

OPEN

## **Children and Families Committee**

**11 December 2023**

### **Children and Families Q2 (July-Sept ) Scorecard 2023/24**

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**Report of: Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director of Children's Services**

**Report Reference No: CF/19/23-24**

**Ward(s) Affected: All Wards**

#### **Purpose of Report**

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

#### **Executive Summary**

- 2 This report provides an overview of quarter 2 performance for children and families services for the relevant indicators for the reporting year of 2023-24.
- 3 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 4 quarter activity with the latest quarter reported highlighted in blue.
- 4 The committee will note that there are now 4 indicators relating to social care workforce information as requested.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Childrens and Families Committee is recommended to:

1. Scrutinise the performance of children's services for quarter 2.

## Background

- 5 This quarterly report provides the committee with an overview of performance across Children's Services. This report relates to quarter 2 of 2023-24 (1 July 2023 – 30 September 2023).
- 6 The outcomes framework scorecard contains 55 indicators across 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.
- 7 The following indicators have been highlighted for consideration – please note the numbers relate to the corresponding indicator in the attached appendix outcomes framework scorecard.

## Social Care

- **1.14 - % of repeat referrals.** This has reduced in quarter 2 and remains lower than the latest available national and statistical neighbour performance. This is an indicator that work completed with children, young people and the families is resulting in lasting impact and with tools and techniques to maintain sustained progress.
- **1.15 - % of assessments completed within 45 days.** Quarter 2 shows a significant improvement, with a quarterly performance similar to the latest available national picture. This is seen as an early indicator that when needed individuals are receiving support in a timely fashion.
- **1.22-1.23 – number and rate of Children with a Child Protection Plan.** There has been an increase compared to the previous quarter but this is not an undue cause for concern as it reflects where we would expect to be as a local authority.
- **1.24 - % of ICPC within 15 days of S47 enquiry.** Although there has been a small drop in performance in quarter 2 it remains in line with comparator authorities and relates to a very small number of families. Holding the initial conference in a timely fashion, following the decision that one is required, is an indicator that the multi-agency partnership is working effectively to reduce risks and support families that require a more specialist intervention.
- **1.27-1.28 – number and rate of Children in Care.** This remains higher than statistical neighbours and national averages and

continues to be influenced by Cheshire East's support for the National Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers (UASC) scheme. Due to this almost 1 in 3 young people in care is aged 16-17 currently. This knowledge is being used to inform the updated sufficiency strategy for placements together with the services that will be needed for an increasing cohort of care leavers.

- **1.37-1.4 – Social worker workforce data.** As requested, there has been the addition of 4 core indicators relating to the social care workforce. The number of vacancies has increased slightly this quarter which in turn has influenced an increase in the use of agency workers in order to ensure that the establishment remains at a safe level. In addition, oversight and management for timely closure is ensuring that caseloads remain at manageable levels.

## Education

- **2.14 – 2.17** – Attendance data isn't provided for quarter 2. This is due to a large part of the quarter falling within the summer holiday period together with many primary schools operating a phased school start for new reception class and schools having a range of term start dates so data can be incomplete.
- **2.18 – Elective Home Education.** This is a positive reduction from Q1 and reflects the work being completed by team supporting the young people and families to re-enter school provision as soon as possible.
- **2.19 – Children Missing Education.** This has seen a positive reduction from Q1 and again reflects the work being completed by the team, in conjunction with schools, investigating where pupils don't enrol as expected. We also continue to work closely with National agencies where pupils have understood to have moved abroad.
- **2.2 - Total number with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) aged 0-25.** This continues to increase, albeit the % increase is lower than seen in the previous quarter. This may be in part due to the fact Q2 spans the summer holidays but also reflecting the work being undertaken with schools to focus on more targeted interventions at an earlier stage.
- **2.26 – 2.27 - New Education and Health Care plans completed within 20 weeks.** This is a continued positive upward trajectory from last quarter at 62% and is reflected in the reduction in average weeks to complete new assessments, which is now

significantly under the 20-week target, and improved Education Psychologist advice within 6 weeks.

### **Strong Start, Family Help and Integration**

- **3.14 – 3.15 - 2,3 and 4 -year-old offer.** This data is collated on a termly basis and as such is not available for quarter 2 as it includes the summer holiday period together. This is further complicated by a significant change in the eligible cohort as many 4 years olds transition to school in the autumn period.
- **3.16 – Supporting Families.** The local authority had a target of 480 families with successful outcomes in 2023-24. We currently have over 1,000 families being supported either at Early Help or Child in need level and as at quarter 2 we have had 167 successful claims.
- **3.17 – Young People accessing Youth Support offer.** We continue to offer a wide range of services across the borough which is evidenced by the increased number of individuals accessing a range of support.
- **3.18-3.19 –Not in Education, Employment or Training** -There has been a considerable reduction in quarter 2 which will reflect the changed cohort of Year 12-13 included who will have started 16<sup>th</sup> form/ college courses in September. It is possible that this figure will dip slightly as individuals decide their chosen path is not their preferred option. 6<sup>th</sup> form provisions, colleges and the Youth service will work closely to provide a range of support to these young people.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

8 Not applicable

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

9 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. This is in alignment with the strategic aims of a Fair Council.

### **Other Options Considered**

10 Not applicable.

### **Implications and Comments**

*Monitoring Officer/Legal*

11 There are no direct legal implications.

### *Section 151 Officer/Finance*

- 12 Although there are no direct financial implications or changes to the MTFS as a result of this briefing paper, performance measures may be used as an indicator of budget pressures at a service level.

### *Policy*

- 13 There are no direct policy implications.

### *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion*

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

### *Human Resources*

- 15 There are no direct human resources implications.

### *Risk Management*

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

### *Rural Communities*

- 16 There are no direct implications to rural.

### *Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)*

- 17 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.

### *Public Health*

- There are no direct public health implications.

### *Climate Change*

- 18 This report does not impact on climate change.

**Access to Information**

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Appendices:	Children and Families Outcomes Framework Score Card Quarter 2 2023
Background Papers:	None