

Children and Families Committee

Date of Meeting:	16 January 2023
Report Title:	Children and Families Q2 score card 2022/23
Report of:	Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director of Children's Services
Report Reference No:	CF/35/22- 23
Ward(s) Affected:	All Wards

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1** To provide Children and Families Committee with an overview of performance against the core indicator set within the 3 directorate areas of children's services. This report covers a range of the corporate objectives under the overarching corporate priority of a fair authority.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1** This report provides an overview of quarter 2 performance for children and families services for the relevant indicators for the reporting year of 2022-23.
- 2.2** The committee will note that the format has changed in line with their request and now includes information around the acronyms used and the alignment with the Corporate Plan Aim of a Fair Council. The report now also reflects a rolling four quarters activity.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** The Children and Families Committee is asked to:
- 3.1.1** Note the performance of children's services for quarter 2.

3.1.2 Provide scrutiny in relation to performance of children and families services.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 One of the key areas of focus for the Children and Families Committee is to review performance and scrutinise the effectiveness of services for children and young people.

5. Other Options Considered

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Background

6.1 This quarterly report provides the committee with an overview of performance across Children's Services. This report relates to quarter 2 of 2022-23 (1 July 2022 – 30 September 2022).

6.2 The outcomes framework scorecard contains 51 indicators across the 3 directorate areas within children's services and provides a strategic overview of the core activity with the service areas that demonstrate how we support the children and young people in Cheshire East.

6.3 The following indicators have been highlighted for consideration:

Social Care

- **1.14** – assessments completed within 45 days. This continues to be a focus for improvement as any delays can be an indicator of families not receiving timely intervention and support. Timeliness however needs to be balanced to ensure assessments receive sufficient management oversight and are of high quality. 70% of the completed assessments in quarter 2 have been completed within 50 days.
- **1.17** – the increase in the number of S47 enquiries which are a multiagency approach taken where decisions are required around the actions required to safeguard and promote the welfare of a child or young person who is suspected of or likely to be suffering significant harm.
- **1.24** – the % of children with a second or subsequent child protection plan in a rolling twelve-month period. It is important to understand the reasons for repeat plans to reflect on whether there are different presenting reasons or whether previous plans had not resulted in sustainable changes being evidenced in a family. Regular auditing activity enables reflective learning which can influence practice. Although a small increase as an authority we still compare favourably with the England average and our statistical neighbours.

- **1.26** – the number of cared for children and young people has increased, this is, in the main, influenced by Cheshire East's support for the National Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers (UASC) scheme.

Education

- **2.1 – 2.13** - It is pleasing to report that the percentages of schools which are judged good or outstanding has improved since Q1 (primary now at 94% and secondary at 90%). This positive change reflects the detailed work undertaken with schools to ensure that the quality of education judgement is robust and schools have the strong evidence that the curriculum is well embedded and shows effective progression.
- **2.14 – 2.16** – attendance is not reported in the second quarter as the data sets are based on termly activity and the new school year has only just commenced.
- **2.18** – Whilst it is positive that there has been a reduction in the number of individuals educated at home this will be in part due to the number that have now left statutory education (eg year 11 and 13). The elective home education team work closely with all families to ensure that they receive the support they need and where possible enable young people to return to a classroom setting.
- **2.19** – it is important to note that the number of children missing from education at the end of September is always higher. Reasons for this include schools and the local authority are not always advised when individuals move away from the local authority during the summer break or families choose the private schooling rather than state education when entering primary or secondary school. There are a range of national data sharing agreements that enable the local authority team to investigate where individuals who were expected to start at a school have presented and the number will be much reduced by October half term and triangulated with the Autumn School Census data.
- **2.23** – The reported number of individuals with and Education and Health care Plan (EHCP) who are also open to a social care team has been amended to also include care leavers where known.
- **2.25** – The positive improvements in Educational Psychologists (EP) advice being completed within 6 weeks is now beginning to have an impact on the average number of weeks it is taking to complete a plan. The service has also been proactive in increasing capacity both within the local authority and developing a pool of locum EPs to call upon when demand is greater.
- **2.26 – 2.27** although timeliness of EHCP completion continues to be a challenge due to increased demand on services, the average number of weeks a plan is taking is showing a positive trend by reducing from 24.3 to 23.5 weeks. A key element in many plans is observing the individual in a classroom setting to enable the most effective interventions to be put in place, enabling this can be delayed during holiday periods. The numbers of plans that are significantly overdue (i.e ongoing for 24 weeks or more) is also steadily reducing month on month with only 13 outstanding at the

end of September. Once these have all been addressed we will start to see a bigger impact on reducing the average time frame. The average number of plans being issued per month has increased from 60 in quarter 1 to 80 in quarter 2.

Early Help and Prevention

- **3.1** – we continue to be supporting increasing numbers of individuals at the early help level.
- **3.16** – Supporting Families was previously known as Troubled families/ Family Focus. As at Q2 we can demonstrate outcomes have been achieved for 240 families against an expectation that we will aim to successfully support 297 families within the year.
- **3.17** – The numbers of individuals accessing the range of services and sessions provided by the youth support service continues to increase quarter on quarter.
- **3.19** – Cheshire East overall numbers and rates of yr. 12-13 young people NEET continues to be significantly lower than the national picture evidencing that positive outcomes continue to be achieved for the vast majority of young people in the borough. Although the % is extremely positive at the end of quarter 2 this will fluctuate throughout quarter 3 as young people change decisions with regards to 6th form and college courses and quarter 3 outturn will likely be slightly higher.

7.0 Consultation and Engagement

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 Implications

8.1 Legal

8.1.1 There are no direct legal implications.

8.2 Finance

8.2.1 There are no direct financial implications or changes to the MTFs as a result of this briefing paper.

8.3 Policy

There are no direct policy implications.

8.4 Equality

8.4.1 Members may want to use the information from the performance indicators to ensure that services are targeted at more vulnerable children and young people.

8.5 Human Resources

8.5.1 There are no direct human resources implications.

8.6 Risk Management

8.6.1 There are risks associated with some performance measures, e.g. increases in demand and timeliness of services.

8.7 Rural Communities

8.7.1 There are no direct implications for rural communities.

8.8 Children and Young People/Cared for Children

8.8.1 Performance reports enable members to identify areas of good performance and areas for improvement in relation to children and young people, including cared for children.

8.9 Public Health

8.9.1 There are no direct implications for public health.

8.10 Climate Change

8.10.1 This report does not impact on climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Bev Harding, Business Intelligence Manager Bev.Harding@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Children and Families Outcomes Framework Score Card September 2022
Background Papers:	None