

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

30 September 2021

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE AS AT END OF QUARTER ONE 2021-22

Report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services

Strategic Aim:	Safeguarding	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr D Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services	
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Ward Councillors	All	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

1. Notes performance information as at the end of quarter one (April – June) 2021-22.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

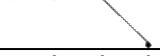
- 1.1 This report provides a table showing the key performance indicators (KPIs) for children's services for consideration and comment by the committee. Key points related to the data are also discussed in a summary commentary.

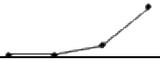
2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 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 2021-22 performance as at end of quarter one (April – June).

Service/ KPI name	2020-21 outturn	2021-22 Q1	2021-22 target		Trend – last four quarters
Contacts and referrals					
Number of contacts received	1,524	356	-	-	-
Number of referrals received	248	33	-	-	-
% of re-referrals within last 12 months	38%	0%	25%		
Assessments					
Number of single assessments	261	44	-	-	-
% single assessments completed within 45 days	91%	98%	90%		
% children seen as part of an assessment	92%	100%	95%		
Number of CSE cases	9	9	-	-	-
Number of children missing from home/care episodes	27	1	-	-	-
Virtual visits					
% of statutory visits carried out virtually (<i>started March 2020 due to covid-19</i>)	17%	7%	-	-	-
Children in need (CIN)					
Number of CIN	85	59	-	-	-
% CIN seen in timescale	99%	98%	90%		
% CIN reviews completed in timescale	80%	90%	90%		
Child protection (CP)					
Number of CP cases	8	4	-	-	-
% children subject to CP plan seen in timescale	100%	100%	100%		
% CP reviews on time	100%	75%	100%		
% core groups held on time	97%	100%	100%		
Children looked after (CLA)					
Number of CLA Cases	35	27	-	-	-
% CLA seen in timescale	100%	100%	100%		
% CLA reviews on time	93%	96%	100%		
% of children placed in non-LA placements	31%	41%	40%		
Number of in-house fostering households	11	10	-	-	-
Care leavers					
% Care leavers in appropriate accommodation	100%	100%	100%		

Service/ KPI name	2020-21 outturn	2021-22 Q1	2021-22 target		Trend – last four quarters
% Care leavers in EET	79%	82%	80%		
% Care leavers we are in touch with	100%	100%	100%		
Early Help and SEND					
Number of current active early help cases (children)	95	91	-	-	-
% of all cases closed in year stepped up to social care	14%	0%	5%		
Total number of children open to CWD	15	13	-	-	-
Education inclusion partnership					
Number of referrals since launch (<i>launched Feb 2020</i>)	55	80	-	-	-
RCC Staff					
Children's Services staff turnover rate	3.7%	4.7%	-	-	-

4 COMMENTARY

- 4.1 Improved re-referral rates has been a notable success during the first quarter, with zero re-referrals comparing to last year's rate of 38%. An audit of re-referrals took place last year which found that threshold applications were generally correct but offers of support to prevent re-referral could have been more robust. This learning has been applied to practice and will remain a focus to sustain the early improvement seen this year. For comparison, re-referral rates average 26% regionally and 23% nationally.
- 4.2 Assessments completed in timescale stand at 98% (43 out of 44), continuing the long-term trend of improvement. Management scrutiny is helping to sustain this performance level. The English average for assessment completion is 84% within timescale.
- 4.3 Children seen as part of an assessment is back at 100%, after dropping below target last year due to differences in the recording of virtual home visits during lockdown, where some social workers recorded 'child not seen' (although the child was seen virtually). Social workers continue to be supported to engage with children and families safely and there has been a gradual increase in children now having face to face visits.
- 4.4 Children in need (CIN) seen within timescale is 98% (58 out of 59); following the 99% achieved the previous quarter. This continues the trend of improvement from last year, helped by increased oversight and use of a live data reporting system. CIN reviews completed within timescale hit the 90% target. The six reviews outside of timescale included some avoidable mistakes relating to date and diary planning. This has been addressed with individual social workers and will be monitored to ensure continued improvement.
- 4.5 All children subject to a child protection plan were seen in timescale and all core groups were held on time for the third consecutive quarter. One review was held

outside of timescale, although this happened in agreement with the family and all RCC parties, due to a pending court date that would have a direct impact on the case. It should be noted that our current child protection case number is exceptionally low when compared to regional and national averages.

- 4.6 Children looked after (CLA) seen in timescale is currently 100%, meeting target and maintaining last year's standard. CLA in non-local authority placements is currently 41% (11 children out of 27). This is just outside our new 40% target and includes a recent unaccompanied child asylum seeker in special provision outside of Rutland. 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 was 96% (25 out of 26) in the quarter, continuing a long-term improvement trend (93% last year, 84% the year before). Our CLA rate per 10,000 children is 34, 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 31 out of 38 care leavers are currently in employment, education or training (EET) – giving us performance of 82%, meeting our challenging 80% target for the first time in almost two years. 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 0%. Just one case was stepped up in the last nine months, where the appropriate threshold had been met.
- 4.10 Information on the number of referrals to education inclusion partnership (EIP) is now included in this report. All primary schools are now included, and referrals have been more prevalent for children in years 4, 5 and 6. Of the 80 referrals, 62 related to boys and 18 girls. Most referrals are based on social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) or autism needs, a smaller number being for ADHD and 'other' reasons. Positive head teacher feedback continues, with evidence of changing practice. A recent example was *"...I feel I have had so much support for individual children but have also learnt a great deal that I can cascade to staff and put into practice too. I have great evidence to share with parents and other professionals and it has really enhanced the picture I am able to develop of the children in school"*.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The number of children looked after can have a significant impact on the Council's budget. As a result of improved social care practice, the number of children looked after has reduced over the past 12 months resulting in a forecasted underspend at quarter 1 in relation to this area of the Children's budget of c£150k for the year.

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 (MANDATORY)

11.1 There are no community safety implications.

12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (MANDATORY)

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.