

Children and Families Committee

Date of Meeting:	19 September 2022
Report Title:	Children and Families Q4/ year score card 2021/22
Report of:	Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director of Children's Services
Report Reference No:	CF/23/22-23
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 4 performance for children and families services together with the statutory reporting year end outturn for the relevant indicators across the children and families service for 2021-22
- 2.2 The committee will note that the format has changed in line with their request which includes comparator data where available and 2020/21 outturn data to provide trend information.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. The Children and Families Committee is asked to:
- 3.1.1. note the performance of children's services for quarter 4.
- 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 4 of 2021-22 (1 January 2022 – 31 March 2022). This report also provides the details of the reported year end outturn for a range of indicators.
- 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

- **1.13** – the % of repeat referrals has continued to reduce which offers an assurance that support provided to families has resulted in lasting positive changes. The rate is also favourable when compared to statistical neighbours and the England position
- **1.14** – assessments completed within 45 days. This has improved compared to the outturn for 2020/2. There will remain a continued focus to ensure that assessment and intervention happen in a timely fashion
- **1.18** – the rate of S47 enquires (child protection investigations) has increased indicating that we are increasingly taking the appropriate multiagency approach when situations arise. Our rate is higher than our statistical neighbour average but lower than the England rate which may suggest that we have increasingly complex individuals that we are supporting.
- **1.24** – the % of child protection conferences for a 2nd or subsequent time has reduced significantly. A low rate is an indicator that plans have been effective in addressing the concerns identified and that work has resulted in sustained change. Equally it indicates that where concerns remain the appropriate action is being taken in a timely fashion to commence care proceedings. As an authority we now compare much more favourably with the England average and our statistical neighbours.

- **1.27** – the rate of children in care continues to be in line with the national average but higher than our statistical neighbours. As a corporate parent it is important that these young people are supported by us for the right length of time and in the best homes for them.
- **1.28** – we have worked closely with our colleagues in the NHS to ensure that dental treatment is available for all our cared for children. This remains an ongoing challenge nationally
- **1.34** – the outturn for our NEET care leavers doesn't reflect an average of the quarters as the return requests the EET situation of the relevant individual on or around the relevant birthdate within the reporting year. The outturn is favourable compared to the latest available national and statistical neighbour cohort.

Education

- **2.1 – 2.13** – the routine inspection of schools by Ofsted only recommenced in September 2021 so whilst the figures reflect the latest position there will be a number of schools that haven't been inspected for a number of years. Quality of provision remains a key partnership approach with our maintained schools and academies.
- **2.21** – rate of EHCP growth as a % of the 0-25 age group continues to increase and is higher than the national average. This places increased pressure to ensure a sufficiency of placements to support individuals to achieve their maximum potential
- **2.26** – timeliness of EHCP completion continues to be a challenge due to increased demand on services albeit the outturn for the reporting year (Jan 2022) shows an overall improvement and compares us favourably with the national average and in line with statistical neighbours

Early Help and Prevention

- **3.1** – we are supporting increasing numbers of individuals at the early help level with Cheshire East prevention staff leading on 2 out of every 3 cases.
- **3.14 – 3.15** – we continue to have very high levels of eligible individuals accessing the 2,3- and 4-year-old offer ensuring that children are accessing education and support at the earliest opportunity. Our performance substantially exceeds the national picture.
- **3.16** – we met the agreed target criteria for families achieving outcomes under the family focus criteria. This indicator will now monitor the supporting families' criteria from Q1 2022/23
- **3.19** – Cheshire East overall numbers and rates of yr. 12-13 young people NEET continues to be substantially lower than the national picture evidencing that positive outcomes continue to be achieved for the vast majority of young people in the borough

7. Consultation and Engagement

7.1. Not applicable.

8. Implications

8.1. Legal

8.1.1. There are no direct legal implications.

8.2. Finance

8.2.1. 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

8.3. Policy

8.3.1. 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.

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