

## **6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 6.1 Not applicable.

## **7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None known.

## **8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no legal and governance considerations.

## **9 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no risks/issues to the rights and freedoms of natural persons.

## **10 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed because there are no service, policy or organisational changes being proposed.

## **11 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no community safety implications.

## **12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications.

## **13 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 13.1 It is recommended that the committee continues to receive a regular performance report on children's services which will enable them to consider performance in key areas and areas for further scrutiny.

## **14 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 14.1 There are no additional background papers to the report.

## **15 APPENDICES**

- 15.1 None.

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.