

Children and Families Committee

Date of Meeting:	14 September 2022
Report Title:	Children and Families Q1 score card 2022/23
Report of:	Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director of Children's Services
Report Reference No:	CF/28/22-23
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 1 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 which includes the latest comparator data where available.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. The Children and Families Committee is asked to:
- 3.1.1. note the performance of children's services for quarter 1.
- 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 1 of 2022-23 (1 April 2022 – 30 June 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

- **1.13** – the % of repeat referrals has continued to reduce which offers an assurance that the 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 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.
- **1.23** – the % of Initial child protection conferences (ICPC's) being completed within 15 days of the S47 enquiry has improved. This is a positive indicator that timely intervention is taking place and multi-agency decision making is prompt for Children and Young people where there are significant risks. 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.
- **1.30** – where possible when Children and Young people are cared for, we endeavour to place them close to their existing network of family and friends to reduce disruption in their lives. Ongoing work around local sufficiency of placements and exploring family support

in the first instance means we have reduced the numbers of individuals we have to move further away. This is balanced though with the most appropriate place for the young person to be safe and meet their needs.

- **1.28** – whilst we continue to work 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 both locally and nationally.
- **1.34** – the Q1 figure for our NEET care leavers reflects a snapshot at that point of time and does not directly compare with the outturn position which reflects the NEET situation of the relevant individual on or around the relevant birthdate within the reporting year. Currently we have an additional 4% of care leavers engaged in reengagement and positive activities with the aim of entering the education, employment and training (EET) market.

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. In quarter 1 there was 1 inspection report published for Cheshire East schools for Hurdsfield Primary that went from requires improvement to good
- **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.
- **2.22** – The % of pupils in CEC maintained/ State Funded schools with SEN support is lower than both the national and statistical neighbour average. It is important to ensure that inclusivity within mainstream schools is balanced with the advantages that specialist provision can offer individuals.
- **2.26** – timeliness of EHCP completion continues to be a challenge due to increased demand on services. Comparing this on a quarter on quarter basis it is important to acknowledge that school holidays can have an impact on timeliness when assessments need to include a range of in class observations.

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** – Supporting Families was previously known as Troubled families/ Family Focus. The Q1 performance for the Supporting Families’ criteria suggests that we are on target to achieve positive outcomes for the number of families we have a target for.
- **3.17** – Compared to quarter 4 (1402) substantially more individuals are accessing the range of services and sessions provided by the youth support service.
- **3.19** – Cheshire East overall numbers and rates of yr. 12-13 young people NEET continues to be 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.

Access to Information	
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